

Wake Up

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(COMPLETE DARKNESS)

INSERT POEM: LACK OF LAZINESS:

A DEEP VOICE begins to speak.

VOICE

A deep slumber is dangerous for the
consciousness; closed eyes... closed
mind. Truths hidden in the darkened
recesses of our beings are weapons to
freedom, lies believed are chains
locked around necks. Eternity awaits
the awakening...eternity waits... and
the longer you sleep...the harder it
is for you to wake up. JACOB... WAKE
UP!

CREDITS ROLL. A BLINDING BRIGHT LIGHT- A PAIR OF CLOSED EYES
OPEN SUDDENLY.

FADE IN

INT. JACOB'S BEDROOM- MORNING

Jacob (a white teenager) eyes pop open as his alarm goes off,
he jumps out of bed and runs to his bathroom. He looks at
himself in the mirror, nods in approval, and begins his
morning routine.

Downstairs his mother makes breakfast while his father sets
the table. Jacob finishes getting ready for school and joins
his parents in the kitchen.

MOM

Good day Jacob, how are you feeling?

JACOB joins his dad at the table.

JACOB

Perfect

MOM(GRINS)

You are the best there ever was and
will ever be. Just like we planned.
Yes?

JACOB

Yes

DAD (NODS)

We wouldn't have it any other way. I
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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DAD (NODS) (CONT'D)
was thinking after practice we could
go over to the pool hall for a few
games, you up for it?

JACOB
Yeah always, you're paying right?

DAD (CHUCKLES)
I'll pay this time...you still owe me.

MOM
Ok that's enough of that, let's eat.

JACOB joins his dad at the table.

She sets the food on the table and they dig in.

MOM (CONT'D)
Your early acceptance letter from
Brown arrived this morning.

JACOB
You opened it?

MOM
No, I just know you got in... It's on
the coffee table.

JACOB
Thanks Mom...I'll open it later.

DAD
Jake...don't leave us in
suspense...open it now.

JACOB goes into the living room, grabs his letter and rejoins
his parents at the table. He opens the letter and smiles.

JACOB
I'm in.

MOM
Hmm mm...I already reserved the
country club so we can celebrate
properly, I'm so excited!

JACOB
Mom don't bother...It's unnecessary.

MOM
Oh honey don't be ridiculous...it's
done! We will celebrate you, which is
always necessary.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAD

Son this is what happens when you succeed...you deserve recognition for your achievements.

JACOB(SIGHS)

Fine...I'm not leaving til this summer anyway.

He continues to read over his letter.

JACOB

I've been invited to a pre-college program for early accepted freshmen....what is this?

DAD

It's a great opportunity,that's what it is. It's for exceptional students, which is what you are.

JACOB

This program starts in January...that's in two months. I'm not sure I want to miss my entire senior year.

His parents look at each other.

MOM

Of course it's your choice,and we know you'll make the right one.

JACOB

Yeah

He glances up at the kitchen clock, excuses himself,and leaves out for school.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER FIELD- MORNING

JACOB parks his motorcycle and meets his friends on the soccer field, before school.

JACOB

What's up fellas?

AJ

What's up?

DYLAN

Congrats on getting into Brown.

JACOB

How long did it take me to get here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ

You know how mothers are...mine nagged me about it all the way here.

AJ gets off the bleacher and stands in front of them.

AJ(MOCKINGLY) (CONT'D)

"Aaron how could you do this to me...I just found out that Jacob got early acceptance into Brown...How do you think that makes me feel? I'm so humiliated right now! How do I explain that you haven't even sent in your application and worse...that you might be considering the military... we've worked so hard, sacrificed so much, and this is how you repay us"...Blah Blah Blah...you know the rest.

JACOB

What'd you say?

AJ

What do you think? I sat there like a good little boy and passively took the verbal lashing... cursing you under my breath the entire time.

DYLAN

I found out on my way out the door. My parents threaten to kill me if I didn't cancel my gig to attend your stupid party... I'm not happy about this.

AJ

These parties are for them...it's all about who throws the first one. It's a contest; we're their trophies, their measurement of how successful they are as parents....its craziness.

DYLAN(LAUGHS)

I'm less of a trophy and more of a participation ribbon for my parents.

AJ(GRINS)

Mine are holding their breath, and now thanks to Jake here, I'm going to have to roll over and play dead until graduation. You just had to get early acceptance...didn't you?

JACOB

Trust me....you have no idea how good you guys have it. Besides it's not like you two aren't going to have parties of your own.

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CONTINUED:

AJ

I'm dragging my feet applying to Cornell, and I am still considering the Marine Corp.

DYLAN

Bro...I'm not going to college, I'm moving to New York to pursue my music.

AJ(SHRUGS)

Yours may be the only one. So we hate you.

DYLAN

Yep. My parents already have their cover story as to why I'm not going to college.

JACOB (SMILES)

What is it?

DYLAN(SHRUGS)

Don't know, don't care. They can say whatever they want. I'm not a parent pleasing puppet like you two.

The school bell rings.

AJ(JOKINGLY)

Hey, parent pleasing is an art form...takes a lot of cowardice, a sprinkle of patience, just a hint of grace, and a little bit of self-hatred... when done properly, your spine should successfully be removed.

DYLAN(LAUGHS)

Jacob's was born without one.

JACOB

Come 'on we got to get to class.

AJ and Dylan give each other a look, and then follow Jacob into the school. Jacob goes throughout his day, working hard, socializing, and being the object of affection from the masses. After school and soccer practice, Jacob heads to the local pool hall to meet his father.

INT. POOL HALL- LATE AFTERNOON.

Jacob and his father stand around a pool table drinking root beers and discussing his party.

DAD

Your Mom lost her mind planning this thing. She's spent a small fortune already... this party is the best thing that's happened to her all year.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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DAD (CONT'D)

The only thing she's waiting for now is your steady respectable girlfriend.

JACOB

Two birds with one stone huh? Let me guess, she's already found said girl and is going to insist on my meeting her...at her, excuse me...my party.

DAD

She's always three steps ahead, you know that. She wants you to date a girl you would marry...you know "Mom approved".

JACOB

Of course, so no interest in the Jacob approved girl.

DAD

Jacob, girls throw themselves at you and you approve...that's unacceptable for her. Your mother worries about you...she doesn't want you ruining our plans for you.

JACOB

She has nothing to worry about...I'm careful. I would never mess with the plan.

DAD

That's her job. We have invested our entire lives into your survival... uh future, you gotta make a few concessions, so be it.

JACOB(SADLY SMILES)

A few concessions huh? Your plans. I feel like a puppet on a string, you are like my puppeteers.

Jacob racks the balls up and takes a sip of his root beer.

DAD(LOOKS HIM IN THE EYE)

No, we are your parents...your mother and I know what's best for you. You will thank us in the end.

JACOB(UNCOMFORTABLE)

Right

DAD

Good, now break.

They play a few more games, and then call it a night. Jacob decides to stop at a convenient store to get a pack of

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cigarettes.

EXT. CONVENIENT STORE- EVENING

Jacob exits the store and bumps into a black, faceless, homeless man on his way out, knocking him down. The old man struggles to his feet and grabs Jacob's pant leg.

FACELESS HOMELESS BLACK MAN
Spare some change?

JACOB (STARTLED)
No...get your hand off me.

Jacob feels strangely as he backs away from the man, hops on his motorcycle and heads home.

INT. JACOB'S HOME- NIGHT

Jacob helps his mother clean up the kitchen after dinner, finishes his homework, and joins his parents in the living room as they watched the local news. A story about a new bill being passed is interrupted with breaking news of a homeless black man being beaten severely by a group of men after begging for food at a convenient store. Jacob ignores the story, but gets a strange feeling. He quickly excuses himself and makes his way to his room. He flops down on his bed and closes his eyes for a few seconds to clear his head. As if poked with a hot iron; he jumps out of bed and rushes to his bathroom and stares at himself in the mirror. Satisfied with what he sees, he gets back in bed and tries to fall asleep, but to no avail. A few minutes later his mother comes in to kiss him goodnight.

MOM(MECHANICALLY)
Sweetheart are you ok?

JACOB
I'm fine...I just want to get an early start.

MOM(SMILES)
I'm proud of you; I want you to know that. Remember you're the best there is, and ever will be. Yes?

JACOB
Yes...Thanks mom, goodnight.

She gives him a pat on the back, and leaves. Jacob stares at the ceiling trying to forget the odd feeling that nagged at his conscience. He leans over his bed, reaches into his back pack, and grabs his acceptance letter. He reads over it several times, hoping to dispel the feeling he had, a feeling that he'd never felt before.

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Finally, he puts the letter away, turns his light out, and tries to fall asleep. As he was drifting off, he hears a voice calling him by name. Expecting one of his parents to knock on his door, Jacob ignores the voice and continues to fall asleep. A few seconds later he hears it again, and again he ignores it. The voice gets louder, demanding his attention, but Jacob defies it. Suddenly; as if it were in his head, the Voice yells his name. Jacob springs up out of his sleep and off of his bed; he hits the floor hard and pounces right back up.

JACOB

Who's there?

VOICE

You

Jacob turns on the light to see no one. He runs into his bathroom...nothing, searches his closet...nothing, and checks his parents' room...just them sleeping. He races throughout the house making sure there were no intruders. Satisfied with his search, he goes back into his room and lies down, then jumps up, goes back into his bathroom and stares at himself in the mirror. He looks at his reflection and slightly grins.

JACOB

You're ok.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB AFTERNOON (A MONTH LATER)

Jacob, AJ, and Dylan stand by the buffet, making fun of the whole spectacle that was Jacob's college acceptance party. Their mockery is interrupted by Jacob's mother, who insists that he come with her to meet someone "special". He looks to his friends for help, but they both look off; purposely ignoring him, forcing him to concede and go with her.

INT. COUNTRY CLUB

Jacob follows his mom through the sea of strangers; thanking them as they went, to a table where a young lady sat alone. As they approached the table, the girl looks up as Jacob's mother greeted her.

MOM

Leah, how are you?

LEAH

Hi, I'm fine, this is a nice party.

MOM

Thank you...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She motions for Jacob to join her...he reluctantly steps forward.

MOM(CONT'D)

....this is my son Jacob.Jacob this is Leah. She's a senior at St. Mary.

Leah smiles, and extends her hand.

LEAH

Nice to meet you Jacob.

Jacob shakes her hand, and returns a smile.

JACOB

Yep.

His mother; pleased with herself, quickly departs hoping they would bond. Leah offers Jacob a seat, he takes it, and for a few minutes they make small talk. Shortly into their conversation, his mother grabs the microphone, and solicits everyone's' attention. Jacob and Leah shift their attention to the podium at the front of the room, where his Mom proudly stood next to an enormous cake.

