

UNVEILED

By Luis Garza

"UNVEILED"

Darkness

FADE IN:

On a candlelight; the only source of light in the deep depths of nothingness.

PULL BACK

The candle floats in mid-air, casting its light on spines of old books that sit on a dusty shelf.

PULL BACK

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

An old library, mostly made out of solid wood. Stained windows with dark colors keep the moonlight from stabbing through. The only movement in the room belongs to the gentle bounce of the candle.

PULLBACK OUT OF LIBRARY AND INTO

INT. NARROW HALLWAY - CONTINUED

An endless hallway with flickering lights, lights that reveal dark and macabre paintings.

INSERT - PAINTING

A dark figure dripping with a brown substance, its dark and majestic purple wings extended. The figure stands behind a woman, its long hands stalking down her shoulders. They stand in front of a dark tree on the verge of dying.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Standing in the darkness lies the unknown. The sinister. The macabre. They keep us away from peace.

SHOT OF A SPACIOUS ROOM

Wooden stairs open on both sides, connecting to an upstairs hallway.

NARRATOR (V.O)

Found only in the places that beg for light. They might not always be growling in the darkness under your bed or inside your closet, awaiting to manifest themselves.

SHOT OF AN UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Three arched windows permit moonlight to enter, illuminating various doors that lead to mysterious rooms.

NARRATOR (V.O)

The worst ones live in a wondrous place that is known of, but that has never met the eye. A place where they feed on all the existing light as they wait to emerge.

SHOT OF A LIVING ROOM

The most spacious room, containing a significant amount of furniture, couches and chandeliers.

NARRATOR (V.O)

They live beneath our skin, in the deep depths of our soul. Sooner or later -

INSERT - PAINTING

Back to the painting of the dark figure holding the woman. This time, the woman is absent from the picture, leaving the creature with bloody and cloaked hands.

NARRATOR (V.O)

- to be unveiled.

PULLBACK out of the main hallway, out the front door, a very immense garden, out the gates and into darkness.

MAIN TITLES: **UNVEILED**

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN CENTER - MORNING

A rural town in the early stages of autumn.

Hints of red and orange are beginning to overtake the trees of a nearly deserted park located in the middle of small shops and restaurants.

Sitting next to a tree is JESSE(17), long messy brown hair, blue tired eyes and short nose. His strong look of grief is very apparent.

His eyes wander around the town. His gaze settles on a kid, who is holding his mom's hand as she smiles down at him.

MOM(to kid)  
How about we go get Pizza?

The kid jumps in excitement as his mom rubs her forehead on his.

Jesse wipes a tear from his cheek. His phone flashes, he picks it up, levels it to his face and reads.

INSERT - PHONE

Maia ☺  
Jesse, where are you?

He puts his phone on the side and opens a textbook. He looks for the right page as his phone flashes once again.

INSERT - PHONE

Maia ☺  
It's been a month! Please tell me you're OK. I and the others are worried sick!

Jesse closes his text book, picks up his things and gets up from the grass.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - MINUTES LATER

LIAM(18) Light brown hair done up, broad figure, handsome face. He wears a varsity jacket. His hands hold the steering wheel steady, eyes glued to the road.

LIAM  
What did he say?

MAIA(17) Beautiful sharp eyes, brown skin, small figure and brown long curls. She sits behind Liam.

Maia looks down at her phone; she sighs.

MAIA  
Nothing, he just read it.

SARAH(18) Blonde hair lazily pulled up in a knot. She wears sweatpants and a sweat shirt. She is sitting in the passenger seat.

She sits in the passenger seat.

SARAH

Honestly guys, we are just going to push Jesse further away from us, maybe he just needs time.

MAIA

Yes, I agree, but he also needs to know that his friends are here for him, he can't go through this alone.

SARAH

Yeah, let's just play my favorite game, let's throw whatever Sarah has to say out the window.

Maia looks at Sarah.

MAIA

You know that's not true.

SARAH

Then what is it?

MAIA

Wouldn't you guys appreciate having your friends around in hard times like these? Jesse is lucky to have friends like us.

LIAM

I agree with Maia.

SARAH

I think I'd just rather be left alone.

Maia glares at Sarah with an displeased expression.

MAIA

Well we don't know what Jesse wants, now do we?

LIAM

Maybe he just needs a reality check.

SARAH(sarcastically)

Well what a fantastic time to give  
(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

him one. You know, my mom just died, time to have my friends come and lecture me! Wooho!

MAIA

Don't say it like that, it makes it sound like you don't give a shit.

SARAH

I do give a shit. This is me giving a shit. I honestly think we should wait for Jesse to open up to us.

Liam pulls up next to a house.

LIAM

Alright, we are here. So what's the plan?

MAIA

We are doing this.

Maia gets out of the car, Liam follows.

Sarah sighs.

SARAH (to herself)

Out the window.

Sarah gets out of the car.

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUED

Liam knocks on the door. They wait. Sarah sighs.

SARAH

This is useless.

MAIA

Just wait for it.

LIAM

What if he doesn't answer?

MAIA

At least he knows that we want to help.

SARAH

Or invade his privacy.

Maia rolls her eyes.

The door opens, a middle aged man who is badly groomed and wearing pajamas behind it. The sunlight seems to blind him significantly.

MAN

Hello.

MAIA

Hello Mr. Heron, we don't mean to bother but is Jesse home?

MAN

Why, what's going on?

LIAM

We would just like to see how he's holding up.

MAN

That's very thoughtful but, I think he'd much rather be left alone.

MAIA

Is he coming to school tomorrow?

MAN

He has to.

LIAM

Well, if you just tell him we stopped by that would be great.

MAN

Sure will kiddos. Have a good one.

MAIA

Thank you sir, I'm very sorry for your loss.

The man nods and closes the door.

SARAH

Well. I don't want to say "I told you so" -

MAIA

- But you will because you are Sarah.

Maia and Liam walk away from Jesse's house, leaving Sarah to keep up.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - SCHOOL - MORNING

Maia sits straight behind a table, while Sarah is leaning back on her chair; her feet rested on the table. They stare up at a girl, who stands awkwardly on the stage, script in hand.

GIRL(subtle)  
I can't believe you would do  
something like that

Maia reacts to the deliverance of the line with confusion, Sarah grunts in disgust.

MAIA(carefully)  
Yeah, maybe if you could repeat  
that with a little bit more -

SARAH  
- It sounds like you are about to  
invite him on a date after he  
almost killed your mom.

GIRL(offended)  
So you want more..

MAIA  
More rage, but also shock.

The girl takes another quick glance at the paper.

GIRL  
I can't believe you would do  
something like that?!?!

Maia squints her eyes in apprehension.

MAIA  
Well um..

SARAH  
Why did you deliver that like  
it's a damn question? If you  
think you character is wondering  
if her boyfriend killed all those  
people... Yes, he did. You character  
has been blinded by his actions,  
she's not literally blind.

Maia elbows Sarah.

GIRL  
So I...

SARAH  
Just deliver the line like your  
boyfriend is a damn psycho killer,  
how hard can that be?



MAIA

Harder than it seems. (to the girl)  
Excuse Sarah, she's like this to  
everyone.

Sarah rolls her eyes.

MAIA

Please, Try it again. No pressure.

GIRL

UMM... Okay... I can't believe  
you would do something like  
that.

The girl delivers this line with a surprised, yet ambitious tone, no  
hints of rage whatsoever; causing Maia to grunt.

MAIA

Well...

SARAH

Now it just sounds like you want  
to join him on his next killing  
spree. If Maia's hesitation wasn't  
obvious, you suck. Go join Glee  
club or something else.

MAIA

We will have auditions again soon,  
we'll call you back.

The girl does not hesitate to storm off the stage. Maia gets up, her  
arms crossed,

MAIA (CONT'D)

Really?!? I'm trying to make a  
decent play and you scare off my  
actors?

SARAH

Potential actors.

MAIA

Like that makes a difference.

Sarah sighs.

SARAH

Don't you have a vision for this  
play? Stop being so nice and give  
a piece of your mind if you really  
want your play to be half good.  
It's practically turning into a  
comedy.

MAIA

What is wrong with the play?

SARAH

Nothing. But no one and I mean no one in this boring old school has the chops to properly deliver that line. They need a push.

Maia uncrosses her arms.

SARAH (CONT'D)

People should put the same effort into acting this out as the effort you put into writing it.

MAIA

Well scaring them won't help.

SARAH

We all have different ways of helping, you either appreciate it, or you don't.

MAIA

(smiling) you suck.

Maia playfully hits Sarah on the shoulder.

SARAH

(imitating the audition girl with exaggeration) I can't believe you would say that?

Maia walks back to the table and gathers her paperwork.

MAIA

So have you seen Jesse today?

SARAH

No.

The door opens. Maia and Sarah turn to see Liam, his arm wrapped around the back of Jesse's neck.

LIAM

Look who's back.

MAIA

Oh my God, Jesse.

Maia walks right towards Jesse.

Maia looks up at Jesse, and then launches her arms around his torso. Jesse pats her in the back.

MAIA

How are you doing?

Jesse and Maia separate.

JESSE

Much better now.

Sarah appears behind Maia, she hugs Jesse as well.

SARAH

I'm really glad you're okay bro.

Jesse chuckles.

JESSE

Look guys, I'm very sorry for -

Maia raises a finger at Jesse, rejecting his thought.

MAIA

It's okay, we totally understand.

There's a beat.

LIAM

So, how is the audition going?

MAIA

Well. Sarah does a handsome job at playing the villain.

LIAM

Let's go eat. It's on me!

The friends walk out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN CENTER - MINUTES LATER

Liam, Maia, Jesse and Sarah sit next to a tree.

The sound of children's laughs in a near park fills the air. Many people walk the narrow streets of the town, some walking their dogs, others holding grocery bags; a very friendly and lighthearted environment.

Maia looks down at a text book, her eyes rapidly shifting from text book to notebook.

Maia's pencil speeds across the notebook, she stops and sighs.

MAIA

I don't understand how the hell

(MORE)

MAIA (CONT'D)

I'm supposed to find the final velocity if there is no acceleration given.

Maia bites her pencil as she nervously shakes her feet.

SARAH

I don't know why you even took advanced classes, you're basically setting yourself up for stress. I don't know if I could handle it.

MAIA

You've dealt with "stress" since you were in fifth grade.

Liam eyes Maia's untouched burrito.

LIAM

Come on, you haven't even taken a bite of your food.

MAIA

Sorry, this question is killing me.

Liam grabs Maia's burrito and places it in front of her face; she takes a bite out of it.

LIAM

There you go.

Liam then cleans Maia's chin with a napkin.

MAIA

Thank you. (back to her paper) I just don't understand why Mrs. Pratt wants us to solve this when the information is so vague.

Maia looks at Jesse, who is leaning against the tree, his eyes exploring the town.

MAIA

Jesse?

JESSE

(distracted) yeah?

MAIA

Wake up.

JESSE

I'm here.

MAIA

Physically.

Jesse takes a bite out of his burrito.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Do you want to talk about it?

Sarah cautiously eyes Maia.

JESSE

Talk about what?

MAIA

About whatever seems to be bothering you.

JESSE

Nothing is bothering me.

Maia takes a bite of her food.

MAIA

You know, you really should let me help you with your work. Pre-Cal is getting kind of tough.

JESSE

Nah, I'm fine.

Maia looks at Liam and Sarah, they shrug.

SARAH

(to Liam)

Don't you have football practice today?

LIAM

Yeah, but I can miss one to see Jesse. Right buddy?

Liam playfully punches Jesse on the shoulder; he barely reacts.

JESSE

Yeah.

Maia glances at her watch.

MAIA

Oh shit; I forgot I have Physics in half an hour.

SARAH

Wait, you take classes outside of school now?

LIAM  
Damn woman, give yourself a break  
will ya?

MAIA  
Do you think you can take me Liam?

LIAM  
Sure.

Liam and Maia get up.

MAIA  
Alright I'll see you guys later  
okay?

JESSE  
Bye.

LIAM  
Jesse, make sure you get online when  
you get home.

JESSE  
Sure thing.

INT. LIAM'S CAR - CONTINUED

Liam starts the car, Maia slides into the passenger seat.

LIAM  
Make sure you -

MAIA  
Clean my shoes, yeah I know.

Maia sticks her feet out the car and repeatedly hits them together.  
She brings her feet back into the car and shuts the door.

MAIA  
I can't believe I have to look  
like a dumbass for your stupid  
car.

CUT TO:

INT. LIAM'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Liam sits in front of his TV, his fingers speed through the game  
control trapped between his hands. He speaks into a microphone  
attached to his headset.

LIAM(to the microphone)  
Get him, he's behind the garbage  
truck (beat) to your left (beat)  
hold on let me get Jesse online.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Jesse walks in; he tosses his backpack aside.

Empty plates sit on Jesse's desk. He reaches for a picture and brings it up to his face.

INSERT - PICTURE

A very happy woman hugging a somewhat annoyed but joyful Jesse in front of the Disney castle.

Jesse's phone rings.

INSERT - PHONE

INCOMING CALL: LIAM (poop face)

A sleeping, open-mouthed Liam holding a bottle of beer appears as his contact picture.

Jesse declines the call.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIA'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Maia walks by the driveway and turns to her house, her phone rings.

MAIA

Hello?

INERCUT: Liam sits in front of the T.V, the game paused.

LIAM

Hey, have you talked to Jesse?

MAIA

Not since we ate, why?

LIAM

He's not answering his phone, I called three times already.

MAIA

I don't know what to say.

LIAM

Is it just me or was he acting really strange today?

MAIA

No he was totally acting weird today.

LIAM

What do we do?

MAIA

I do not know, I'll call you  
later, I'm barely getting home.  
I'll see if Sarah knows anything.

LIAM

Alright, bye.

Maia reaches for her keys.

CUT TO:

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - CONTNUED

Sarah is sits in front of her computer, her feet up on the desk and a blanket wrapped around her body. The bright computer screen illuminates her bored expression.

The doorbell rings.

SARAH

Dad! The door!

SARAH'S DAD (O.S)

You're closer!

SARAH

And I'm also warm!

Sarah's phone buzzes, she picks it up after over-struggling to reach it.

SARAH

Hello.

INTERCUT: Maia sits on her bed, her computer on her lap as she types away; her phone rests on her shoulder.

MAIA

Hey Sarah, I was making some  
changes to the play, can you help  
me?

SARAH

Sure, just make it quick because  
I'm doing a loooooooot of homework.

Sarah reaches to press pause on her computer.



MAIA

Alright so I was thinking that maybe Crystal's identity is unveiled as the killer's accomplice to amplify the dramatic structure of the play.

SARAH(confused)

And why do you need to imply the dramatic fraction of... um... Why?

MAIA

Mr. Diaz thinks it's not dramatic enough.

SARAH

Yeah of course having a boyfriend who is revealed to have killed your whole family is not dramatic enough, we should've made the main character's best friend the accomplice of the killer long ago. Mr. Diaz can shove his opinion up his -

MAIA

Look can you just help me.

SARAH

Yeah, but can it be tomorrow in the morning, because I have a lot of homework right now.

MAIA

Yeah me too, but can you tell me what you and Jessie talked about after me and Liam left?

SARAH

There wasn't as much talk; it was more like silence between awkward stares. If I had to go through that Liam could've at least gotten me a decent burrito.

MAIA.

Well I'll leave you to do your homework, see you tomorrow.

SARAH

Alright bye.

Maia hangs up.

CUT TO:

INT. LIAM'S CAR - MORNING

Liam patiently waits outside Jesse's house. He finally appears behind the front door and walks towards Liam's car.

LIAM

Before you get in the car -

JESSE

- Clean my shoes I know.

After awkwardly shaking his feet, Jesse gets in the car. Liam drives forward.

LIAM

Here.

Liam hands Jesse a plastic bag.

JESSE

(confused) What's this?

LIAM

It's a backstreet boys vinyl.

Jesse raises his eyebrows.

LIAM (CONT'D)

It was on clearance at Barnes and Noble.

Jesse stares at Liam for a couple of seconds.

LIAM (CONT'D)

For your collection.

JESSE

Woah, thank you.

LIAM

You're welcome.

Liam drives, an awkward silence falls upon them.

LIAM

So... How was your... Breakfast?

JESSE

I wasn't hungry.

LIAM

So you didn't eat? You have to eat something. Here what do you want?

JESSE

No really, I'm not hungry.

Liam turns into a gas station.

LIAM

At least get some chips or something.

JESSE

I already told you, I'm not hungry.

LIAM

Well you're going to get hungry.

JESSE

Liam... stop.

Liam looks at Jesse with disappointment.

LIAM

What is the deal with you?

JESSE

I'm fine.

LIAM

No, don't even give me that cause you're not. Whatever happened to the old Jesse that cracked jokes all the time? We miss him. Sarah slipped and fell yesterday and you didn't even laugh. You also didn't take a picture of her muddy butt and post it on instagram.

JESSE

I just need time.

