

BREEDLOVE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. DARK BEDROOM - NIGHT

Photographs of a young couple are scattered across a hardwood floor. The pictures span the time of what appears to be a high school relationship; happy.

The lead of a pencil scratches into a sheet of paper. After it stops, the legs of a chair scrape back across the floor.

A man's bare feet shuffle over the photos, now just cutouts of the girl as they get closer to the center of the room.

The chair drags behind the feet, collecting pictures in its path until it stops in the center of the room.

Bare feet climb onto the creaking chair. They shuffle to the edge and the man's weight balances on just his toes now.

The toes inch closer and closer to the edge.

The chair begins to rock back and forth, teasing its tipping point with each rock. Again and again, until...

VOICE  
(whispers)  
Olivia...

CRASH.

INT. WESTLAKE HIGH - CLASSROOM - DAY

The sound of a book SLAMS against the floor.

TEACHER  
Olivia?

OLIVIA GATES, (16) -- youthful beauty disguised by a rebellious exterior, snaps awake at the sound of her textbook falling. The class of unfamiliar faces snicker.

OLIVIA  
Yeah?

TEACHER  
I asked if you covered the  
secession in your old school?

Olivia looks at the sea of waiting faces and hesitates.

OLIVIA  
I don't know.

Indistinct chatter spreads throughout the classroom. Olivia's spine stiffens as the eyes of the strangers focus on her.

Afraid of appearing weak, Olivia nominates one innocent onlooker to lash out at. Her gaze lands on a HANDSOME BOY, and Olivia locks on.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
What are you looking at?

Embarrassed, the boy turns away as the class chuckles.

TEACHER  
(to class)  
That's enough.

The teacher resumes his lecture, but not all the unwanted attention is off Olivia.

BEN BREEDLOVE, (16) -- pensive, strange but unassuming, looks back at her through strands of messy brown hair.

OLIVIA  
(mouths)  
What?

Ben is unphased. He holds his stare until the bell rings, then gets up to leave with the rest of the students.

Olivia remains seated, still lost in her previous day dream.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Olivia clutches her books to her chest and walks alone, taking in the still unfamiliar bustling high school hallway. She eyes a decorated PROM BANNER hanging above.

Her attention drifts further down the hallway to Ben at his locker. Something about him is familiar to Olivia.

Ben is shoved from behind as two jocks fake wrestle down the hallway and his books are knocked free in the process. Unaffected, Ben crouches down and picks them up.

Olivia stops in the middle of the hall and watches for a moment too long. Ben looks up, directly at her.

A group of THREE LAUGHING CHEERLEADERS accidentally bump Olivia as they walk passed. She spins to confront.

OLIVIA  
What the fuck?!

The cheerleaders continue down the hall, never even taking notice. Olivia turns back toward Ben's locker. He's gone.

INT. OLIVIA'S LOCKER

Olivia spins the dial, but the lock fails to open. A JOCK at a neighboring locker stares down her cleavage.

Her lock fails a second time. She checks the locker number. The jock blows a bubble, grins and checks out her ass.

When the lock fails a third time, Olivia slams the metal door, spilling her books in the process.

JOCK  
Locker trouble?

Olivia rolls her eyes, then faces the grinning jock.

OLIVIA  
(playing the airhead)  
Yeah like, I just can never figure  
these things out! Can you do it?

JOCK  
Really?

Drops the act.

OLIVIA  
Fuck off.

The jock's grin fades. He mutters "Bitch" and walks away. Olivia drops to her knees and picks up her belongings, invisible to the passing students.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

The bell rings as students flood into a room.

A stack of Scantron forms make their way around the classroom. Olivia receives one and her eyes widen.

TEACHER 2  
Pop quiz.

Olivia digs through her bag only to find her pencil missing.

TEACHER 2 (CONT'D)

You will have thirty minutes to complete the quiz, don't turn the paper over until I say so.

Olivia checks the floor beneath her. Nothing. She sits up and turns-- there at the desk next to her sits Ben, with her pencil in his hand.

BEN

You moved onto Westminster, right?

Olivia gives him a sideways glance.

BEN (CONT'D)

I live across the street. Ben Breedlove.

Olivia takes the pencil. Reluctantly, as not to engage,

OLIVIA

Thanks.

They hold their look.

TEACHER 2

Ready... begin.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

The pecking order is easily displayed in the school cafeteria: Jocks occupy one corner of the room. Nerds occupy another, freaks, geeks and so on...

Olivia inspects her crusty mashed potatoes with a plastic fork. Inedible. They splat back down on to her plate.

She drops her fork in defeat and looks up. She is alone at an isolated table at the edge of the cafeteria.

Not a single eye glances her way. She is invisible.

Olivia shuffles through her bag, pulls out a cigarette, and puts it in her mouth. Still not a single look.

She grabs her lighter; another quick glance, then lights up. She inhales, then casually blows smoke into the air.

Finally, all eyes begin to notice. The room slowly falls silent, minus the few whispered comments of disbelief.

An adult hand snatches the cigarette and extinguishes it in the mashed potatoes. It beckons her to get up.

A few muffled laughs and snickers commence.

Olivia confidently turns to Ben as she is dragged away, but he pays no attention to her stunt.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Olivia sits across from DR. WENDALL, (early 40s) -- soft spoken, attractive, heavy-set black woman.

DR. WENDALL

Do you miss your old home?

Olivia looks anywhere but at her.

OLIVIA

No.

DR. WENDALL

Do you miss your friends?

OLIVIA

No.

Stunning conversationalist.

THERAPIST

Your mother said you got a job right away, that's good.

OLIVIA

Anything that keeps me away from her is good.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - STORAGE ROOM - EVENING

Olivia exhales a muted moan of pleasure and buries her head into the shoulder of TAYLOR PRICE, (23) -- good looking, but unaware his best years are behind him.

Taylor's jeans are crumpled around his ankles as he and Olivia engage in that special kind of jackrabbit teen sex.

One particular hip thrust knocks a box off the shelf. It tumbles to the floor and a load of "rebel" key chains with the Texas flag on it spill out.

MOMENTS LATER

A bump of coke is piled on the end of a key.

Taylor snorts it up then rubs his nose as Olivia finishes buttoning her skirt. She peers inquisitively.

TAYLOR  
Want some?

Olivia doesn't answer. Taylor smirks and hands her the vile.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Knock yourself out.

He turns and puts his shirt back on.

INT. FRONT OF STORE - CONTINUOUS

Olivia casually walks out of the storage room with a stack of T-shirts.

MOLLY, (19) -- small town Texas girl who confuses slutty-ness with edginess, stops folding tank tops and playfully eyes her disheveled co-worker.

MOLLY  
Well hello there. Have fun?

OLIVIA  
(barely hiding it)  
He was showing me inventory.

MOLLY  
Is that what he calls it?  
(beat)  
Is his inventory, big?

Olivia plays dumb as Taylor exits the storage room, clipboard in hand, fooling no one.

Molly grins.

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
By the way your skirt is caught in  
your panties.

Olivia quickly grabs the back of her skirt, a panicked look.

It's not.

OLIVIA  
Bitch!

She throws a shirt at Molly and they both laugh.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Moving boxes are piled high next to the dining room table. Olivia takes a bite of her rubbery take-out pizza.

Her begging dog, Orko, paws at her leg. She pushes him off.

JIM GATES, (42) -- failed musician turned salesman, cracks open a beer.

LORA GATES, (39) -- shell of a prom queen, glances at a small red and white pill beside Olivia's water glass.

Silence. Jim looks at Olivia through wire frame spectacles.

JIM  
(to Olivia)  
How was work?

OLIVIA  
Fine.

JIM  
How was school?

OLIVIA  
Sucked.

She gives them nothing, except more silence.

JIM  
Well maybe tomorrow won't *suck* as much. Or is it suck less?

Almost a smirk on Olivia's face until,

LORA  
Really Jim?

Lora inadvertently glances at the pill yet again.

Without taking her eyes off her mother, Olivia tosses the pill into her mouth and swallows.

She opens her mouth wide and lets out an 'Aaaaahhh'.

LORA (CONT'D)  
You don't have to do that.

OLIVIA  
Don't I?

Olivia skids her chair back and excuses herself from the table.

INT. OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia leans out her window and looks at the row of cookie-cutter houses that decorate her infinitely boring block. A lit cigarette burns between her fingers.

Her phone lights up with a text message from Molly: GOING TO TAYLOR'S PARTY?

Olivia contemplates, puffs on the cigarette, then coughs smoke out into the sky.

She watches the smoke float up and disappear into the night.

Her tranquility is broken when she spots Ben emerge from his second story window. He steps out onto his roof.

Olivia hides within the shadow of her curtains and watches Ben lower himself off the edge of the roof.

Someone KNOCKS at her door.

LORA (O.S.)  
Can I come in?

Olivia panics and tosses the cigarette out the window. She pockets her phone and fans the air with her hand.

OLIVIA  
Just a second!

Olivia rushes over and sits on her bed as the door opens.

LORA  
Hey.

Lora hovers in the doorway.

LORA (CONT'D)  
How you doing?

OLIVIA  
Fine.

LORA  
Look, I know how much you're dealing with, and I just want you to know, I'm here for you if you ever want talk about anything.

OLIVIA  
I'm fine mom.

Lora sits on the bed next to her. Olivia eyes the ground, distant. They sit in silence for a moment.

LORA

What happened to us?

That's all it takes for Olivia to roll her eyes and get up off the bed.

LORA (CONT'D)

What? What'd I say?

OLIVIA

Like I had any choice in the matter.

LORA

I meant you and me. We used to talk, that's all.

OLIVIA

We also used to not live in a shit-hole town, but you made the decision to move.

Lora stands to give her appeal.

LORA

I am *trying* Olivia. I'm doing my best to pick up the pieces--

Lora stops and sniffs the air. She approaches Olivia, following the smell.

LORA (CONT'D)

Have you been smoking?

OLIVIA

What?

Olivia pulls back, offended. Lora smells her again.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Don't smell me!

Olivia shoots back toward the window.

LORA

You're smoking?!

OLIVIA

It's just a fucking cigarette mom. Relax.

LORA

I don't know what point you're trying to make or what you're rebelling against.

OLIVIA

I'm not making a point! Not everything means something. I just wanted a cigarette just like you wanted to "try someplace new."

LORA

We moved so that I could spend more time with you guys.

OLIVIA

Little late for that don't you think?

Silence. Olivia immediately regrets the remark.

Lora is done. She walks to the door, then stops.

LORA

You're not the only one who's in pain.

She exits and closes the door.

Olivia stands for a moment in the middle of her room. She sits down on her bed. In a rush of emotion, she grabs her pillow and screams into it, then begins to sob.

Olivia lowers the pillow and looks up, a blank stare peering out of tear soaked eyes. She grabs her phone.

Molly's text still on the screen: GOING TO TAYLOR'S PARTY?

EXT. TOWN PARK - NIGHT

Olivia and Molly walk down a cement path through the closed park. The moonlight bounces off the still water of the large lake on their left.

Molly takes a swig from a small bottle of Early Times Whisky.

MOLLY

Some old guy in a Prong T-shirt asked me out today.

She passes the bottle to Olivia who quickly feigns interest.

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
 Can you believe that? A fucking  
 Prong T-shirt.

OLIVIA  
 Was he cute?

Olivia drinks. She feels the burn on her lips.

MOLLY  
 Yeah but, Old. Like, thirty-five. I  
 mean, he's either a pervert or a  
 loser.

OLIVIA  
 Old can be hot though.

MOLLY  
 You think? I guess.  
 (beat)  
 There's this registered sex  
 offender that lives around the  
 block from me, my dad watches  
 football with him. He's kinda cute.  
 My next door neighbor is way  
 creepier... he's a dentist.

Molly notices that Olivia has fallen behind. She turns and  
 sees Olivia looking back.

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
 Helloooo?

Olivia squints at the dark path behind them. Far in the  
 distance she sees,

A DARK FIGURE.

OLIVIA  
 Someone's coming.

By the time Olivia turns back, Molly has disappeared.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 Molly?