MOM

Excuse me everyone, I would like to thank you all for coming out to celebrate our son, Jacob. (Scattered applause) He is such a blessing to my husband and I, and has made us so proud.As you all know, Jacob has received early acceptance into BROWN, but what you don't know is that he will be leaving us in a few weeks to attend their pre-college program for exceptional student, for the remainder of the school year. I know some of you were wondering why it was so important to have the party now, that's why. After the holidays, he'll be in Rhode Island in that godawful weather, we're preparing him well, of course.

She begins to tear up.

MOM(CONT'D)

Jacob, is truly the best son any mother could ask for. Jacob, son will you please join me up here so that we can cut your cake?

Jacob; still sitting with Leah, gets up and heads to the front of the room, and stands right next to his mom. He looks at her in disbelief & disgust; she returns his look with a fake smile and a soft pat on the back.

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MOM

I'm so proud of you. Ok sweetheart go ahead and cut the first slice.

Jacob grabs the knife off the table, cuts a small piece of cake, scoops it up, puts it on a plate, and walks off. His mother summons one of the waitresses to come cut the rest of the cake, while she excuses herself, and follows Jacob outside.

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB- LATE AFTERNOON. CONTINUOUS

Jacob leans up against his motorcycle, smoking a cigarette. His mother walks briskly toward him, with his father not far behind. Jacob quickly puts out his cigarette, and prepares himself for the confrontation.

JACOB (CONFUSED)

My choice...right. I should have known...

MOM

Your father and I decided...it's a great opportunity.

DAD

Jacob, you were dragging your feet...you know we only want the best for you! We want you to have a head start, you have all your credits, you'd be wasting your time here...you know that.

JACOB

I don't see enjoying my senior year as a waste of time.

DAD

Well, we're your parents, and we know what's best for you. It's just a semester away; you'll get to come home for spring break. This is too important to miss out on, it'll be great.

MOM

I know it may seem unfair, but you'll thank us later.

DAD

Of course he will. This is a huge advantage for you, you'll graduate a semester earlier, finish grad school sooner, be a Business Professional before thirty...just like we planned.

JACOB(SIGHS)

Just like we planned.

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MOM

Yes. I have another surprise...

JACOB

Let me guess....that girl's been accepted into the same program.

MOM(SURPRISED)

Yes...how did you know?

JACOB (LOOKS AT HER)

I know you...and before your speech, she told me she was leaving in January, headed to Brown. I guess your plan worked...should I just propose now?

MOM(SMILES)

Don't be silly...that will come later, after you graduate and are in Grad school. She is perfect for you.

JACOB

She is perfect for you...she's your little spy.

MOM

Call it what you want. She's a great girl...she's your equal. She'll add to you...not subtract. I think it's a great match.

He throws his hands up in the air in defeat.

JACOB (ANNOYED)

I give up! Can I go now?

DAD

Sure...we'll see you at home.

MOM

Be careful. Remember you're the best there is and ever will be.

JACOB

Bye Mom.

Jacob puts his helmet on, hops on his bike, starts it up, and pulls off.

INT. BAR-EVENING

Jacob, AJ, and Dylan sit at the bar drinking beer and discussing his big news.

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DYLAN(CHUCKLING)
Jake, this is pitiful...

AJ
Take it is easy on him. He's an only
child, he's all they have.

DYLAN
I'm an only child....

AJ
Yeah, but your parents don't demand as
much from you, and they're less
traditional than Jacob's.

Jacob downs his beer, and then lights up another cigarette.

DYLAN
Jake, what you should do is hit the
road with me next month.

JACOB (LAUGHS)
Yeah right, you got school.

DYLAN
That my friend is where you're wrong.

AJ
What are you talking about?

DYLAN
I'm done. I got all my credits. Get'n
my diploma in the mail, same as Jake.

JACOB
How?

DYLAN
Summer school and night school.

AJ
So why come to school at all?

DYLAN
To hang with you two losers, and to
keep my parents off my back, until
this trip was finalized. I leave
January 5th. You're free to join
me...you too Aaron.

JACOB
I wish, but I couldn't do that to my
parents. They've...

AJ & DYLAN
Sacrificed so much...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB (FRUSTRATED)

I know I sound like a broken record,
but AJ's right, I'm all they have. I
can't disappoint them, they only
want...

AJ & DYLAN

The best for you.

DYLAN

I feel sorry for you man...the
invitation stands. So what's up with
the chick?

JACOB

Another part of their plan, her name's
Leah. She's attending the same
program, so my mom set us up.

AJ

Jake, I know you're holding it all in
right now, but one day you're going to
snap. You need to start asserting
yourself, you're about to be an adult,
how long are you going to let them
control you?

DYLAN

I thought we were taking it easy on
him; although AJ's right. I got to go
take a wiz.

AJ

Me too.

They laugh. Jacob orders another beer, while Dylan and AJ go
to the restrooms. He lights up another cigarette and gets
lost in his own thoughts. A teenage looking black man brushes
past him, quickly excuses himself and rushes off. Jacob
instinctively starts patting himself down making sure he
still had his wallet. He doesn't find it and looks in the
direction of the kid.

INT. BAR -LATE EVENING.

AJ & Dylan return to the bar, to see Jacob in an altercation
with a young black, faceless kid, who Jacob accused of
stealing his wallet.

JACOB

I know you have my wallet...now give
it back!

FACELESS BLACK KID

I don't have your wallet, I'm not a
thief!!

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JACOB(TO THE BARTENDER)
Please call the police,since he's not
cooperating. Don't let him leave
either.

A half hour later; after the kid was held and thoroughly
searched and no wallet found, Jacob,AJ, and Dylan watch as
the young man is arrested, and decide to call it a night.
They were headed out of the building, when Jacob suddenly
stops then takes off running towards his motorcycle.

EXT. BAR PARKING LOT- NIGHT

Jacob opens up the side pocket on his motorcycle seat and
pulls out his wallet, they all three stare at it in silent
horror.

DYLAN (SHAKES HIS HEAD)
Aww Shit...you dumb ass!Looks like you
just snapped.

AJ (LAUGHS)
I guess we're headed to the police
station, bravo genius.

JACOB (LOOKS AT THEM)
What's the point...damage is already
done.

DYLAN(ANNOYED)
You're not serious, it's getting late,
let's get this over with...

JACOB
NO! What's the big deal, his friends
will bail him out, and I just won't
file an official complaint. Why do I
have to humiliate myself?

DYLAN
You humiliated him, make this right.

AJ
Dude, do you hear yourself...you just
got a kid arrested for stealing your
wallet....the wallet you're holding
right now. You have to make this
right...just go down to the station,
explain what happened, and formally
drop the charges, we'll go with you.

DYLAN
It was a simple mistake, we got your
back.

JACOB
Yeah, and if I were 18, we wouldn't be
having this conversation. If I go down
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB (CONT'D)

there, they'll have to call my parents. I can't do it.....It's not really my fault, the bartender called the cops, I didn't know they were going to arrest him, I mean they obviously didn't find my wallet on him.

AJ(DUMBFOUNDED)

Jake, you accused the guy of stealing your wallet, you caused a huge scene, you insisted that the manager call the cops. What did you think was going happen?

DYLAN

Give me the wallet. I'll do it.

JACOB

No, it's done. If you guys want to have my back, keep your mouths shut about this. Just in case you forgot we all came in here with fake IDs and had beers and liquor...I'm the only one thinking straight right now.

AJ(DROPS HIS HEAD)

Jake this is wrong, and you know it. We'll get a slap on the wrist, maybe not even that. I hate to say it, but we know what's going to happen to that kid...the rules are different. It's not fair but it's the way it is...you can change this.

JACOB

Underage drinking is a crime. That's all my parents are going to see. The school will find out, it will mess up everything. You just said it...the rules are different...lucky for us they are. I mean he's probably guilty of something right?

DYLAN (DISGUSTED)

I understand about your parents, but this changes things. I don't mind taking the heat for underage drinking, because I did it, but letting someone go to jail for something they didn't do is fucked up and unforgivable...you know that this could possibly ruin that kids' life.....I've lost respect for you man. I'll take this to the grave....but we're through.

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JACOB(STUNNED & HURT)
 Dylan don't say that bro.I'm not saying I don't feel bad, but I have to think about my parents and my future. I can't risk it...I just can't. They could try to sue me for false accusation or slander, I got to protect myself.

AJ
 You're selfish bro.... We're out.

AJ and Dylan leave Jacob standing next to his motorcycle.

INT. JACOB'S BATHROOM- LATE NIGHT

Jacob looks at himself in the mirror, trying to convince himself he did the right thing. That strange feeling returns and overtakes his body like a disease.

JACOB (GRIMACES)
 You had no other choice....you had to protect yourself...that kid's going to be ok....you didn't ruin his life....the guys will come around, they'll understand.

Without warning Jacob crumbles to the floor in pain,and the voice returns in a whisper.

VOICE
 Liar!

Jacob; still doubled over, grips the toilet seat,pulls himself up to the sink, and gets his legs underneath him. He looks into the mirror in horror, and falls back to the floor.

JACOB(IN AGONY)
 What the hell?

VOICE
 Liar!

JACOB
 I'm not a liar...I had no other choice.

Again, Jacob pulls himself up, this time he stumbles back into his bedroom, onto his bed. He turns his light out and pulls his blanket over his head. The voice pierces his mind.

VOICE
 LIAR!!

JACOB(GRABS HIS HEAD)
 SHUT UP!! I did what I had to do and
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB (GRABS HIS HEAD) (CONT'D)
I'd do it again.

The pain inside his head leaves instantly, and Jacob relaxes and stares at the ceiling. He begins to think about his future, college, business school, his financial firm, marriage, and children. Jacob drifts off to sleep.

EXT. JACOB'S HIGH SCHOOL- MORNING

Jacob pulls into his parking spot and goes over to the bleachers to find them empty. He swears under his breath.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE- LATE AFTERNOON

Jacob follows his Mom through the store as she stocks up on everything he'll need for college.

JACOB (ROLLS EYES)
Why do I have to be here?

MOM
Because I need your help carrying all of this, keep up.

His Mom continues to toss things in her cart, and Jacob continues wishing he were anywhere else.

INT. JACOB'S HOUSE- EVENING

Jacob, his parents, Leah and her parents sit at the dining table; discussing their plans for their Rhode Island bound pair.

Jacob quickly excuses himself and goes for a walk. Suddenly the voice creeps through his subconscious.

VOICE
Who are you?

Jacob stops and looks around.

JACOB
Who's there?

Leah steps around the corner.

LEAH
It's me, are you ok?

JACOB (BITTERLY)
Go ask my parents...

LEAH (SIGHS)
They sent me out here to check on you...

JACOB
I want to be alone that's why I came
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB (CONT'D)
out here.

LEAH
Understood

She leaves him alone.

COMPLETE DARKNESS

The Voice begins to speak.