LIAM

We've given you a month.

JESSE

I need you to respect that.

LIAM

Fine. Look. I don't want you to see me as a person who is going to lecture you, I'm your friend. You should be able to talk to me.

JESSE

Just drive. Please.

Liam hands a 10 dollar bill to Jesse.

LIAM

I am not starting this car till you get out of here and buy some food.

JESSE

You are really not going to give up are you?

LIAM

No. Go.

JESSE

Fine.

Jesse gets out of the car.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - SCHOOL - CONTINUED

Maia stands behind the table as she stares up at many girls who are lined up on stage; each holding a script.

MAIA

Thank you girls for coming. I hope you all read the scripts and practiced your lines.

A couple of girls nod.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Now, I know this wasn't on paper, but I want you to audition a specific scene, just so we can cover all aspects of the play, would you all please turn to page 31.

Maia patiently waits as the girls find the page.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Alright. Second line "I can't believe you would you do something like that" sounds like a simple line but it is really important you get the context right. We had a little trouble last time, but you guys showed potential. Just say it like you mean it okay? It's alright, no pressure.

The front doors burst open, Sarah appears behind them.

SARAH

Alright you cheap prostitutes.

MAIA

(to herself) Oh God.

SARAH

I'm going to say this loud and clear. This is a drama slash crime play, not an audition for Barney and friends or a 90s sitcom where you can deliver your lines like everything is a fucking joke. I'm afraid, that if that is what you came to do, you can get the hell out of this auditorium and go eat your feelings away until you fall asleep on your soaked in tears pillow.

An overweight girl appears particularly offended by Sarah's statement.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Now, we are going to start on the left and you're each going to deliver that line like your boyfriend just killed your damn family or I swear, I will personally offer you as a human sacrifice to a satanic cult. Alright? Okay let's start with Sarah Jessica Pucker on the left here.

The girls share an awkward look with each other.

MAIA  
Calm down. Please.

SARAH  
I know you need my help.

MAIA  
Just take it easy okay?

The auditorium door opens, Liam and Jesse walk in.

LIAM  
What's happening?

Maia turns away from the stage as Sarah continues with the auditions.

MAIA  
Sarah is attacking innocent people.

JESSE  
Why?

MAIA  
Because she is Sarah.

Liam glances at Sarah.

SARAH  
Get the hell out of this auditorium.  
And don't trip on Sarah Jessica  
Puker's tears. Never mind you can  
trip, I don't give a damn.

LIAM  
Fantastic job.

MAIA  
Jesse, how are you doing?

JESSE  
I'm doing fine.

Liam eyes Jesse with a cautious look.

LIAM  
Do you guys want to go to the usual  
place after school?

MAIA  
As long as you don't get the  
burritos you got us yesterday.

LIAM

What are you talking about, those burritos are great. Jesse?

Jesse shakes his head in disgust.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Sarah?!

SARAH (O.S)

(from the other side of the auditorium) Those burritos taste like ass.

LIAM

I guess that settles it, Meet me at my parking spot after school.

Jesse's hesitation goes unnoticed.

All three of them turn to Sarah, who is inspecting the overweight girl.

SARAH

And here we have Wendy McPattison, giving us the perfect example why it's important to read character descriptions.

LIAM

Damn.

MAIA

I know, she is basically scaring everyone away.

JESSE

Why don't you tell her something?

MAIA

She's going to get all butt hurt and think I'm disregarding her effort to help me.

LIAM

Alright see you guys after school alright.

SARAH(O.S)

Do I need to dangle a chocolate  
bar in front of your face to get  
you to get it right?

The auditorium doors close behind Liam.

Maia looks at Jesse.

MAIA

Why do I get the feeling you don't  
want to hang out after school?

Jesse's face tightens.

JESSE

What are you talking about?

MAIA

Don't lie to me, you know I don't  
like that.

JESSE

I don't think anyone likes getting  
lied to.

Maia rolls her eyes at Jesse.

JESSE (CONT'D)

I'll be there okay?

SARAH(O.S)

Do you need me to throw a chair  
at you?!?

Jesse turns around to leave.

MAIA

So you're not going to give me a  
hug?

Jesse turns back around and hugs Maia, who barely appears satisfied.  
Jesse turns around once again and walks towards the main doors.

MAIA (CONT'D)

And you're not going to lick your  
finger and shove it in my ear?

JESSE

That's another thing you don't like.

Jesse leaves the auditorium.



CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN CENTER - HOURS LATER

The four friends sit very close to each other in the usual spot. Maia's head rests on Liam's lap. Sarah and Jesse sit together, their backs supported by the tree.

Sarah is showing Jesse a video on her phone, checking his face for reactions every couple of seconds.

SARAH

(to Jesse)

That's the part I was telling you about, with the dog.

Jesse cracks a genuine smile.

Maia's eyes are glued to a book; another pile of books sits next to her.

MAIA

I was thinking of joining the talent show.

LIAM

and do what?

MAIA

Play the violin.

LIAM

Why?

MAIA

I don't know, I really want to get rid of my nerves when doing things in front of people. I feel like it will help me with public speeches.

LIAM

Well, you're a really good composer.

Maia makes a gesture towards Liam to get his attention. She then jerks her head towards Sarah and Jesse; who chuckle at Sarah's phone.

LIAM

(silently) I'm glad he's happy.

MAIA

What are you guys watching?

Sarah looks up from her phone.

SARAH

Oh, just this video, you guys  
wouldn't understand.

MAIA

Alright then.

Sarah and Jesse give out one last laugh before Sarah puts her phone  
away.

LIAM

So you're going to compose your own  
song?

MAIA

I don't know, you think I should?

JESSE

What are you talking about?

LIAM

Maia wants to play the violin in the  
talent show.

SARAH

You should, you play beautifully.

MAIA

Well... Thank you.

Liam stares far ahead the many shops, an abundance of many greens and  
reds waiting to be discovered.

LIAM

Do you guys remember when we were  
young, and we were so excited to  
grow up.

JESSE

Yeah, the time when Sarah wanted  
to be a singer, and Maia, you  
wanted to be president.

MAIA

And you wanted to be a cop. Oh, how  
time flies.

LIAM

What I would give to be back to  
those old days.

SARAH

Now, it's scary. You know, growing up any more.

MAIA

Tell me about it.

LIAM

It's the only thing that keeps me up at night.

SARAH

Me too.

A long silence falls upon the friends.

LIAM

Let's get out of here.

JESSE

What?

LIAM

I want to leave, explore.

Sarah wraps her arms around her knees.

SARAH

Alright, and where exactly do you want to go?

LIAM

Outside of the town, ahead of these shops, I've always wanted to know what awaits far out.

MAIA

We could have a picnic out on the fields, I've never really had one before, I reckon it'll be nice.

LIAM

Yes.

SARAH

I'm down.

LIAM

Jesse?

JESSE

Let's do it.

LIAM

Tomorrow.

They stare far out the perimeters of the town, admiring the beautiful colors that await them.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN CENTER - DAY

Sarah stands in a curve outside a little shop, a basket trapped between her fingers; her posture indicates she's been waiting for longer than she'd like.

CUT TO:

INT. LIAM'S CAR - CONTINUED

Jesse sits in the passenger seat while Liam drives; Maia sits in the back, reading a book.

Jesse's phone buzzes.

INSERT - PHONE

INCOMING CALL: Sarah (Insult: loading)

A very bad picture of Sarah taken from a lower angle appears as her contact picture.

Jesse answers his phone.

JESSE

We are turning into the town center.

Jesse hangs up.

MAIA

Wait, if you have that as Sarah's contact picture, what do you have for mine?

JESSE

Does it matter?

MAIA

It does indeed matter.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN CENTER - CONTINUED

Sarah holds the basket awkwardly, staring around the town center.

Her eyes fall on a trio of girls, who laugh about while carrying many shopping bags; their feet not struggling to walk in seven inch heels that compliment their tight clothes.

Sarah twirls her mouth and looks down at her sweat pants and her button up shirt.

She sighs and looks closely at the girls; the way they move, talk, stare.

BEEP BEEP!

A car waits for Sarah, she snaps out of her staring game.

INT. LIAM'S CAR - CONTINUED

Sarah opens the door and puts the casket inside, she sits down.

LIAM

Before you get in -

SARAH

Clean my damn shoes I know.

Sarah kicks her feet together. She then gets in the car, Liam steps on the gas.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELDS - LATER

The four friends sit on a blanket while they dig inside the basket.

Jesse bites into his sandwich.

JESSE

Wow, these are really good. Sarah.

LIAM

Yeah, especially since this is the first time Sarah makes food for us.

SARAH

And also the last.

Maia opens her backpack; Liam quickly snatches it and unzips it.

LIAM

We are here to escape stress woman.

Maia lies down on the grass.

MAIA

I'm sorry, I have so much work I don't know if I'll be able to finish.

JESSE

What's bothering you?

MAIA

Just everything. From the play, to the advanced placement homework, to all the clubs I'm in, my driver's test, talent show, college applications, amongst other things.

SARAH

At least you care. I don't give a shit about any of this. And sometimes I hate myself because of it. I tell myself, when I'm done with this semester, I'm going to shit perfect A's out of my ass. I never do. Who am I kidding?

LIAM

Do you even try?

SARAH

I try to try.

There's a silence.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I don't even know what I want to major in.

Liam leans closer to Sarah, his eyes reflecting concern.

LIAM

Well.. You like movies. Do you want to go to film school?

SARAH

I don't know.

LIAM

You like animals, what about vet school?

Sarah cracks a smile.

SARAH

I don't know.

MAIA

Maybe you should get into psychology, you do a handsome job at judging people.

Maia's choice of tone is rather unfriendly; Liam notices this.

LIAM

Did I miss something?

SARAH

Look Maia, I'd rather you tell me whatever you have in mind right now. I don't want our day to go about bitchy stares in between sassed up sentences.

Maia breathes through her silence, she then talks.

MAIA

I can't manage.

SARAH

Yes?

MAIA

I can't manage you talking smack about everyone when I'm making an effort to deliver a half decent play.

SARAH

And I'm keeping you from doing that?

MAIA

Yes Sarah, you are indeed keeping me from doing that. Just because you're pretty, that doesn't mean you have to insult everyone who isn't.

Maia opens her book.

SARAH

Wait, you actually think I'm pretty?

Maia looks up from the book; her features tight, like if Sarah just told her a bad joke.

Sarah smiles.

Liam looks at Jesse, who is lost in his train of thought; looking at the trees beyond the prairie.

LIAM

Jesse? What are you thinking?

Jesse looks at Liam.

JESSE

My mom would've loved being here.  
She loved nature. Every time we  
went to my uncle's cabin she  
would sit outside for hours,  
just admiring the view.

There's a silence.

JESSE (CONT'D)

Funny how you notice the small  
things in people when they are  
no longer with you.

There's another silence, smashed by the sound of Liam standing up. He offers his opened palm to Jesse.

LIAM

Let's go.

Jesse looks up at Liam's hand.

JESSE

Go where?

LIAM

To the woods; so you can enjoy  
it for your mom.

Jesse takes Liam's hand; he pulls him into a standing position. Sarah and Maia get up as well.

The friends run away from the picnic and towards the forest.

INT. FOREST - CONTINUED

The four friends run across the forest, laughing as they do so; the beautiful colors of autumn dashing past them.

They dodge tree branches and jump tall rocks.



Sarah looks forward to see Maia and Liam running ahead of Jesse, who is having trouble keeping pace.

SARAH

Guys hold on!

Maia trips on a branch and disappears as she falls off the edge of the forest.

LIAM

Maia!

Liam makes it to the edge of the forest, his eyes search for Maia. Maia's body rolls down a hill.

Liam carefully slides down the hill. He lands safely next to Maia, he helps her up.

LIAM

You scared me, are you okay?

Sarah and Jesse slide down the hill as well.

SARAH

You guys should've waited for us,  
are you Okay?

MAIA

I'm fine.

LIAM

Does your leg hurt?

Liam reaches for Maia's leg, she rejects his hand.

MAIA

I'm okay.

SARAH

Holy shit, who lives there?

Maia and Liam follow Sarah's gaze.

A Mansion, built behind grey massive gates that protect a beautiful garden.

The mansion is massive, a Victorian castle-like structure containing many windows and roofs; hints of more structure can be spotted behind the many frontal walls attached together.

MAIA

I don't think anyone lives here.

LIAM

Holy cow, that house is huge.

Liam walks towards the gate; he looks at an ENTER sign attached on top of the unlocked gate doors. Sarah appears next to Liam.

SARAH

An enter sign in front of a house?  
How practical.

LIAM

Do you want to go in?

SARAH

What?

LIAM

Come on, aren't you at least a  
little curious about what's  
inside?

SARAH

Yes. There's something about it  
that -

JESSE

Calls out to you? I want to go in.

Jesse appears next to Sarah.

MAIA

Nothing calls out to me. And we  
shouldn't go in there.

SARAH

There's an enter sign right in  
front of us.

MAIA

Really Sarah? If there's a sign  
that says kill yourself are you  
going to do that as well?

SARAH

You sound like my mom; except she  
uses a bridge as an example.

Liam, Sarah, and Jesse stare at the house. Maia, on the other hand, doesn't seem interested. Jesse opens the gates and looks back at his friends.

JESSE

So are you guys coming?

Sarah and Liam walk forward.

MAIA

You guys are seriously going in?

Sarah looks back at Maia.

SARAH

I know, I know. I don't know I just feel like I have to.

MAIA

You just feel like you have to?

SARAH

Yeah.

MAIA

That makes no sense at all.

Sarah, Liam and Jesse continue forward, Maia keeping a slow pace behind them; her arms crossed.

EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUED

Lines of bushes intersect with one another, making paths to different places. They continue straight ahead; the path that leads to the entrance of the mansion.

Jesse looks around to see more of the garden; fields of blue flowers fill in spaces left naked between the bushes.

Soon enough they end up on the -

EXT. FRONT PORCH - CONTINUED

They stare at the front double doors; big and majestic. Liam grabs the handles and pushes the doors forward.

A heavy swing, accompanied by a creak; they look far into the house, it's mysteries inviting them in.

INT. MAIN HALL - CONTINUED

The four friends walk in.

The house has an old sophisticated structure; blood red walls, many paintings, and spacious openings that lead to other rooms. The hall continues straight ahead, the silhouette of a great set of stairs visible at the end.

Sarah and Jesse slide to the opening on the right. Maia walks to the opening on the left. Liam continues straight ahead.

He looks at the paintings:

INSERT - PAINTING 1

A woman on top of a hill, her hair blows in the wind.

INSERT - PAINTING 2

A beautiful woman rests on a couch.

INSERT - PAINTING 3

Another woman, reading a giant book rested on a table.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

Sarah sits on a great couch as Jesse walks through the spacious living room.

A row of chandeliers light up dining tables, many sofas, record players, vintage couches. Their modern clothes look like a juxtaposition to the house's many 1800s characteristics.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUED

The library from the opening scene, except the candle that floated in mid-air now rests on the desk.

Maia searches through the books; not particularly interested in any of them.

MAIA

Are you guys sure no one is here?

LIAM(O.S)

Come look at this.

INT. MAIN HALL - CONTINUED

Liam is still drooling over the paintings, Jesse joins him.

LIAM

I wonder if these are portraits of real people. That woman is just so beautiful.

JESSE

What woman?

LIAM

All of them.

LIAM'S POV

The paintings are made up of many beautiful women wearing different dresses.

JESSE

What are you talking about? There are no women.

Liam looks at Jesse and chuckles.

LIAM

Oh yeah, than what is it?

Jesse points at one of the paintings.

JESSE

Well... that one is a painting of the sky.

JESSE'S POV

INSERT - PAINTING 1

Obsessively dark clouds float over hills made up of dead grass.

Jesse looks throughout the rest of the paintings, paintings made up of mostly black, dark blue and grey.

JESSE

There is a weird looking monster in that one.

SARAH(O.S)

Where do you guys think these stairs lead to?

Jesse and Liam walk towards the end of the hall to meet Sarah; who waits next to the stairs.

Maia walks out of the library and glares at the paintings.

MAIA'S POV

There are absolutely no paintings, just empty frames.

LIAM(O.S)

Maia!

INT. DOWNSTAIRS LANDING - CONTINUED

Maia joins the rest of the team. They stand next to the stairs, which curve and connect with another set of stairs.

Sarah takes the lead and walks up the stairs, the rest follow. Maia looks apprehensive, but she forces her feet up each stair.

Soon enough they make it to the -

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - CONTINUED

Sarah stops and looks ahead.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Another long hallway.

Three arched windows on the left face three doors on the opposite side. Hints of more hallways can be seen at the end of this one.

The light is limited, darkness overtaking the walls and corners of the hallway.

An unusual figure strolls along the end of the hallway.

SARAH'S POV

She sees a smidge of a knee long clean white dress, brown hair, and pale face.

SARAH

Guys there is someone over there.

Jesse looks.

JESSE

What is that?