MOLLY  
 Over here!

Molly is crouched behind tall reeds near the lake's edge.  
 Olivia scurries over and hides next to her.

The figure, concealed by darkness, gets closer. They whisper,

OLIVIA  
What if he sees us?

MOLLY  
What if he rapes us?!

OLIVIA  
I thought you said it was safe  
here?

MOLLY  
Jesus Olivia it's the fucking  
woods! Anything can happen.

The figure stops not far from the reeds. The girls hold their breath. He turns toward the moonlight and Olivia sees it's...

BEN.

He surveys the calm water then turns and veers onto a small dirt trail that leads toward the forest.

OLIVIA  
(whispering)  
Holy shit.

Ben reaches the mouth of the forest and vanishes into the darkness of the trees.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
That's my neighbor.

Olivia tramples over the reeds on her way out.

MOLLY  
*Ben Breedlove* is your neighbor?

Olivia stops.

OLIVIA  
You know him?

MOLLY  
God no. He's totally weird. Tried  
to kill himself or something.

Off Molly's cavalier response,

OLIVIA  
Or something?

MOLLY

I don't know, he's just some weird  
kid, can we go now?  
(RE: the whisky)  
I'm out.

Molly walks onto the cement path. Olivia looks to the woods.

OLIVIA

Where's he going?

MOLLY

Who cares!

Olivia looks toward the forest, intrigued. Finally, she abandons her curiosity and catches up with Molly.

EXT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - LATER

People pour in and out of a neighborhood house. What looks like a college party in full swing, except none of these guys go to college.

Molly and Olivia approach. Molly throws her hands up in the air and turns to Olivia, ready to party.

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A drunken crowd of older kids roam through the party at what is most obviously, Taylor's parents house.

Molly and Olivia walk through the crowd.

AARON (O.S.)

Molly!

They are immediately approached by AARON, 22 -- athletic black cowboy. Molly lights up.

MOLLY

Where is the booze and how do I get  
there?!

A smiling Aaron holds up a bottle of tequila. Molly dramatically throws herself at him.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

You read my mind.

They kiss. Hard. Too young to realize that it's annoying for other people to watch. Olivia waits.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Aaron, Olivia. Olivia, Aaron. Now we're all friends, let's do shots!

OLIVIA

You guys go ahead. I'm going to find Taylor.

MOLLY

Inventory?

Olivia playfully gives Molly the finger and walks off.

EXT. TAYLOR'S PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Olivia steps outside into games of beer-pong and flip cup. A quick scan of the crowd and she spies Taylor at the other end of the patio. A mischievous grin lights up her face.

As she approaches, the crowd parts and reveals Taylor with his arm around a GIRL IN A RED SUNDRESS. Olivia freezes.

Taylor whispers something in the girls' ear. She laughs.

Olivia's smile fades. She retreats back inside.

INT. TAYLOR'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Molly, Aaron and TWO STONERS surround a bottle of cheap tequila at the kitchen table. Shots have been poured.

Olivia grabs a shot and tosses it down her throat. No time for conversation.

OLIVIA

I thought we were doing shots?!  
Line em up!

Aaron obliges and pours another.

MOLLY

Where's Taylor?

OLIVIA

Couldn't find him.

Olivia slams the next shot back before the others lift their glasses. She grimaces from the taste. Molly gives her a look.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Gotta catch up.

STONER 1 does his best to engage over the blasting music.

STONER 1  
Molly said your brother's in the  
marines...

No response from Olivia.

STONER 1 (CONT'D)  
I'm thinking about joining.

Olivia eyes him, then walks off to the living room.

AARON  
Charming.

MOLLY  
Shut up.

Molly starts after Olivia, but Aaron grabs her hand. She turns. Make-out session number two. Olivia is forgotten.

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - LATER

Olivia stumbles through the crowd, red solo cup in hand. Alcohol in effect. Lights blur. Music blaring. Bodies absorb the throbbing bass.

Weed smoke hovers around the heads of the crowd. Olivia inhales with each step. She's out of it, until she sees someone. Someone familiar. His face obscured by the crowd.

He walks away. Olivia trails him. She pushes through the crowd in pursuit.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Olivia leaves the party behind her as she steps hesitantly down the empty hallway. Framed pictures of Taylor and his family hang on the wall.

She views the pictures as she walks past. She hears the door at the end of the hallway creak slightly.

Some of the pictures on the wall are now of Olivia, her parents and her brother, but Olivia doesn't take notice.

She slides up to the bedroom door, barely open, puts her hand up to it, and pushes.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door creaks open. Olivia peers in. A chair sits in the middle of the room. Pictures are scattered on the floor.

TAYLOR (O.S.)  
You lost?

Olivia spins around to find Taylor behind her. She looks at him, a moment of confusion before a flirtatious smile forms.

She wastes no time. She grabs Taylor and pulls him into the room. Now, no chair in the middle, no pictures, but Olivia is too high to notice.

She sits on top of Taylor's desk as they kiss. He buries his head into her neck and she moans.

OLIVIA  
Tell me you want me.

TAYLOR  
I want you so bad.

He lifts and slides her toward the bed, almost knocking his lava lamp over in the process.

Olivia yanks her shirt off and lies on her back. Taylor climbs on top. He works his way down her chest with his mouth. Her chin tilts up in ecstasy.

Olivia's gaze drifts to the ceiling fan. She watches the spinning blades. Entranced. The blades appear to spin faster the lower Taylor goes.

Lower and faster. Lower and faster. Olivia soon becomes unsettled. Her drunken high is turning on her.

OLIVIA  
Wait, Taylor... Stop. Everything's spinning...

Taylor ignores her request. The more Olivia drunkenly resists, the more aggressive he becomes.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Taylor, stop. I don't feel...

TAYLOR  
Just relax. I want you so bad right now.

Lower and faster...

OLIVIA  
No. Taylor... Get off!!

Olivia knees him in the balls. Taylor curls up into the fetal position and falls off the bed. He cringes in pain.

TAYLOR  
Fuck! Agh...

Olivia rolls onto her stomach and tries to shield herself from the panic of the spinning blades.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Jesus, you didn't have to knee me  
in the fucking balls.

A panicked Olivia searches for her shirt.

OLIVIA  
I gotta go. I gotta go home. I  
gotta go home!

Taylor sees the look on her face -- real fear.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lora swipes Orko's leash off the rack.

LORA  
The issue, Jim, is that she's  
sixteen years old, not an adult.

She leashes up the dog.

JIM  
You keep trying to control her and  
she's going to resent you more.

LORA  
I'm being her parent. Try it  
sometime.

JIM  
She needs a friend! She lost all  
her friends!

Lora wheels around at the supposed accusation.

LORA  
She needs a family!

Lora walks out.

EXT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lora slams the door behind her. She remains on the front stoop for a moment, collecting herself.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - BEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia's house is perfectly framed by Ben's window. There's Lora, standing on her front stoop.

She tugs on Orko's leash and proceeds to walk down the block.

INT. TAYLOR'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Olivia can't take her eyes off the yellow stripes that speed by as she hangs her head out the window of Taylor's Camaro.

TAYLOR

You good?

She takes a big breath and does her best not to throw up.

OLIVIA

No.

Taylor lowers his foot and the car accelerates.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lora's cell phone rings. She looks at the caller ID: JIM. She declines the call.

Orko stops and barks behind her. Lora turns. She tugs on the leash. She tugs harder, finally dragging him into the street.

Lora's phone ring. She silences it again. She stops in the middle of the street and begins to text.

INT. TAYLOR'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Olivia coughs and dry heaves. Taylor eyes her.

TAYLOR

Just hold it in, okay?

Olivia tilts her head forward. She spots the blurry image of a woman in the middle of the street.

She points to warn Taylor of the impending collision.

LORA

freezes in the glare of the incoming headlights.

TAYLOR

Turns to see Lora standing in the middle of the street.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

OH SHI-

He grips the steering wheel. Suddenly the car tires screech.

Seconds slow down as Olivia is propelled toward the dashboard. A silver ring on her necklace floats out from under her shirt. It hovers near her face as if weightless.

Olivia's eyes lock with something familiar outside Taylor's spinning car window. She focuses on it, until...

WHAM.

Her head slams into the dashboard. She crumples to the floor.

THE CAR

Skids to a stop an inch away from Orko's barking face.

LORA

Stands in the headlights, still frozen from fear.

TAYLOR

In a total trance, maintains a panicked death grip on the steering wheel. He and Lora stare at one another, both equally shocked.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Oh my God. How the hell  
did we stop in time?

OLIVIA (O.S.)

I'm gonna puke.

Taylor starts to breathe again.

TAYLOR

Holy shit. Holy shit.

Lora yells at Taylor through the windshield, sobbing.

LORA

What the fuck is wrong with you?!

Taylor timidly pulls forward. Lora hits the car as it passes.

TAYLOR  
Sorry. I'm sorry.

Lora picks up Orko and inspects him.

EXT. HOUSE - CURB - MINUTES LATER

The Camaro pulls in front of a house and the passenger door flies open. Olivia spills out and projectile vomits onto the well-manicured front lawn.

INT. TAYLOR'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Taylor drops his head against the seat-back. The sounds of Olivia vomiting continue as he speaks,

TAYLOR  
Oh thank God. Thank you God. I can  
not get another DUI.

Taylor finally exits the car.

EXT. HOUSE - CURB - CONTINUOUS

Taylor stands over the vomiting girl.

TAYLOR  
Are you okay?

Olivia's only response is a gurgle and a few hacks.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
How's your head?

Taylor pulls her hair back and looks at her forehead.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
There's a bump. No blood though.

He carelessly drops her hair back down in front of her face and looks around to make sure there are no witnesses.

Taylor nervously speaks as if she were deaf.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
I have... to get the car... off the  
street. I have to go... okay?

Olivia shakes. A strand of drool drips down onto her arm.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
This is your front lawn. You're  
home now... so you're good. Okay?

Taylor returns to his car, and quickly jumps in.

The car pulls away and Olivia is alone.

She clenches the wet grass between her knuckles and holds on  
for life as the world spins around her.

Olivia looks at the house, its not hers. Shit.

Footsteps behind her. Olivia turns, looks up. A blurry man.

OLIVIA  
Mark?

Ben stands over her. He reaches for her. She tries to  
speak... Drunken gibberish.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
(trailing off)  
I saw you...

Olivia blacks out.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - DREAM

Olivia lies asleep on her bedroom floor. The moonlight pours  
in through her open window and covers her like a blanket.

Orko paws the air as he chases an elusive dream squirrel.

The shadow of a man rises behind the closed window curtains.  
It climbs up the hardwood floor and covers Olivia.

She feels the darkness and slowly wakes.

Olivia sees the silhouette of the man behind her curtains.

OLIVIA  
Hello?

The shadowy figure gives no response. Olivia stands, breath  
held. She inches toward the window.

Her painted black fingernails wrap around the curtain fabric.  
She inhales, then throws the curtains open. Nothing.

Olivia exhales, until she catches sight of Ben looking back  
at her from his bedroom window. They stare for a moment...

VOICE (O.S.)

Shhh...

The voice comes from behind her. Olivia's eyes widen with fear. Too afraid to turn her head, she shifts her eyes.

A dark figure sits on her bed. His back is to her as he pets Orko. His voice, low and quiet,

DARK FIGURE

(to Orko)

Good boy.

The figure senses he is being watched, his hand stops. His head turns only an inch...

DARK FIGURE (CONT'D)

Olivia...

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Olivia wakes up on the bedroom floor, panicked and confused. The voice still echoes in her room. Everything is the same as it was in her dream.

She stares at the fluttering window curtains. She stands and walks toward them. She passes Orko, still chasing the dream squirrel, and arrives at the window.

Olivia grabs the curtains and throws them open. She winces as the sunlight punches her straight in the face.

Olivia's eyes adjust. She looks out her window.

SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS

--A man mows his lawn.

--A jogger runs by.

--A paperboy delivers the morning news.

BACK TO

Olivia turns and sees... An empty bed.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia grabs a prescription pill bottle and closes the medicine cabinet. A pill drops into her shaky hand. She catches her reflection in the mirror.