VOICE
When you don't know who you are and
who were meant to be, someone else
will give you an identity that fits
their agenda, making you a slave and
them...your master. Where does your
freedom lie...in a awaken mind.

MONTAGE:

A BRIGHT LIGHT SPLITS THROUGH THE DARKNESS. IMAGES FLASH
ACROSS THE SCREEN, COVERING THE NEXT 12 YEARS OF JACOBS LIFE.

(IMAGE 1)

EXT. BROWN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS- DAYTIME

Jacob and Leah walk across campus hand in hand. Leah smiling,
Jacob expressionless.

(IMAGE 2)

INT. DORM ROOM- EVENING

Jacob and two other men; Isaac & Ben (their names appear
underneath their images), sit on their beds studying.

(IMAGES 3-6)

INT. CLUB-NIGHT

Jacob watches Leah, Isaac, and Ben celebrate with the rest of
their peers.

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EXT. BROWN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS- AFTERNOON

Jacob begrudgingly poses for graduation photos with Leah, Isaac, Ben and his parents.

INT. EMPTY DORM ROOM- LATE AFTERNOON

Jacob sits alone on the floor, drinking from a large bottle of vodka and crying. A bottle of pills are scattered by his feet.

EXT. HARVARD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS BUILDING- AFTERNOON

Jacob stands in front of the building; along with Isaac & Ben, takes a deep breath and walks in. Inside they meet two business majors Matt & Colin and they all become friends. (Their names appear under their images)

(IMAGES 7-12)

INT. JACOB'S FAMILY HOME- MORNING

Jacob & Leah announce their engagement to their friends and family.

EXT. LOCAL BAR- LATE NIGHT

Leah, Ben, and Isaac drag an unconscious Jacob out the back door of the bar and stuff him in Leah's car. Ben declares that he was tired of dealing with Jacob's "issue", and that he was out.

INT. EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT- EVENING

Jacob, Isaac, Matt, and Colin dine and discuss their plans to start their financial firm.

EXT. SMALL OFFICE BUILDING- AFTERNOON

Jacob, Isaac, Matt, and Colin; each holding a piece of a SOLD sign, pose as Leah takes their picture.

EXT. LARGE CHURCH BUILDING- LATE AFTERNOON

Jacob & Leah; in wedding attire, exit the church as 300 of their friends and family wish them well on their marriage.

INT. MEDIUM HOUSE- EVENING- NIGHT

Leah walks over to Jacob with her hands behind her back. With a big smile on her face, she shows him a handful of pregnancy test all positive. Jacob smiles and hugs her tightly.

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END MONTAGE:

THE IMAGE STOP. THE BRIGHT LIGHT FLASHES... FADE IN:

INT. JACOB'S HOME- MORNING (TWELVE YEARS LATER)

Jacob lies in bed; semiconscious, Leah walks over to his side of the bed and gently nudges him awake.

LEAH

Jacob...wake up babe.

He opens his eyes and looks up at his wife. She smiles at him, he sits up and rubs his eyes.

JACOB

I'm awake...is breakfast ready? I'm famished.

LEAH

Yes, breakfast is ready, how are you feeling

JACOB

Famished...and a bit stressed. I got a big day ahead of me, I need to get ready.

LEAH

Of course, I'm going to get Morgan up and ready, we'll meet you downstairs.

JACOB

Thanks, sorry if I'm a bit on edge, feeling a bit off today for some reason.

LEAH

Its ok, you'll do great today, you're the best there ever was, and ever will be.

Jacob gives his wife a kiss and smiles.

JACOB

Thank you, Leah

LEAH

I love you...you better get going; you don't want to be late.

JACOB

Right

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CONTINUED:

Jacob hops out of bed, goes into their master bathroom and begins his morning routine. He looks in the mirror; thoroughly looking himself over, before smiling and finishing his routine

Twenty minutes later, Jacob joins his wife and daughter for breakfast, then heads out to a potential client's house. A couple hours later he leaves his newest client's house; on cloud nine, and heads to the office.

EXT. JACOB'S OFFICE BUILDING- EARLY AFTERNOON

Jacob pulls into the parking lot, struggling to contain his excitement. As he was preparing to get out of his car, Matt approaches him, looking upset and dejected.

MATT

We have a problem?

JACOB (ALARMED)

What is it?

MATT

I was just informed by accounting that one of our Associates misplaced an enormous amount of my money.

JACOB

How much?

MATT

250 million dollars.

Jacob's knees buckle; he leans up against his car for support.

JACOB (SICKENED)

How did this happen?

MATT

We're looking into it.

Jacob snaps out of his shock and starts charging towards the front door. Matt takes off after him.

JACOB(ENRAGED)

I'll handle this. I want everyone in the conference room in five minutes.

MATT

They're already there.

They briskly enter the building, Jacob storms towards the conference room, and yanks the door open.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVERYONE
SURPRISE!!

He stops and stares at everyone. Matt walks up behind him.

JACOB
What is this?

LEAH
Your Birthday

He looks around the room, and sees his wife, along with his parents, among his staff. She makes her way over to him, grabs his hand and leads him to the back of the room, where his enormous cake stood. He scans the room again, and looks back at Matt.

JACOB
So, there's no crisis?

MATT
Nope, gotcha.

LEAH
You forgot, didn't you?

JACOB
Yeah, thank you all! This is great!

MATT
Let's cut the cake.

LEAH
Not before we sing Happy Birthday.

Everyone sings happy birthday, they cut the cake, socialize, and then get back to work. Jacob's wife and parents take him out for lunch.

INT. BISTRO-AFTERNOON

Jacob, Leah, and his parents eat and catch up on each other's lives.

JACOB
I just acquired another client this morning. This account is worth more than what we made collectively last year. This day couldn't be going better.

DAD
You see son, this is what it feels like...to live your dreams, to succeed at life. You did it, just like we planned.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB

Just like we planned.

Their waitress; a young black, faceless woman, ask them if everything was ok. Jacob's father rolls his eyes and shoves his plate in her direction and tells her that his chicken club was missing the bacon and asks to speak to the manager. The manager handles the situation and comps his meal. A few minutes later the waitress returns with the check. Jacob's father takes the check out of her hands, slides his card into the allotted slot, and hands it back to her, without acknowledging her presence. The waitress takes the check and leaves.

DAD

This place used to be really nice...must've changed owners or something. I won't be leaving a tip.

MOM

Honey let's not go there. Leah how's the job hunting going?

LEAH

Great, I found a firm that will let me work from home. I'll only be preparing briefs and affidavits, and going over courtroom transcripts, I won't be seeing the courtroom for a while.

MOM

That's excellent, you get to be a mother and still have a career. I'm so proud of you two.

JACOB

Thanks Mom.

LEAH

Yes, thank you, we make it work. And speaking of, babe you should probably get back. I need to get Morgan from my sister's.

DAD

Kiss little Morgan for us and keep up the good work.

JACOB

Will do, and thanks again for lunch.

Jacob and Leah say goodbye to his parents and leave out the restaurant. As they were leaving, they pass their waitress and Jacob sees tears in her eyes, he keeps walking, but looks back at her as they walkout the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INT. JACOB'S OFFICE- LATE AFTERNOON

Jacob walks through the lobby and notices a young black, faceless man waiting to be seen. He goes into his office, but before he could get situated, he is bombarded by Colin

COLIN
How was lunch?

JACOB
It was fine...what I miss?

COLIN
Not much, we're taking you for beers after work.

JACOB
Ok, who's all going?

COLIN
Just the partners...a few associates and secretaries.

JACOB
Sounds good.

COLIN
Good.

Colin leans in close, and grins mischievously.

COLIN
I just left the Lobby,there's another one.

JACOB
Another one?

Colin shoots him a knowing look.

COLIN
I hate to be the bad guy,but how many do we need?

JACOB(AVOIDS EYE CONTACT)
No, you don't, besides he may be a client.

COLIN
He's not; he filled out an application and is probably meeting with Isaac as we speak. Isaac asked me to join him toward the end of the interview. I just think we've met our quota.

JACOB
What quota, if he's a qualified hard worker, why shouldn't we hire him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLIN

You know why, we have twelve already, not to mention the Mexicans we had to hire to avoid that lawsuit.

JACOB(SHAKES HIS HEAD)

Jesus Colin, what is wrong with you... (pauses) So we're not going to hire him?

COLIN(SMIRKS)

Nope...I'm going to shake his hand, look over his file and say...Thank you for your interest in our company, but we've met our Affirmative Action employment quota. We will;however, keep your application on file, just in case one of ours is terminated.

JACOB

You're an asshole.

COLIN

True, but I'm also the Boss.

JACOB

One of the Bosses...get out of my office.

COLIN(SNICKERS WICKEDLY)

It's great to be on top...hey don't forget drinks.

JACOB

Yeah

Colin leaves, and Jacob gets to work for his new client. After hours Jacob finishes his office, leaves out & heads to his car.

EXT. PARKING LOT- EVENING

Jacob walks through the parking lot and is startled by the young black man sitting alone in a car trying to figure out his next move. As Jacob passes his car, the young man looks up at him and for a moment their eyes lock. Unnerved to his core; Jacob rushes to his car and heads to the bar.

INT. BAR-NIGHT

Jacob sits at the bar, absentmindedly sipping his beer, while his party goes on around him. Isaac nudges him out of his stupor.

ISAAC

What's wrong with you man?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB

I'm fine, but I should get going.

ISAAC

You just got here; besides we plan on closing this place.... you've only had one beer.

JACOB

I know, but I'm not feeling this.

ISAAC

"This" is for you...did something happen?

JACOB

No, I just want to get home to my family; you guys enjoy yourselves, and thanks.

ISAAC

Yeah, no problem...

Jacob gets up, grabs his jacket, and leaves.

INT. JACOB'S HOME- LATE NIGHT

Jacob stands in front of the mirror trying to find what he was looking for. He stares for a while and then decides to go to bed and try again the next morning. He slips into bed next to his wife but feels strange doing so. After a few hours of staring at the ceiling he falls asleep.

INT. JACOB'S HOME- EARLY MORNING

Jacob awakens suddenly, falls onto the floor, and lays there for a few minutes. Finally, he jumps up and races to the bathroom to look in the mirror, and what he sees frightens him. He staggers back against the wall, struggles to regain his composure, and then takes another look. He begins to weep quietly. He stammers back to his bed, takes a look at his wife as the tears begin to flow. He then goes into his daughters' room and walks gingerly over to her crib. At the sight of her he crumbles to the floor and weeps uncontrollably. A few hours later his wife wakes him up and asks him to move out of the way so that she could tend to their daughter.

JACOB

What time is it?

LEAH

7AM, why are you on the floor?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB(LIES)

I thought I heard something and came to check on Morgan.

LEAH

I haven't made breakfast yet.

JACOB

I'll pick something up.