SARAH

I think it's a woman.

JESSE

No its not.

JESSE'S POV

A dark figure as black as darkness moves very alien-like at the end of the hall; very very tall; very very inhuman. Two bright red spots appear with the figure.

LIAM

I see the woman.

LIAM'S POV

Liam indeed sees a woman, but not the woman Sarah sees.

This woman wears a very long orange dress, her long red hair blowing along with it; both seemingly alive. Particles escape this woman, along with a beautiful laugh.

MAIA

I don't see anything, can we just go?

JESSE

Do you see the dark shape?

LIAM

What?

JESSE

That one, the one that is walking towards us.

SARAH'S POV

The white dress moves closer to her.

LIAM'S POV

The woman walks towards Liam, her long perfect legs escape the orange dress.

JESSE'S POV

The dark figure's mass expands along the wall, devouring the lights, devouring the walls, devouring everything.

SARAH

It's right in front of you.

MAIA

Stop freaking me out!

SARAH'S POV

Dirt and mud starts cascading down the dress, the woman's face still hidden behind her hair. Two long and dirty arms escape the dress, extending towards Sarah. A long and penetrating screech emits from the hidden face.

JESSE'S POV

A dark arm escapes the dark mass, long red fingers reach for Jesse's face.

JESSE

Let's get out!

Sarah runs down the stairs, Jesse doesn't hesitate to run along with her.

Maia looks at Liam, he doesn't move.

LIAM'S POV

The woman seductively shakes her hips, her red hair flowing with her dress. Her eyes stare straight at Liam, focused on nothing but him; inviting him.

MAIA (O.S)

Liam, come on!

The woman acknowledges Maia's scream and turns around; her dress flowing in the same direction.

Liam sees as her exposed back wanders away, her dress tight on her buttocks.

The woman gets devoured by darkness.

Liam snaps out of it.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELDS - CONTINUED

Sarah and Jesse wait right outside of the gates. Maia drags Liam along with her.

MAIA

What the hell are you guys onto?  
Whatever you guys are doing that  
was not funny.

LIAM

I saw a woman, up there.

SARAH

Was she wearing a white dress?  
With dirt? Was her face covered?

LIAM

No. She was... Beautiful.

JESSE

Whatever that was I want to go back.

Maia stops Jesse mid-step.



MAIA

You are not going back. We are  
getting out of here. Now. Please.

Maia walks back into the forest, Liam after her. Sarah and Jesse  
follow their tracks.

SARAH

Jesse, did you see the woman?

JESSE

No.

SARAH

What did you see?

JESSE

It doesn't matter.

SARAH

But -

JESSE

Just leave me alone.

Jesse catches up, leaving Sarah behind.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - MORNING

Sarah sits at one of the group tables, a notebook spread out in front  
of her. Liam walks in and sits in front of her; her eyes remain locked  
on her book.

LIAM

What are you doing?

SARAH

Trying to get at least a 70 in  
my homework.

LIAM

Isn't homework to do like... you  
know... at home.

SARAH

Well I didn't do it at home... I  
couldn't concentrate. I mean, I  
never can. But yesterday especially.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

That house. I can't stop thinking about it. And I don't know why I have the urge to go back.

LIAM

I want to as well. Here.

Liam hands some pamphlets to Sarah.

SARAH

What is this?

LIAM

I went to a college fair, I figured these are the colleges that might interest you. There are Vet schools, film schools, I even considered psychology.

SARAH

You're kidding.

Sarah flips through the pamphlets.

SARAH

Oh my God. Thank you so much Liam. I can't believe you went through so much trouble for me.

LIAM

Hey, that's what friends are for.

SARAH

I'm going through these when I get home.

Liam stares directly into Sarah's eyes and raises his eyebrows.

SARAH

I actually will.

Liam gets more comfortable in his chair.

LIAM

Guess who went back to Eeyore mode?

SARAH

Jesse? You want know how he talked to me yesterday. He's never talked to me like that. I want to slap that

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

attitude right off his face till it falls off and rolls around the stupid floor while his hobo hair mops it.

LIAM

Maia says he wasn't nice to her either this morning.

SARAH

I thought we should've given him time, but I didn't think it would take this long.

LIAM

He's depressed. But I have an idea.

SARAH

Yeah?

LIAM

We should go to his house today, bring a movie. Try to cheer him up.

SARAH

Isn't that what we have been trying to do these last few days?

LIAM

But we didn't try a movie. Or chips.

SARAH

Well with that logic you might as well also bring him a fucking happy meal.

LIAM

I already talked to his dad, he says its fine.

Sarah looks down at her homework for a second. After hesitating, she speaks.

SARAH

Hey, do you think after school you can take me to the movie theater in front of my house.

LIAM

Yeah, what movie do you want to watch?

SARAH

I'm going to apply for a job. I want to make my own money.

LIAM

Yes. Just remind me after school.

SARAH

Thank you, why are you so nice?

LIAM

Someone needs to balance your attitude.

Sarah chuckles.

SARAH

Thank you. So what movie do you plan on bringing?

LIAM

Something happy. Like Finding Nemo.

SARAH

Yeah, Finding Nemo is hardly happy. And there is a dead mom in that movie. You don't want Jesse watching that.

LIAM

Bambi?

SARAH

Dead mom.

LIAM

Up?

SARAH

Dead wife.

LIAM

Lion King?

SARAH

Dead dad.

LIAM

Maybe a scary movie? Scream?

SARAH

Yeah Dead mom. We could be here all day.

LIAM

I'll think of something.

SARAH

Just bring a movie you know he likes. You know Jesse he loves re-watching movies all the time.

LIAM

Alright. Well I'll leave you to finish your homework; we'll go to Jesse's after you apply for your job.

SARAH

Alright. See ya later.

Liam gets up and heads towards the main door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIAM'S CAR - HOURS LATER

Maia and Liam sit in the car while they wait outside a movie theater. Liam hits the steering wheel with the beat of the song that plays on the radio.

The main front doors of the theater open; Sarah walks towards Liam's car and gets in.

LIAM

Clean your -

SARAH

My damn shoes, I know.

MAIA

This obsession with keeping your car clean to the max is not healthy.

LIAM

This obsession on all of your homework, the play, your advanced classes, the talent show, and keeping all of your grades at an A plus is not healthy.

Liam points at the book sitting on Maia's lap, her pencil in the middle of a sentence.

MAIA

Touché.

LIAM

So how did it go?

SARAH

I think it went pretty well.

MAIA

So why the sudden interest in taking a job?

SARAH

You know, I just want to make my own money.

MAIA

Oh, I see.

SARAH

So, Liam, do you have any idea how we are just going to barge into Jesse's house without seeming like a bunch of obnoxious little turds that fail at keeping their friend happy?

LIAM

No. We are just going to improvise.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Maia, Liam and Sarah walk inside. Many grocery bags hang down from their hands.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

LIAM

Jesse!

A total mess welcomes the friends into Jesse's living room; candy wrappers, dirty plates, clothes.

MAIA

Guys.

Maia walks far into the kitchen, opens a bottom drawer and takes out a big trash bag. She walks back to the living room.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Here, help me get all of the trash  
in this bag, Sarah can you take all  
the dirty plates to the kitchen  
please?

Maia and Liam gather trash as Sarah stacks the dirty plates. Liam hits the couch multiple times to get rid of the many crumbs that inhabit it. Sarah walks towards the kitchen. Maia closes up the trash bag.

Jesse appears next to the door; he wears pajamas, his hair is a mess, the bags under his eyes expulse a color.

JESSE

What are you guys doing here?

LIAM

We brought a movie. And some snacks.

JESSE

U-huh?

LIAM

To watch with you.

JESSE

I see.

Jesse looks far from grateful.

SARAH

So... Yeah.

Jesse looks at his friends, his face unimpressed and tired. After the awkward silence that falls upon them, Jesse sighs and sits down.

LIAM

Pick one.

Liam hands a stack of movies to Jesse, who powers through each DVD case.

He finally picks one and throws the case on the table; he runs his arm through his face.

Sarah and Maia share a look as Liam struggles to get a positive reaction from Jesse.

The four friends look at each other, Jesse's eyes falling upon each one of them.

JESSE

So are you going to play it?

Maia gives up and shrugs, Liam begins setting up the T.V.

SARAH

I cooked again. I made salsa for  
the chips.

JESSE

(uninterested)  
Nice.

Sarah and Maia take the food out of the bag and set it on the table,  
right in front of Jesse.

LIAM

This is one of your favorites right  
Jesse?

JESSE

(silently)  
Your desperation is sad.

Maia is the only one who hears Jesse, she clears her throat.

MAIA

Can I go to the restroom?

JESSE

Go to the one upstairs, this one  
doesn't work.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Maia walks towards the bathroom, she passes by Jesse's room. She stops  
and takes a few steps back. She eyes Jesse's bedroom; dirty clothes  
are scattered throughout, dirty plates stacked on his desk, pictures  
of Jesse's mom lie around the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

Jesse and Sarah sit in the couch while Liam figures out the T.V. Sarah  
takes a few good looks at Jesse's tired expression. Maia appears from  
the hallway.

MAIA

You know Jesse, your room is kind  
of a mess as well, we can help you  
clean it.



Maia finally gets a reaction from Jesse; but not a good one. He gets up from the couch, slapping his knees.

JESSE

And who asked you to go into my room?

MAIA

Well, I'm sorry, I was going to the restroom and the door was opened and I peeked.

JESSE

(carelessly)

See, this is the problem with you people. You want to drag others into your stupid little team happy and all you end up doing is annoying them, and invading their private time, and I'm fed up with it.

MAIA

Oh you're fed up with it?

Maia's tone picks up steam.

JESSE

Yeah.

MAIA

You want to know what I'm fed up with Jesse? You want to know? I'm fed up with trying to cheer your sorry little ass up and you acting like this is all a big game. Well news flash Jesse, other people's feelings matter just as much as yours and you can't just go around making us feel like shit for trying. I'm sorry Jesse. I really am. I'm sorry for trying to make you happy. I'm sorry for going out of my way to be with you. I'm sorry for not being the perfect little friend you want. I'm sorry I care about you. I'm sorry your mom died. And I'm sorry it's ruining your life. And you want to know why this shit matters so much

(MORE)

MAIA

to me? To us? Because I love you. We love you. And if you're not going to acknowledge our effort, then you clearly don't give a shit. And I'm sorry for that as well.

Maia says this as if she just had absorbed all of Jesse's rage and shot it straight back at him.

MAIA (CONT'D)

And "Your desperation is sad". Really? Well maybe we wouldn't be so desperate if you weren't such a shitty friend who doesn't consider what his other friends are feeling. And there are a lot of other things I would like to say to you right now. But I won't because I don't want to go down to your level, I would have to fly past hell to reach such level.

Sarah and Liam are also left open-mouthed.

MAIA (CONT'D)

I'm leaving,  
(looks at Liam and Sarah)  
and I'm sorry you guys had to deal with this as well. And I'm also sorry the big effort you guys put into this also lost all of its meaning. Hope this little visit was worth it, because just like you Jesse, I don't give a shit anymore. And I won't.

Maia storms off, the rest of the friends look after her till the front door slams shut.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIA'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Maia sits on her bed; many piles of books surround her. She focuses on a note sheet. A violin rests between her shoulder and her cheek, the bow brushing it lightly. A beautiful melody escapes the instrument.

Maia writes the note on the sheet.

She continues on with the melody, the violin quickly loses its tune, causing Maia to grunt.

She places the bow on the violin, adding pressure to it; her expression tightening.

She slides it down; a screeching noise stabs through the room, maddening Maia.

MAIA  
(sarcastically)  
Beautiful fucking note, let me  
just  
(scribbles carelessly on the note  
sheet)  
write it here.

She tries again; another unpleasant sound escapes the violin. Maia holds her pen in rage and scribbles all over her note sheet. She grabs her violin and smashes it against the floor multiple times.

MAIA  
You piece of shit.

Her rage provokes tears; causing her to bury her head in between her hands.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Jesse lies in bed, his face buried into his pillow, he cries deeply into it. A picture of his mom rests next to him. The room is absolutely dark.

RATTLE! RATTLE! RATTLE!

The sound comes from downstairs.

Jesse looks up from his pillow, his face wet.

He gets out of bed, rubbing his sleeve against his eyes; leaving the sleeve damp wet.

JESSE  
(sobbing)  
Dad?

RATTLE! RATTLE! RATTLE!

JESSE  
Dad? Why are you back so early?

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUED

He walks along the long and dark hallway, not bothering to turn any of the lights on.

He takes a right, passing his dad's opened bedroom door.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - CONTINUED

He walks slowly, the living room getting closer.

He looks around him, barely making out the many silhouettes of the furniture and the couches.

SWOOSH!

A dark shape swims through the air, blocking Jesse's view completely.

BAM!

Jesse slips and rolls down the stairs, he grunts in pain until he lands.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

His hand slides up the wall, trying to find the light switch... almost there.

FLICK!

The living room lights up.

Jesse gets up and holds his arm in pain. He limps back upstairs, away from the living room.

The living room light slowly fades, leaving the living room once again dark.

JESSE

What the fuck?

Jesse tries the light again, the living room stays dark.

He dashes up the stairs, panting.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - CONTINUED

RATTLE! RATTLE! RATTLE!

The noise follows him, reverberating right on his heels.

He runs faster, the horrible sound seeming to be a part of him.

INT. JESSE'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Jesse runs in and shuts the door. He places his back against the door and slides down, overwhelmed, terrified.

CUT TO:

INT. MOVIE THEATER - BOX OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Sarah is sitting down, looking down at her nails; bored out of her mind.

A man shows up in front of her, she forces a smile.

SARAH

Yes?

MAN

Can I have one ticket for "man under the stairs?"

Sarah somehow looks offended by the man's question.

SARAH

Um...Why?

MAN

Because, I would like to watch "Man under the stairs."

SARAH

Yeah, I know what you're asking I'm not stupid, I'm asking why you want to watch that stupid movie?

MAN

Because I want to watch a movie.

SARAH

Well then get tickets for another movie. We are showing "Bright Skies" and "Shelter" both miles better than "The man under the stairs".

MAN

No thanks, I really want to watch that movie.

SARAH

I won't let you.

MAN

Why won't you let me?

SARAH

Because that movie sucks ass.

MAN

I don't give a crap, I should be able to purchase what I want. And if you don't sell me a ticket I'll file a complaint.

Sarah hits some buttons and pulls out a ticket, she looks at the computer.

SARAH

Oh would you look at that, you're the only retard who bought tickets to see this stupid ass movie. I hope you're able to sleep at night knowing you have a shit taste in movies and knowing you just gave your eleven dollars to uninspired, poorly acted and an unoriginal piece of shit.

The man slides some money towards Sarah. She takes it.

MAN

Thank you.

SARAH

Here you go, a ticket to watch "The man under the shithole".

The man walks away, not acknowledging Sarah.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Watch your movie make the academy open a "worst picture of the year" category.

MAN (O.S)

Screw you.

SARAH

Suck an ass.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELDS - MINUTES LATER

The four friends are sitting down on the grass, were they were previously having a picnic.

Maia eyes Jesse in between moments.

MAIA

So, Liam. I thought there was a party after the game.

LIAM

Yeah, but I don't want to go.

MAIA

Why is that?

LIAM

Because I don't really like the environment. It's not me.

SARAH

Football players become football players to go to parties, get drunk and have sex.

LIAM

Yes, and other football players become football players simply because they like football.

MAIA

How was your first day at work Sarah by the way?

SARAH

I quit.

LIAM

You quit, or they fired you?

SARAH

I quit before they got a chance to fire me. It's horrible how they treat the employees. We can't even get free movies or food.

MAIA

Oh Sarah.

LIAM

Jesse?

Jesse turns.

JESSE

Yeah?

LIAM  
Everything okay?

JESSE  
Yeah.

LIAM  
Something is obviously bothering  
you.

JESSE  
Well... I don't know, it's probably  
not important.

LIAM  
Come on, anything that you have to  
say is important to us.

Jesse sighs, he then speaks.

JESSE  
Something really weird happened  
yesterday. I --

Whatever Jesse had to say is cut by the sound of papers being ripped and Maia grunting; quickly absorbing all the attention from Jesse. Maia violently tears apart some paper; her frustration causes her to tear up.

LIAM  
(concerned)  
Hey hey hey hey.

Liam quickly grabs Maia's hands and places them on her side.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
What's the deal?

Liam hugs Maia, waiting for her to calm down.

MAIA  
I'm sorry. It's just so fucking  
hard.

Sarah and Jesse also share a look of concern. Liam grabs Maia's backpack and pulls it on his side.

LIAM  
Here, I'll give this back to you  
tomorrow morning.



MAIA

I still need to do my homework  
silly.

SARAH

What's the deal with you? You're  
usually so contained.

Maia sits on her knees, making an effort to breathe controllably.

MAIA

I don't know.

There is a silence.