Black eye makeup now smeared and crusted to her eyes. Lipstick cracked and discolored, thanks to the heavy bout of vomiting.

She pops the pill onto her tongue, downs a glass of water and tries her best to dismiss the girl in the mirror.

OLIVIA  
Glad I'm not you.

EXT. WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING

School buses line the front of the brick building as the school bell rings.

INT. WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

MR. HOWIE (38)-- geeky hipster, lectures on the wonders of geothermal carbonation and draws a flow-chart as he does.

MR. HOWIE  
CO2 dissolved in water at 250°C has  
shown that the preferred binding  
phases...

Ben stares intently at a pencil on his desk. Olivia's backpack rests on the empty seat next to his.

INT. GIRLS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A pair of feet are seen inside a toilet stall in the otherwise empty bathroom.

The SHIK-SHIK sound of a lighter is heard.

INSIDE THE STALL

Olivia lights a cigarette, inhales, then coughs smoke out. She holds her head in her hand and nurses her hangover.

She notices something in her jacket pocket and pulls it out. The vile of cocaine from Taylor.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

The teacher's voice drones on.

A girl texts on her phone, keeping an eye on the teacher so as not to get caught.

The boy next to her sleeps on his outstretched arm.

Ben, still stares at his pencil.

Suddenly, a muffled POP echoes down the hallway.

Everyone stops. Ben looks up. The girl stops texting. The boy stops sleeping. The teacher looks at the door.

A long, eerie silence.

Kidding himself, the teacher tries to resume his lecture. The wishful attempt at normalcy lasts for only a second.

Kids running out of the school mixed with yells and screams can be heard from the window.

Another POP.

Fear covers the students' collective faces.

TEACHER

Everyone move to the back of the room.

Panicked and scared shitless, the students do their best to obey. The teacher peeks through the hallway window, then locks the door.

Ben, still seated, stares at Olivia's empty seat.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

The bathroom door creaks open and Olivia peeks her head out. No one. She cautiously steps out into the empty hallway.

INT. CLASSROOM - SAME

The JOCK looks out the window and sees students running into the parking lot.

JOCK

(panicked)

Holy shit, they're evacuating. We need to go!

TEACHER

We're not going anywhere.

The teacher checks the situation outside the school before averting his attention back to the hallway door.

More students and faculty evacuate the building. Another shot is heard. The jock shows his true colors and starts to cry.

JOCK

Oh my god, this can't be happening!

The class erupts in panicked chatter.

TEACHER

Calm down! Everyone just be quiet.

The faint tune of sirens can now be heard in the distance.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Olivia tiptoes down the deserted hallway, careful not to break the eerie silence.

She reaches an intersection and looks left. The hallway is empty. She looks right and sees,

THE HANDSOME BOY

He jiggles the handle of a classroom door. She recognizes him from class. He is attractive, clean cut, well dressed... and has a gun in his right hand.

Olivia freezes.

The boy sees her, turns and raises the gun.

BANG.

Olivia ducks around the corner and sprints down the hallway. She looks over her shoulder. Nothing. She runs.

Olivia looks back again -- the boy is now in chase.

She screams and pulls on the closest classroom door. It's locked. Through the window we see a group of huddled students and their teacher against the back wall.

OLIVIA

Help! Help me!

Another shot rings out and Olivia ducks. She starts running again. An adjoining hallway is just ahead.

Olivia lunges around the corner and runs right into...

BEN

Olivia falls to the ground in hysterics.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
He's got a gun! He's SHOOTING...

Ben is calm. He looks into her terrified eyes.

BEN  
It's okay. He's not going to hurt  
you.

OLIVIA  
He's got a fucking gun!

Ben voice is strong, confident...

BEN  
He's not going to hurt you.

Olivia looks into his eyes and is mesmerized. A strange sense of calm immediately rushes over her.

The gunman rounds the corner as Ben stands and turns defiantly to face him.

The gunman stops, looks to Olivia, then to Ben. He instantly raises his gun to Ben's face. Ben doesn't flinch.

Olivia watches, wide-eyed.

Ben looks past the barrel and into the boy's cold blue eyes. A quick moment of recognition before,

BANG

The white flash of the muzzle illuminates Olivia's face for a moment, the reflection of the gunshot seen in her eyes.

Instinctively, she jolts back, covering her face.

The shot echoes through the hallway until -- total silence.

Olivia finally looks up. Her eyes widen in disbelief.

The gunman, frozen in his pose, same as before. His arm, still out-stretched, trembles. His eyes now full of fear.

At the other end stands BEN, staring back, completely unphased and unharmed.

A voice echoes down the hallway.

SWAT OFFICER (O.S.)  
Shots fired, 3rd floor, corridor F.

Olivia and Ben turn to the sound of the voice. Instinctively, the boy turns the gun on himself. His only and final option.

BEN  
No!!!

Ben's voice is overpowered by the BLAST of the gun. The sound echoes itself into a high-pitched tone.

Olivia throws her arms over her head and screams, inaudibly, as only the deafening tone from the blast is heard.

Total silence again, except for Olivia's heartbeat.

The sound of her breath, interjected with whimpering, slowly fade in.

A hand touches Olivia's shoulder and jolts her back to reality.

BEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
You okay?

There, above her, stands Ben, unscathed, bathed in the glow of overhead lights. Olivia is in awe.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Everything's gonna be okay.

Still in shock, Olivia's gaze drifts to the bullet casing on the ground in front of her. A trail of blood begins to snake out toward her from the gunman's body, slowly engulfing the charred shell.

VOICE (O.S.)  
Get down on the ground and put your  
hands in the air!

Olivia doesn't move, still fixated on the blood.

SWAT OFFICER  
Hands in the air!

The second command snaps Olivia out of it. She slowly raises her hands to comply, then turns. She looks left then right.

Ben is gone.

The SWAT OFFICERS tactically approach, guns raised. One inspects the shooter and kicks away the gun, the other approaches Olivia.

SWAT OFFICER (CONT'D)  
 You're okay. He's down. Just relax.  
 (into his radio)  
 Third floor, corridor F, shooter  
 down, request medical team...

His voice eventually fades into obscurity.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

Olivia sits in a metal chair, shaken. The sleeves of her hoodie are pulled over her hands.

CLANK

Olivia jolts at the noise of the door unlocking.

TWO DETECTIVES enter and sit across from her. One holds a file. Olivia's parents sit with her.

LORA  
 Is this going to take much longer?  
 We really want to get her home.

DETECTIVE 1  
 Almost done. We just want to ask  
 again about Ben Breedlove.

Olivia, frustrated and tired,

OLIVIA  
 I told you he just stood there. The  
 kid shot at him, then shot himself.  
 Ben didn't say or do anything. I  
 don't even think he knew the kid.

The officers exchange a concerned glance.

DETECTIVE 1  
 (to Olivia)  
 And you're positive he was there  
 when the shooter turned the gun on  
 himself?

Olivia lets out an exasperated sigh. A concerned Lora interjects.

LORA  
 Why do you keep asking that?

DETECTIVE 1  
We're just trying to get the  
reports straight ma'am.

OLIVIA  
Well that's what happened.

Long pause. The detective eyes his notes. Then Olivia.

DETECTIVE 1  
Are you currently taking Seroquel?

Olivia, Lora and Jim all look up at the detective.

LORA  
What does that have to do with  
anything?

DETECTIVE 2  
Sometimes in traumatic situations  
it's very easy to get the facts  
confused. With a medical history-

Olivia scoffs and interrupts him.

OLIVIA  
You think I'm making this up? Ask  
Ben if you don't believe me.

The detectives glance at each other, and pull another file.

DETECTIVE 2  
We did.  
(beat)  
Ben said he was never there.

Lora goes pale. Olivia quickly looks to her mother, knows  
where this is headed. Olivia pleads to the detectives.

OLIVIA  
No, that's not true. He's lying! He  
was there.

Confusion sets in.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Mom, I swear, he was there.

Lora wants to believe her.

LORA  
It's okay Liv.

OLIVIA

No! I'm not lying! He was there.  
You have to believe me. Ben saved  
my life!

(to detectives)

Where is he? I can prove it!

The detective looks into the eyes of the pleading girl, then  
slides over a piece of paper.

DETECTIVE 1

Lakewood hospital. Ben suffers from  
a chronic heart condition.

Olivia studies the paper; a hospital admissions form.

DETECTIVE 1 (CONT'D)

He collapsed during the evacuation  
and EMT's treated him outside the  
school. According to Ben, he  
evacuated with his class, that's  
all he remembers.

OLIVIA

(to Lora)

He was there mom. I'm not making it  
up, he was there.

Lora looks deep into Olivia's eyes. She wants to believe her,  
but can't find the words.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Wendall references Olivia's file as Jim and Lora sit  
across from her.

LORA

We took her off Risperdal because  
she began showing signs of TD.

DR. WENDALL

And how has the Seroquel been  
working for her?

LORA

Good, we thought. To be honest, I  
don't know.

JIM

It's hard to tell what's due to  
trauma and what's just normal teen  
angst.

Lora glances at Jim, recognizing the support.

JIM (CONT'D)

I don't understand how drugs are supposed to stop somebody from lying.

Dr. Wendall closes the file.

DR. WENDALL

These aren't lies she's telling. Calling them lies would imply that she knows the difference. We're treating her for PTSD, symptoms of which can be wide ranging and extremely difficult to diagnose.

LORA

So what do we do here?

DR. WENDALL

Well, she just went through another trauma. She's fragile. It's important that you not minimize her experience by saying things like, everything's going to be okay, or, it could've been worse. Just let her know that you're there for her.

INT. WAITING ROOM - SAME

Olivia sits in a chair on the other side of the door, able to overhear the entire conversation.

JIM (O.S.)

...And her medication?

DR. WENDALL (O.S.)

We'll monitor it, but for now let's keep it the same.

Olivia sticks her earbuds in. Music drowns out the voices.

INT. LORA'S CAR - LATER

Silence hangs in the air. Olivia stares out the window. Lora steals glances of her daughter in the rearview as she drives.

LORA

You okay back there?

Disinterested.

OLIVIA  
Fine.

LORA  
Want to talk about anything?

OLIVIA  
Nope.

LORA  
Okay. We just want you to know that  
we're here for you, if you need us.

Olivia eyes them impassively, aware that they are waiting for her to open up and let the healing commence.

OLIVIA  
Well... do you...

Jim and Lora both listen intently.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Do you think that everything is  
going to be okay?

Lora and Jim freeze. They exchange a glance. Fearful.

LORA  
Oh, umm...

Jim's constitution wavers.

JIM  
Everything-

LORA  
-Jim.

Jim looks into Lora's critical eyes and relents.

OLIVIA  
I mean it could have been so much  
worse, right?

LORA  
Well...

Jim and Lora look helpless. Finally,

JIM  
Everything's going to be okay.

LORA

Jim!

JIM

Well what the hell else am I  
supposed to say?

Olivia, victorious, but still deadpan, turns back to the window as the endless streets pass by.

OLIVIA

I don't have PTSD.

Realizing her game, Jim and Lora accept defeat.

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MORNING

Olivia knocks on the front door. She looks at the mailbox on the porch beside her: BREEDLOVE.

A red van is in the driveway. The words: WESTLAKE ELECTRIC are written on its side.

No one answers. Olivia steps back and looks up at Ben's open window. Ghost white curtains dance in the breeze.

INT. LORA'S CAR - LATER

Olivia turns the key and the car engine struggles, then comes to life. Olivia looks down her parents driveway through the rearview mirror. A deep breath.

OLIVIA

Screw the DMV...

The gear shift drops into reverse. The car stutters down the driveway. Olivia steps too heavily on the gas pedal.

The wheel turns and the car slams into the mailbox. It breaks at its base. Olivia slams on the brakes. Exhales,

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Fuck.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

A YOUNG BOY approaches Molly as she folds band T-shirts in the boys section of the clothing store.

YOUNG BOY

Excuse me, do you have any Imagine  
Dragons T-shirts?