Jacob slowly stands up and makes his way back to their room. On his way out the door, he turns and looks at his wife & daughter, his eyes begin to tear up again. He quickly goes into the bathroom, locks the door, and starts his morning routine, carefully avoiding the mirror.

INT. JACOB'S CAR- MORNING

Jacob sits in his car outside his office, eating his breakfast and trying to get a handle on the events that took place the night before into the morning. He finishes his breakfast and decides that the previous night's events were stress induced and nothing more. He takes a few deep breaths, looks into the rear view mirror, and is relieved by what he sees. He gets out of his car and heads into work.

INT. JACOB'S COMPANY- MORNING

Jacob enters his office and close & locks the door behind him. He sits down at his desk and tries to focus on work but can't. He finally puts his head on his desk and drifts off to sleep. Suddenly from somewhere in the room or maybe from within him, Jacob hears a voice whispering. He pops his head off the desk; still in a semiconscious state, to hear and identify the voice.

JACOB

Who's there?

The room goes quiet; Jacob stands up and searches his office for the voice. After confirming that he was alone, he takes a seat on his couch and tries to stay calm.

JACOB

What's happening to me?

VOICE

You!!

Startled, Jacob hops off the couch walks over to his office door, unlocks it and looks out. He looks at his secretary.

JACOB

Did you hear someone calling me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SECRETARY

No.

JACOB

Ok, thank.

He slams the door, re locks it. He decides to take another nap on the couch. Two hours later, he is awakened to see his secretary standing over him shaking her head playfully.

SECRETARY

Sir, your 11am meeting is about to start, and your wife called and wants to know what you want for lunch.

JACOB

Uh, ok tell them I'm on my way, and tell my wife that I'm swamped and can't do lunch today.

SECRETARY

Yes sir. Oh, here you go.

She hands him his portfolio and leaves out.

JACOB

Thanks.

Jacob goes into his private washroom and straightens himself up; he glances in the mirror briefly and is uneasy with what he sees. He then leaves out for his meeting.

INT.CONFERENCE ROOM- NOON

Jacob sits around a large conference table, meeting with the Partners and Associates about the future of the firm. Colin heads the meeting, and then gives the floor to the other Partners.

COLIN

I think I've covered our projected numbers thoroughly; Matt will go over our plan to go international, Isaac our eventual plan to go public, and Jacob our potential client list. Gentlemen you have the floor.

Matt stands up and presents his information regarding international interest, Isaac gives a power point presentation on the five-year plan to go public. After his presentation, Isaac gives the floor to Jacob.

ISAAC

Jacob, you're up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jacob gets up and starts handing out the Client List...suddenly the voice returns aggressively, slamming Jacob's body against the conference table. Jacob grabs his head in grimaces in pain.

VOICE

Thief!

Jacob recovers, with the help of Isaac and a couple of Associates. He gets back on his feet and tries to regain control of his body and his presentation.

JACOB

Sorry about that...

ISAAC(LOOKS AT HIM)

You ok, that was a nasty fall.

JACOB

Yes, thank you...the Client List is very simple in concept, but quite tricky in execution. Yesterday I was able to close a deal for close to a billion dollars from a client on that list.Of course, the details of that deal will be made available only to the Partners,needless to say, it is exhilarating when the execution is flawless. You will notice that there are ten names highlighted on the list, those are the biggest and most important accounts, and should be handled by Partners and senior associates only. The rest of the list is up for grabs and the commissions on each account is 20%. We need to be aggressive but not abrasive in our negotiations, keep in mind we are not the only firm after these clients.Remember our approach to making a deal, after three offers cut your losses and move on. Are there any questions?

Pain sears through Jacob's skull.

VOICE

Thief

Jacob grabs his head and winces. The pain increases.

VOICE

Liar...Thief

The pain forces Jacob to his knees, but he catches himself,and holds on to the edge of the table. Everyone watches in disbelief, unsure of how to help him. Finally, Colin jumps up and intervenes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLIN

Jacob, you're not ok. Can I get some help here?

Colin and two Senior Associates grab Jacob and pull him up right.

COLIN

I think he's having a migraine or stroke or something. Lay him do on his couch and call 911. I'll finish up here.

The two Senior Associates carry Jacob to his office and lay him on his couch as instructed. They inform his secretary of what happened and tell her to call 911.

INT. JACOB'S OFFICE- AFTERNOON

Jacob lies on his couch, wondering how he got there. Two EMT workers, check his vitals, give him some Motrin for his headache, and then leave. After they leave, Jacob gets off the couch, takes the pills, and then leaves out to rejoin the meeting. As he was walking out, his wife comes around the corner headed towards him, all smiles.

LEAH

Hey babe, I hope you're hungry.

JACOB

Yeah, didn't my secretary call you...?

LEAH(SMILES)

She did, but I told her I was coming anyway.

JACOB

Well, I'm kind of swamped.

LEAH

Jacob don't treat me like I'm simple. You make your own hours, right? You can make time for lunch with your wife, unless you don't want to?

JACOB

It's not that, I am really busy, and I have another meeting across town later today that I'm not prepared for...I had planned on skipping lunch.

LEAH(LOOKS AT HIM)

Are you ok? You seem a little frazzled.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB

I'm fine, just trying to stay on top of things. I really need to get back to work.

LEAH

Ok, I'll see you at home.

JACOB

I'll be home late, though.

LEAH(DISAPPOINTED)

Ok, I'll leave dinner for you.

JACOB

Actually, I'm going to eat while I'm out.

LEAH

Alright, have a good day. I love you.

JACOB

Yeah.

Leah turns around and leaves disappointed and hurt. Jacob watches her leave, and questions his decision to send her away. As he closes his door, the voice returns, numbing his brain.

VOICE

Thief

Jacob quickly goes back into his office and closes the door.

JACOB

Who are you?

VOICE

Who are you?

JACOB(HOLDS HIS HEAD)

I need to lie down...

Jacob lies back down on his couch, sets his alarm, takes a couple more pills, and wills himself to sleep. His dreams are too disturbing and toss Jacob back up to his conscious state, he decides to prepare for his meeting that was in a couple of an hours.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT- EVENING

Jacob sits at the table waiting for his client to show. He looks at his watch, and becomes agitated. The waiter stops by several times to take his order, and then decides to leave him alone. After over an hour of waiting, Jacob abandons his table and goes over to the bar to get drunk. Couple hours

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

later, the bartender cuts him off and calls him a Cab, Jacob gives the driver his work address and decides to sleep it off in his office.

INT. JACOB'S OFFICE- EARLY MORNING

Jacob awakes with a splintering headache. He rolls off the couch, crawls to his bathroom, vomits for a few minutes, and rests his head on the toilet seat. His phone buzzes, he picks it up and sees that he had twenty messages from his wife. He deletes them all, turns off his phone, and lies on the floor and goes back to sleep.

Images begin to flood his subconscious: The old black man, the innocent kid, the kind waitress, the dejected young applicant. He loses all track of time as his mind chases the images of the faceless blacks. He follows them to a large factory in the middle of nowhere, he watches as they enter a pitch black room that he was not permitted to enter. Suddenly Jacob is submerged in to total darkness, his mind begins to bend...the voice demands his attention, and Jacob gives it.

VOICE

Where is Jacob?

JACOB(WITHIN HIMSELF)

I'm right here.

VOICE

Who are you?

JACOB

I'm Jacob.

VOICE

You're a Liar, You're a Thief

JACOB

No...no...no! I'm not!

VOICE

LIAR!! THIEF!!

JACOB

NO! LEAVE ME ALONE!!

The voice departs, leaving Jacob dizzy and disoriented. His subconscious tosses him upward into a room filled with mirrors. Jacob sees his reflection, but begins to panic as it morphs into each of the black people he encountered...he begins to weep. The mirrors disappear and Jacob stands alone on the edge of a bridge. He looks over the edge and sees a dark hole; terror strikes his heart and causes him to fall. The darkness welcomes him. His mind goes blank. Jacob free falls through his subconscious, but from the surface he hears voices, familiar voices. His mind reawakens, and he shoots

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straight through the darkness towards a dim light. The voices cut through his subconscious as he makes his way to the surface. His senses come alive, he feels the cool floor under his skin, he smells the stench of his vomit, he hears the voices, he opens his eyes to see his secretary and Isaac standing over him. Jacob gingerly sits up and looks at them in shame.

JACOB

What time is it?

ISAAC

It's about 2pm. Did you sleep here all night?

JACOB

Yeah, I was too drunk to go home. I'm sorry you had to find me like this.

SECRETARY

Its ok, but I don't think you are. I cleared your schedule for today, and I called your wife.

JACOB(ALARMED)

I wish you hadn't. How long ago did you call her?

SECRETARY

Twenty, thirty minutes ago. She was going to drop your daughter off at her sister's first.

Jacob stands up and gets his balance.

JACOB

Ok, call her back and tell her I've already left. Get me a Uber, and call the restaurant and tell them I'm on my way to pick up my car.

She nods and leaves out. Isaac helps him out of his bathroom and over to his couch.

ISAAC

Jake, you're falling apart man. What's going on with you?

JACOB

I'm fine...I just need to get my car and find somewhere to shower and change.

ISAAC(CONFUSED)

What's wrong with your house?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB

I can't go back there. I can't deal with Leah and the baby right now.

ISAAC

Why not?

JACOB(ANNOYED)

I just can't. I need to get my car, and...I'll go to my gym and shower. If my wife calls tell her I'm in a meeting.

ISAAC

So you're going to hang out at your gym all day?

JACOB

Maybe longer, I just need some time to sort things out.

ISAAC(WORRIED)

You need help, Jake...Professional help. I don't know what's happening with you, but it's not good, and you're starting to self-destruct...I don't get it, you were great just a couple days ago, what's changed...was it your birthday, are you stressed about turning thirty? That's normal.

JACOB(THINKS)

You know what, yeah...that's it...everything changed on my birthday. This must be some sort of early midlife crisis.

ISAAC

There you go. Acceptance is the first step. Why don't you set an appointment with the company shrink, work this out so that you can get back to normal. You're better than this.

JACOB

You're right. I'll make an appointment at the gym.

ISAAC

What about Leah and Morgan?

JACOB

I'll meet with the shrink first. Thanks Isaac.

His secretary interrupts them to let Jacob know his Uber was waiting. Jacob gets off the couch, grabs his wallet, and leaves. Isaac follows him out of his office, and to the back

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CONTINUED:

door. He watches as Jacob gets into the Uber and rides off. Jacob goes to the Restaurant, picks up his car, showers at the gym, makes his appointment with the shrink, and then calls the client that stood him up.

INT. MANSION-AFTERNOON

An older white man sits at his gigantic desk, listening to Jacob go off about their missed meeting. Jacob finishes his tirade and allows the man to respond.