MAIA (CONT'D)

I wonder if the house in front of  
the forest has been sold off.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - CONTINUED

The doors slide open, the four friends walk in.

INT. MAIN HALL - CONTINUES

Maia walks through the main hall; she looks at the frames on the  
right, which aren't empty to her anymore.

INSERT: PAINTING 1

A hand bleeding.

INSERT: PAINTING 2

Shattered glass.

INSERT: PAINTING 3

A woman burning in fire.

MAIA

Guys, we have to get out, there's  
someone here.

SARAH

How can you tell?

MAIA

These frames were empty the last  
time we were here.

LIAM  
No they weren't.

MAIA  
(surprised)  
Yes they were?

LIAM  
No these paintings were here last  
time.

MAIA  
Really?

LIAM  
Yeah.

MAIA  
Oh. Sarah, were they really there?

SARAH  
Yeah they were, but I didn't really  
look at them.

Sarah stares at the paintings.

SARAH'S POV

INSERT: PAINTING 1

Tears cascading down a masked girl.

INSERT: PAINTING 2

Another woman, making an effort to escape a very deep pit.

INSERT: PAINTING 3

A very tall, beautiful and happy woman standing next to a short,  
decomposed and sad one.

SARAH  
Whoever lived here had a weird  
taste.

LIAM  
What is wrong with these paintings?

Jesse appears next to Liam.

JESSE  
Maybe that they are hell of creepy.

LIAM

What? What do you see here?

LIAM'S POV

He points at a painting, a portrait of a beautiful blonde woman lying on a couch; her hand rested on her long legs, her head facing away.

JESSE

That's a bunch of trees, there's fog around them.

SARAH

What the hell?

SARAH'S POV

The painting Liam points at is the painting of a girl staring violently, a noose trapped between her hands.

MAIA

Guys, come on.

Maia stands at the end of the hallway, staring ahead the stairs, the rest of the team catch up.

They walk up the stairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Maia looks ahead.

MAIA'S POV

Just at the end of the hallway, before the darkness begins, stands a man.

The arched windows on the left permit light from the sunset to enter, revealing this man.

Very tall, shoulder-length hair, wine red rain coat, hands clenched into fists. While the man stands too far for Maia to make up his features, it is obvious he is angered.

MAIA

Who is that?

Sarah appears next to Maia.

SARAH

It's the same person I saw last time.

SARAH'S POV

The girl with the covered face and white night gown stands at the end of the hallway.

SARAH

Hey!

The woman turns around and starts walking towards the third door on the right.

MAIA'S POV

The man with the red coat opens the door and slides into the room.

Liam makes it to the upstairs hallway.

LIAM'S POV

The back of a very long orange dress disappears as it enters a room.

LIAM

Where is she going?

MAIA

She?

SARAH

She went into that room.

MAIA

You mean the man with the coat.

SARAH

Should we follow her?

JESSE

(from behind Sarah)

Guys, we have to get out of here.

It's dangerous.

MAIA

Yeah Liam, let's go.

Maia turns to Liam, who is entering the room.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Liam!

Maia and Sarah run towards Liam, Jesse follows after hesitating.

INT. MIRROR ROOM - CONTINUED

The friends enter; a small room with almost no light. Only one object stands in the middle of the room, covered with a white sheet.

Maia gets closer, a sentence is written on the sheet.

**"There exists no distinction between what resides beneath your skin and yourself"**

SARAH

What does it say?

MAIA

There exists no distinction between what resides beneath your skin, and yourself.

LIAM

What does that mean?

MAIA

I don't know.

Maia reaches for the sheet, she grips it tight and then lets it fall.

MAIA'S POV

As the curtain falls, she sees a glimpse of a really ugly and menacing face.

Maia screams and takes a few steps back. She turns back around to see  
-

A MIRROR

A golden arched mirror that stands.

Maia gets closer, seeing the reflection appear; but not her reflection.

The reflection of the man with the red coat stands where Maia's reflection should be standing.

MAIA

What the hell.

Maia looks at the features that make up this man.

Crooked nose, tight black mouth, darker than dark eyebrows, eyes that match the color of his coat, his hair covers his ears and falls on his shoulders; dark red hair.

Maia raises her hand, causing the reflection of the man in the mirror to raise his, his nails black and long, his arms crooked.

Maia takes a deep breath, causing the man to grunt; his mouth tightens.

The man is angered.

His red eyes and hair catch fire, spreading throughout his body. Maia screams and backs away from the mirror; causing the reflection in the mirror to back away till it disappears.

Maia is left petrified.

Sarah walks towards the mirror.

SARAH'S POV

The reflection of the woman with the white nightgown appears.

Sarah finally gets a good look at this woman.

Her beautiful brown hair falls gracefully in front of her face. Her clean white nightgown glows as if it was blessed.

Sarah raises her empty palm, the reflection in the mirror raises hers; white gentle hands.

Sarah hovers her hand in front of her forehead, causing the woman in the reflection to do so as well. Sarah wraps her fingers around the air, making the girl in the reflection to wrap hers around her hair.

Sarah brings her closed palm across from her face, causing the woman to clear her beautiful brown hair to reveal her face.

A beautiful face, pale as snow, blue eyes gleaming, small nose.

The woman quickly gives off an infuriated silent scream; as if she has been disturbed by Sarah's presence.

The woman's face starts changing, her eyes turn big and dark, her mouth old and wrinkly, her nose hooked, and her skin grey. Her beautiful brown hair quickly loses its beauty; turning ugly and dead. A brown-yellowish substance cascades down her pure dress, transforming it into a grimy decayed substance.

The woman screams at Sarah, grabbing hold of mirror, kicking from the inside, hitting her fists hard against it; desperate to get out and get to Sarah.

Sarah backs away.

SARAH

Maia!

Sarah runs away from the room, catching up to Maia.

Liam and Jesse are left in the room.

LIAM

Don't look at that. We need to get  
out of here.

Liam walks out of the room.

Jesse is left alone, he walks towards the mirror.

He stands and looks.

Silence.

Hi brings his hands up to his face in horror.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUED

Maia walks out of the house, scared and angry, keeping her arms  
together; her jaw trembling with chills.

Sarah walks out and joins Maia.

SARAH

Maia.

MAIA

We are never going back in there  
ever again!

SARAH

Maia.

Maia is left standing, taking in the cold air.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Maia.

MAIA

(frustrated)  
What?!?

SARAH

What did you see?

Maia unwraps her arms, snapping at Sarah with a strong tone.

MAIA

A man. Sarah. I saw a man.

SARAH

(surprised)  
Really?

MAIA

Yeah. (wonders)  
What did you see?

SARAH

I saw a woman.

MAIA

A woman? Did fire come out of her eyes? Did it look mad at you?

SARAH

No, no fire. She was mad for a second. It's like she was Okay with me being there, and then. She wasn't. I'm scared Maia. I'm really really scared. She wanted to escape the mirror and attack me.

Liam and Jesse walk out of the house.

LIAM

Let's get the hell out of here.

CUT TO:

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - MORNING

Sarah is getting dressed, she puts on a button up shirt.

She eyes the TV as she gets dressed, putting on the usual comfortable sweat pants.

INSERT: TV

Many models walk through a catwalk, confidence shining in their eyes. They pose, their tight clothes emphasizing their curvy bodies and big buttocks.

Sarah sighs.

SARAH

Fuck it.

INT. CLOSET - CONTINUED

Sarah goes through the different outfits she has access to. Buttoned up shirts, t-shirts, graphic tees, sweatpants and an occasional onesie.

SARAH

Fuck.



Sarah releases her hands with frustration and crosses her arms. She looks at the corner of the closet; a gift.

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Sarah sets the gift box on her bed and opens it.

SARAH

Let's see if you're useful now.

She opens the box.

INT. SARAH'S BATHROOM - MINUTES LATER

Sarah stares at herself in the mirror. She wears a tight purple blouse with very tight jeans. She looks stellar, but her expression commands otherwise.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah stands in the front of the cafeteria line, the lunch lady in front of her, a plate of food between her hands. Sarah has stayed with her new look, tight blouse and jeans, and a decent amount of make-up. Her blonde hair falls right under her chest.

SARAH

(smiling)

You can keep the change.

LUNCH LADY

You owe two dollars.

SARAH

(surprised)

What, no I don't. I've purchased every food you guys give me.

LUNCH LADY

No you haven't, I have it in the system.

SARAH

What, do you charge more now?

LUNCH LADY

No.

SARAH

Did you charge me extra for that hair I found in my food the other day?

LUNCH LADY

No.

SARAH

Then I don't owe you shit.

Liam shows up next to Sarah.

LIAM

I thought I heard your voice (hands  
lunch lady a couple of dollars)  
Here you go, just charge her with  
that.

Sarah and Liam walk forward.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - CONTINUED

Liam and Sarah walk out of the cafeteria doors.

SARAH

That bitch, I try to be nice to  
people for once and they give me  
that shit.

LIAM

Nice outfit, when did you get it?

SARAH

You like it? It was a birthday gift  
a year ago but I never wore it  
because I don't usually... well...  
Wear stuff like this.

LIAM

I like it, you pull it off.

SARAH

(smiling)  
Thanks.  
(Quiets down)  
I think I saw some guys staring at  
me.

Sarah says this with an unsure hopefulness, as if she really wants it  
to be true.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Where is Maia?

LIAM

I think she's in the auditorium,  
taking more auditions.

SARAH

(surprised)  
Really? She wouldn't hold auditions  
without me.

Sarah begins to walk away.

SARAH

Be right back.

LIAM

Wait you're not even going to  
wait for Jesse.

SARAH

Yeah he's not coming, he said he  
had to catch up on some homework.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUED

Maia stands behind the desk, looking up at a girl on stage.

MAIA

Again.

GIRL

(reading off script)  
I can't believe you would do  
something like that!

MAIA

(containing temper)  
Not quite, try it once more.

GIRL

(intensifies)  
I can't believe you would do  
something like that.

Maia's tension causes the pencil she holds to snap in half.

MAIA

No. I would like to try someone  
else.

Sarah bursts into the auditorium.

SARAH

Sorry I'm late girls, my partner here forgot to let me know we were going to evaluate some more.

MAIA

(silently)  
Fuck.

SARAH

Fun.

The girls stare at Sarah.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Alright, so who auditioned last?

The girls stand silently, obviously intimidated by Sarah.

SARAH (CONT'D)

So no one auditioned last? Quite interesting. Maybe you deaf bitches didn't hear me. (louder)  
Who auditioned last?

Sarah waits, tapping her shoe, no one raises her hand.

SARAH (CONT'D)

So what have you all been doing here all morning? Just staring?

A girl raises her hand.

SARAH (CONT'D)

What?

GIRL

(slowly)  
I think the reason we are not getting it right is because everyone else who is auditioning is watching.

SARAH

That makes absolutely no fucking sense to me. So what, you want me to give each one of you private auditions and then when it's time to deliver the line when every single one of those seats has an

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)  
ass sitting on it you'll just  
stare and shit your pants?  
Alright we can do that. But if  
you pass this audition and you  
don't deliver that line  
perfectly a month from now I'll  
wreck you.

Sarah stares, the girls stare back.

SARAH (CONT'D)  
Alright we'll start on the right  
and the rest of you cows can go  
wait outside.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

Sarah stands on the stage with one of the girls.

SARAH  
Go.

GIRL  
I can't believe you would do  
something like that.

SARAH  
Louder.

GIRL  
I can't believe you would do  
something like that!

SARAH  
You sound like you're auditioning  
for a porno.

The girl's script falls out of her hands, she reaches for it.

SARAH (CONT'D)  
What? You're telling me you  
haven't memorized that damn line?  
Do you even take this seriously?

GIRL  
I just reached for it.

SARAH

Now, say it again. No. Scream it.  
And try to make it sound less  
like you're trying to seduce him  
or I'll puke on you.

GIRL

I can't believe you would do  
something like that!!!

SARAH

Do you want some gum?

GIRL

What?

Sarah holds an opened pack of gum, offering some to the girl.

GIRL (CONT'D)

No thank you.

SARAH

I'm offering you gum because your  
breath smells like you gave a 90  
year old oral sex. Take the damn  
gum.

BOOM! CRASH! SMASH!

Sarah looks down from the stage. Three chairs lie on the floor, Maia  
stands next to them; her mouth tight, her posture reflecting rage.

MAIA

What the fuck Sarah! Outside! NOW!

EXT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUED

Sarah opens the door, Maia behind her.

MAIA

(raging mad)  
What the FUCK do you think you're  
doing

SARAH

I'm helping you.

MAIA

Don't even give that shit, because  
you're not. Do you have any fucking  
(MORE)

MAIA

respect for anyone? For me? I'm trying really hard and you always have to screw shit up.

SARAH

Always?

MAIA

Yes Sarah, you fuck everything up, but this is the end of it. I'm fucking tired of your shit.

SARAH

Oh like hell you will. Don't fucking throw your little tantrum on me, it won't work for me. You can throw chairs, yell at Jesse and Liam and hurt yourself all the fuck you want, but you are not going to do it to me.

MAIA

Oh give me a fucking break, you're suddenly the victim of what? You are a disgraceful worthless little bitch who doesn't care about her friends.

SARAH

Oh shut the fuck up, I care more than you ever will. You want me to fucking applaud you for what you said to Jesse? Yeah, his mom fucking died. You think a real friend would add more weight to his shoulders? You think a real friend would make Jesse feel like a shitty person? Make him feel worse about himself while his mother is lying in a fucking coffin? Huh? Look at this group, its falling apart. And it's not because of Jesse. It's because of you. You make such a huge effort trying to make

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

Everyone feel like shit for not sharing the same opinion with you. Don't blame us, don't blame your work, or your play, or the fucking talent show, or your advanced classes for your temper issues.

Sarah's tone gets to a point where she is left screaming at Maia at the top of her lungs.

SARAH

Blame yourself for being the way you are. Because that's what you do to others, make them feel bad about what they stand for. You want me to give you a taste of your own fucking medicine? Okay, You're a hard worker, and you suck for that. You care a lot about your future, and you suck for that. You are responsible, and you fucking suck for that, bitch. You should be more like me, I'm better than you and everyone else in this fucking little group. How did that feel? And if you have a problem with me, go tell God he did a shit job.

MAIA

God Sarah, this is not about you! It's about what happened inside that auditorium! And I know what you're doing. I know why you are dressed like a retired prostitute that didn't make enough money and bought the sluttiest clothes she found at Target. That's why you bring people down for their flaws because you hate yourself. Accept it. Well, look around. Absolutely no one is watching. You attracted no body. No one cares about you, do you see anyone staring?

(MORE)



MAIA (CONT'D)

You don't matter to people. And  
you will never matter to people.  
You're invisible. Get a life.

Sarah stares directly into Maia's eyes.

SARAH

Fuck you.

Sarah walks away from Maia.

CUT TO:

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - CONTIUED

Dark skies surround the house. The only window that lets light escape is located on the top left.

INT. JESSE'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Jesse is sitting down on his rolling chair, soundlessly staring at a wall; music blasting on his ears.

The room is kept full of light, a contrast to Jesse's rather dismal expression.

RATTLE! RATTLE! RATTLE!

The sound of scratching and limited breathing is undoubtedly loud, however Jesse's music blocks it off.

Jesse looks up to something unusual.

The glaring bedroom light starts dimming by the second, leaving it powerless.

The brightness of the untouched computer in the corner dims as well; leaving it naked.

The desk lamp loses its light.

Jesse looks around, seeing as every single item that can give out light starts dimming.

His phone... His T.V... His tablet.

INSERT: PHOTO

The photo of Jesse's mom and him in front of Disney castle is also affected. The backdrop and bright sky in the picture also turn into a dead color.

The only light comes from the hallway, lending itself to Jesse's room through the opened door.

JESSE

Dad?

He gets up from the chair and walks towards the light switch next to the door.

He tries it... Nothing.

He tries it once more... Nothing.

He stares into the hallway.

It's a very long and narrow hallway.

Three wall lights are set throughout the length of the hallway; from the front of Jesse's room, to the end of the hall.

And then he sees it.

JESSE'S POV

Particles of black mass appear from the bathroom, stairs, ceiling, and floor; conjoining at the end of the hallway to form a black shape.

Two dark eyes stare at Jesse from the end of the hallway, the creature takes its shape, and then gives out a growl.

FLICK!

The first hallway light in front of Jesse turns off.

The entity keeps staring at Jesse.

FLICK!

The middle hallway light turns off.

The entity continues soundlessly staring at Jesse.

FLICK!

The final light above the entity flicks off, leaving the hallway completely dark and the entity hidden in the darkness.

Jesse looks harder into the hallway... He can't spot the dark entity.

Jesse's hand searches for his drawer; he opens it. His hand explores the inside of the drawer; keeping his eyes on the hallway. He takes out a long and round object and points it towards the hallway.

FLICK!

A flashlight.

The blaring light shoots right at the end of the hallway.

Two dark eyes still stare at Jesse. The entity has not moved from the original spot... Until now.