MOLLY

Oh I'm sorry honey, we don't carry  
bands that suck.

(then)

Holy shit...

Olivia speed walks into the store. Molly jumps up and  
struggles to keep pace with her.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

What're you doing here? Are you  
okay? Are you traumatized?

OLIVIA

I'm fine.

MOLLY

Oh my god. What happened!? Did you  
get on TV? Were you scared?

OLIVIA

The kid had a gun in my face, what  
do you think?

MOLLY

You are so fucking lucky... Or, you  
know, unlucky. I would totally milk  
this.

The office door opens and Taylor steps out into the store. He  
sees Olivia and stops.

TAYLOR

Olivia?

He recovers and walks to her.

MOLLY

(quietly to Olivia)

Milk it...

TAYLOR

Oh my God, are you okay? I didn't  
think you'd be here. I was worried.

OLIVIA

Really? You were worried? 'Cause I  
didn't hear from you.

Taylor stammers.

TAYLOR

Of course I was worried! I didn't want to, ya know... I was giving you... space.

Poor bastard. Molly, embarrassed for him,

MOLLY

I gotta check the...

Pointless to continue the bullshit. Molly walks away.

TAYLOR

Look, I'm sorry, I should've called.

OLIVIA

No shit.

TAYLOR

I fucked up. I'm sorry. I'll find a way to make it up to you. I promise.

Olivia softens, but not enough to lose the upper-hand.

OLIVIA

Good luck.

Olivia turns and walks away. Taylor almost calls after her, but hesitates and the moment passes.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Olivia sits Indian-style on her bed. The muffled voices of her arguing parents seep in through the bedroom floor.

On her laptop screen is a picture of the school shooter followed by the headline: HOMECOMING PRINCE OPENS FIRE AT WESTLAKE HIGH.

Olivia reads some of the article, then types:

FLEEING A CRIME SCENE

Articles on laws, nothing of real interest. Another search:

POINT BLANK GUNSHOT

Google results show IMPACT, BLAST, HARM, DAMAGE, DISTANCE. Olivia scans them. Not what she's looking for.

She looks up and sees Ben's open bedroom window across the street. Back to her computer. A new search:

BEN BREEDLOVE.

A few results pop up. News articles and a photo.

CRASH

Glass shatters downstairs. Olivia stops. She goes to her door and cracks it open.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A muffled argument can be heard coming from her parents bedroom.

JIM(O.S.)

She's a kid! Kids act out for attention.

LORA(O.S.)

Kids don't make up entire chunks of their lives.

JIM(O.S.)

That's exactly what they do!

Olivia walks down a few steps to hear them better.

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

She's dealing with it the only way she knows how! Why don't you talk to her instead of attacking me.

LORA (O.S.)

Jesus Jim, wake up! You're not even acknowledging that she has a problem and I'm tired of being the bad guy.

JIM (O.S.)

Shhh... Keep your voice down, I don't want her to hear.

Olivia, tired of hearing the same fight, returns to her room.

INT. OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia sits by her window. Cigarette between lips, she strikes a match. As she raises the match to her face, she sees Ben as he escapes out of his bedroom window.

He climbs to the ground and walks down the street.

EXT. TOWN PARK - LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

Ben dips in and out of the moonlight as he follows the concrete path around the lake.

Seconds later, Olivia pops out of a shadow as she follows him from a distance.

Ben veers onto the small dirt trail and vanishes into the

FOREST

Olivia stares into the darkness; the silence broken only by crickets and other musicians of the night.

OLIVIA

(to herself)

What the hell are you doing Olivia?

She looks around, takes a breath and steps forward. Olivia is soon swallowed by the darkness of the trees.

Ben's outline can barely be seen as he walks ahead on the dirt path. He turns to his right and vanishes.

Olivia reaches the spot where she last saw him.

She looks to her right. Darkness. She listens, but hears nothing. She steps off the path and proceeds in.

Olivia steps over roots and ducks beneath branches. The brush becomes thicker and she struggles to find her direction. Eventually, she stops.

Panic sets in. Nothing in any direction. She's lost. The only thing Olivia can hear is her breathing.

A faint glow emanates to her right. Olivia spots it, then timidly moves toward it.

She comes to a thick wall of branches and brush and quietly pushes her way through.

INT. FOREST CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

A canopy of treetops form an umbrella above her. A large oak tree in the center acts as the handle of the parasol in this circular, almost magical clearing.

A multitude of fireflies dance around Olivia as she marvels at the beauty of the secluded spot.

Openings in the tree tops reveal crystal clear stars above, a kerosene lantern, the source of the glow, sits on a wooden picnic table next to the oak tree.

An old, forgotten lamp post stands strong next to the table.

Olivia looks around, still no sign of anyone. She approaches the tree in the middle. The initials BB & CF are carved into the trunk. Olivia's runs her fingers down the bark. They hover over the carving, about to touch it...

BEN (O.S.)  
Who's Mark?

Olivia jumps at the sound of the voice. She spins around.

OLIVIA  
Jesus Christ! You scared me.

Olivia sees Ben, on his knees behind the lamppost, as he works with a coil of copper wire.

BEN  
The other night, you called me  
Mark. Is he your boyfriend?

A vague recollection of that night hits Olivia: Ben standing over her before she blacked out on the curb.

OLIVIA  
That was you?

Ben doesn't look up.

BEN  
Can you hand me those wire-cutters?  
Over there on the table.

Olivia walks to the picnic table and picks up a pair of pliers. She hands them to Ben.

OLIVIA  
He's my brother.

BEN  
I didn't know you had a brother.

OLIVIA  
He's in the military.

Ben stands and faces her.

BEN  
These are pliers.

Ben walks to the table to get the wire-cutters.

OLIVIA  
So what is this, your secret hiding place?

BEN  
It was a playground, until the city redesigned the park.

OLIVIA  
What are you doing here?

BEN  
I was gonna ask you that.

Touchè.

OLIVIA  
I uh...

BEN  
You followed me.

OLIVIA  
No...

BEN  
It's okay, I don't mind.

Ben goes back to work. He splices one end of the copper coil to a wire coming out of the junction box at the base of the lamppost.

OLIVIA  
I went to your house. I've been trying to talk to you. Why did you lie to the police?

Ben finishes tightening the wire connection, then picks up a light bulb and hands it to Olivia.

BEN  
Hold this. Don't worry, it's safe.

Olivia looks at the light bulb.

OLIVIA  
It's a light bulb.

Ben goes back to the lamppost.

Olivia suddenly loses patience and drops the bulb.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Hey! You lied to the police! You  
wanna explain that?

Ben stops working.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
I looked like an asshole and my  
parents think I'm legitimately  
crazy, you have any idea what  
that's like?

He approaches Olivia and picks up the light bulb.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Of course they believe the sick kid  
over the girl with the troubled  
past, big surprise.

BEN  
They think I'm sick?

OLIVIA  
Yeah, I mean... you are.

Ben places the bulb in Olivia's hand. He looks up at her and  
studies her face.

BEN  
I do know what it's like. And no...  
I'm not.

With that. Ben goes back to his experiment.

OLIVIA  
What are you doing?

He ignores her as he splices a switch onto a wire.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
What are you, like an electrician  
or something?

Ben flips the switch and looks at the bulb in Olivia's hand.  
Nothing happens.

BEN  
Come closer.

Olivia reluctantly steps in.

OLIVIA

What are you trying to-

The bulb in Olivia's hand suddenly lights up. It startles her and she drops the bulb.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

What the fuck?!

Ben smiles.

BEN

Pick it up.

Olivia hesitates, then picks up the unlit bulb. As soon as she holds it closer to the lamp post, it lights up.

OLIVIA

How are you doing this?

BEN

Actually, you're doing it.

(Re: the lamp post)

And this. It's creating an electromagnetic field that excites the gas inside the-

The light bulb EXPLODES.

Olivia jumps back and drops the bulb. Ben hops up and darts to Olivia.

BEN (CONT'D)

You okay?

OLIVIA

That was awesome! How do you know this stuff?

BEN

It's actually been known about for over a hundred years. It's a Tesla coil. I'm using the power that still runs through the lamp post.

Olivia looks into Ben's eyes while he talks.

BEN (CONT'D)

It's actually pretty basic, once you understand the principles behind-

OLIVIA

-You were there... right?

Ben doesn't answer, not realizing what she's referring to.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

At the school. I just need to know  
you were there.

The concern in her voice comes through. She needs to hear it.

BEN

I was there.

They stare at one another. The experiment is over, but the electricity between them remains.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Olivia stands at the register and rings up a customer as Molly dishes out the latest news in her love life.

MOLLY

So *she* was cheating on *him* with her  
son's friend's father, and *he* went  
to the son's friend's mother and  
was like, I think my wife and your  
husband are having an affair...

OLIVIA

(to customer)  
Eighteen fifty.

The customer hands Olivia a twenty dollar bill. Olivia gives change, then palms the twenty and slips it into her pocket.

MOLLY

... They were, so both couples get  
a divorce and *she* married the son's  
friend's father and now *they* have a  
kid together. Fucked up right?

OLIVIA

Yeah.

Molly stops.

MOLLY

Are you okay?

OLIVIA

Sorry, just... a lot on my mind.

MOLLY

Liiiiike?

Olivia shrugs, but says nothing.

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
Oh my God. Who is he!?

OLIVIA  
It's like all you think about isn't  
it?

Molly nods. Undeterred.

MOLLY  
Ya. Who is he?

OLIVIA  
Fine, but don't make a big deal out  
of it because it's not like that.

Molly waits with a shit-eating grin on her face.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
My neighbor.

The grin fades.

MOLLY  
(hushed outburst)  
You had sex with Ben Breedlove?

OLIVIA  
No! What is it with you?

MOLLY  
What? I mean, I get it, he's cute  
in a... fucking weird way.

OLIVIA  
We met up in the woods last night,  
there's this clearing-

MOLLY  
-Does he have a big dick?

OLIVIA  
We talked. That's it.

MOLLY  
You were alone, in the woods, in  
the middle of the night, and all  
you did was talk?

OLIVIA

He's weird, but there's something about him. I mean, he did save my life.

An idea zaps Molly's fragile brain.

MOLLY

Maybe you have that Stockholm syndrome thing! You know, cause he saved you.

OLIVIA

That's for kidnappers, and no.

MOLLY

What about Taylor?

OLIVIA

*Nothing* happened!

Molly gets it and nods her head emphatically.

MOLLY

Okay, okay. I get it.  
(looking off)  
Speaking of which...

Taylor walks into the store flexing his biceps as he shows off his new tattoo.

TAYLOR

Hey Liv. Check it out. It means forgiven in Japanese... or forgotten. Sick, right?

The tattoo is written in Chinese.

A customer places a shirt on the counter. Olivia scans it.

OLIVIA

Eighteen...

She looks up and sees... Ben.

BEN

Hey.

Olivia freezes, caught between Ben and Taylor; a situation awkward only to her.

OLIVIA

Hey.

Olivia takes a quick glance over to Taylor who is still admiring his tattoo in the mirror. She tries to act normal.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Eighteen fifty.

Her discomfort is evident. Ben eyes Taylor, then hands Olivia a twenty dollar bill along with a folded note.

BEN  
Keep the change.

Taylor's attention is diverted away from his fresh ink.

Ben smiles and walks away.

Taylor peeks at the money in Olivia's hand.

TAYLOR  
Pfff, dollar fifty. Big tipper.

Taylor walks off.

INT. FRONT OF STORE - SAME

Ben walks passed Molly.

BEN  
Hi Molly.

Molly looks up from a rack of clothing as Ben exits the store.

INT. CASH REGISTER - SAME

Olivia looks at the note: LAKE. AFTER WORK.

She pockets the note as Molly approaches.

MOLLY (O.S.)  
Hey that was-

OLIVIA  
-I know.

MOLLY  
What did he want?

OLIVIA  
A shirt I guess.

MOLLY

Riiight.

EXT. TOWN PARK - LAKE - LATER

Ripples form as a stone skims across the water. It skips five times before sinking.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

What's with the cloak and dagger?

Ben turns and sees Olivia approaching.