OLDER WHITE MAN

Jacob, you have every reason to be upset, and I'm sorry for the inconvenience, but I was under the impression that you were on board with the changes.

JACOB(O.S)

What changes?

OLDER WHITE MAN

Colin said you were ill, and that he would be taking over your clients. He and I met a couple hours earlier than our original time.

INT. GYM-AFTERNOON

Jacob sits on a stool at the snack bar, fuming over the information he was receiving.

JACOB(STARTING TO YELL)

I had a slight migraine!! I wasn't ill...that son of a bitch...No! He's not taking over my clients; I want to make that clear. So where do we stand?

OLDER WHITE MAN (O.S)

Well Jacob, I'm not sure. I think you're a better broker than Colin, but I don't know if I can trust you.

JACOB

What do you mean?

OLDER WHITE MAN

I've heard reports that you got so drunk at the restaurant last night that the barkeep had to take your car keys and throw you out, you showed up to work hung over, your secretary found in you in a pool of your own vomit. That doesn't sound very

(MORE)

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CONTINUED:

 OLDER WHITE MAN (CONT'D)
trustworthy.

 JACOB(OUTRAGED)
Where did you hear that?

 OLDER WHITE MAN
Doesn't matter. I think I'm going to
have to go with Colin, for now.
Whatever's' going on with you, deal
with it. Prove yourself to be
trustworthy and I may reconsider.
Goodbye Jacob, and good luck.

 JACOB(BITTER)
Yeah.

Jacob slams his phone on the counter in frustration. He thinks about calling the office and cussing Colin out, but decides to call the rest of his clients and try to salvage his image with them.

A few hours later, Jacob sits in the locker room defeated and alone, with only three clients to his name. He manages to pull himself together and leave for his meeting with the shrink.

INT. SHRINK OFFICE- LATE AFTERNOON

Jacob sits across from the shrink waiting for his response, hoping he didn't come off as crazy as he felt.

 JACOB
Am I crazy?

 SHRINK
I don't think so. However, you do have
a few issues I would like to address,
starting with your refusal to contact
your wife.

 JACOB (SQUINTS)
Can we address something else...I
don't want to deal with that right
now.

 SHRINK
Ok, but you do realize that eventually
we will have deal with it?

 JACOB
Yes. What else is there?

 SHRINK(LOOKS AT HIS NOTES)
Why do you believe you're having a
premature midlife crisis?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB

I just turned thirty a couple of days ago, and before then my life was great...normal.

SHRINK

To be clear, you believe that the migraine, the drunken rampage, and the repulsion of your wife and daughter, suddenly happen because you turned thirty? You're drunk right now, aren't you?

JACOB

No...I had a couple of beers, but I'm sober, well I'm not drunk. And yes I do believe that psychologically I've snapped. I think it stems from my childhood, my parents were so controlling and overbearing, I've done whatever they said do, and now I can hardly face myself anymore or this life they've created for me. I feel trapped and confused.

SHRINK

Ok, so what do you hope to accomplish by coming here?

JACOB

I want to know how to deal with my issues, without the migraines, drunken blackouts and the abandonment of my wife and daughter. So help me out.

SHRINK

Ok. But you should see this as you helping yourself. I'm just here to navigate you in the right direction, by asking the questions you're afraid to ask yourself.

JACOB

Like what?

SHRINK

For starters, have you ever confronted your parents?

JACOB

No.

SHRINK

That's the first thing you need to do, since you've identified that as the genesis of your troubles. And once you
(MORE)

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CONTINUED:

SHRINK (CONT'D)

discover the answer, then we'll work on getting you to the place where you can confront them, and perhaps bring them in for a few sessions.

JACOB(FRUSTRATED)

Geez...really?

SHRINK

What's wrong?

JACOB

None of that is necessary.(Pauses)
Honestly, I just want you to prescribe me something to make this go away, so that I can be normal again.

SHRINK(SHAKES HIS HEAD)

A quick fix. And what kind of drug do you think would make all of this go away.

JACOB

I don't know, you're the doc. I guess some anti-depressants, Vicodin for the migraines, and whatever will make me want go back home to my family.

SHRINK(CHUCKLES)

Ok, you got it. I'll give you your drugs, with one condition. You can't come back.

JACOB

That's fine, let's have it.

The shrink writes the prescriptions and hands them to Jacob. He snatches it out of his hand and bolts for the door, but before he could reach for the knob, the shrink stops him.

SHRINK

Wait, I want you to have something

He reaches into his desk drawer and grabs an empty journal, and waves at Jacob.

SHRINK(CONT'D)

Take this. I want you to document all of your thoughts feelings, actions, experiences, etc.

JACOB

Why?

SHRINK

Because you're going to need it...to keep track of yourself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB

Fine.

SHRINK

Have a good life.

Jacob walks back over to the shrink, grabs the journal, and quickly leaves.

INT. JACOB'S BASEMENT- LATE NIGHT

Having successfully avoided his wife and daughter, Jacob sits on his cot, in his basement, journaling.

JACOB(V.O)

Entry One: I don't know what to say...I hate this! I WANT CONTROL OF MY LIFE!!

Jacob slams his journal shut, lies down, and stares at the ceiling. From out of nowhere, or maybe from deep within himself, the voice returns in a whisper.

VOICE

IMPOSTOR!!

Jacob freezes. He hears it, more like feels it again.

VOICE

IMPOSTOR!!!

He begins to weep bitterly and whispers back.

JACOB

Who are you?

As if it came from his own soul, the voice responds.

VOICE

Who are you?

Jacob takes a couple of pills, pulls the covers over his face, and whispers back.

JACOB

I don't know.

INT. JACOB'S HOME- EARLY MORNING

Jacob leaves a note for his wife on the kitchen table, grabs his small suitcase and leaves out

EXT. LOCAL PARK-MORNING

Jacob sits on a bench with no memory of how he got there. He clutches his journal tightly, guarding it from an unseen

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CONTINUED:

adversary. As he sits there, he begins to see the world around him differently. With great caution he opens his journal and starts another entry.

JACOB(V.O)

Entry two: I left home; I just can't stand to be there right now. I called Isaac and gave him the rest of my clients...told him I was taking a couple of weeks off. I feel conflicted, part of me feels free, the other feels lost.... I'm not really sure what to do with my time, now that I've alienated myself from all I know. The idea that I don't know myself is terrifying, doesn't help that I have a voice inside my head telling me I'm an IMPOSTOR, among other things. What if I am...an IMPOSTOR? How can I reconcile that? This park reminds me of my childhood... to be a child again. Their lives are so simple, they're completely free...I was never free. I don't know why I came to this park, and I don't know where I'm going next. I guess life is an open road when you don't know who you are. I cry...a lot. It feels like something inside of me is dying or trying to live....I can't tell. I'm still trying to understand why this is happening to me, I'm still angry and wish that this would just go away.

Jacob closes his journal and for a moment takes it all in...his surroundings, emotions, fears. In that moment he accepts them for what they were and acknowledges their place in his life.

EXT.NEIGHBORHOOD- LATE MORNING

Jacob leaves the park and walks through the surrounding neighborhood, searching for inspiration. He passes a row of windows on the side of a building and is horrified by his reflection. He stops abruptly and closes his eyes tightly. When he opens them, he sees a black faceless man staring back at him, motioning for him to come into the gallery. Jacob takes a few deep breaths and goes in.

INT. ART GALLERY- AFTERNOON

Jacob is greeted by the black man.

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CONTINUED:

BLACK MAN

Hello! I saw you staring at the display...would you like a closer look?

JACOB

Uh, sure.

The black man leads Jacob to the display.

BLACK MAN

Very good, it's my favorite piece, all the way from Africa.

Jacob moves in for a closer look.

JACOB

What is it?

BLACK MAN

What do you see... it's up to the viewer to determine what it is. What it means to them, it's subjective.

JACOB(STARING AT IT)

I suppose you're right. So,what is it to you? If you don't mind my asking?

BLACK MAN

Not at all. To be honest it changes every time I look at it. The first time I really gave it my full attention, I saw a young boy holding an eagle. Today I see a woman sacrificing a baby, with such desperation and fear. It's quite intense. What do you see?

JACOB

I see a man being gobbled up by the world he created.

BLACK MAN

Ahhh! That's the beauty of this piece. We see what we want to see, what we need to see, and sometimes who we are.

JACOB

Why do you think that is?

BLACK MAN

I'm not sure. Abstract art speaks to the soul. I'm always amazed by its power to make sense of things.

He looks at Jacob.

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BLACK MAN

Are you the man gobbled up by the world he's created?

JACOB

Maybe....Yes. I have the perfect life; most people would envy, but I know that it's a lie. Not just a lie, like it's not mine and now I'm paying for it. The sad part is I didn't even create it. What if my life isn't mine, what if I am an impostor?

BLACK MAN

Who says you're an impostor?

JACOB(SHAKES HIS HEAD)

I'm not crazy, but sometimes I hear this voice. More like feel it rip through my body...I first heard it when I was seventeen, but hadn't heard it for twelve years, until a few days ago...it called me a liar, thief, and most recently an impostor.... and I've just shared too much with a complete stranger...sorry about that.

BLACK MAN (SMILES)

No...No...no, you've just bared your soul to me...we're no longer strangers.....you're not an impostor. Everyone is searching for their true selves. Most people spend their lives lying to themselves, saving their soul bearing for the infamous "death bed confessions".

JACOB

It's not crazy to hear voices?

Jacob looks away, embarrassed.

BLACK MAN

As bout as crazy as staring at a piece of art, waiting for it to make sense of it all.

JACOB(CHUCKLES)

I think I'm losing my mind.

BLACK MAN

So, what if you are...what are you going to do about it?

Another customer enters the Gallery and the Black man excuses himself. Jacob stares at the display a little while

(CONTINUED)

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longer, examining it in its entirety. Finally, he leaves. He walks back to where he left his car at the park, he gets in and just sits there organizing his thoughts. He opens his journal and jots down a few thoughts

JACOB(V.O)

Entry three: The idea that I could be losing my mind doesn't bother me as much anymore. I don't want to be crazy, but at least I'm aware of it. I just met a man who upon meeting him;made me feel important...valued. I've never felt more comfortable with a stranger...or anyone for that matter. I have to admit now...the drugs are not helping, which means I'm alone. Nothing has gone away. I need to go somewhere,maybe back home, find my old friends, and go back to the place where I the voice. What will I find....more like whom will I find?

Jacob puts his journal away, starts his car, and backs out of his parking spot. Suddenly a little black boy appears in his rear view mirror and he slams on the brakes. The little boy looks at him;terrified, then runs off towards the park. Jacob watches the kid join his friends on the playground, and just stares at him. His heart begins to sink as he starts to remember the young man that he falsely accused so many years ago.He pulls off slowly and drives aimlessly around the neighborhood, passing the art gallery as he went. He finally pulls into the parking lot of a HOLIDAY INN,gets a room, and settles in for the night. Before he goes to bed, he decides to look in the mirror and is numb by what he sees. He accepts it and prepares to go to sleep. He pops a handful of pills into his mouth and swallows them dry,then tosses himself onto the bed, closes his eyes and drifts off.