It slides slightly forward, absorbing the light from Jesse's flashlight like a black hole eating up a star.

The entity glows for a beat until the light fades inside it, leaving Jesse with nothing to see again.

FLICK!

The final hallway light turns on... revealing the entity right under it.

FLICK!

The middle light turns on.

FLICK!

The light in front of Jesse turns on.

FLICK! FLICK! FLICK!

The lights flick off once again.

FLICK!

The final hallway light turns on, the entity no longer there.

FLICK!

The middle lights flicks on... revealing that the entity has moved right under it; closer to Jesse.

FLICK! FLICK! FLICK!

The lights flick off again.

FLICK!

The third light turns on... Nothing.

FLICK!

The middle light flicks on... Nothing.

Jesse's breath fastens, he reacts and quickly shuts the door to his room.

FLICK!

Jesse sees the first hallway light turning on from the crack under the door. A shadow blocks the light from entering the middle. The entity is standing right in front of his bedroom door.

The hallway light that enters throughout the bottom of the door fades; leaving Jesse's vision limited to silhouettes.

BAM! BAM! BAM!

The entity bangs on Jesse's door, causing him to back away.

JESSE

What do you want?!?!

BAM! BAM! BAM!

JESSE

Who are you?!

BAM! BAM! BAM!

After a few seconds, the banging stops; leaving Jesse in silence for many seconds.

Jesse's breath fastens.

FLICK!

The bedroom light turns on.

The dark entity stands on top of the bed, its arms extended, eyes staring down at Jesse.

FLICK!

The bedroom light turns back off.

Jesse screams as the creature growls.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIA'S HOUSE - MAIA'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Maia is sitting down on her bed. Her fingers press down hard on her laptop; her heated temper obvious.

Next to her, in the darkness, appear two red spots; bright spots that stare at Maia. Maia's fingers press harder, causing the red eyes to turn brighter.

She grabs her laptop and smashes it hard on the floor.

MAIA

Fuck you, you piece of shit!

Maia grabs a glass cup and throws it across the room, causing it to break on the wall.

She flips over her chair and slides her arms across the desk, dropping many objects on the floor. She grabs her brand new violin and throws it across the room.

Maia slides down against the wall till she drops to a sitting position. She brings her knees together and begins crying.

CLINK!

Maia looks up; rage, frustration and sadness inhabiting her eyes.

A glass cup floats in mid-air.

WHOOSH!

The cup shoots right at the wall, breaking into pieces.

Maia stares ahead.

A vase floats in the air, it shoots straight at the wall as well; Maia jumps.

WHOOSH!

A heavy book.

WHOOSH!

A glass bowl.

WHOOSH!

Jewelry boxes.

Soon enough, dozens of things inside Maia's room automatically launch themselves at the wall.

She covers her ears, overwhelmed; her tears of frustration turning into tears of fear.

MAIA

Stop!

BOOM! WAM! SMASH!

MAIA

STOP!!

The two red eyes move forward and out of darkness, belonging to the man in the red coat.

He stands in the middle of chaos, objects still launching themselves across the room.

He stares directly at Maia, his arms raised.

MAIA

What do you want?

The man plunges himself straight at Maia, his eyes red with fiery rage.

Maia screams and covers her face.

The man trespasses Maia and disappears.

WHAM!

A wooden chair flies straight at Maia, hitting her in the face; knocking her out cold.

CUT TO:

EXT. SARAH'S FRONT POTCH - CONTINUED

Sarah and Liam sit on the front porch, their chairs rocking.

LIAM

So the fight was bad?

SARAH

Oh Liam, it was horrible.

Sarah holds a cup of coffee between her hands.

LIAM

What did guys say to each other?

SARAH

Awful things, things I hope she regrets saying as much as I do. Nothing that is not true though.

LIAM

Come on, we've all been friends since Elementary. You've had your differences before.

SARAH

Not like this.

Sarah tears up, Liam reaches for her shoulder.

LIAM

Hey, it will be fine. Maia is very mature, I'm sure she's going to try and fix things.

SARAH

No, not this time.

LIAM

What makes you so sure?

SARAH

She's been so... not herself lately. She's just been so mad. Like I've never been afraid of her. Her eyes are... different. It's like I'm scared of saying anything in fear she'll freaking snap or something. Have you felt that?

LIAM

Show that you care. Try being the one who does the talking.

SARAH

It's not the same for me. It's so easy for you to show affection. I can't do that. I love you guys, and you know it, but I just can't do it.

Sarah and Liam stay in silence, rocking their chairs.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Look. You know I love you all the same. But I feel like right now you're the only one I can talk to. So, can I?

LIAM

Of course.

SARAH

You want to know why all of the sudden I want to have a job, or help with the play, or volunteer at places where I want to shoot myself?

LIAM

To earn money, you told me.

SARAH

I didn't do it for that. I was lying.

LIAM

Then?

There's a beat, then Sarah speaks.

SARAH

I did it because I want to be more like Maia.

Liam leans closer to hear; definitely intrigued.

LIAM

To be more like Maia? Why?

SARAH

Because I admire her. She's so perfect caring about all of her exiting projects, and being so responsible, enjoying life, while I just sit here.

LIAM

(concerned)

How long have you felt like this?

SARAH

Well it's always been in the back of my mind, but it's never been as present as it is right now. How fucking lame am I, right? I can't even try to do the awesome things she does. I'm stupid. And careless. And ugly. And a bitch. And this is all I have to offer to this stupid world full of perfect people.

LIAM

Hey, Hey, Hey. Don't talk like that... Please... You are an awesome person.



SARAH

Since elementary she's been class president while I shit F's out of my ass. In middle school winning first prize in a track competition, while I stuff my face with everything I lay my eyes on. In high school, winning all of the debates while I can't even debate if I want chocolate or fucking vanilla ice cream. Maia is right, no one gives a shit who I am. And as hard as I try to change, I can't.

LIAM

Please stop it Sarah. If you were to ever change I'd be pretty damn devastated.

Liam reaches for Sarah's hand.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I would miss the old Sarah like hell. The person you can't get mad at no matter how mean she is. The funny girl who always has clever things to say. The girl who doesn't even need to tell you she loves you to prove it to you. The person who is always there to help somebody out. Please don't change Sarah. You don't love yourself?

SARAH

(breaking into tears)  
I fucking hate myself.

Sarah throws herself at Liam, hugging him tightly; a shoulder to finally cry on.

Liam holds her tight as well; a friend looking out for another.

CUT TO:

INT. SARAH'S BATHROOM - CONTINUED

Sarah storms in and looks at herself in the mirror.

She stares, and stares, and stares, examining herself; she doesn't like what she sees.

WAM!

She slaps herself.

WAM!

She slaps herself harder.

WAM! WAM! WAM!

She slaps herself again and again, till she's left on the floor with a red cheek and tears on her face.

CUT TO:

INT. SARAH'S ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Sarah is sitting down on her bed, a red slash has formed on her cheek.

She looks straight at the T.V, her knees crossed in front of her; the bedroom door opened on her right, leaving the long hallway exposed.

A white figure passes by the hallway, Sarah doesn't notice.

A couple of moments of silence pass. The figure passes by again and stops right outside of Sarah's door.

The woman in the white nightgown. Sarah continues staring at the T.V, the woman in white slowly turns to look at Sarah. She growls.

Sarah finally turns towards the hallway, her gaze meeting the woman's.

The woman reacts quickly, her arms extending at Sarah. The woman's clean dress turns back to a disgusting mess; the low growl is replaced with an ear-piercing scream. The woman's beautiful hair has turned grey and dead, exposing her demonic face as she enters Sarah's room; launching herself at her.

Sarah throws her bed sheet on top of herself.

Sarah waits inside her sheet, terrified. The woman's breathing can still be heard just in front of her.

Sarah waits... and waits... the breathing tranquilizes, leaving the room once again silent.

After more seconds, Sarah slowly removes the sheet from her face, revealing... an empty room; the woman in white is nowhere to be seen.

BRRRRR!

The door right in front of Sarah creaks just a little bit, but enough to reveal a shoulder and half of a face.

Sarah gets up from her bed and backs away from the door.

BRRRRR!

The door moves slightly more, Sarah can't make up what lies behind it. She backs away slowly, getting as far away as possible from the door.

BRRRRR!

The door moves once more.

Sarah sits on her bedroom couch, keeping her eyes glued to the door.

BOOM!

The door slams shut, nothing standing behind it anymore.

A low growl comes from next to Sarah, she turns quickly to see the woman sharing the couch with her.

The woman's demonic face turns to look at Sarah, she holds her by the throat.

CUT TO:

INT. LIAM'S ROOM - CONTINUED

Liam lies soundlessly asleep in bed.

The dark surrounds him, not a single sound but the gentle blow of midnight's wind that stabs through the opened window.

The door to his room opens.

TACK! TACK! TACK!

A sound that can only indicate high heels approaching.

Liam snaps out of his sleep, and sits up on his bed.

WOMAN'S VOICE

My apologies, I didn't mean to  
startle you handsome.

Liam stares at the wall to see a silhouette.

A woman, slim and curved figure, hair dancing as if it was alive.

LIAM

Who are you?

The silhouette approaches.

Two beautiful long legs are the first things that enter the illumination that the moonlight lends to the room.

Liam looks up, perfect wide hips, a flat stomach, round and firm breasts and beautiful face.

The woman's striking red hair moves along with her dress.

The woman looks directly at Liam, approaching him, two green sharp eyes that stare seductively; focused on nothing but him.

LIAM

You're the woman I saw back at the house.

The woman speaks, her subtle voice echoing through the room.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Liam Wilson, the kid who's spent all of his life giving to others, never desiring anything in return. That is, until maybe now.

Liam stays opened mouth by the beauty of the woman that stands before him.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Poor baby.

The woman moves slightly across the room, her dress leaving a space for her thigh to poke through.

LIAM

Why are you here?

WOMAN IN DRESS

I'm here to give back to you.

LIAM

Give what back to me?

WOMAN IN DRESS

Whatever you want from me.

The woman sits down on Liam's chair, she brings her leg on top of the other.

LIAM

(chuckles)

I think I'd rather get to know you first.

WOMAN IN DRESS

I didn't expect any less from you.

The woman gets up from the chair, slowly moving towards Liam. She brings her lips close to his ears and whispers.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Good boy.

LIAM

Are you real?

WOMAN IN DRESS

Are you happy?

LIAM

Umm...

WOMAN IN DRESS

Are... you happy?

LIAM

Yeah.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Then who cares what I am? Tonight is all about you... I'm here to gift to you what no one ever gives you.

LIAM

And what exactly is that?

The woman places her hand on Liam's exposed chest.

WOMAN IN DRESS

My undivided attention.

Liam breathes nervously, trying to talk.

LIAM

Why do my friends see you differently?

WOMAN IN DRESS

Your friends... Are not important.

LIAM

What?

WOMAN IN DRESS

Your friends don't care about you. All you are to them is just another person they can rely on.

The woman sits on Liam's bed, placing her fingers on his hair. She slides her fingers down to the back of his neck; consoling him.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Poor baby. You are always looking out for your friends, making sure they are okay, while they don't stop and think how you're doing. What you want.

Liam breathes through his next sentence.

LIAM

That is not -

WOMAN IN DRESS

True? Come on, we both know it is honey.

LIAM

My friends love me.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Let's not fool ourselves. You're an opened book Liam, but no one wants to read you. Not even your friends.

LIAM

You didn't answer my question. Why do my friends see you differently?

The woman in dress leans closer to Liam, her lips almost touching his.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Let's just say that they will get what they deserve. Could be good, could be bad, could be worse.

LIAM

Please don't hurt them.

The woman's hair floats up, her dress as well, to the brink of exposing her body.

WOMAN IN DRESS

You're a fool Liam. You're still caring for them after they couldn't care less about you.

The woman gets up and stalks to the main door.

LIAM

Wait.

The woman in dress turns back at Liam.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Will you stay with me? Please?

Liam looks at her with sad and lonely eyes.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Of course.

The woman walks towards Liam and gracefully lands on the bed. He rests his head on her shoulder as she hugs him close to her.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S ROOM - MORNING

Jesse lies on bed.

INSERT: ALARM CLOCK

7:05

The sound of the alarm cuts the silence, waking up Jesse. Jesse grunts, he sits up on his bed, staring at nothing for a couple of moments; he sighs and gets up.

The room is rather bright, except for one part.

All of the space surrounding Jesse is grey, creating a circle around him that does not permit any light to enter; however, Jesse doesn't seem to notice.

Jesse walks forward, the lightless circle moving wherever he goes.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Jesse is dressed for school, he walks along the hallway, each light fading as he passes it.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUED

Jesse walks along the many trees and grass that are gracefully being hit by the sun's light. However, Jesse's depressing circle distorts the flowers to appear grey and lifeless.

WIDE SHOT OF THE CAMPUS

Many students walking around, chit chatting and laughing.

The many bright colors that shield the school compliment the friendly environment that surrounds Jesse's depressing circle.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDTORIOUM - CONTINUED

Maia sits at the judge's table; her back relaxing against the chair and her feet up on the table. Her face displays boredom and annoyance. Two girls struggle to act on stage, Maia could not care less about any of this.

GIRL #1

What did you tell him?

GIRL #2

I told him that I was done with being another one of his puppets in his puppeteer show.

GIRL #1

And what are you going to do?

Girl #2 steps forward, staring at the empty seats with a dramatic intensity. She begins singing, out of tune.

GIRL#2

(singing)

I'm getting out. I've escaped this hell that you trapped me in.

Maia does not look bored anymore but rather annoyed, confused and enraged.

MAIA

What the fuck. Why the hell are you singing?

GIRL#2

Well because it's my turn.

MAIA

This is not a musical.

GIRL#2

Are you sure?

MAIA

Can you please show me where in this goddamn script it says to break into a song after your mom literally just got stabbed. You people just literally make want to -



Maia grabs a copy of the script and begins tearing it into pieces.

CUT TO:

EXT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUED

Sarah and Liam stand outside of the auditorium, Sarah trying to get a peak.

SARAH  
She's probably in there.

LIAM  
Go.

Liam pushes Sarah forward, she resists.

SARAH  
What the hell are you doing. I'm  
not going in there.

LIAM  
Come on, Sarah, you have to at  
least try. It's a good idea.

SARAH  
Yeah it's a perfect idea if I want  
to get stabbed like the mom in  
Maia's play.

LIAM  
Come on.

SARAH  
Why do I need to apologize for? She  
started it.

LIAM  
And you continued it.

SARAH  
And she finished it.

Liam continues pushing Sarah towards the door, she resists.

LIAM  
Be the bigger person.

SARAH  
Stop pushing me or I'll knee you in  
your balls so they fly up to your  
throat till you choke on your own  
baby giving juice.

LIAM

I don't think that's possible.

SARAH

You're not going to force me, I'll go in there if I feel like going in there.

LIAM

Alright, I'll see you in Spanish class then. Adios.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUED

Maia is sitting down, her hands running through her hair with frustration.

The doors open, Sarah walks in.

MAIA

Oh great! What the fuck do you want now?

Sarah remains calm, she raises her voice so the girls can hear.

SARAH

I'm here to apologize to you all.

The girls stand still, listening.

SARAH (CONT'D)

If I was ever too mean to you guys I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to hurt your feelings. The reason why I was being so tough is because I really wanted this play to be good for Maia over here.

The girls listen to Sarah, even Maia appears invested.

SARAH (CONT'D)

I believe that hard work should be respected and appreciated and should be taken seriously. And when I saw that this play that Maia worked so incredibly hard on was going to waste I got a little passionate and defensive.

GIRL #2

Way too defensive.

SARAH

Thank you girl with the 90 year old penis breath. But yeah... My friend over here deserves absolutely everything in the world. Because believe it or not it really pisses me off when she is not happy, and she means the world to me.

Sarah stares awkwardly, silence consuming the auditorium.

SARAH

So... Yeah.

Sarah turns around and leaves the auditorium.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - CONTINUED

The four friends sit on the grass, Maia and Jesse facing each other as are Sarah and Liam.

Jesse's depressing circle is still a part of him; creating the space near him grey and lifeless.

However; no one seems to notice.

Maia too, has a circle of her own, but this circle leaves everything near her in flames; no one seems to notice this either.

Sarah and Liam appear to be contained, as much as they reflect concern.

Maia has her eyes glued to the book, ignoring everyone and everything, the fire sizzling around her.

LIAM

(clears throat) So, do you guys feel like doing anything after school?

JESSE

Nah.

A cloud of smoke and dust emits from behind Jesse's back, soon taking the form of the tall and dark shape. The shape slides its long and red nails along Jesse's shoulder; giving it a more protective posture; his guardian angel.

No one seems to notice the presence of the demon.

LIAM

What about Friday, are you guys  
free on Friday?

JESSE

Nah.

Jesse appears to be indifferent about anything as he delivers this.