BEN

I don't have your number.

OLIVIA

I live across the street.

Ben throws another stone and it plops instantly.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

You gotta flick the wrist.

(then)

Here.

Olivia grabs a stone from Ben's hand, winds up and throws. Five perfect skips before sinking far out in the lake.

BEN

How'd you do that?

OLIVIA

My brother taught me. We use to have contests of who could skip it the most.

(beat)

Give it a shot.

Ben's turn. He launches a stone straight into the water. PLOP. SPLASH. Olivia smiles.

BEN

(smiling)

That's funny to you?

(then)

All right, do it again.

Ben pulls out his camera.

BEN (CONT'D)

Five skips, twice in a row.  
Pressure is on.

OLIVIA  
Five skips? Okay...

THROUGH THE PHONE'S CAMERA:

Olivia picks up a stone. She throws. It skips beautifully across the lake. The camera stays on her the whole time. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6!

She spins to Ben.

OLIVIA  
Six! Did you get that!?

BACK TO SHOT

Ben stops recording. He lowers the camera.

BEN  
I got it.

Olivia smiles at Ben; relaxed and carefree. She quickly realizes her guard is down and instantly tries to hide it.

OLIVIA  
So what's up?  
(making fun)  
LAKE. AFTER WORK.

Beat.

BEN  
I'm sorry I made you look bad in front of your parents, but I had to lie to the police.

OLIVIA  
Yeah well, sorry doesn't help me much, unless you come clean.

BEN  
I can't.

OLIVIA  
Right. Why is that again?

Ben looks at the stone in his hand, debating.

BEN  
You won't believe me if I tell you.

OLIVIA  
 Look, I'm already screwed. Even if  
 you tell everyone the truth, my  
 parents will still think I'm crazy.

Ben looks up at her, quizzically.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 It's complicated.

Ben wants to tell her, but has a hard time starting. Olivia  
 waits long enough. She begins to walk away as she talks.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 You know what, forget it.... Waste  
 my time coming out here...

BEN  
 If you could do something that no  
 one else in the world could do...

Olivia slows, then stops. She faces Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 ... Would you tell people about it?

Intrigued, she takes a few steps back toward Ben.

OLIVIA  
 Depends on what it was.

She closes in on Ben and waits.

BEN  
 If I tell you, no matter what it  
 is... do you swear you won't tell a  
 soul?

OLIVIA  
 (lighthearted)  
 I already told you, no one will  
 believe me anyway.

The playfulness of her remark is lost on Ben.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 Okay, yes. I swear, cross my heart  
 or whatever. I won't tell anybody.  
 (beat)  
 C'mon, the suspense is killing me.

Ben looks her over; ready to share his secret.

BEN

I lied about the shooting...  
because... I stopped the bullet.

OLIVIA

Wait, what? How?

BEN

I can't exactly put it into words  
but, let's just say, with my mind.

Olivia takes it in. Of course that's how he stopped it.

OLIVIA

So you lied to the police about  
being there in the school because,  
you have superpowers?

Beat.

BEN

I wouldn't... well... yeah.

Olivia weighs her options: Crush, ridicule, or pity this poor delusional boy. She looks into his eyes; he believes it.

BEN (CONT'D)

I've never told anyone this before.

OLIVIA

That's good.

BEN

I know it sounds crazy, but it's  
true. I stopped the bullet.

She abandons her previous options and chooses to ignore him instead.

OLIVIA

I don't have time for this shit.

She turns and walks away.

BEN

(calling after her)

You were there Olivia! You saw what  
happened. You didn't imagine it.

She slows and stops.

BEN (CONT'D)  
 I didn't collapse during the  
 evacuation. I wasn't at the  
 hospital. I was there.

Olivia spins around.

OLIVIA  
 Is this your fantasy? Is this what  
 you do? Pretend you have  
 superpowers to escape the fact that  
 you're sick?

BEN  
 I'm not sick.

OLIVIA  
 And I'm not an idiot.

Ben is silent. They stare each other down.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 I guess this is why you don't have  
 a lot of friends.

She turns to head home. Ben calls after her,

BEN  
 You promised you wouldn't tell  
 anyone, remember?

Olivia keeps walking.

OLIVIA  
 (sarcastic)  
 Oh don't worry Ben. I won't tell  
 anyone.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Wendall looks at Olivia, waiting patiently for an  
 interaction to begin.

Olivia eyes the framed certificates on her wall:

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY-- Graduate degree.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN-- Doctorate in psychology.

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION-- licensed.

After the license, Olivia spots a cross hanging on the wall.  
 She stares at it; a Catholic cross, on which Jesus hangs.

OLIVIA  
It's religious here... Texas. Bible  
Belt, yeah?

Dr. Wendall, thrilled for any conversation, answers,

DR. WENDALL  
There are many people with strong  
faith here, yes.

She looks back at the cross, Jesus in particular.

OLIVIA  
It's funny though... two thousand  
year old dead Jewish guy...  
He changed the world.

DR. WENDALL  
Yes he did.

OLIVIA  
Yeah.  
(beat as she thinks)  
But still... What if he wasn't God?

Dr. Wendall waits for Olivia to keep going.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
What if he was just some guy, who  
could do things? A normal guy, but  
with powers.

DR. WENDALL  
I happen to believe that Jesus is  
God, not a normal guy with powers.

OLIVIA  
So if I were to say that God  
stopped the bullet in the school,  
would you believe that?

Olivia leans forward emphasizing her need of a response.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
That the invisible hand of God came  
down from heaven and stopped the  
bullet from killing me...

DR. WENDALL  
I believe it's possible. Yes.

Olivia relaxes.

OLIVIA

Hmm.

She ponders the therapist's logic, then...

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Well I gotta tell you, it sounds pretty fucking crazy to me.

Dr. Wendall closes her notebook and puts it aside.

DR. WENDALL

Time's up.

INT. TAYLOR'S CAR - NIGHT

Taylor's hand slides up under Olivia's imitation leather skirt. She flashes a drunken grin and slaps it away.

OLIVIA

Not in front of my house!

TAYLOR

No one can see through the tints.

Taylor kisses her neck. He runs his fingers through her black hair and grips the back of her head, unable to resist her.

OLIVIA

You want me right here?

TAYLOR

Uh huh.

OLIVIA

In front of my parents house?

TAYLOR

Yeah.

Taylor unbuttons her shirt and kisses her neck.

OLIVIA

You can't, you know why?

TAYLOR

Why?

OLIVIA

Because that's bad and I'm a good girl. Good girls don't do that.

Taylor opens her shirt. A ring dangles from a thin silver chain around Olivia's neck.

TAYLOR  
No. You're a bad girl.

A look of pleasure covers Olivia's face as the foreplay continues. She moans as Taylor kisses her breasts, but he stops when the ring necklace gets in his way.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
(laughing)  
What is this?

Taylor swats at the necklace. The chain breaks. The ring falls to the floor and Olivia snaps out of her ecstasy.

OLIVIA  
What the fuck are you doing?!

Olivia paws at the floor, frantically searching for the ring.

TAYLOR  
Relax! We'll find it later.

Taylor tries to lean in on her again.

OLIVIA  
Are you fucking serious? Stop it!

Olivia pushes him away and continues her search. She quickly finds the ring, collects herself and opens the door.

TAYLOR  
What? Where are you going?

OLIVIA  
I gotta go.

TAYLOR  
Are you kidding me? Come on.  
(then)  
Don't be a cock-tease!

Olivia shoots Taylor a disgusted look. He immediately regrets the comment.

OLIVIA  
Thanks for the ride.

TAYLOR  
Olivia...

She slams the door behind her and staggers toward her house. Taylor bangs his head against the headrest.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia flicks the light switch on. She throws her purse onto her chair, kicks her boots off one by one, clumsily at first.

She looks down at the ring and necklace in the palm of her hand. She faces the mirror and reattaches it around her neck.

She stares at herself in the reflection. Her eyes then drift from the mirror towards Ben's house across the street.

Olivia stares into Ben's bedroom window. There's nothing but darkness behind the white curtains.

She unbuttons her shirt; slowly, seductively... never taking her eyes off Ben's window.

The shirt slides down her arms. She then unzips her skirt and rolls it down her hips with the palms of her hands.

Her clothes fall to the floor. Olivia waits.

BEN'S ROOM

Remains dark. Ghost white curtains flutter in the breeze.

OLIVIA

Tugs flirtatiously at her bra strap. It slides off her collarbone. She turns slowly and exposes her back to the window. With a pinch of her fingers, the bra falls off.

Her bare skin glistens in the moonlight. Olivia holds her breasts under one arm and slowly turns back around.

BEN'S ROOM

Is still dark. Empty. Nothing but blackness and curtains.

OLIVIA

slowly reaches up and flips her light switch off.

The room goes dark. Olivia, barely visible in the light of the moon, lowers her arms. She stands in front of the window, naked and vulnerable.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Ben walks past the lake on his way to the woods. He hears a voice call out behind him in the distance.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

Hey!

He stops and turns to see Olivia jogging up to him.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Hey, listen. Sorry for just... you know, taking off the other day.

Ben is silent. Olivia tries to feel out if he's mad or not.

BEN

You stalking me?

He's not.

OLIVIA

I don't have your number.

BEN

I live across the street.

Ben smiles. Apology accepted.

OLIVIA

You headed to your, fortress of solitude?

BEN

Yeah, got some more work to do. You?

Olivia looks at the lake.

OLIVIA

You wanna go swimming?

BEN

Huh?

Olivia suddenly pulls her shirt up and over her head. She kicks off her sandals and unbuttons her pants.

Ben watches, frozen.

BEN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

OLIVIA  
I suddenly got the urge to go  
swimming.

Olivia wades into the water in nothing but her underwear.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
You coming?

Ben nervously looks around.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Just walk on the water if you don't  
want to get wet.

She swims ahead and doesn't look back.

EXT. LAKE - HIDDEN NOOK - MOMENTS LATER

Olivia sits atop a large boulder and basks in the sun. The bottom half of the boulder is submerged in the shallow waters of the hidden nook.

Ripples form in the narrow channel and Olivia opens her eyes. She sees a head bob into view between the tall reeds.

Ben wades up. He stops while the water is still chest-high.

He looks at Olivia and takes her in: Wet locks of black hair on her face, wet skin glistening in the sun, nipples semi-visible through her damp white bra.

Blushing, he looks away. Olivia notices.

She looks down at herself then tilts her eyes up and flashes a mischievous grin, fully allowing Ben to look.

OLIVIA  
So, let's say you did stop the  
bullet... and I'm *not* saying I  
believe you but, if you did. Why  
the secrecy?

BEN  
Think about it, if you turned on  
the news and there was a person out  
there who could stop bullets with  
his mind... what do you think the  
reaction would be?

Olivia waits for him to answer his own question.

BEN (CONT'D)

Panic. Fear. Governments would feel threatened. I'd be the enemy. A lab rat. They'd try to contain me, then dissect me. But when they found that they couldn't get to me, the first thing they'd do is come after the people close to me.

Olivia is impressed by his dedication to the idea.

OLIVIA

Okay. That makes sense. And the whole sick-boy act?

BEN

(grinning)

My alter ego. It took me two years to get everyone to believe it.

OLIVIA

Must be hard to be Superman.

BEN

It's not hard to be Superman. The hard part is pretending to be Clark Kent.

Olivia smiles, appreciating the world Ben has created.

OLIVIA

Prove it.

BEN

Prove what?

OLIVIA

Your power. Right now, prove it.

BEN

Didn't I already?

OLIVIA

No. The gun could've jammed. Something different.

(beat)

Prove it and I'll believe you.

BEN

Believe me and I'll prove it.

Ben smirks.

Olivia bites her lip as she smiles. Their playful challenge has captured her full attention, and it's her move.

OLIVIA  
It's not that easy.

BEN  
Fine.

Ben wades up and stands in the shallow water. He points to a six inch scar on his chest.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Two years ago, my heart stopped.

An unexpected turn. The playfulness fades.

BEN (CONT'D)  
The doctors brought me back to life in the emergency room. They didn't know why it happened, and I didn't tell them.