Jacob's subconscious takes over, and he returns to the art gallery to see the black man again. As he was approaching the building,he sees the man close up shop and head down the street, Jacob follows the man to a factory at the edge of town. Jacob stops and watches the man go in. His mind reminds him of the factory and he decides to venture in, to find out what was going on. He enters the factory just in time to see the black man join thousands of others in a dark room. Jacobs' jaw drops in disbelief as he watches the man lie down on a chair and plug himself into a huge screen, just like the others. Jacob tiptoes around the perimeter of the enormous room, to get a better look. His blood freezes as he sees the old homeless man, the innocent young man, the waitress, the unemployed man, and the little boy all laying down, connected to the same machine. Suddenly the massive screen comes to life, and the eyes of each person open in unison. Jacob watches intently as the screen begins projecting various images, some humorous, some thought provoking, and some disturbing. The masses digest each image as it flows across the screen, numb to its effect.

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Just as suddenly as it started, the images stop and the screen goes dead. As one, they all rise, disconnect themselves from the screen and march out single file. Jacob waits for the room to empty, then sits in one of the chairs, connect himself to the machine, and waits for the screen to respond. Nothing happens. He gets up to leave, but finds himself back at the convenient store, standing next to the old homeless man. He watches helplessly as the man is beaten to death...the voice whispers...Murderer. In that moment Jacob sees the mans' face clearly. He begins to weep. He reaches out to touch him but is snatched back to the bar where the young man pleads his innocence to the police. The voice whispers...Liar. Jacob sobs uncontrollably and sees the desperation in the young man's face. He tries to speak, but, is swept back to the bistro where the young waitress stood crying. Jacob looks at her sad face and reaches in his pocket and pulls out a twenty-dollar bill....the voice whispers...Thief. As he tries to hand it to her, he is yanked back to the parking lot where the young business man sat in his car trying to figure things out. Jacob looks at him and sees not only his eyes, but his entire face...the voice whispers...Impostor. Jacob crumbles and weeps openly. The voice caresses his mind...Liar, Thief, Murderer, Impostor. Jacob looks up at the young man again, but realizes he was back in the factory still connected to the machine.

The screen flashes on, gluing Jacob to the chair. The images flood his entire being, forcing him to ingest everything it offered. Jacob lies in horror as the images tell him things about himself, mind shattering things. The screen goes blank, interrupting the images. A mirror appears, and forces Jacob to face himself. He closes his eyes, but they pop back open. He looks at himself in the mirror and screams.

INT. HOTEL ROOM- EARLY MORNING

Jacob snaps back to reality. He leaps off the bed and runs into the bathroom to look in the mirror and begins attacking the image staring back at him. He finally grows tired and walks back to the bed, grabs his journal from the nightstand, and starts another entry.

JACOB(V.O)

Entry four: I feel sick! I just had the worst dream. My mind has betrayed me, and I feel like dying. I think my past in catching up to me, chasing me down. I'm scared...no TERRIFIED!! I feel helpless. I feel different. I need a drink.

Jacob reaches over the bed, grabs his bottle of vodka, and chugs away. He then grabs his bottle of anti-depressants and takes a handful, washing them down with the booze. He leans back against the bed and allows the chemicals to take over. The voice returns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE

Die

JACOB

I am. Just give it a minute to kick in.

VOICE

It's not enough. More.

JACOB

How much?

VOICE

All

JACOB

All

Jacob dumps the rest of his pills into his hands but sets them down on the nightstand and grabs his journal to write his last entry.

JACOB(V.O)

Entry five: I'm killing myself...it's for the best. I'm sorry to my family and friends, and to whoever finds my body. I am a Liar, Thief, Murderer, and worst of all an Impostor. To all who may ask why...It's simple, I looked in the mirror, and hated what I saw. Forgive me.

Jacob scoops the pills up and swallows them...then chases them with the rest of the vodka. Everything goes black.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- TWO WEEKS LATER.

Jacob lays in bed unconscious, while Leah sits next to him reading a novel. A nurse comes in to check his vitals, then leaves. A few hours later, Jacob's parents relieve Leah so that she could take care of Morgan. His mom stands over him, looking down at him in disappointment

MOM

How could you be so selfish and stupid? Why are you destroying? This wonderful life we've given you?

His father joins her.

DAD

Jacob...Alcohol, anti-depressants? How did this happen? We were so careful. This is not part of the plan son. You need to wake up and explain this to us...help us understand.

(CONTINUED)

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Jacobs' eyes begin to flutter, and his mother rushes to get a doctor. The doctor checks his vitals as he regains consciousness. Jacob looks around the room in stark confusion, trying to figure out who everyone was, and what he was doing in the hospital. The doctor asks him a few basic questions and runs a few tests, and soon realizes that Jacob had amnesia. He waits until Leah returns to tell everyone the news. They all gather outside of Jacob's hospital room, listening to the doctors' diagnosis.

THE DOCTOR

Jacob has what we call Retrograde Amnesia. It's more than likely temporary caused by the head trauma he suffered after he blacked out. He doesn't remember his name, or who he is, or how he got here. He has no memory of any of you or anyone...thing from his past. He's had frequent vomiting since regaining consciousness and is still on suicide watch.

LEAH

What can we do?

THE DOCTOR (SIGHS)

He needs to stay here for a few more days. Then he needs his life back. So I would suggest filling the house with photos, showing him home videos, birth certificates, wedding license, whatever will help him remember. Like I said it's probably temporary, so ease him into it.

MOM

So since its temporary, when can we expect him to remember?

THE DOCTOR

Any day. He could remember right now....we just don't know.

DAD

What's the longest something like this lasted?

THE DOCTOR

Years...in some of the cases I've seen. The important thing is to be there for him. No stress no pressure...no questions about the suicide attempt. When he's ready, he'll remember.

MOM

Could he be faking?

(CONTINUED)

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THE DOCTOR (SMILE)

Yes that's possible, but I don't think so in his case. His cat scan showed head trauma conducive with this condition. Just be patient with him. You have any more questions?

LEAH

Does he know yet?

THE DOCTOR

Yes. You can see him before we send him up for his Psych Evaluation. And in three days you can take him home.

LEAH

Good. Thank you so much, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR

You're welcome and good luck.

The doctor leaves them. Leah asks her in-laws to give her a few minutes alone with Jacob. She enters his room to find him sitting up watching T.V. She cautiously approaches him.

LEAH(SWEETLY)

Hi

He looks at her.

JACOB

Hi. Do I know you?

LEAH(NODS)

You married me.

JACOB(STARES)

Oh, you don't seem like my type.

LEAH(UNCOMFORTABLE)

How do you feel?

JACOB

Helpless, confused. I need to know who I am.

LEAH(GENTLY GRABS HIS HAND)

You're Jacob, my husband. You have a daughter named Morgan. Your parents are right outside that door waiting to see you. You're a part owner of a financial firm. You went to BROWN and HARVARD.

JACOB

That's not so bad, what kind of person am I?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEAH

What do you mean?

JACOB

Am I nice, kind, a thief or a liar?
I'm I a good person, or do people hate
me?

LEAH(KISSES HIS HAND)

You're a great person!Nobody hates
you.

JACOB

So what happened to me, how did I get
here?

LEAH(PANICS)

I think you should get some rest.

JACOB

It's that bad

LEAH

I'll let your parents know you're
resting.

She quickly kisses him on the forehead and leaves. After she leaves Jacob decides to take a nap before his evaluation. A few minutes into his nap, Jacob is awakened by a tap on his shoulder. He looks up to see an older black woman clutching a book. He sits up and looks at her intently.

JACOB

Hi, do I know you?

OLDER BLACK WOMAN

I found you.

JACOB

You found me? Where?

OLDER BLACK WOMAN

In the hotel room, where you died.

JACOB

I died? What are you talking about?

OLDER BLACK WOMAN

I work at the hotel, where you O.D'
ed. You were dead when I got there, I
did CPR, and called 911.

JACOB

I overdosed...on what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLDER BLACK WOMAN
Vodka and anti-depressants...I think.

JACOB
And you saved me?

OLDER BLACK WOMAN
Yes, but that is not why I'm here. The police took all of your things, but I found this when I cleaned the room.

She shows him the book.

JACOB
What is it?

OLDER BLACK WOMAN
From the looks of it, a journal...I didn't read it.

JACOB
And you're sure it's mine.

OLDER BLACK WOMAN
I'm positive. It has your name on it.

JACOB
Let me see.

She hands him the journal and turns to leave.

JACOB
Wait. What's your name?

OLDER BLACK WOMAN
It doesn't matter...I have to go.

JACOB
It does to me...You saved my life.
Please.

Without turning to face him, she hesitantly gives him her name.

OLDER BLACK WOMAN
Rebecca.

JACOB
Rebecca, thank you!

REBECCA
You're welcome. Take care...Jacob.

She walks out the room, and out of his life. Jacob ponders over his conversation with Rebecca, and the revelation that he tried to kill himself. He looks down at the journal in his

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CONTINUED:

hands, hoping it held the answers to who he was and how he got there. He opens to the first entry, but is interrupted by a team of nurses, coming to transport him to his psych evaluation. He closes the book, slides it under his pillow and prepares to leave.

A few hours later he returns from his evaluation, and instinctively reaches for his journal to write about it. He turns to the next blank page and starts another entry. He turns to the previous page to see the entry number, and then begins.

JACOB(V.O)

Entry six: I woke up last night with no memory of who I was, just a few hours ago I learned that my name is Jacob, I have a family, a company and I tried to kill myself. Leah...my wife, lied to me. She said I was a good person, that everyone loved me...if that were true, why was I found dead by a complete stranger, in a hotel room, miles from home? Whoever I was...I was not good that's for sure. This journal holds the answers to my life, but I'm afraid to look. I fear that I've done far worse than kill myself. I passed my evaluation and will be released in a few days. I still don't remember who I am, not completely...and so I'm deciding right now... never to. I'm giving myself a fresh start, I'm done with the old Jacob...he died in that hotel room. This Jacob is going to be...different...new. Ah shit! The only problem with that is, how can I be new when I don't know the old me? I could easily repeat all my mistakes and end up trying to kill myself again. It's a catch 22 situation. If I read the previous entries, I'll be forced to deal with whatever it says and can consequently forget my fresh start. But if I don't read it, I'll be doomed to repeat whatever it was that landed me here in the first place.

A knock on the door interrupts his thoughts. He closes his journal and slides it back under his pillow. He looks up to

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CONTINUED:

see two white men poking their heads through the door. He stares at them, wishing he knew who they were. The taller one steps forward and addresses him.