The dark figure behind Jesse rises high, its smoky arm shoots straight at Liam, extending at an inhuman length. The dark shape's claws sink deep inside Liam's chest; a grey spot expands along his shirt; Liam does not seem to notice anything. However, his expression becomes sadder.

MAIA

Shut your trap Jesse. Can't you  
see you're getting everything all  
depressing?

The attention is drawn to Maia, the dark shape growls.

The dark shape's mass splits in half, the smoke and dust flying through the air and settling behind Maia. The man with the red coat appears behind Maia, his hands on her shoulders; his expression mad as ever.

The fire around Maia becomes greater, as does the color of Jesse's depressing circle.

JESSE

(sad)

No one asked for your opinion.

The dark shape behind Jesse extends its arm once more; this time shooting right towards Maia.

MAIA

No one is asking you to be  
sitting here.

The dark shape's arm is about to sink into Maia's chest, but the man in the red coat stops this from happening. He intersects the dark figure's arm, grabbing hold of it before it gets to Maia. The man in the coat whips the entity's arm.

The dark entity's arm turns blood red, the color extending throughout all of its body till the dark entity's mass appears red. .

Jesse's emotion shifts, turning from depressing to angry.

JESSE

(enraged)  
No one is asking you to be such a  
fucking bitch.

The dark shape's mass explodes as Jesse's temper does as well. Some of the dark and red smoke expanding amongst the friends.

The man in coat's splits in half as does the dark entity. Mass settles behind Sarah and Liam.

The woman in the white nightgown stands behind Sarah, protecting her.

The woman with the orange dress stands behind Liam.

MAIA

Oh you piss me off so fucking  
much.

The man in the red coat's eyes turn to fire, the fire shooting straight at Liam, Sarah and Jesse.

The woman in the white nightgown gets a hint of red on her outfit, her face begins taking the transition to the ugly beast.

Jesse's depressing circle is invaded by the fire.

Maia's fire shoots straight at Liam, but it bounces off right after hitting an invisible force. The woman in the orange dress gets closer to Liam, whispering into his ear.

WOMAN IN ORANGE DRESS

Don't let them get to you honey.

No one seems to notice the commotion that is happening.

JESSE

If I piss you off so much why don't  
you stop being my friend?

The dark entity's arm extends towards Maia again, the man in the coat not letting it in.

MAIA

Because I feel sorry for your little  
ass.

Sarah gasps.

The woman in the white nightgown gets a major piece of grey on her dress.

Sarah's breathing intensifies, she is genuinely afraid.

SARAH

Come on guys, can't you see how  
much you are damaging each other.

The woman in the white nightgown projects a white light, contaminated by grey and red colors.

The white light hits the man in the red coat, turning his hair grey. Maia looks at Jesse for a few seconds.

JESSE

You are a disgraceful piece of  
shit. Any minute in that mansion  
is better than being with you.

The dark entity extends its wings, and flaps them, dark matter flies all the way towards Maia and Sarah.

The woman in the white gown's dress has lost all of its white pure color, it is now contaminated by grey, red, and dark green. Sarah looks overwhelmed, sad, and angry.

MAIA

How about you go fuck yourself and  
get the hell out of here.

The man in the coat shoots fire out of his eyes, sinking into Jesse, a combination of dust and fire make up the dark figure now.

JESSE

(angry)  
I am.

MAIA

Good.

Jesse gets up.

JESSE

No, I am leaving. For good.

LIAM

What?

JESSE

I leave in three days, my dad and I  
are getting out of here. So your  
wish is coming true. And you will  
never see me again. Because I'm not  
coming back. Never.

The dark's figure mass expands all among of the friends, stabbing through Liam's invisible barrier. A grey color cascades down the woman in orange's dress.

The woman in the nightgown's face is far from pretty and her dress is far from pure. Sarah stares right up at Jesse, affected, scared, and sad.

The man in the coat permits some of the mass to take over his coat, his hair, his face.

The demons begin fading, one by one.

Maia, Sarah and Liam stare straight at their best friend, a face full of shock and sadness.

JESSE

Goodbye.

Jesse storms out, leaving Maia, Liam and Sarah staring after him.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSE'S ROOM - HOURS LATER

Jesse sits on his bed, blankly staring at the wall; which has been consumed with grey colors.

There's a knock on the door. It slides open, revealing Jesse's friends. They walk towards him as he continues staring at the wall.

Liam sits next to him, Maia takes the other side. Sarah stands in front of him.

They stare at him, Maia speaks first.

MAIA

It's not true that you're leaving  
right?

Jesse continues staring, Maia tries to get his attention.

MAIA

Jesse. (waits) Jesse?!

JESSE

You don't care.

Maia places her hand on his knee.

MAIA

Jesse. I do care. A lot.

**Liam rests his hand on Jesse's shoulder.**

LIAM

Why are you leaving?

Jesse waits, then speaks; his voice breaking.

JESSE

I can't.

SARAH

Can't what?

JESSE

I can't live here.

MAIA

Why?

Jesse's voice breaks a little more.

JESSE

I can't live here. This town is too small. I see her everywhere.

MAIA

Your mom?

Jesse nods.

JESSE

Everywhere I go she's there. Buying fruit in the grocery store, dropping me off at school, cooking in the kitchen, knitting in her rocking chair. I have to get out of here. I just can't heal.

LIAM

We understand.

MAIA

But you will be coming back right?  
After you do? You'll come back to us right?

Jesse stares at Maia, and shakes his head.

JESSE

I'm not going to come back.

Maia sighs, she tears up.



MAIA  
Not even a visit?

Jesse shakes his head, looking down at the ground. He reaches for a picture.

JESSE  
I see this picture and -

INSERT: PICTURE

Jesse and his mom standing in front of the Disney castle.

JESSE  
I remember when we went, she wanted to take a picture with me every five minutes. And I was complaining all the time telling her how I only wanted to get to the rides. She said it might be the only memory I ever have of her and would force me to take a picture. She chose this picture to frame, she said it was the picture were it was the least noticeable.

Jesse stares at the picture.

A beautiful middle-aged woman hugging a semi-annoyed Jesse.

JESSE (CONT'D)  
Now I wish she had taken more pictures with me and looking back at this one makes me wonder if this is the depiction of me she took to the grave.

MAIA  
Oh Jesse. I'm sure she didn't.

Maia holds Jesse, he hugs her as he cries into her shoulder. Sarah and Liam hug Jesse as well.

MAIA (CONT'D)  
Your mother knew you loved her.

JESSE  
I don't want you guys to remember me the way I am right now when I leave.

There's a silence.

JESSE (CONT'D)

I want to go back in that house.

SARAH

What?

JESSE

We need to go back.

CUT TO:

INT. LIAM'S CAR - MINUTES LATER

Liam drives, Sarah taking the passenger seat as Maia and Jesse sit in the back.

Sarah, Jesse and Maia stare out the window. Sarah raises her eyebrows and points as the car passes by a little restaurant.

SARAH

Look guys! It's Brooklyn Ice Cream shop!

LIAM

You still remember that place?

SARAH

Oh how could I forget it. That's the place we went after every single one of Liam's football games

MAIA

I remember we used to sit there and talk for hours.

JESSE

I remember one time we stayed there till 2 am and my dad called me in fear that I got kidnapped.

The friends laugh.

LIAM

And we would all eat ice cream like a bunch of little kids.

JESSE

Oh yeah. I got peppermint and Liam  
(MORE)

JESSE (CONT'D)  
got Vanilla. Maia, you got  
chocolate and Sarah, weren't you  
strawberry?

MAIA  
No. I think I was strawberry, Sarah  
was chocolate.

SARAH  
I was chocolate, I definitely wasn't  
peppermint.

JESSE  
I was the only one who liked that  
flavor.

SARAH  
Because that flavor tasted like ass.

JESSE  
You tasted like ass.

Sarah raises her eyebrows.

SARAH  
There is no possible way that could've  
sounded any wronger.

MAIA  
(smiling)  
Wronger isn't even a word.

Liam and Jesse laugh.

LIAM  
Back where times were simpler.

SARAH  
Back when I used to be afraid of  
much simpler things like the dark  
or clowns.

JESSE  
You're not afraid of the dark  
anymore?

SARAH  
As you're growing up, your fears  
change ya know.

MAIA

What scares you now?

Sarah thinks for a second.

SARAH

Seeing people change. Having a depiction of someone and then seeing it totally turn on its head. One thing is seeing people mature. But another thing is seeing people turn into something you don't want them to. What about you?

MAIA

Well... I'm scared of not being as important to people as they are to me. Knowing that later on I will never forget someone when I've probably been vanished from their mind.

SARAH

Wow. Jesse?

JESSE

Well... I guess not being able to be as happy as I was before. Not being able to make new memories I can look back at and smile.

MAIA

Liam?

LIAM

What?

MAIA

What about you?

LIAM

What about me?

SARAH

What's your biggest fear?

LIAM

Nah, mine is lame.

MAIA  
Oh come on! Say it.

SARAH  
Yes. Please.

Liam continues driving, he then speaks.

LIAM  
Growing up. Growing up scares the  
hell out of me. The future, what's  
going to become of me.

Silence falls once again upon the friends.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
I want to make one stop before  
going back in the house.

CUT TO:

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - CONTINUED

The four friends sit at a table, Sarah and Maia right across from  
Jesse and Liam. Each of them hold a distinct flavored ice cream.

MAIA  
Wow, these do taste exactly like  
they used to.

SARAH  
Yes they do, I bet Jesse's still  
taste like shit though.

JESSE  
Alright, alright. I get it, I have  
shit taste in ice cream.

SARAH  
Nah, you have like shit taste in  
everything.

LIAM  
I don't know. He has pretty good  
taste in music.

SARAH  
Not really, it's just that you and  
him share the same shit taste in  
music.

Jesse's phone buzzes.

INSERT: PHONE

INCOMING CALL: MAIA

Maia's contact picture consists of Maia yelling at the phone camera while trying to cover the lens with her palm.

MAIA

I knew it! I knew you had that picture of me!

JESSE

Sorry, you basically set yourself up.

SARAH

What do you have for me?

MAIA

Oh, you don't want to know.

Jesse hides his phone, causing Sarah to throw herself across the table and reach for it. Jesse struggles to hide the phone as Sarah's hands search for it.

JESSE

You're touching me down there!

SARAH

This isn't fun for me either.

Sarah grabs hold of Jesse's phone and sits back down. She sighs as soon as she looks.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Really?!?!?

LIAM

What does he have for me?

Sarah scrolls down, rolls her eyes and then points the phone at Liam. The picture of Liam asleep on a couch while holding a beer bottle with an open mouth takes over the screen.

LIAM (CONT'D)

When the hell was that?

JESSE

That was the day you came over and my mom bought us beer. And you got a little... you know.

LIAM

Did you know that your mom was the person who gave me my first taste of beer?

MAIA

Really?!?!

JESSE

You're joking.

LIAM

I'm not, before that sleepover I had never tried beer.

MAIA

Jesse's mom? But she was such a sweetheart.

LIAM

Yeah, but she didn't see drinking with an adult as a bad thing.

SARAH

I remember every time we went to your house she would go all out with all the snacks she bought for us.

MAIA

Remember the first day of middle school Jesse? When you and I rode in the same bus? Tell them the story.

JESSE

Well it was my first day of middle school and the bus had just picked me up and as we were turning into the street I see my mom running behind the bus, trying to catch up. Once she did, I got out of the bus and I told her she was stopping traffic and she was going to make us late. She gave me my lunch bag, gave me a hug and said: "I don't care if I have to sprint a mile or stop traffic, but my baby is not going to school without his lunch."

SARAH

I think you told me that story before.

LIAM

Not me, but that sure sounds like your mom.

MAIA

In other news, I think I finished composing the violin song. I just don't know what to name it.

JESSE

Really? When did that happen?

MAIA

I don't know. This is going to sound cheesy, but I only work on something when I have a strong feeling.

LIAM

Strong? Like what?

MAIA

Anything really. Happy. Sad. Angry -

JESSE

- Horny. Constipated.

MAIA

Oh Jesse, I'm not sure we missed your crude humor.

JESSE

What crude humor?

SARAH

You know the one that comes directly from your shit-filled brain and leaks out of your mouth.

LIAM

Anyways Maia, your song.

MAIA

Right, I'm finished with the song.

LIAM

And how do you like it?



MAIA

I love it. I'm actually very proud of it.

JESSE

And you're performing it at the talent show?

MAIA

Yeah, I feel very confident.

SARAH

(silently) Wouldn't know how that feels like.

Maia looks at Sarah in concern.

MAIA

Oh come on Sarah. Look at you. You're beautiful.

Maia clears Sarah's face by grabbing hold of her hair and placing it behind her ear.

MAIA (CONT'D)

That's what I've been trying to tell you. Right guys, isn't she beautiful?

LIAM

Yeah, she is.

Jesse nods in agreement.

SARAH

Come on guys, you're only saying that now.

LIAM

Well we never told you before because we thought you knew. Just last week you were walking with so much confidence.

SARAH

Yeah, I had hemorrhoids.

MAIA

Oh my God.

Jesse snorts with laughter.

LIAM

So by any chance, did you get to look at the pamphlets I gave you for possible colleges.

SARAH

Actually, I did and as crazy as this might sound. I think I'm going into psychology.

MAIA

Really?

SARAH

Yeah, I guess I really want to help with whatever happens to be bothering the people. I think all of the psychological stuff is very fascinating. I'm actually extremely excited. I'm like REALLY excited guys. I'm looking forward to the future so much. I guess that's one of the things I'm confident about.

LIAM

Well, I'm glad.

Maia reaches inside her bag and pulls out a few objects.

MAIA

Here. I bought these a couple of days ago. I was just waiting for the perfect time to give these to you.

Maia hands each friend a bracelet. Liam takes his and looks at it. A platinum bracelet, a thin chain connects both of its ends. There is a sentence engraved in black throughout the length of this bracelet.

*Always in the back of my mind.*

LIAM

Wow, thank you.

SARAH

What does it mean?

Sarah clips her bracelet on.

MAIA

I think it's very stupid to promise each other that we will always be friends and we will always be with each other. Truth is, we won't. We will eventually go in different routes, we are going to make different friends, and live different lives. We will not always be together, its life. It's inevitable. That being said, we can at least promise each other that we will always be in the back of our minds. Because you guys will always be in the back of mine.

Jesse and Liam clip their bracelets on as well.

JESSE

Of course.

Maia sets her hand in the middle of the table; her bracelet shining at her friends.

MAIA

Always in the back of your mind?

LIAM

Always in the back of my mind.

Liam puts his hand right on top of Maia's, Sarah places hers on top of Liam's.

SARAH

Always in the back of my mind.

Jesse's hand joins the bunch.

JESSE

Always in the back of my mind.

The friends smile at each other.

JESSE (CONT'D)

I feel good. Like really well. Much better than I did before.

Outside of the window shop stands the dark figure that haunts Jesse. Its dark colors fade away as Jesse laughs with his friends.

EXT. MANSION - FRONT PORCH -- CONTINUED

Liam, Sarah, Jesse and Maia stand outside the main doors of the house.

LIAM

Okay guys, whatever happens in there,  
we stick together okay?

JESSE

Right.

Liam pushes the doors forward.

A welcoming combination of blaring lights invites them once again into the mysteries inside the house.

They look forward.

Liam enters first.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Liam's clothes turn orange as soon as he takes the first step into the house. A new material cascades down from his neck. Liam is left with a 1800s orange style suit and tie, a high hat compliments his glossy shoes. Not every aspect of his outfit is orange; he we wears a white tie, a grey watch, and a yellow lace wrapped around his hat.

Jesse enters next, his outfit changes just the same way Liam's did.

Jesse is left with a dark grey suit and tie, his high hat seating a red lace. Regardless of his dark colors, he wears a surprising amount of white; from his shoes to his watch and tie.

Maia enters.

A dark red material rapids down her body, soon settling into a long 1800s dress. White and yellow flowers placed on the dress here and there contrast the dress' rather dark color.

Sarah enters

She undergoes a change as well, her dress appears as a gross combination of dark green and yellow. Black and light yellow flowers appear on the dress. Her hair is held in place by a light green lace.

The house is rather dark, except for the library.

A blaring light stabs through the opened doorway, accompanied with fancy music and laughter. The friends walk forward.

LIAM

Remember, we all stay in the same  
room.

The friends nod at each other as they enter.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUED

A sign greets them upon entering the library.

**"The greatest enemy does not inhabit the thoughts of other mortals, but your own."**

They pass the sign to find -

Dozens of people, all dressed in 1800s fashion. An explosion of many different shades of orange, yellow, red and grey residing in their outfits.

Sexy jazz music settles in the room, the many people talk as they drink a glass of wine. Other people appear to be dancing with a partner.

MAIA

Guys, be careful okay?

JESSE

Yeah.

LIAM

Do not leave the library.

Sarah walks towards a group of girls, their dresses covering every end of the spectrum between light yellow and dirty green. A particular woman notices her.

WOMAN #1

Oh Darling, we were waiting for you.