OLIVIA  
Tell them what?

BEN  
That I stopped it.

As if one miracle wasn't enough, another leap of faith...

BEN (CONT'D)  
I wasn't trying to kill myself, it was an accident. I didn't know what I was capable of doing at the time. I remember everything. The ambulance. The surgery. The doctors' voices. My parents crying...

Ben is silent for a moment as he relives the memory.

BEN (CONT'D)  
That was the worst part. Hearing them cry. All I wanted to do was make it stop.

OLIVIA  
You ever wonder, why me?

BEN  
Yeah. But then I thought, why not me?

Olivia looks at Ben; a bright soul in a shit world.

BEN (CONT'D)  
So... does that prove it?

OLIVIA  
That doesn't prove anything. It's  
just a scar. I have scars.

Ben looks her over.

BEN  
Where?

Olivia points to her foot. Ben leans in to look.

Olivia kicks water up onto his face and laughs. Ben looks up, a smile of his own, the playfulness back.

He grabs her hips and pulls her off the rock. Olivia splashes into the water with a giddy scream. The play fight continues.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Olivia stands at a table in front of the wall of boxes where she and Taylor were intimate.

She pulls a stack of shirts out of a box, marks the number on her inventory sheet, then throws the box aside.

Olivia opens a new box and pulls out a green jacket. She holds it up, admires it, then looks at the price tag.

OLIVIA  
Pffff... fucking ripoff.

On second thought, she holds it up again. After making sure she's alone, she quickly stuffs the jacket into her bag.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Olivia sits on the bed with her laptop. She skeptically reads aloud from a website entitled: SUPER POWER FORUM.

OLIVIA  
I'm a teenage male. I recently  
discovered that I can do things  
faster than my friends. I think I  
have the power of acceleration.

Olivia furrows her brow in doubt.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

This is hysterical. Hey what else  
can you do besides stopping bullets  
and giving yourself a heart attack?

Ben, wearing the green jacket Olivia stole, checks out his  
reflection in her bedroom mirror.

BEN

I moved a pencil once.

OLIVIA

I wouldn't go advertising that one.

BEN

I was seven. It was the first thing  
I did.

(at his reflection)

This isn't really a disguise. It's  
me. In a jacket.

Ben pulls the hood over his head, experiments with the look.

OLIVIA

It's an image. You know, a look.  
Listen to this one...

(reading)

I have the power to control mist. I  
want to fight street crime but...

Olivia trails off as Ben recites the words back to her.

BEN

... But my power seems pretty  
useless in a fight.

Ben drops the hood.

BEN (CONT'D)

I've read 'em all.

Olivia looks at Ben in the jacket, an inkling of the hero he  
could become.

Ben finds a pair of black rimmed glasses on her bookshelf. He  
puts them on and faces Olivia.

BEN (CONT'D)

How about this?

OLIVIA

(sarcastically)

Oh my god, that's it. You did it.

As Olivia dives back into her laptop, Ben sees a photograph sticking out from under one of Olivia's books.

He slides the photo out and sees Olivia, smiling and carefree, as she sits next to a boy with his arm around her.

BEN  
This your brother?

Olivia looks up.

BEN (CONT'D)  
You look different. Happy.

She walks to him, takes the picture and looks at it.

BEN (CONT'D)  
You guys are close, huh?

OLIVIA  
Yeah.

She turns the photo over and a note is written on the back:  
HANDS AND FEET.

BEN  
What's that?

OLIVIA  
(smiles)  
He always used to say that...  
Brothers and sisters are as close  
as hands and feet.

Ben admires Olivia as she looks down at the photo. Olivia looks up at him. They stand in silence, inches apart.

BEN  
Come to New York with me.

Not at all what Olivia was expecting.

OLIVIA  
What?

BEN  
I'm leaving on September 23rd. I'm  
going to New York.

OLIVIA  
New York? Why?

BEN

Once a year, all these world  
leaders go to the UN in New York.  
They're all there in one room.  
Cameras on them. Whole world  
watching. That's where I'm gonna do  
it.

OLIVIA

Do what?

BEN

Show the world who I am.

Olivia doesn't know what to say.

OLIVIA

Ben...

BEN

Come with me. We can change the  
world together.

Olivia has taken one too many leaps of faith. This time, it  
falls flat.

OLIVIA

Stop. I can't do this anymore.

BEN

I can keep you safe-

OLIVIA

-Just STOP! Stop the fantasy for a  
minute Ben.

Olivia walks toward her window for some fresh air.

BEN

What are you talking about?

OLIVIA

I'm talking about reality! I can't  
keep playing this game.

Ben is hurt, but undeterred.

BEN

This isn't s game. You're part of  
this. The school shooting, the  
superpower forums...

(RE: his jacket)

The disguise... this is real!

A look of pity comes over Olivia's face.

OLIVIA  
Ben... it's just a jacket.

The realization that Olivia was just playing along crushes Ben. But while vulnerable, he's still honest...

BEN  
I wouldn't have told you, if I  
didn't think you'd believe me.

Olivia would be moved, but reality's grip is too strong.

OLIVIA  
I take pills for believing things  
exactly like this.

There's nothing more to say. With that, Ben heads out the door. Olivia stands there, conflicted... alone.

INT. TAYLOR'S HOUSE - TAYLOR'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

The lit end of a joint glows red as its inhaled. Smoke dances with the oxygen in the room. After a couple of puffs, a hand reaches over and steals it.

Taylor, still under the sheets, brings it to his lips.

TAYLOR  
So what's the special occasion?

OLIVIA  
What do you mean?

TAYLOR  
Haven't seen you in a while.  
Thought you got tired of me.

Olivia, still distant,

OLIVIA  
No special occasion. I've been  
busy.

TAYLOR  
With who?

Olivia thinks for a moment.

OLIVIA  
Nobody.

Olivia takes the joint back.

TAYLOR  
If you're fucking someone else, you  
gotta tell me.

OLIVIA  
I'm not fucking anyone Taylor.  
Relax.  
(then)  
Are you?

TAYLOR  
Baby, you're the only one for me.

Olivia smiles at his smarmy bullshit.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
You're still coming with us to the  
lake on the fourth, right? Sex  
under the fireworks, what's better  
than that?

OLIVIA  
(seductive)  
Maybe.

Taylor gets out of bed then leans over her and grins in a  
douchey, superior kind of way.

TAYLOR  
Definitely.

Olivia grins, still not immune to the charm of a bad boy.

Taylor grabs his iPhone off the table and heads to the door.

Olivia reaches for the joint and lights it.

She hears the water run in the bathroom, then hears a text  
DING from Taylor's iPhone, also in the bathroom.

A second later, the text appears in iMessage on Taylor's  
computer screen.

Olivia looks to the screen, then to the hallway. She quietly  
walks to the computer, cautious of Taylor returning.

ON SCREEN

SARA: WHERE ARE YOU? YOU SAID 8PM.

An ellipsis pops up under the text, as Taylor is responding.

OLIVIA

stares at the screen and waits for Taylor's reply. Finally...

ON SCREEN

TAYLOR: JUST FINISHING INVENTORY. ON MY WAY.

Olivia is deadpan. She knew the game, but this makes it real.

EXT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - ROOF - LATER THAT NIGHT

Stars litter the black sky above Olivia who sits on her roof as she takes refuge from the cruel world below.

A voice suddenly startles her.

BEN (O.S.)

Hey.

OLIVIA

Shit!... Jesus Ben.

BEN

Sorry, I saw you from my window.

OLIVIA

And here you are on my roof.

He sits down next to her.

BEN

What are you doing up here?

No response.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I threw all that stuff on you the other day. It wasn't fair. I get it.

Nothing. Ben takes the hint.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'll go.

He gets up to leave. As he's walking away,

OLIVIA

Wait.

He stops. Olivia, still looking at the stars.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

My brother's girlfriend broke up with him when he came back from his deployment. People break up all the time, no big deal, you move on. Instead, he cut-out pictures of her and scattered them all over his bedroom floor, then hanged himself from his ceiling fan.

The news comes as a shock.

BEN

Oh my God. Liv, I'm so sorry.

She's numb, tired of trying to figure it out.

OLIVIA

I was the one who found him. But I don't remember it. After his funeral, it was like it never happened.

She subconsciously plays with the ring around her neck. Ben sits back down next to her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I blocked it out, created another story that he was still overseas. After a while, I didn't know what was real.

BEN

(Re: the ring)

Was that his?

Olivia, now conscious of playing with it, nods.

OLIVIA

He was my best friend and he just left me. He thought he couldn't live without her.

(beat)

Three months later that bitch was dating someone else.

BEN

He must have been in a lot of pain.

OLIVIA

What about my pain? My whole life, friends, family... it's all gone. I lost everything. Even the stupid little things I was supposed to do;

(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 Yearbook signing, Homecoming, going  
 to Prom... it's all gone.  
 (beat)  
 I became the sister of the kid who  
 killed himself.

BEN  
 That's why you moved here?

OLIVIA  
 My parents couldn't handle it  
 anymore. Doctors called it PTSD  
 triggered schizophrenia. We moved  
 here to try to start over.

She leans back against the roof, thousands of stars looking  
 down at her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 Sometimes I don't want to do any of  
 it.

BEN  
 Any of what?

OLIVIA  
 This. Life. It's too hard.

Ben lies back next to her. They are quiet for a moment.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
 Ben, if you have powers, can you go  
 back in time?

The question is completely sincere and Ben recognizes that.  
 He wants to help her more than anything, but sadly, he can't.

BEN  
 No.

She turns back toward the stars. Ben slides his hand over to  
 hers and slowly interlocks fingers with her. They hold hands  
 as they look up at the night sky.

EXT. VARIOUS ESTABLISHING - FOURTH OF JULY- DUSK

An OPEN sign flips to SORRY WE'RE CLOSED in a store window.

A local gas station is completely empty. In the window hangs  
 a hand made sign: HAPPY 4TH OF JULY.

Mini flags line a well manicured front lawn as two kids wave  
 sparklers as they ride bikes in the background.

Firecrackers are heard popping in the distance, from those who just can't wait.

Families carry coolers and blankets and converge on foot to the entrance of the park.

EXT. TOWN PARK - LAKE - CONTINUOUS

The park is filled with people of all ages. Lines form around food vendors. Children play with sparklers.

Taylor covertly hands out cans of beer to his friends as Molly approaches.

MOLLY  
(to Taylor)  
Olivia here?

TAYLOR  
I thought she was coming with you?

EXT. LAKE - SAME

Olivia stands on the lake bank and stares at the crowd from a distance. She pulls her phone out.

A text from Taylor: WHERE ARE YOU?

She looks at the path to the forest, then back at the lake.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

Bushes rustle as Olivia pushes her way through the overgrown brush and into the clearing.

She breaks through, steps forward and... CRUNCH.

Olivia stops in her tracks. She looks down and sees a broken light bulb underneath her shoe.

BEN (O.S.)  
Watch your step.

Olivia looks up and sees Ben, donning a BLACK TUXEDO, standing near the light post, which is now completely covered in copper wire.

A homemade banner with "JR PROM" written on it hangs from the oak tree over the picnic table.

OLIVIA

What are you doing? Are you  
throwing me a Prom in the woods?

Ben presses a button on his iPhone and MUSIC plays out of the speaker on the picnic table.

Olivia stifles a laugh.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

This is either the most romantic,  
or creepiest thing anyone has ever  
done for me.

Ben kneels down toward the junction box at the base of the lamp post. He places his hand on a switch, then looks at Olivia and smiles.

BEN

Maybe this will help you decide.

Ben flips the switch.

Suddenly, Olivia's face is bathed in light. Her mouth drops open in awe.

OLIVIA

Holy shit...

All around the clearing, hundreds of light bulbs burn bright, all without wires.

Olivia sees lights in the trees, around the perimeter of the clearing, and at the entrance, where two strips of a dozen bulbs illuminate a path toward the center.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I don't believe this. How did you  
do this?

Ben walks to her. He pulls a light bulb out of the ground and places it in her hand. The bulb still glows.

BEN

I didn't do anything. It's all  
around us. Always has been. We just  
had to learn how to use it.

Ben's eyes glow in the soft forest light. Olivia is drawn to him; this boy who makes the impossible, possible.

EXT. TOWN PARK - LAKE - EVENING

The sun has set and the crowd prepares for the firework display. Taylor crushes an empty beer can and tosses it on top of the others in his backpack.

He approaches Molly.

TAYLOR

Nothing?

She shakes her head.

Taylor looks at the lake, his wet brain processing. He looks back to Molly and eyes her suspiciously.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Molly, you would tell me if something was going on, right?

A guilty look crosses her face.

MOLLY

Of course.

She looks away casually; a weak prayer that he may lose interest. No such luck.

TAYLOR

(commanding)

Molly...

His glare penetrates Molly. She is about to break.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - SAME

Ben picks a flower off a bush.

BEN

I declare you prom queen.

He puts it through a buttonhole on Olivia's jacket.

OLIVIA

It's customary for the king and queen to dance.

Ben's iPhone records the couple as they take a formal stance. The distance between them shrinks, step by step, each reciprocating the others advance.

A final step in and Olivia rests her head against Ben's shoulder. She peers out and catches a glimpse of the tree-carved initials.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Who was she?

Ben, off her look, sees the tree.

BEN  
Just a girl I knew when I was a kid.

OLIVIA  
What happened to her?

BEN  
She moved.

OLIVIA  
Was she your first love?

He stares at the initials and thinks.

BEN  
I thought so.

Olivia takes her head off of Ben's shoulder. They look into each other's eyes. The POP and BANG of fireworks are heard exploding overhead, but they don't bother to look.

They kiss, lit by the forest lights around them, and by the barrage of colorful explosions above them.

EXT. TOWN PARK - LAKE - SAME

Taylor grills Molly about Olivia; their voices lost in the fireworks as they explode overhead. Taylor becomes more aggressive and Molly breaks. She points toward the forest.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - SAME

Lora sits alone at Olivia's bedroom window, her eyes puffy and red, as she watches the fireworks explode.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN PARK - LAKE - DAWN

Remnants of last night's festivities linger in the morning dew. A slight haze hovers over the lake, until a raindrop breaks the still, glassy surface.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

A distant thunder rumbles softly. Raindrops trickle down through the umbrella of trees. A drop lands on Olivia.

She wakes and sees Ben, still asleep, wrapped in the green jacket. She smiles and sits up.

Olivia looks at the remains of the prom: Light bulbs now unlit, Prom banner damp from the morning dew...

Her smile instantly fades when she sees Taylor standing at the entrance to the clearing.

Taylor finishes a beer and tosses the empty can into the bushes. He nods to himself as he looks around.

TAYLOR

I like what you've done with the place.

Olivia gets to her feet.

OLIVIA

How... What are you doing here?

TAYLOR

I was gonna ask you the same thing.

OLIVIA

Ben. Ben wake up.

Ben's eyes open. He sees Taylor and immediately stands.

TAYLOR

Morning... nice jacket.

OLIVIA

Shut up Taylor.

BEN

What do you want?

TAYLOR  
My girlfriend.

OLIVIA  
You mean Sara?

Taylor cocks his head back and slightly chuckles.

BEN  
(to Olivia)  
How does he know about this place?

TAYLOR  
Great question. Olivia told me.

OLIVIA  
What?! That's not true!

TAYLOR  
Course it is.  
(to Ben)  
She told me all about you. About  
your "powers". Makes fun of you  
behind your back.

The words hit Ben hard. He looks at Olivia, betrayed.

OLIVIA  
(to Ben)  
I swear I never told him.

Taylor sees the pain in Ben's eyes and it dawns on him.

TAYLOR  
Ohhhh I get it... you love her.

OLIVIA  
You're a piece of shit Taylor.

TAYLOR  
*I'm* a piece of shit? Did you tell  
him about the other night?

Olivia freezes. She treads carefully.

OLIVIA  
Taylor...

TAYLOR  
(to Ben)  
Oh man. Look, I gotta tell you, she  
doesn't love you.

Fear and desperation.

OLIVIA  
Taylor I swear to God...

TAYLOR  
She came to my place the other  
night-

Desperation and anger.

OLIVIA  
-Shut the fuck up Taylor!!

TAYLOR  
... On her knees begging for it,  
literally.

Rage.

OLIVIA  
Asshole!

Olivia lunges at Taylor, swinging at his face. She connects once before Taylor tosses her to the ground.

Ben's subdued anger boils over. He steps between Taylor and Olivia and SHOVES Taylor to the ground.

BEN  
Stop!!

Taylor falls back, surprised by the force generated by the skinny teen.

Olivia looks up at Ben; fists clenched, expression the same as during the shooting... He's in control.

Taylor slowly gets up and brushes himself off.

TAYLOR  
(to Ben)  
Look man, all I did was tell you  
the truth. I did you a favor.

Ben seethes. He judges Taylor's words, then looks down at Olivia, pitifully lying in the wet dirt.

BEN  
Is it true?

Ben waits for a denial. A pained look crosses Olivia's face.

OLIVIA  
I was drunk... it was a mistake.

The words kick Ben in the stomach. His face goes pale and his shoulders slump. His look of confidence, gives way to defeat.

Taylor shakes his head.

TAYLOR

The superhero and the slut. Some couple.

Ben looks at Olivia, then swings half-heartedly at Taylor. The power he possessed when he pushed Taylor, now gone.

Taylor dodges the weak attempt and tackles Ben to the ground. Ben doesn't seem to fight back as Taylor pummels him.

OLIVIA

Get off of him!

Olivia jumps on Taylor's back. She pulls with all her strength, but its useless.

Fists rain down onto Ben's face. Olivia wraps her arms around Taylor's neck and chokes him.

Taylor gasps for breath. Finally, he throws her off. Olivia crawls to Ben and lifts his head onto her lap.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Blood streams from Ben's nose and mouth. He coughs as he tries to shake off the beating.

Taylor watches the couple as he catches his breath. He sees a tenderness in Olivia that he's never known. Shaking his head,

TAYLOR

You two can have each other.

Taylor exits the clearing and smashes a light bulb on the ground under his foot as he does.

Ben struggles to his feet, refusing Olivia's help. He stumbles to the picnic table as Olivia watches helplessly.

OLIVIA

Ben, I'm sorry. It was a mistake. I was hurt and confused.

Ben steadies himself against the table.

BEN

You had sex with him the other night?

OLIVIA  
It didn't mean anything.

BEN  
Does it ever?

Olivia's caught off guard.

OLIVIA  
What?

BEN  
Did last night mean anything?

OLIVIA  
How can you say that? Of course it did.

BEN  
Bullshit. He's right. The way you are, the shit that you do... I don't believe you.

Ben exits the clearing. Olivia stands alone in the rain. She sees the green jacket lying in the mud.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Olivia opens the front door, soaked head to toe. She pulls the green hood off of her wet hair and stares into the unusually quiet house.

OLIVIA  
Hello?

No response.

INT. PARENTS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia looks in from the doorway. Lora sits on the bed. Jim's closet is open and empty. His dresser, similarly bare.

OLIVIA  
Where's dad?

Lora looks up; her eyes red and bloodshot.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Where is he?

Lora fails to find the words, but Olivia knows.

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

The rain continues to pour as Olivia pounds on Ben's front door. Ben's father finally opens the door.

MR. BREEDLOVE  
Olivia...

OLIVIA  
I need to see Ben.

Olivia shoves herself between him and the door. She sprints upstairs towards Ben's room.

MR. BREEDLOVE  
Olivia!

Ben's father gives chase but Olivia is beyond reach. She yells on her way to the top,

OLIVIA  
Ben... Ben!

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia bursts through Ben's door.

OLIVIA  
My father left. He-

Olivia freezes upon seeing Ben's room for the first time.

--A heart monitor sits next to Ben's bed.

--Stacks of comics sit next to several neatly arranged pill bottles on Ben's dresser.

--An automated external defibrillator hangs on the wall next to the door.

Olivia looks lost.

Ben's father comes up the stairs behind her.

MR. BREEDLOVE  
Olivia...

BEN  
Dad, please. Give us a minute.

Olivia, still in shock...

OLIVIA  
What is this?

BEN  
Olivia... you shouldn't be here.

OLIVIA  
You are sick.

Ben looks at his father, still in the doorway.

BEN  
Dad... please.

Ben's father reluctantly complies.

MR. BREEDLOVE  
Five minutes.

He closes the bedroom door.

BEN  
Olivia, everything I told you is true. I'm not sick.

OLIVIA  
What are you *talking* about?! Look around! Enough with the lies!

BEN  
No! Olivia, this... this is the lie! Everything I told you, my alter ego, this is all part of it-

Olivia, on the precipice of a meltdown, freaks out.

OLIVIA  
STOP!! Just stop! I don't wanna hear your bullshit anymore! You're not a superhero Ben! You don't have super-fucking-powers! Stop lying to me!

Ben's father opens the door.

The emotion fades from Olivia's voice as she detaches.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
You're just a fucking liar.

She turns and leaves the room.

BEN  
Olivia!

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - STREET - CONTINUOUS

Olivia walks out of Ben's house, trancelike, indifferent to the downpour that drenches her.

She stops and finds herself standing in the middle of the street. Olivia stares aimlessly. No plan, nowhere to go.

INT. LORA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The driver door flies open. A soaked Olivia gets in.

She puts the key in the ignition and starts the car. She looks at her pathetic, wet reflection in the mirror.

As she backs down the driveway, Lora runs out of the house.

LORA  
Olivia stop! What are you doing?!

INT. BEN'S ROOM - WINDOW - SAME

Ben looks out his bedroom window and sees Lora pounding on her car.

INT. LORA'S CAR - SAME

Olivia ignores her mother's pleas. She looks up at Ben through the rain-soaked windshield. Their eyes lock.

LORA  
Olivia!

The car tires screech and Olivia speeds off down the street.

EXT. LORA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The car runs a red light and barely misses a crossing vehicle.

INT. LORA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Olivia struggles to see through the windshield as the wipers clear the rain for only an instant with each wipe. Her hands shake as they grip the leather wrapped steering wheel.

INT. OLIVIA'S OLD HOME - STAIRCASE - FLASHBACK

Olivia walks up the stairs, reaches the top and turns left.

She passes framed pictures of her family as she walks down the hallway. At the end of the hall is a room.

The door is slightly cracked open.

OLIVIA  
Mark... are you home?

BACK TO SHOT

Olivia is numb. She swerves onto a highway, cutting a car off in the process. Olivia fishtails on the wet road, regains control, then accelerates.

INT. OLIVIA'S OLD HOME - HALLWAY - FLASHBACK

Olivia faces her brother's bedroom door.

OLIVIA  
Mark?

Her hand reaches the door. She pushes and the door creaks open. Olivia sees pictures of a girl scattered on the floor.

Olivia pushes the door open. She stares, frozen. In front of her is a tipped over chair and a pair of hanging legs.

INT. LORA'S CAR - HIGHWAY - PRESENT

The same frozen look is on Olivia's face. She's mentally in the room, remembering it for the first time.

Finally, she breaks.

Her eyes close and she screams with everything in her soul. Everything she's ever held in or turned outwards into anger, now coming out in pure anguish.

SMASH

A truck clips the back of Lora's car. Olivia's head cracks against the driver side window.

The car spins. Raindrops seemingly freeze in mid air and slowly splash against the windshield.

CRUNCH. The car catches its edge and flips.

EXT. CAR - HIGHWAY -SAME

The car tumbles down the wet highway and finally comes to a stop upside down in the middle of the road.

Smoke pours from the engine. Mangled wheels continue to spin.

INT. LORA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Olivia hangs upside-down, still strapped to her seat. Her driver's side door is smashed in. She presses the seat belt button, but it won't unclip. She tries to open her door, but it won't budge.

Her breathing becomes shallow and rapid. She starts to panic. She tries to yell, but can only manage a whimper.

OLIVIA

Help...