MATT

Hey Jake, how you feeling? It's Matt...

The other one joins him.

ISAAC

And Isaac. We're your business partners. We heard what happened to you....

MATT

...We couldn't believe it when Leah told us you were attacked and left for dead in some hotel room.

JACOB (CONFUSED)

What?

MATT

Uh sorry, we know you have no memory of what happened. It's probably too difficult to think about right now.

ISAAC

How are they treating you in here?

JACOB

Fine. How long have I known you two?

ISAAC

We met at BROWN, freshman year.

MATT

HARVARD school of Business, second year.

JACOB

Are we friends?

MATT

Of course, that's why we decided to go into business together.

JACOB

What kind of business do we own?

ISAAC

Finance...Money.

JACOB

I'm the boss?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MATT

Yep! We all are.

ISAAC(SMIRKS)

Yeah...though Colin thinks he's the top boss.

JACOB

Colin?

MATT

Our other partner...there's four of us.

JACOB

Are we successful?

ISAAC

Quite...thanks in large part to you.

JACOB(SURPRISED)

Me?

MATT

Last month you brought in close to a billion dollars from one client.

JACOB

WOW! That's great! What's the commission on that?

They all laugh, and for that moment everything was back to normal.

MATT

There he is.

ISAAC

The commission is crazy. I think you agreed on 20%.

JACOB (OVERWHELMED)

I'm Rich!

MATT

Actually, the company gets the 20%, and you get .5% of that.

JACOB(SLIGHTLY DISAPPOINTED)

It's still a lot. So,where's Colin?

Isaac and Matt look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ISAAC

He's away on business.

JACOB

He and I aren't friends are we?

MATT

Honestly Colin's not much of a friend to anyone. He changed once we became competitive; he's let the power get to him.

ISAAC

I think that he may come around after this. Leah said that you need to jump right back into your life, and so we brought you some of your clients' files to look over. Hopefully it will help get you back to making big bucks for us.

Matt looks up at the clock, and nudges Isaac.

MATT

We need to get back to work.

JACOB

Yeah...so do I apparently.

Isaac hands the client files to Jacob as they say their goodbyes. Jacob waits a few seconds after they were gone to pull out his journal. He opens it to another blank page and quickly scribbles another entry.

JACOB(V.O)

Entry seven: I am being lied to...and I like it. This lie is far better than the truth that I know awaits me in these pages. I have made my decision...A fresh start, a new Jacob. I will just have to be more careful this time.

Jacob places his journal under his pillow and, goes back to sleep.

NEXT DAY: INT.HOSPITAL ROOM.

Jacob's parents sit on either side of his bed, questioning his amnesia.

MOM (GRINS)

Jacob son, do you know us?

JACOB

No, but Leah showed me photos of you, so I know that you are my folks

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAD

DO you remember our plan for you?

JACOB

Sorry, no I don't...I guessing this is not it?

MOM

Not at all. We know we can't pressure you, but...

DAD

...We just need to make sense of all of this.

JACOB

I wish I could, I'm not sure what to say, but I will make sure this never happens again! How does that sound?

MOM

Wonderful! Jacob we want you to remember that you are the best there ever was and will ever be. Yes?

JACOB (STRANGELY)

Ok

His parents look at him and then at each other, and decide it was time to go.

DAD

We're going to hold you to your promise to make sure this never happens again...remember the plan son.

JACOB

Yes sir, good bye

MOM

Good bye

A few days later, Jacob is released, and his life goes back to normal.

INT. JACOB'S BASEMENT- EARLY EVENING (A MONTH LATER)

Jacob goes through his things, looking for his tools to do some repairs around the house. He digs around the basement for a while, and finally finds it on the shelf, along with a box full of letters he had long forgotten. He sets the tool box on the floor and cautiously strokes the letters. He picks one up and begins to read it.

FLASH BACK:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB SITTING IN HIS DORM ROOM WRITING THE LETTER.

JACOB(V.O)

September 15th: I hate my life...I hate my parents...no no no, I don't hate them...yes I do, I'm scared of them too. I hate Leah, yeah...I hate her, but it doesn't matter, I don't matter. I'm a slave to their plans. The funny thing is I have no idea what I would do if I were free. I should think about it, yes...because one day I will be free. I met a guy named Ben...he seems stupid...I think I hate him too. Isaac doesn't trust him. What if I leave...just pack my bags and go, what would happen to their perfect plan then. I'm a pawn, they use me, and I let them...I hate my life.

He grabs another one and begins to read it.

FLASH BACK:

Jacob sitting in his bedroom writing the letter.

JACOB(V.O)

December 22: I hate my life...I hate Christmas...all of it. Leah expects me to ask her out, not sure how much longer I can hold out. I do hate Ben...he's an moron. I received a postcard from Dylan...he's touring all over the world...he's happy. AJ will be over tomorrow...the Marine Corp is treating him well, he's getting a job overseas...he too is happy, I'm glad they've forgiven me. What it must feel like to live your dreams...I wouldn't know. I have given it some thought though, and I still don't know what I would do. Maybe I was born to be a slave...to have my future decided for me. I'm only as good as the master that owns me, well Masters....I hate my life.

He grabs another one.

FLASH BACK:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jacob sitting under a tree writing the letter.

JACOB(V.O)

May 28th: I hate my life...I hate college. Leah is evil, at least that's what Ben thinks. I finally asked her out, via my mother. I was thinking recently...the only way for a slave to be free is for him to kill himself...if he tries to run, he will be caught, rebel and he will be broken, die and he will be free. I think I will kill myself tomorrow after classes. I wish my parents were here to witness it...I should record it, so that they can see it. I heard the voice again today. It comes and goes like the wind, but I feel it in me. It keeps calling me a Liar, Thief, Impostor, and Murderer. I agree. I'm going to kill myself tonight...I hate my life.

He snatches up another one, hungry for more.

FLASH BACK:

Jacob sits in a hospital bed writing the letter.

JACOB(V.O)

June 4th: I awoke in the hospital with no memory of who I am. They say my name is Jacob and that I tried to kill myself. Some girl, claiming to be my girlfriend, tells me she won't tell my parents. I wonder why not. I had two college friends stop by today...Ben and Isaac, they seem cool...well not Ben. I wonder why I tried to kill myself, could my life have been so bad? I guess that question answers its self... who tries to kill them self if their life is going well. Why am I still here? I should be dead, who saved me? I'm a failure...I can't even successfully kill myself. I don't want to leave this hospital, the only thing waiting for me outside of this room is a failed suicide and the sorry life I was desperate to escape...I hate my life.

Jacobs slithers to the floor and begins to sob. He looks at the hundreds of letters that laid there unread. His memory returns like a bullet to the brain, forcing him to deal with all of it, everything he ever buried from the past twelve

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

years. Jacob jumps up and runs upstairs

Leah sits at the kitchen table going over a few briefs. She watches in disbelief as her husband bolts from the basement, tears through the house, and flies out the front door. She immediately runs down to the basement and sees the letters she hoped he'd never find. She picks one up and reads it.

FLASH BACK:

Jacob sitting in a classroom writing the letter.

JACOB(V.O)

January 25th: This is my first letter...I hate my life. It's week two of my pre-college program, and I hate it. I've decided to keep track of my life, by writing myself letters. I hope that one day I'll look back on them and make sense of it. Leah is annoying...I hate her. I hate my mother for forcing her on me. The voice is a constant...I've gotten used to it, like a companion. I think I like it...it's the only voice that tells me the truth...LIAR! I'M A LIAR! That's the truth it speaks, and I believe it. I did something horrible, or as Dylan put it...unforgivable. I will pay for my sins one day. I was desperate...maybe I will be forgiven. Leah is just like my mom. She's conniving and sneaky, she thinks I don't notice. I'll marry her of course, because I have to. And I'll hate her every day of my life...I hate my life.

Leah drops the letter, and slowly makes her way back upstairs. She falls weakly onto their couch and stares off into nothingness. She thinks about all that she had been through and sighs

LEAH

Here we go again.

INT. JACOB'S BASEMENT- EVENING

After walking the streets for a few hours Jacob returns home; finding the house empty, he returns to the basement. He plops down on his cot, grabs his bottle of vodka, chugs it, trying desperately to hold his emotions at bay. The voice returns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE
Liar

JACOB (UNFAZED)
So

VOICE
Thief

JACOB (DRUNK)
Is that the best you got?

VOICE
Murderer

JACOB (NUMB)
What else?

VOICE
Impostor

Jacob; stunned, concedes and throws his body across the cot.
The voice continues the taunts.

VOICE (CONT'D)
Impostor... Liar... Thief...Murderer

JACOB (WEAKLY)
Stop it.

VOICE
Impostor...Liar...Thief...Murderer

JACOB
Please stop it, I'm not an impostor.

VOICE
STOP LYING!! IMPOSTOR!

JACOB
If I'm an Impostor, then who am I
really?

VOICE
Me

JACOB
Who are you?

VOICE
Who are you?

Frustration and anger erupt from Jacob instantaneously.

JACOB
I HATE YOU!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE
YOU HATE YOURSELF!

JACOB
SHUT UUUUUUUUPPPP!!

Jacob blindly takes a swing at the invisible voice and is shocked as his hand makes contact with human flesh. He blinks away his tears to see his wife on the floor holding her face in stunned disbelief. For a moment Jacob just stares at her. Finally, he regains his grip on reality and rushes to her aid.

JACOB
Leah, oh god...are you ok?

LEAH(IN SHOCK)
You just slapped me.

JACOB
No...no...no...no...no....I didn't mean it.

Leah; still holding her face, gets off the floor and distances herself from her husband.

LEAH
You reek of alcohol...what's happened to you?

JACOB
I didn't mean it...I'm sorry....I...I didn't mean it.

LEAH (TEARY EYED)
Dinner's ready.

JACOB
Leah, babe...I'm sorry. I'm not myself right now.

LEAH(HURT)
I can see that. You need to sober up, I don't want you drunk in front of our daughter.....you hit me...should I expect that to continue?

JACOB
NO! It will never happen again. You didn't deserve that.

Leah starts heading up the stairs.

LEAH
You do hate me, don't you?

JACOB
Uh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEAH

Before you hit me, you screamed in my face... "I HATE YOU".

JACOB(SICKENED)

Oh god... I wasn't... I didn't... I don't...

He breaks down, and crashes to his cot.

JACOB

Babe... I'm losing my mind, I'm hearing things and seeing nothing.... I'm scared.

Leah looks at Jacob and is overcome with sympathy and love for him. Keeping her distance, she reaches out to him.

LEAH(TIRED)

Is that why you were gone for so long?

JACOB

Yes, but it's more than that...

LEAH

Talk to me.