SARAH

Me?

WOMAN #1

Of course, yes. Have a glass of wine.

Sarah approaches the women as another hands her a glass of wine. They continue their conversation.

WOMAN #1

So tell me Maddie, what was the thing you wanted to change?

A second woman with a yellow dress responds.

WOMAN #2

My buttocks, they are flatter than  
a cheesecake.

A third woman with a dirtier yellow dress joins the conversation.

WOMAN #3

Oh Darling, don't even remind me  
of those cheesecakes. I shan't  
even eat a portion without  
bloating up like a damn elephant.

WOMAN #4

You already look like an Elephant  
Miriam, accept it.

WOMAN #1

I shall request a surgery, but you  
will always have that disgusting  
expression to reside on your face.

Sarah appears uncomfortable.

WOMAN #1

Oh please, I couldn't even obtain a  
surgery, the doctors were startled  
by the look of my face.

WOMAN #2

Oh Ashley, you might want to  
consider rubbing some mud on your  
face, maybe the doctors would find  
more beauty.

WOMAN #1

Oh don't give me that rubbish.  
When was the last time your  
husband touched you? In fact, he  
probably doesn't even desire to  
hit you, he's afraid his hand  
would get stuck in all of that  
fat.

SARAH

Come on, that is not nice.

WOMAN #2

You know what? You're right  
darling.

The second woman grabs her small belly.

WOMAN #2 (CONT'D)

This rubbish makes me look like a  
hippopotamus

She then grabs her small cheeks.

WOMAN #2 (CONT'D)

These immense cheeks cover my whole  
face.

The woman holds her barely noticeable love handles.

WOMAN #2

And these love handles are  
unacceptable.

The woman grabs a nearby dagger, holds up for everyone to see, and  
then glides the knife into her love handles, cutting through her own  
flesh.

Sarah screams.

SARAH

No, no! Stop!

WOMAN #3

That's right darling, get rid of  
that disgusting fat. As for me, I'm  
disgusted with my nose

The third woman smashes her head into a nearby drawer.

Sarah flinches and brings her hands up to her face.

The fourth woman wears a dark green dress.

WOMAN #4

My eyes are as darker than the  
night, I want blue eyes.

The fourth woman jabs needle into her eye.

SARAH

No! Stop doing that!

WOMAN #1

As for me, my thighs are  
disgusting.

The woman opens a drawer, pulls out a meat cleaver and hits herself in  
the thighs repeatedly with it, this causes Sarah to scream even  
louder.

WOMAN #2

Shut up Miriam, cutting your legs  
won't make you any more beautiful.

WOMAN #1

Shut your trap Maddie your face has  
the appearance of a donkey's arse.

The second woman looks at Sarah.

WOMAN #2

Darling would you look at us and  
tell us who is uglier?

WOMAN #1

Of course you are Miriam.

WOMAN #2

No, you are.

WOMAN #1

You are.

The third lady interrupts.

WOMAN #3

Ladies, I know who the ugliest one  
of all is. It's her.

The woman points directly at Sarah.

SARAH

Me?

WOMAN #1

Of course you are, look at your  
dead hair.

WOMAN #2

And your huge cheeks.

WOMAN #3

Are you sure your dad didn't mate  
with a rhinoceros?

Sarah begins crying, she's affected.

WOMAN #4

Your nose is so crooked.

WOMAN #2

Your arms are a joke.



WOMAN #3  
Your face is lumpy.

WOMAN #2  
Are you sure you don't want us to  
cut all of that fat you carry on  
your body?

Sarah covers face, she flinches as the women poke around her body

WOMAN #4  
You're ugly!

WOMAN #2  
And worthless.

WOMAN #1  
And fat!

A bell near them rings, provoking them to turn to look at a fifth woman, wearing an extremely dark and disgusting green dress; a small bell trapped between her fingers.

WOMAN #5  
It's time my darlings.

SARAH  
Time for what?

WOMAN #5  
To end our lives.

The fifth woman brings out a cart covered with different instruments.

The first woman pulls out a knife.

The second pulls out a chainsaw.

The third chooses a bottle with a clear liquid.

The fourth woman hands Sarah a noose, Sarah takes it.

Liam sits with a few women, all of them rubbing their hands against his legs and shoulders.

A stunning orange dress captures Liam's attention, he turns to see -

- The woman in the orange dress, seductively thrusting her hips side to side. She walks out of the library. Liam gets up and follows.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Liam looks ahead of the paintings, the orange dress disappears under the stairs; he runs after her.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS LANDING - CONTINUED

Liam walks towards the stairs and looks under.

- A hidden hallway.

He slides into the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUED

Maia sits on a fancy couch, joined by a couple of woman dressed in a dark red and maroon dress.

WOMAN #1

My sister happens to be the single most successful doctor in New York. My cousin is a damn actor in Hollywood. My mother is currently a number one bestselling author. BEST SELLING! How the hell do I live up to that?

The second woman rests her palm on the first woman's lap.

WOMAN #2

Oh Ashley, I totally understand where you're coming from. My brother happens to be a lawyer, he's won seventeen cases. Seventeen! I can't even direct a decent play, or play an instrument, or even keep my friends happy.

The second woman throws her wine glass straight at the wall.

WOMAN #1

(to Maia. So tell us sweetie, what is bothering you?

MAIA

(surprised) Actually, exactly that.

WOMAN #1

Oh please, you can't keep your friends happy? I can't even keep myself happy.

MAIA

(chuckles) I can't even hold a violin for ten seconds without smashing it against the floor.

WOMAN #2

Anger problems I see, Oh, don't worry darling, nothing our books can't help you with. Follow me.

Woman #2 gets up and walks towards one of the many shelves that make up the library, Maia and the first woman follow. The woman stops in front of the bookshelf and pulls out a heavy book, she hands it to Maia.

WOMAN #2

Here.

WOMAN #1

Excellent choice.

Maia looks at the book.

INSERT: BOOK 1

***"Dealing with Angry thoughts"***

The woman hands Maia another book.

WOMAN #1

Excellent book.

INSERT: BOOK 2

***"Throwing objects without them breaking"***

The woman hands Maia another book.

INSERT: BOOK 3

***"Controlling the fire that emits from your body"***

The woman gives Maia one last book.

INSERT: BOOK 4

WOMAN #2

And just in case someone enrages you past your limits.

***"How to successfully get away with MURDER"***

Maia looks at the book. She lets it drop and runs out of the library. Sarah notices this and runs after Maia, but not before having a glance at the book Maia dropped.

INSERT: BOOK 4

***"Getting rid of suicidal thoughts"***

Sarah runs out of the library, her dress dissolving into her normal clothing.

CUT TO:

INT. HIDDEN HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Many paintings of numerous women make up each side of the narrow hallway. Floating candles lead the way to a single door.

Soon enough, he makes it to the door, a message engraved on it.

**"There prevails no love more significant than the one that burns for yourself."**

Liam opens the door.

INT. PASSION ROOM - CONTINUED

A four poster red bed lies before him. Many floating candles set up a rather sensual and mysterious mood.

Liam walks forward, the woman in the orange dress stands beside the bed.

WOMAN IN ORANGE

I was starting to wonder when you  
would make time for me.

Liam stares, his voice cracking with intimidation.

LIAM

I think... I have to go back to my  
friends.

Liam walks back towards the door, but orange mass has placed itself right in front of Liam. The orange mass carries Liam straight towards the woman in the orange dress. The woman extends her arms towards his chin, her long yellow nails exploring his face.

WOMAN IN ORANGE

I don't think you're going anywhere.

LIAM

What do you want?

WOMAN IN ORANGE

Some alone time with you.

The woman`s face move towards Liam`s, her lips gently brushing against his.

LIAM

No.

Liam turns his head away from the woman.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Let`s not fool ourselves. You want this.

The woman turns Liam`s face back towards her. She throws herself at him, her lips on his. She grabs the back of his head as the kiss intensifies.

They separate.

The woman looks at him in the eye, pursing her lips forward, her cat eyes staring seemingly right through him. Candle wax falls right between the woman`s cleavage. The woman looks down, her gaze then turns to Liam.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Mind getting that for me?

Liam smiles nervously, obviously refusing. The woman grabs hold of Liam`s hand and places it right on her chest. She then guides his hand right across her cleavage, clearing the candle wax.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Lie down.

LIAM

Wha -

The woman pushes Liam right on the bed, keeping a hand on his chest.

She sets herself on top of him, Liam`s breaths with turmoil.

The woman reaches down to kiss him, a long and passionate kiss.

She moves her hands up to the top of the dress and slowly removes the fabric, exposing her breasts.

LIAM

You`re -

WOMAN IN DRESS

Beautiful? I'm only as beautiful as  
you are. We are one.

The woman throws herself next to Liam, he rolls on top of her and  
kisses her.

His body begins tensing up, the woman moans in his ear.

Liam gets up and looks at the woman, her perfect body thrown across  
the bed.

LIAM

I can't.

WOMAN IN DRESS

What do you mean?

LIAM

I have to go back to my friends.

WOMAN IN DRESS

It can't be. You'd rather be with  
your friends instead of spending  
an unforgettable night with me?

The woman rolls over on the bed, her exposed back complimenting her  
covered buttocks. She moves seductively, inviting him in.

LIAM

Yes. I'm sorry.

Liam moves towards the door, the woman appears on his way, fully  
dressed once again.

She spins, her dress turning into a combination of orange and yellow,  
containing hints of ugly colors like grey and dark green. Her hair  
remains half red and sulky, but the other half of her hair appears  
dark and dead.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Look what they've done to us!

LIAM

Please leave.

WOMAN IN DRESS

You don't belong with them. You're  
too pure for them. Don't you  
understand?!

LIAM

They love me.

WOMAN IN DRESS

They don't care about you.

Liam places his hand on the woman's arm, his friendship bracelet brushing her skin. The woman groans in pain as her skin sizzles where the bracelet touched her. She looks at Liam.

WOMAN IN DRESS

If it's true.

LIAM

If what is true?

WOMAN IN DRESS

If you walk out that door. That means that more love for your friends resides inside of you than love for yourself. Do you really love your friends more than you love yourself?

Liam thinks for a second, he looks at the woman, clearly stunned by her looks.

LIAM

Yes.

WOMAN IN DRESS

You would take a bullet for them?

The woman places a hand on his face.

LIAM

Yes.

WOMAN IN DRESS

Then go.

The woman vanishes.

Liam walks out of the room.

INT. NARROW HALLWAY - CONTINUED

As Liam walks away from the room, it burns in yellow and white fire, soon ceasing to exist.

CUT TO:

INT. MIRROR ROOM - CONTINUED

Maia walks in, the room's candle light conjuring into existence. Maia walks close to look at the mirror.

The man with the red coat looks straight at her, fire building up inside of him, stabbing out of his eyes.

MAIA

What do you want?

The man in the red coat continues looking at Maia.

MAIA

What the FUCK do you want?!?!

Maia begins banging against the mirror, as her anger grows, so does the fire inside the man in the coat.

MAIA

Answer me! You motherfucker!

The fire that was once emitting from the man in the red coat expands along all of his body; leaving nothing but the fiery shape of Maia's body.

All of the sudden, a face appears, and another, and another, and another. The shape of Maia's body is now filled with many skinny, red, bald demons, grabbing the edges of Maia's reflection, trying to get out. Each one of them emitting a loud scream.

Maia gets startled walks backwards.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Sarah makes it to the door that leads into the mirror room, she opens it.

INT. MIRROR ROOM - CONTINUED

Sarah walks in to find Maia sitting down as she faces the mirror; totally given up on herself.

SARAH

Oh no, don't stare at that horrible thing.

MAIA

(expressionless) What's the difference? It's who we are, just accept it.

Sarah walks towards the mirror, her reflection fading into view as the woman in the white nightgown appears; her face in one of the most bizarre stages it's ever been in.



SARAH

No, this can't be me. You're lying.

MAIA

All of this time you were running away from this thing. Well open your eyes Sarah. This thing you're running away from is you. And you can't run away from yourself.

Sarah stares longer into the mirror, the woman staring back at her. Sarah begins sobbing, not wanting to accept this.

SARAH

I saw the book you dropped. You're dealing with suicidal thoughts as well?

MAIA

No. I... Wait what do you mean by "As well"

Sarah remains silent, Maia's face grows into concern.

MAIA

Sarah? Answer me.

Sarah remains silent.

MAIA

Sarah you better not do anything stupid.

Sarah remains silent.

MAIA

Sarah?!?! Sarah ?!!! SARAH!!!

Maia's temper beats her, she throws a heavy object straight at the mirror: it breaks into a million pieces.

Sarah and Maia stare at the mirror for a couple of soundless seconds.

RWAAAR!

The red and bald demons that were once in the mirror crawl out, sprinting towards Maia in four legs.

SARAH'S POV

What Maia sees as the demons, Sarah sees as the woman in the dirty night gown. The woman floats towards Sarah, her arms extending at her.

Maia and Sarah make a break for it, they run out of the room.

INT. SECOND HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Maia runs towards an unknown part of the house, the red demons chasing after her.

Before Sarah could follow her, she is lifted off the ground by the woman in the white nightgown.

She gets thrown to the opposite room on the other side of the stairs.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - CONTINUED

Sarah stares right towards the hallway. The woman in the white dress walks towards her, every aspect of her has turned into a repulsive mess.

SARAH

What do you want?!

Dust devours the woman from the inside as she turns to something else.

- MAIA

Maia walks towards her.

MAIA

Sarah. Help me.

Maia's skin sizzles as fire burns from inside of her.

SARAH

Stop it!

Maia burns and turns into Jesse.

Jesse walks towards Sarah, his skin grey and dead. He falls to the floor, dragging himself towards Sarah in pain. Jesse's grey body turns into smoke and fades into Liam.

Liam's face burns, the right side of his body appears to be consumed by smoke and dust as opposed to his left side, which is decomposing.

LIAM

Look what you guys do to me.

SARAH

No.

LIAM

You don't care about me.

SARAH

Yes I do.

LIAM

Fuck you.

SARAH

This is not Liam! This is not you.

LIAM

I've changed. We've changed. Face it.

Sarah runs towards Liam, grabbing his face.

SARAH

Come on Liam! You haven't! Liam!

Liam's body disappears.

Her friends appear behind her.

MAIA

We've moved on.

JESSE

Why are you still holding on to something that doesn't exist?

Sarah collapses on the floor, screaming, crying, and desperate.

SARAH

STOOOOP!

Sarah sobs, trying to regain her strength.

Maia, Jesse and Liam disappear.

Sarah is swept off her feet by an unseen force, she struggles to get down.

SARAH

Stop it please!! Don't hurt me!!

Sarah's feet dangle, as she is taken away from the room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUED

Jesse walks around the party, his friends nowhere to be found. The party guests laugh, drink and dance.

Suddenly, every single tuxedo and dress in the library turns bright grey. The guests begin fading, leaving behind a bright grey mass floating in mid-air. All the mass flies right at the center of the library, conjoining to form the dark figure; it's color bright grey.

Jesse runs out of the library.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - CONTINUED

A suffering hair-raising scream echoes throughout the hall, Jesse looks ahead. Liam appears from the other side of the hall.

LIAM

That was Sarah!

Jesse and Liam run past the paintings, soon enough they get to the wide space between the end of the hallway and the down stairs landing.

They look up to see -

Sarah floating in mid-air, her body in front of the upstairs hallway, her terrified eyes looking down at her friends.

A long noose appears from the top of the chandelier that hangs right above Sarah.

Sarah's body begins floating up towards the noose, her body squirming; begging for help.

JESSE

Go!

Liam and Jesse run up the stairs as fast as their feet lets them; the upstairs landing getting closer by the second.

Sarah's neck is placed inside of the noose, her face sad, scared, and hopeless.

LIAM

We're coming Sarah!

JESSE

Hang on!

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - CONTINUED

Liam and Jesse run towards the chandelier.

Sarah shakes her head slowly.

SARAH

I love you guys.

Liam and Jesse make a run for it.

Sarah's body falls, the noose breaking her neck.

Liam and Jesse stare from the railing as Sarah's body dangles meters from them.

They stare in shock, their bodies stiff, and their eyes in disbelief.

Darker than black smoke vents from the walls and floors of the house. It moves towards Jessie and Lam, impregnating them.

Liam falls on his knees, staring at his dead friend, his face slowly acknowledging the tragedy.

He starts sobbing as Jesse continues staring.

LIAM

(sobbing)  
No, No.. NO!!

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUED

Maia runs past the hallway, the red devils crawling on the floor, wall and ceiling. Maia makes a turn into the -

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - CONTINUED

Maia runs right towards the railing.

She stops in her tracks as she lays eyes on the most horrible sight.

The creatures behind her conjoin to form the man in the red coat.

Maia stares up at the chandelier, her best friend's body hanging down from it.

The man in the coat emits a great fire as Maia sees Sarah's body.

Maia screams, a scream full of pain and sorrow.

MAIA

SARAH!!!

Maia kneels down, the stair railing separating her and her best friend, she sobs and screams.

MAIA

SARAH!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sarah's body releases black matter that flies towards the man in the red coat. The red coat gets contaminated quickly, leaving the man in a black and dark red coat.

The man splits into three, the matter settling behind Liam and Jesse. The woman that once wore a beautiful orange dress now wears a purely black dress.

The dark figure that has settled behind Jesse has regained its black colors.

The three remaining friends stare at Sarah's body in grief.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

On a picture.

INSERT - PICTURE

A headshot of Sarah. Her face bathed in happiness and beauty.

Maia, Jesse and Liam form a triangle around the picture.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - NIGHT

Candlelight illuminates the table set next to the tree where the friends sat every day after school.

Not a single soul walks the dark streets of the town center, leaving Maia, Jesse and Liam alone in the park.

The friends are looking down at the picture of Sarah.

MAIA

Looking back at our life together.  
I know that everything was worth it.  
You influenced me in ways that are  
unimaginable. You always kept me on  
my feet. Ever since we were little  
you were never afraid to speak your  
mind. Every time I had a bad day,  
every time I thought life couldn't  
get worse. Every time, I knew that  
you would always be there to make  
my day better. I want you to know  
that I love you. I love you so  
much. I want to say thank you for  
making my whole life have a  
meaning. And I just want you to  
know, that you will always be in  
the back of my mind. Hoping that

(MORE)

MAIA (CONT'D)

this not a goodbye, but a  
farewell. I'll be waiting for the  
day that God gets to reunite us.

Maia looks at Jesse and Liam.

MAIA

I wrote the private letter as well.

Maia sets the paper right in front of Sarah's picture. Liam clears his  
throat.

LIAM

Sarah. Every time you smiled, it  
was a smile so contagious that I  
couldn't help but smile as well.  
I loved every aspect of you. Every  
characteristic that defined you. I  
wouldn't change anything about you.  
I loved every small and big thing  
about you. From the way you had to  
smell your food before eating it.  
To how every time I took you home,  
you had to call me ten minutes  
later to make sure I made it home  
safely. I also loved how you would  
tell a bad joke over and over again  
till we laughed and how you would  
threaten to castrate everyone who  
didn't laugh. Regardless of  
everything else. You always cared  
about us, you always offered your  
help even when we didn't need it.  
And we would tell you no, you would  
still help. I miss you. I miss you  
so much. And I hope that wherever  
you are, you know, that I love you.  
You will always be in the back of  
my mind. Because thanks to you, I'm  
not afraid of death anymore.  
Because I know that when I die,  
I'll see you again.

Liam puts down his letter next to Maia's.

JESSE

I just want to say Sarah that every time I think of you, I think of my childhood. I remember everything we did. I can't help but see you in every single thing that I do. I see you sitting in Brooklyn shop eating chocolate ice cream. I see you smiling in English class mocking our teacher's accent. I see you standing right here next to us, the way we always would. I want to thank you for making my life an adventure. Thank you for putting a smile on my face. And thank you for giving me many memories I can look back at and smile more. Because every time I think you Sarah, you bet I will be smiling. And you will always be in the back of my mind.

Jesse places his letter on top of Maia's and Liam's. Sarah smiles at her friends from the picture.

MAIA

Let's never change. For Sarah.

Liam and Jesse nod their heads.

They hold each other friends as they look at Sarah's picture.

LIAM

We should go, otherwise we will be late for the funeral.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOSED CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

A very small gathering, a couple of dozen people take up the first two rows of chairs.

Liam, Jesse and Maia stand next to the coffin, looking at their friend; who rests peacefully.

Sarah's face is fixed up like a work of art. Her hair falls gracefully beneath her chest.

The friends' posture indicates that they have been there for a while.



Maia holds Sarah's hands between hers. Liam lightly brushes a finger on her forehead. Jesse kneels next to her face.

MAIA  
She's beautiful.

The friends continue staring in silence.

LIAM  
She's gorgeous.

JESSE  
She always looked so pretty when  
she was resting.

The friends continue looking at Sarah in total silence. A man walks towards them.

MAN  
I'm sorry guys you've been here for  
too long. She needs one more moment  
with her parents and then we have  
to move her.

LIAM  
Right, we're sorry.

Jesse gives Sarah a kiss on the cheek and walks away. Liam plants a kiss of his own on Sarah's forehead and moves her hair, clearing her face.

Maia lets go of her hands and looks down, noticing -  
- An empty wrist.

Maia panics and checks her other wrist, nothing.

MAIA  
Where's her bracelet?

Maia turns to look at the people.

MAIA (CONT'D)  
Where is her bracelet? She can't  
leave without it.

A man walks towards Maia.

MAN  
This bracelet?

The friendship bracelet dangles between his fingers.

MAIA

Yes. Why did they take it off?

MAN

It didn't compliment her outfit.

MAIA

I don't care, she's not leaving  
without her bracelet.

Maia walks towards Sarah.

She gently lifts up Sarah's hand and places the bracelet on her wrist.  
The message engraved on the bracelet flashes towards Maia.

*Always in the back of my mind.*

She places a kiss on Sarah's cheek and steps away.

Maia, Jesse and Liam stare at Sarah for the couple of last seconds.  
The coffin is closed, hiding Sarah's face forever.

FADE OUT:

MALE VOICE (V.O)

Now, presenting a brand new piece  
she calls "Anger Management"  
please welcome Maia Hastings.

FADE IN:

INT. AUDITORIUM - MORNING

The man stands on the edge of the stage.

The many audience members applaud as Maia makes her way towards a  
chair that has been placed on the center of the stage.

Maia sits and rests the violin on her shoulder. She brings the bow up  
and places it on the violin strings.

Silence falls upon the audience.

Maia slides the bow down, a beautiful note fills the auditorium. Maia  
continues, her fingers moving through each note, the melody beginning  
to find its hook. Maia concentrates, she delivers complicated melismas  
that connect to the hook of the song.

Maia's eyes remain closed as she plays.

Maia's expression begins intensifying and so does the melody. Her  
fingers search the violin at impressive speed.

And then, a single string of red smoke escapes the violin.

Maia continues playing, more red smoke leaking out of the strings.

The bow slides down hard on the violin. A red, demonic hand emits from the violin.

Maia continues playing, many red arms escaping the instrument.

The violin reaches a very high and beautiful octave.

Red faces abscond out of the violin, screaming in pain, dissolving as they float up the air.

Maia brings the bow down on the violin hard, a big and thick red smoke discharging from it. Many demonic faces scream and screech. The red smoke dissolves in the air, taking all of the demons with it.

The song comes to an end.

The audience roars into an applause.

Maia kneels down on the floor, overwhelmed.

She cries into her hands.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. JESSE'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

Jesse, Maia and Liam stand next to a car. Jesse puts a box inside an overloaded trunk. He pushes the stuff further in and closes the trunk. He turns to look at his best friends.

LIAM

So, this is it?

JESSE

I guess so.

MAIA

We will miss you dearly Jesse.

LIAM

Life goes on. Just don't forget us  
Okay?

JESSE

How could I? You morons will be  
invading my thoughts every day.

Maia hugs Jesse tight, squeezing the life out of him. She kisses him on the cheek. After a few seconds, she lets go.

MAIA

May life reunite us at happier times.

JESSE

Of course.

Jesse walks towards Liam.

Liam hugs Jesse tight as well, pressing his head on his chest.

LIAM

You have our number.

Liam plants a kiss on Jesse's head.

They separate, Jesse looks at his friends once again.

JESSE

I love you guys.

MAIA

I love you too.

LIAM

Right back at you.

Jesse walks towards the car and opens the passenger door.

MAIA

And Jesse!

Jesse looks back.

MAIA (CONT'D)

Always in the back of my mind.

JESSE

(smiling) Always in the back of my mind.

Jesse gets in the car and closes the door.

The car takes off. The dark figure latched on the back, emitting dark mass as the car rides away.

Maia and Liam stare after their friend till the car is devoured by the sunlight.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Maia and Liam sit on the front steps of the house, each of them holding a beer.

MAIA

I can't stop thinking about her.  
About Sarah. I just keep on  
replaying it over and over. In my  
head.

LIAM

Yeah I know.

MAIA

Part of me thinks, that she wanted  
it. You know. She told me she had  
these horrible thoughts.

Maia sobs.

MAIA (CONT'D)

It just forces me to ask myself  
questions I'm never going to get  
the answers to and it fucking sucks.  
At the end of the day, she's  
supposed to be in my life right now.  
And she's not.

LIAM

I know what you're feeling. And if  
it makes you feel better, she didn't  
want it. Me and Jesse. We saw it.  
She didn't want to go. Not like  
that.

MAIA

I miss her so much.

LIAM

I miss her too.

MAIA

And I already miss Jesse.

LIAM

We had a lot of wonderful times  
together.

MAIA

Oh they were amazing. Since we were little kids. Times do change.

LIAM

I was dreading this moment since I was little. The moment I was going to separate from you guys. And the moment is finally here.

MAIA

You know Liam, I was thinking. We should leave too.

LIAM

What?

MAIA

I want to leave. Jesse is right. We can't be here forever. I want to remember this place, this place is amazing. But we can't hold on to something forever. And I think now is the time to let go.

LIAM

When are you leaving?

MAIA

I finish my high school credits in two weeks, I want to leave for college then.

LIAM

I don't know who I will be with if you leave.

MAIA

I'm sorry. I love you. But we can't pause life and play it when we are ready. We have to move at its pace. Will you go?

LIAM

No, I will stay here. I want to stay here.

MAIA  
Let's make these two weeks worth  
it, Okay?

LIAM  
Yeah.

Liam and Maia fall into silence.

MAIA  
I'll miss this place. So small, but  
so beautiful.

LIAM  
You will remember me right?

MAIA  
Of course. Always in the back of my  
mind? Remember?

Maia rests her head on Liam's shoulder. They stare far into the lights  
of the town.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIA'S HOUSE - DAYS LATER

Maia and Liam hug, not separating for a long time. Once they do, she  
plants a kiss on his cheek.

MAIA  
I love you.

She closes a trunk full of backpacks, boxes and suitcases.

LIAM  
Me too. Always in the back of my  
mind.

MAIA  
Always in the back of my mind.  
Sorry to leave you alone.

LIAM  
It's okay. I'll make new friends.  
None as amazing as you guys were  
though.

Maia smiles and gets inside the car.

She looks out the window to see Liam, smiling at her.

She smiles back and waves goodbye.

Maia steps on the gas and leaves.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - CONTINUED

Maia turns into the many shops and looks to the right to see -  
Herself and Sarah, walking into a shop, laughing as they do so.

Maia turns into the other part of the town center, remembering as she drives. Her gaze falls upon the park.

The four friends when they were young, running along the park, laughing.

She looks towards the swings of the park.

A young Maia and a young Jesse swing together, smiling at each other.

Maia takes a right turn.

EXT. FIELDS - CONTINUED

Maia stares out into the fields to see -

Herself, Liam, Sarah and Jesse lying down on the grass, staring up at the stars.

She looks to the right, passing the ice cream shop.

The four friends come out of the shop, each of them holding a different flavored ice cream.

Maia takes a left and drives through the neighborhood. She passes Sarah's house.

Twelve year old Sarah and Maia jump the rope, Liam and Jesse swinging it for them, counting.

She drives forward, remembering her friends in each place.

Liam putting a Band-Aid on Maia's bloody knee outside his house.

Sarah and Maia walking along the sidewalk; Sarah making Maia laugh her guts out.

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUED

Maia stares out deep into the fields to see -

Herself, Sarah, Liam and Jesse having a picnic.

She turns to the left to see -

The four friends, hugging on the fields.



MAIA  
(smiling) Always in the back of  
my mind.

FADE OUT:

EXT. BUILDING - CONTINUED

The building of a large city, many cars honk as an amplitude of people stroll around the streets.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: **8 YEARS LATER**

INSERT - SIGN

LOCAL DISCUSSIONS

1pm - 2pm

Depression support group.

INT. BUILDING - CONTINUED

A small assembly of teens sit around an adult. The clock on the wall reads 1:25pm

ADULT  
I think all of you are making great points. Now we have a special guest joining us today. Please call him Jesse. Now if you could give us your two cents on this subject we would really appreciate it.

26 Year old Jesse watches from the sidelines, he walks forward. His hair short, a beard has grown on his face.

JESSE  
Well... The way I view depression may be quite different than the way you see it. But that's what a support group is so this is my opinion. I've gone through depression twice. Once when my mother passed away. And the second time was when my best friend died a month later. I was about your age.

The teens stare at Jesse.

JESSE (CONT'D)

We all have our own depiction of depression. I personally see it as a dark spiky sort of thing that releases dark matter and stands very tall. The thing is. This thing will follow you and drain your energy, thing we know as depression. Yeah, you can't get rid of it. Sure being with your loved ones can distract you from it. But you can't get rid of it. But perhaps you can learn to live with it.

INTERCUT

The paintings that hang on the mansion.

FOCUS ON FOUR PAINTINGS

INSERT: PAINTING #1

17 year old Jesse walking on top of a hill, his hand holding the dark figure's claws as they walk in harmony.

JESSE (V.O)

You can learn to live with it, and wait for it to leave you.

The dark figure floats up and away, letting go of Jesse's hand. It dissolves as it flies up high enough; ceasing to exist.

JESSE (V.O)

I left my friends. Who were sort of battling different things. We all fell through depression, after our other friend passed away.

INSERT: PAINTING #2

17 year old Maia holds a piece of glass. Her reflection appears as the man in the red coat. However, the red coat is now white. Long and silky silver hair falls down the man's shoulders. He contains something that he never had before; a smile. A smile that compliments his light blue eyes.

JESSE (V.O)

It's been eight years since I've seen them.

INSERT: PAINTING #3

18 year old Liam sits on a long and red couch. A large space separating him and the woman in the orange dress. Although the dress is no longer orange but gold. Her hair is no longer red, but pink. She wears a beautiful violet necklace.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAW SCHOOL - CONTINUED

Jesse and a couple of his friends sit on the steps that lead into a big white and fancy building.

FRIEND #1

I didn't know.

FRIEND #2

Bullshit! You totally did.

JESSE

Derek, your mind is full of shit.

DEREK

Class starts in ten minutes, I can't deal with this anymore.

JESSE

Relax it's your last year.

DEREK

Tell that to Matthew, it looks like he's going to kick the bucket any minute now.

MATTHEW

Screw you, I didn't get enough sleep last night.

DEREK

I could really use some ice cream right now.

Derek looks down at an ice cream truck, he walks towards it; Jesse and Matthew after him.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Hi I would like a vanilla cone. Matthew.

MATTHEW

Chocolate.

DEREK

Jesse?

JESSE

Oh no thanks, I don't have any money on me right now.

DEREK

I'll pay, what do you want?

JESSE

Peppermint?

DEREK

(disgusted)  
Umm.. Peppermint please.

ICE CREAM MAN

I'm sorry I don't carry those.

DEREK

No peppermint, what do you want.

JESSE

Nothing, I'm fine really.

DEREK

(to the ice cream man)  
Then I'll have only those two please.

MATTHEW

Peppermint? Really? What kind of person likes peppermint ice cream?

DEREK

More like what kind of ice cream place serves peppermint ice cream.

JESSE

Brooklyn Ice cream shop

MATTHEW

I don't know where that is.

JESSE

It's in the town I used to live in. I would get peppermint. My friend Sarah would get chocolate. Maia was strawberry. Liam was vanilla.

DEREK

Well. Okay?

The man hands Derek the two ice cream cones. Derek gives the man the cash and hands Matthew his ice cream.

MATTHEW

Alright I'm going to class, Jesse?

JESSE

I don't have class today, but you guys have fun.

DEREK

Yeah, we won't.

MATTHEW

Are we going to Dalton's Steak House after class?

JESSE

I don't think so, I'm going to see some old friends.

DEREK

Alright then, see yah.

Derek and Matthew walk towards the campus.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - CONTINUED

Jesse stands on the sidewalk, waiting.

He looks at his wrist.

*Always in the back of my mind.*

A black car pulls up right in front of him. The passenger window rolls down, a familiar voice calls out to Jesse.

LIAM'S VOICE (O.S)

Get in loser.

Jesse smiles.

INTERCUT

Back to the paintings

INSERT: PAINTING 4

A body lies on a pit of many dead souls. Far into the bright sky flies a beautiful familiar blonde. Wings extending majestically as she leaves the rotten body behind. A beautiful angel has formed.

MAIA(V.O)

I'll be waiting for the day that  
God gets to reunite us.

JESSE(V.O)

Every time I think of you, you bet  
I will be smiling.

LIAM(V.O)

I'm not afraid of death anymore.  
Because I know that when I die,  
I'll see you again.

The beautiful angel smiles and settles itself behind a cloud. A cloud that floats right on top of a black car riding off into the sunset.

FADE OUT:

**The End**

**UNVEILED**

2/21/16