EXT. HIGHWAY - SAME

The driver jumps out of his truck and runs toward the car.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

Help... help me...

He pulls out his phone.

TRUCK DRIVER

(shouting)

Hang on, I'm calling 911.

INT. LORA'S CAR - SAME

Olivia's eyes flutter. Blood drips from her forehead. She sees her ring necklace lying among the shattered glass above her. She reaches for it with the little energy she has.

Inches from it, her breathing slows and her eyes flutter. Her fingers curl up. Darkness. Silence.

Suddenly, the sound of CRUNCHING METAL is heard. Then stops.

Olivia opens her eyes. The sound is heard again. She turns her head toward her door.

The sound continues and the door begins to warp in on itself. Olivia watches as the implosion continues and the door is finally ripped from its hinges.

Its spins off and lands ten feet away.

Olivia, dazed as rainwater splashes into the car, looks out. Standing outside the door frame, wearing a green jacket, is a man. His face is hidden under a hood.

OLIVIA

Ben...

It's all she manages to say before she passes out again.

SERIES OF SHOTS FROM OLIVIA'S POV.

--Being pulled from the car.

--Rain drops fall from the sky, as hands drag her further from the wreck.

--Ben's face over hers as she is dragged away,

BEN

You're gonna be okay.

--A view of the car, now engulfed in flames.

--This time, at a safe distance from the wreckage, the truck driver's face is over hers.

TRUCK DRIVER

Don't worry, you're gonna be okay.

Olivia loses consciousness.

INT. DARK BEDROOM - NIGHT - DREAM

Olivia stands in her brother's bedroom; chair positioned in the middle of the room, noose hanging above it, pictures littered around the floor. This time, the pictures are of Olivia.

A folded letter with her name on it rests on her desk. Before she can read it, she sees something outside her window.

There, bathed in the street lights, complete in green jacket, stands Ben. They stare at one another for a moment.

Ben pulls the hood over his head, turns and walks down the endless block. Olivia watches him leave, until...

Her cell phone rings.

ON SCREEN: MARK ON THE CALLER ID.

Silence between ringing, then...

A SCHOOL BELL rings.

INT. WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Olivia, snaps out of her daydream. A scar is on her forehead; healed from the accident, but forever visible.

DR. WENDALL (O.S.)  
The car accident... Ben pulled you  
to safety?

Olivia gathers her belongings as the other students file out of the classroom.

OLIVIA (O.S.)  
No.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Olivia navigates through the sea of strangers. She clutches her books to her chest. She reaches her locker.

DR. WENDALL (O.S.)  
The school shooting, was Ben in the  
hallway?

Olivia spins the dial. The lock opens on the first try.

OLIVIA (O.S.)  
No.

She places her books in, then looks around; alone in a crowd.

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

Olivia sits quietly, same lost, distant look on her face.

OLIVIA  
I guess I just wanted there to be  
someone to save me. Some better  
version of the truth.

Dr. Wendall looks up from her note pad.

DR. WENDALL  
Have you talked to him since the  
accident?

OLIVIA

No.

DR. WENDALL

Why not?

Olivia does her best to try and not show her pain.

OLIVIA

Because he lied to me.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Olivia sits at her desk and looks into her vanity mirror.

She dabs a makeup sponge and gently applies cover-up to the scar on her forehead.

DR. WENDALL (O.S.)

Be careful not to confuse your pain  
with anger. If you let it sit and  
fester, it can materialize into  
something much deeper.

Olivia looks down at her phone. She focuses on the date.

ON SCREEN

September 22nd.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olivia comes halfway down the stairs before seeing her mother asleep on the living room recliner.

DR. WENDALL (O.S.)

We all try to make sense of the  
things we can't explain. The things  
that hurt the most, the things that  
scare us, the unknown.

She walks quietly over to her mother, stands next to the chair and looks down at her. A half empty glass dangles loosely from her fingers.

DR. WENDALL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Sometimes there is no explanation.  
However we learn to accept that,  
whether it be faith, religion or  
something else... is how we move  
on.

Olivia slips the glass out of her hand, sets it on the table, then covers her with a blanket. She watches her mother sleep for a moment before leaving.

INT. CHAD'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT

The front door opens and a drunken Molly sees Olivia standing in the doorway.

MOLLY

Oh my god!! I'm so glad you came!

Molly turns to no one in particular.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Guys, this is my friend Olivia!

Zero reception. Olivia offers a shy smile,

OLIVIA

Thanks.

Olivia steps in to the party already in progress.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Molly pulls up next to a couple of guys who are standing around bottles of liquor.

MOLLY

Shots?

A row of shots are lined up, poured and raised in a toast.

They down the shots, but Olivia can't seem to find the joy in it anymore. She looks around the house.

SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS

-Beer chugging contest at the dining room table.

-Bong smoking contest on the living room couch.

-Molly grinding on Chad as she takes a slutty selfie.

Same shit, different party.

The sights and sounds fade around Olivia as she becomes conscious of her new perspective. She is no longer a participant, she's now an observer.

EXT. BEN'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MORNING

Olivia looks up at Ben's window and is surprised to see it closed for the first time.

She hesitates, then knocks on the front door.

The door is opened by a woman Olivia doesn't recognize.

WOMAN

Hello?

OLIVIA

Hi, is Ben here?

The woman's face gives it away. Something's not right.

INT. LORA'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Olivia stares out the window while Lora drives. A mutual silence. Olivia then turns to Lora who feels her stare.

LORA

What?

Olivia continues to look.

LORA (CONT'D)

What is it? Are you okay?

Olivia, close to tears, tries to swallow her emotion.

OLIVIA

Mark called me the day he died.  
I didn't pick up.

LORA

Oh honey...

The guilt overpowers Olivia and she breaks.

OLIVIA

I could have, but I didn't. I just  
put it back in my pocket.

Lora pulls the car to the side of the road as Olivia sobs. Once parked, she opens her arms and swallows her daughter in her embrace.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Maybe he was calling for help.  
Maybe I could have talked him out  
of it...

LORA  
It wasn't your fault. You couldn't  
have saved him Liv...

OLIVIA  
I miss him so much. I miss home.

Lora holds Olivia tight.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, I'm so sorry.

LORA  
What are you sorry for?

OLIVIA  
For everything. I've been so  
horrible.

Forgiveness is quick as Lora's motherly instinct takes over.

LORA  
You have nothing to apologize for  
Liv... Nothing. I love you.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - LATER

Olivia approaches the reception desk.

OLIVIA  
Hi, I'm looking for Ben Breedlove?

MR. BREEDLOVE (O.S.)  
Olivia...

Olivia turns to see Ben's father.

OLIVIA  
How is he?

MR. BREEDLOVE  
We're still waiting. We don't know  
the extent of it yet.

OLIVIA  
Can I see him?

INT. BEN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

An IV bag drips clear fluid into Ben's arm. Different colored  
leads crawl out from under Ben's blanket and converge at the  
base of a heart monitor.

Olivia stands bedside and looks down at Ben.

OLIVIA

Well, I have to give it to you.  
You're really selling this thing.

Ben doesn't move. The only sound is the rhythmic beat of the heart monitor.

Olivia sits on the edge of his bed. She leans in close, the steady pulse of the heart monitor still keeping rhythm.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I know you can hear me.

She looks down at his hand, takes it in hers and runs her fingers over his.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Before you go to New York, I wanted to say thank you. Thank you for saving me at the school, thank you for saving me from the car accident and thank you for saving me from myself.

(beat)

I love you Ben Breedlove.

She kisses him on the lips.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Now go save the world.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - LATER

Lora and Olivia sit arm and arm in the waiting room.

A doctor emerges from the ICU and approaches Mr. and Mrs. Breedlove. They talk for a moment, and Mrs. Breedlove collapses into Mr. Breedlove's arms and cries.

Lora and Olivia embrace.

EXT. FOREST LAKE - DAWN

Fog burns off as the sun rises over the placid lake.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Olivia stands in front of the oak tree, her hand moving up against it. She finishes, steps back and stares at the tree.

Satisfied, she turns and walks away. Her initials are now carved into the tree beneath the others.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Olivia enters her house with books and mail in hand. Her outfit and makeup not as dark or rebellious as it once was.

She sifts through the mail and comes across a manila folder with her name on it.

INT. OLIVIA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Olivia sits on her bed and opens the envelope.

She carefully tilts the folder on its side. A ring, a flash drive and a bullet all drop out onto the bed.

Olivia looks at the contents and recognizes the ring as her brother's right away. She inspects the bullet, then sees a letter inside the Manila envelope.

She pulls out the letter and notices her name on the front. She recognizes the handwriting as the same from in her dream.

OLIVIA  
(whispers)  
Ben...

After a slight hesitation, Olivia opens the letter.

BEN (V.O.)  
Olivia, I'm sorry how things ended with us. I never meant to hurt you in any way. I wish I could've stayed with you and all the people I care about in my life, but I couldn't go on living a lie...

Olivia inserts the flash drive into her computer. Ben's voice continues reading the letter.

VIDEO

-Olivia skipping stones at the lake.

BEN (V.O.)  
You gave me the courage to be who I needed to be and to never apologize for it.

-Olivia on her rooftop from Ben's POV across the street.

BEN

Superman needs Clark Kent because  
he needs Lois Lane. Its how he  
knows what he's fighting for.

-Olivia and Ben dancing at her forest prom.

BEN (V.O.)

You showed me that, in your own  
strange, amazing, beautiful way.  
For that, I want to say thank you.  
Ben.

BACK TO SHOT

Olivia has tears in her eyes as she fondly watches the  
memories on screen.

VIDEO

The final video is of the night of the forest Prom. Olivia  
sleeps peacefully on the forest floor as the light bulbs  
around the clearing are all still lit.

Ben adjusts the iPhone camera to face himself, then glances  
over his shoulder and checks on the sleeping girl.

BACK TO SHOT

Olivia stares at Ben, a real connection between them, even  
now, through the lens of a camera and her laptop screen.

VIDEO

Ben looks into the camera, smiles and speaks softly...

BEN

Believe me and I'll prove it,  
remember?

He steps back.

BACK TO SHOT

Olivia stares wide-eyed, in anticipation of what's to come.

VIDEO

Ben stands center of frame and looks at Olivia through the camera lens.

BACK TO SHOT

Olivia feels it. The hairs on her arm stand up.

VIDEO

Slowly, all of the light bulbs come loose from the ground and begin to rise.

BACK TO SHOT

Olivia's jaw slowly drops in disbelief.

OLIVIA

No way...

VIDEO

Ben smiles as he watches the floating lights, some of which he makes circle around him in the air.

BACK TO SHOT

Olivia's realization of Ben's power now forces her to replay her previous encounters with him, all with a new perspective.

INT. TAYLOR'S CAR - FLASHBACK

Taylor sees Lora standing in the street at the last second. Taylor never hits the brakes, but the tires lock.

As Olivia is hurled toward the dashboard in slow motion, her eyes fixate on something outside Taylor's window.

BEN

Stands on the corner of the street. His arm is outstretched toward the car, eyes locked with Olivia's.

INT. WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - FLASHBACK

The gunman points the gun at Ben's head. A shot is fired, the muzzle flashes across Olivia's face.

Time slows to a crawl as the bullet ejects from the firearm, only to be struck by an invisible force in front of Ben which causes the bullet to fall harmlessly to the ground.

INT. LORA'S CAR - FLASHBACK

The driver side door of Lora's car warps from the bending metal, until the glass shatters.

The door suddenly flies away from the car and Olivia sees the hooded man. He steps forward and reveals his face... Ben.

BEN

Everything's gonna be okay.

END FLASHBACK

Olivia stares at the laptop screen with tears in her eyes.

VIDEO

As the lights continue to hover in mid-air, Ben stares into the camera, calm and confident, like how Olivia first remembered him.

BEN

I love you Olivia.

OLIVIA'S ROOM

Overwhelmed, Olivia can't help but smile as tears of joy stream down her face.

We move from Olivia on her bed, across the room, to the window where she would look out at Ben's room.

His window is open once again, with the ghost white curtains dancing in the breeze.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END.