JACOB(DESPERATE)

I don't know how! I got to figure this out on my own, Leah I'm sorry I hurt you... I'm sorry for everything! You should take Morgan and leave. I think this has happened before... I found some letters, I don't know who I am! Please go!

LEAH

I'm not going anywhere... you need me and I'm going to be here for you.

JACOB(SICK)

How many times has this happened?

Leah begins to cry.

LEAH

This is the fifth time.

JACOB(TAKES THE BLOW)

Who all knows about this?

LEAH

Me, Isaac and Ben. They helped me cover it up back in college. Ben couldn't handle it anymore; Isaac vowed to stick with you. Matt and Colin have no idea... needless to say Colin doesn't care. Your parents don't

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEAH (CONT'D)
know, this was their first encounter.

JACOB
Why didn't you tell me?

LEAH(REGAINS COMPOSURE)
Because you would always get better.
You would decide to start over...to be
different, and for a while you were.
At first I didn't know why you would
lose it, then I found your
letters...during your third episode. I
tried to hide them, but you would just
start writing more...subconsciously I
think. And the vicious cycle
continued. You would remember this
voice, and then you would have this
psychological breakdown and try to
kill yourself.

JACOB
Why didn't I die?

LEAH
You called her Rebecca. You said she
would come to you...she'd save you.
Only once did I stop you from doing
it. It was right after our wedding.
The rest were her.

JACOB(STUNNED)
I don't understand any of this. Why
did you stay?

LEAH
Because...I love you. I know you don't
love me...you never did....

JACOB
I'm sorry

LEAH
It's fine. Your parents forced you
into all of this...and I went along
with it. How much do you remember from
this last one?

JACOB
Not sure...after reading those letters
I remember the last twelve years, but
this last one is still a blur. I
assume it had something to do with the
voice. I need to read my journal.

LEAH
What journal?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB

Apparently I kept a journal this time around. Rebecca brought it to the hospital for me.

LEAH

Jacob why do you hear the voice, where does it come from?

JACOB

I'm not sure... Did I ever tell you what happened the night of that ridiculous going away party my mom insisted on throwing for me?

LEAH

Yeah, you were mugged.

JACOB

I lied. That night was the first time I heard the voice. No, actually I heard it before then.

Jacob becomes uncomfortable as his memory begins to reveal the recent months leading up to his latest suicide attempt.

LEAH

When?

JACOB

It doesn't matter. I need you to go.

LEAH(DESPERATE)

Why?

JACOB

I need to read my journal...alone. I need to deal with this alone.

LEAH

I can help you.

JACOB

If that were true...we wouldn't be having this conversation. Leah something terrible has happen to me,I'm not sure what, but I got to find out how to fix this so that it never happens again. I promise I'll fix this for us...you're a good woman, you deserve better.

LEAH (SMILES WEAKLY)

Please do...I can't do this anymore.

JACOB

I will.....and for the record, I don't hate you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEAH

I wish that were true.

Leah heads back upstairs. He waits until the door closed behind her, before grabbing his journal from under his pillow and beginning to read it. He reads it up to the entry before he killed himself, all of the emotions from that night come rushing back, crippling Jacob to the floor.

QUICK FLASHBACK:

His memory of that night plays like a movie in his mind, so vivid and detailed. He experiences the nightmare all over again, and weeps in open abandon. He finally understands what he must do. And so he prepares to do battle with the voice once and for all.

JACOB

Who are you?

Nothing.

JACOB

I know you're here...I can feel you?

Nothing.

JACOB

Please, just tell me what I need to do to fix this...I'm sorry for everything!

Jacob waits for what seems an eternity but receives no response from the voice. He decides to give up and go to sleep, in hopes that the voice would meet him there...it does.

Jacob awakes the next morning, disturbed and empty. He grabs his bottle of booze and downs it with sailor precision. He decides to go upstairs and see what Leah had cooked up for him.

Leah sits at the kitchen table with Morgan, feeding her and reading the paper, she looks up to see Jacob stammering through the basement door, half out of his mind. Leah says nothing to him as he trashes the kitchen looking for "grub". She grabs her daughter and goes upstairs to pack.

Jacob; ignoring his wife and daughter, finds leftover meatloaf and decides to eat it cold right out of the plastic container. Before he could finish eating, he blacks out.

EXT. JACOB'S PARENT'S HOUSE- AFTERNOON

Jacob lays face down in his parents' yard, drawing the attention of their nosy neighbors. Finally, his father runs

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

out into the yard and drags him in.

INT. JACOB'S PARENT'S HOUSE- LATE AFTERNOON

Jacob's parents sit at their kitchen table, watching their son scarf down a large pepperoni pizza. His mom waits anxiously, wanting to find out what was going on with him. His dad decides enough is enough and interrupts the silence.

DAD

Son, why were you passed out in our yard?

MOM

How did you even get here? We didn't see your car.

Jacob continues to stuff his face, ignoring them in the process.

MOM

Jacob, you will answer us.

She snatches the pizza box away from him and throw sit in the trash. Jacob looks at her with hurt and pain in his eyes.

DAD

Why are you here?

Jacob reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out a letter. He stares at them briefly and then begins to read it aloud.

FLASHBACK:

Jacob sits in his car writing this letter.

JACOB

July 19: I hate my life....I graduated from HARVARD. This will be my last letter for a while. It's time for me to grow up...be a man. At least that's what my parents keep telling me...I hate them. I wish they would just die or maybe I would just die. I hate them and their stupid plan..."just like we planned son"...."oh Jacob I'm so proud of you", "we just want the best for you". I HATE THEM!! Now I have to pretend to be happy, no...no I don't! I can be as visibly miserable as I want, and they wouldn't even notice. SLAVE!! I'M NOT THEIR SON...I'M THEIR SLAVE...THEIR PUPPET! I'm suffocating, I'm trapped in a loveless relationship, living a unhappy unfulfilled life, and they're proud of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB (CONT'D)

me. I wonder how proud they would be if I killed myself right in front of them. Time to be a business professional... "just like we planned". Marry Leah... "just like we planned", sell your soul to us... just like we planned." Heartless, soulless devils... I hate them... I hate me. The voice is right... I am a LIAR, THIEF, MURDERER, AND IMPOSTOR; I come from the best of them. If I'm all these things, it's because of them. I hope there's a special place in hell for them... I hate my life.

Jacob lets the letter fall onto the table and waits for their response. For a moment they just sit in silence, not sure of what to say. Finally, his mom speaks.

MOM

How ungrateful can you be? All that we sacrificed for you, and this is what you thought of us. We spoiled you.

JACOB (OUTRAGED)

You spoiled me, wow! Dad?

DAD

I failed you... should have been tougher on you.

JACOB

That's both disappointing and disturbing to hear. I'm going to go now, you won't ever see me again.

MOM

You're not who you think you are, you are nothing... we made you.

DAD

The truth is your enemy... the lie is your salvation.

JACOB

No, you are my enemy and death is my salvation.

Jacob bolts out of the chair and sprints out of the house. His parents sit, motionless

EXT. BRIDGE-NIGHT

Jacob sits on the edge of the bridge, sloppy drunk and ready to jump. He looks up to the sky and yells at the voice one last time but feels complete emptiness. He jumps.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As he was falling, he hears a strange familiar voice calling him to wake up. The voice grows louder as he free falls toward the ice-cold water. He hits the water the voice splits his subconscious, forcing him to wake up.

COMPLETE DARKNESS

THE VOICE BEGINS TO SPEAK.

VOICE

One cannot remain asleep forever. When you finally awaken...who will you see, who will you be?

INT. BEDROOM-MORNING

Jacob (a black teen) opens his eyes to see his mother sitting next to him on his bed. He looks at her, then at his arms and legs.

He springs out of the bed and rushes to the bathroom, and stares at himself in the mirror. He begins to cry and smile at once.

His mother joins him in the bathroom.

MOTHER

Jake, what's wrong baby?

JACOB

I had a crazy dream...strange.(Stares off; in deep thought) I was a white man afraid of myself.

His Mother stares at him, patiently waiting for him to elaborate. Jacob has a seat on the toilet seat and explains his dream.

JACOB

It was all so strange, it felt so real. I was not myself, but I didn't know who I was, and I was afraid of the truth. I...there were times I was happy, then the voice and the dreams and the warehouse, ugh...I wish I could remember it all, I was ashamed of the black me...the real me.

FLASHBACK:

White Jacob staring at himself in the mirror, is horrified by his reflection. His reflection is black Jacob.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACOB

I was running from me while trying to find me. It's hard to explain, I'm not really sure what I'm saying.

MOTHER

Are you ashamed of who you are?

JACOB (THINKS)

The Voice called me an Impostor...the white me. I had horrible parents who I hated...I kept trying to kill myself!

MOTHER

You didn't answer my question.

JACOB

Maybe...subconsciously I am. But aren't we all to a certain degree?

MOTHER

I suppose we are, you mean black people?

JACOB

Yeah, we all carry some type of shame...I can't believe how real it all seemed and felt, it was like I was really there.

He suddenly remembers another part of his dream.

JACOB

YOU were in my dream!!

FLASHBACK:

White Jacob sits in his hospital bed, looking at Rebecca. Rebecca turns to leave.

He looks at his mother in awe. Tears begin to flow down his cheeks.

JACOB (CONT'D)

REBECCA!! You saved me...

MOTHER

What?

JACOB

I kept trying to kill myself because I didn't know who I was, I was living a lie, and I hated my life and you saved me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They both remain silent for a few seconds, then Jacob stands up and walks over to his mother.

JACOB
What do you think my dream means?

MOTHER
Baby I don't know...

JACOB
Give me your honest opinion then.

MOTHER
It sounds like your dream is a metaphor for how you see yourself. How you see blacks in general. I think your failed suicide attempts were your cry for help, your subconscious trying to awake in you a truth that you don't know yet, about who you really are.

JACOB
I don't understand what you're saying.

MOTHER
I'm saying that the longer you sleep; metaphorically, the harder it will be for you to access your consciousness.

JACOB (CONFUSED)
Huh?

Rebecca smiles and leaves out of the room.

JACOB
I still don't know what you mean...what does it mean.

Jacob heads for the door to follow his mother, but stops cold in his tracks, he turns around and runs back to the mirror and sees both he and white Jacob.

The reflections begin to fight each other inside the mirror, one fighting for supremacy; the other for his life.

The dueling reflections shatter the mirror, spraying glass everywhere. Jacob drops to the floor, but slips and hits his head, losing consciousness.

VOICE
JACOB WAKE....UP!! WAKE UP!!

INT.BLACK JACOB'S HOME-AFTERNOON

Lying on the couch; black Jacob's eyes shoot open like fireworks. The voice caresses his mind...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE

The longer you sleep...the harder it
is for you to...

Title appears: WAKE UP

Deuteronomy 28:65-66: ...and among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of they foot have rest: but the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind...and they life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of they life.

END CREDITS: