

A Good Person

by

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CAA
KILLER FILMS
FINAL MOVIE SCRIPT

THE CAMERA CRESTS an evergreen-covered mountain and DIVES down into a picture-perfect small town. It takes a moment for our eyes to realize it isn't a real place, but rather an incredibly intricate MODEL TRAIN TOWN.

THE CAMERA FLOATS DOWN MAIN STREET: All of the people are happy, frozen forever in a moment of joy and contentment. There is order. Routine. A MILKMAN spilling his bottles as a DOG laps up the milk. A COP helping an old lady across the street. A YOUNG COUPLE stealing a kiss behind the high school. It's a perfect town in a perfect world.

DANIEL (V.O.)

In Herman Eustis' seminal work on the joys of being a model train hobbyist, he writes: *"Many an hour have I spent blissfully lost in a world of my own creation."*

Reveal DANIEL ADAMS (Morgan Freeman) wearing a magnified visor. He's putting the final paint touches on the ELATED COUPLE that have just emerged from the CHURCH.

DANIEL (V.O.)

For the model train enthusiast, there exists a secret world of order and symmetry. Nestled into the corners of our basements and attics, we lord over a world where the hobbyist plays omnipotent creator. There, in 1:87 scale, the neighbors are always kind, the lovers always end up together, and the trains always take you to the far off places you always swore you'd go."

He lifts his elbows just in time to let the train cars pass, then returns to dab one final bead of white on the elated bride's veil. WE HEAR THE ECHOEY SOUND OF A WOMAN singing ***The Velvet Underground*** song ***"After Hours"*** accompanied by a PIANO.

DANIEL (V.O.)

In life, of course, nothing is nearly as neat and tidy.

The SONG continues as THE CAMERA SWIMS through the rooms of a packed house party, past a few dozen people drinking, smoking weed, flirting, laughing. WE land in the living room to reveal the source of the singing. ALLISON JOHNSON (26, Florence Pugh) sings at the piano.

ALLISON

(singing)

*And if you close the door
The night could last forever
Leave the sunshine out
And say hello to never
All the people are dancing
And they're having such fun
I wish it could happen to me
Cause if you close the door
I'd never have to see the day
again
I'd never have to see the day
again,
Once more:*

EVERYONE

*I'd never have to see the day
again.*

Allison finishes with an impressive piano flourish and everyone drunkenly APPLAUDS and yells "Encore!" Allison stands and takes a dramatic bow.

ALLISON

No, no, no. There will be no
encore, I'm already way too drunk
to be playing in front of people.

FRIEND

But we love you!

ALLISON

Yes, and I want it to stay that
way! That was for my dear, sweet
fiancé, Nathan. Who loves that
song very much. Come up here,
baby. He's very shy. Get up here.

NATHAN (30, African American) waves her off from the back of the room. Friends hoot and holler for him to join her.

EVERYONE

Nathan, Nathan...

He weaves his way up to the front to applause. Allison stands and kisses him. (We notice that Nathan wears a hearing aid in his right ear.)

NATHAN

Hey, y'all. I'll just briefly say that she played that song for me on our very first date on a beat-up, old piano she found in the back of an empty bar.

MOLLY

Well, you better go, girl!

Laughter. We notice a couple snuggled-up on the couch we'll come to know as Nathan's sister, MOLLY (35, African American), and her husband, JESSE (38, African American).

ALLISON

Always be closing.

MOLLY

Absolutely. Welcome to the family.

NATHAN

Allison, every memory I cherish in my life has you in it. Some of them are just tiny seconds: the way you close one eye when you really wanna focus on tasting something.

ALLISON

(to everyone)
I do that. I do that.

NATHAN

I can't believe this is real?

ALLISON

This is real, baby.

NATHAN

Thank God. I love you.

They kiss. The room cheers!

NATHAN (CONT'D)

OK. Enough. Drink, smoke, be merry. And if you choose to sleep with Chip, make sure he wears, like, eleven condoms.

The WOMAN on Chip's arm looks at him like WTF...

CHIP

OK, I'm literally a virgin.

The room erupts with laughter. They kiss.

3

INT. ALLISON AND NATHAN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

3

Allison lies on her stomach on the bed reading her phone in a t-shirt and underwear. Nathan enters in boxers.

NATHAN

No. C'mon, baby. No phone. When we get married we have to make a rule about phones in bed.

ALLISON

Oh shut up, you're on your phone ten times more than me, looking at rusted old trucks.

NATHAN

(gasping)

A '67 cloth-top Bronco is a work of art, baby, not a truck. I am looking at art. Like this butt.

He climbs on top of her and kisses her ass cheeks.

ALLISON

You got me so high with that weed gummy. What the fuck was that? I still can't feel my ankles.

NATHAN

You don't need your ankles right now.

ALLISON

Yeah, but I'd still like to be able to feel them.

They both laugh.

NATHAN

Hey, come kiss me.

ALLISON

Ugh. This creepy doctor on my sales list is seriously trying to flirt with me on Instagram.

NATHAN

Maybe you gave him the wrong impression.

ALLISON

Yeah, right. I walk in there waving my engagement ring around.

NATHAN

You always say flirting is part of the job. Someone's bound to get the wrong impression.

ALLISON

It's very light flirting.

NATHAN

Oh, OK.

ALLISON

It is! It's just sushi and a smile so they'll write the fucking prescription and I can get a fat bonus and you and I can one day move to the city.

NATHAN

If we don't go to hell first.

ALLISON

Why would you say that? I'm just pushing Humira. I'm not gonna go to hell for "moderate to severe psoriasis." C'mon, that would be so unfair.

NATHAN

It's just a stepping stone, baby.

ALLISON

Is it too late to go to astronaut school?

They both laugh.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I could be a professional dancer.

NATHAN

Oh, word. You got the moves?

She does a silly head/arm shimmy. They crack up.

ALLISON

Wait. Let me stand up. I'm way better when I stand up.

She stands on the bed and begins to dance ridiculously.

NATHAN

What genre is this?

ALLISON

I don't know, but my body just knows.

NATHAN

This is modern, right?

ALLISON

This is professional, so I would appreciate if you took me seriously right now.

NATHAN

I'm taking you very seriously.

ALLISON

And then, I'd finish with something like this. But I'm not going to show you anymore because it's a work in progress.

She wrestles him until she's on top. She pulls the white sheet over the top of them. UNDER:

ALLISON (CONT'D)

The professional is tired. And I want to cuddle.

They kiss.

A LOUD TRUCK HONKS!

4

INT. ALLISON'S CAR - DAY

4

Allison drives on a busy freeway with the couple we saw at the party: Nathan's sister, Molly, in the front seat and Molly's husband, Jesse, in the back.

ALLISON

(to trucker)

Oh, calm the fuck down! I swear to God this road has been under construction my entire life. When is New Jersey gonna be done?

JESSE

She's a work in progress.

ALLISON

How's Ryan doing?

JESSE

Oh, you mean your future niece?

Jesse leans forward and shows Allison his lock screen: a beautiful picture of a smiling RYAN (15) in a soccer uniform.

ALLISON

Awww. So pretty!

JESSE

The varsity coach said she might start next year.

MOLLY

She had 19 goals last season!

ALLISON

Wow! You guys must be so proud. I can't believe I still haven't met her. I'm so sorry Nathan and I haven't made it down yet.

MOLLY

Yeah, it's far. We're trying to come up more now that our Dad is getting older.

ALLISON

Well, I've only met your Dad a few times now, but that we can't blame on distance.

Traffic has slowed to a standstill as CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES block the road.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

This is just fucking nuts. I'm so sorry.

MOLLY

Sooooo, tell us about these wedding dresses we're seeing.

JESSE

Yes, please. I couldn't sleep last night thinking about it.

They laugh.

ALLISON

You are such a good sport.

MOLLY

No, he's not. He just thinks after seeing your dresses we're gonna do a pub crawl, but we're actually going to see a play.

JESSE

No, we're not. You woulda had to get tickets already.

MOLLY

Oh, we just have to see some shit no one else wants to see.

JESSE

Oh great, that sounds awesome. Hey, look, it's finally opening up.

Traffic is moving again as the CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES have moved out of the way.

ALLISON

OK, it might be a little tight getting you to a play, let me check the traffic again.

Allie looks down at her phone. She opens the MAPS app:

ALLISON (CONT'D)

OK, so MAPS is saying...

A CONSTRUCTION VEHICLE backs onto the highway.

JESSE

MOLLY

HOLY SHIT!

ALLIE!

THEY COLLECTIVELY SCREAM IN TERROR AS ALLISON SLAMS ON THE BRAKES!

HARD CUT TO BLACK.

Daniel and RYAN (15, African American) pull up in front of her school and park. She plays a game on her phone.

DANIEL

Here we are.

RYAN

You got me here so early.

DANIEL

It's better to be a half-hour early, than one minute late.

RYAN

Grandpa have you ever played any video games?

DANIEL

No. You got this perfect little brain up there, and you're just melting it away with that crap.

His CELL PHONE rings. Ryan sees the caller ID.

RYAN

It's Uncle Nathan. Answer it.

DANIEL

Why would he be calling me?

RYAN

Pick up.

Daniel answers and puts the phone to his ear.

DANIEL

I thought you weren't talking to me anymore.

Daniel listens. We see his face slowly drop. The color drains from his cheeks. All we hear are the SOUNDS and MUSIC coming from Ryan's game on her phone. His eyes well. He looks at her.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Uh, listen. Nathan. I've got Ryan here. I'm just dropping her off at school. Let me call you back in a bit.

(he listens)

Yes, I did hear what you've said. I'll head right there. I just gotta drop her off.

He hangs up. He's in shock; barely able to breath.

RYAN

See that wasn't so bad. Mom says she wishes you guys could find a way to get along.

DANIEL

I've got to go now, sweetie.

RYAN

Ugh. I look like such a dork being here this early.

His mind races.

DANIEL

I'm gonna pick you up today sweetie.

RYAN

Why can't Mom? She said they'd be back from the city today, right?

DANIEL

Well, she can't.

RYAN

I'll text her. OK. Bye.

DANIEL

Tell me you love me.

RYAN

I love you, Grandpa.

She kisses him on the cheek and slams the door. The second she's out of sight he takes a deep gasp of air as though he'd been holding his breath the entire time.

6

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - DAY

6

DIANE (52, Allison's mother) and Nathan stand on either side of Allison's bed in a small ICU room. Her head is bandaged.

ALLISON

My head, Mom. I just can't explain to you how much pain I have in my head.

DIANE

Click on the morphine again.

ALLISON

I clicked it. I keep clicking it.
It doesn't do anything.

DIANE

Oh, shoot, you're right. We have
to get more.

ALLISON

Nathan, why are you looking at me
like that?

NATHAN

Like what?

ALLISON

Is it bad?

DIANE

He's just upset, baby. We've been
so worried all night long.

ALLISON

This backhoe thing just reversed
into the middle of the street. I
didn't know what to do.

DIANE

I'm sure. Don't worry about that
right now. Right, Nathan?

NATHAN

Yeah.

DIANE

You just need to focus on getting
better. That's all you should be
worried about right now. Right,
Nathan?

NATHAN

Yeah.

A NURSE enters with a STATE TROOPER.

ICU NURSE

I'm sorry to interrupt, but the
police are here to collect a blood
sample.

DIANE

Now is not a good time, she's in a
lot of pain.

ALLISON
Why are the police here?

NATHAN
You have to come back, she
just woke up.

POLICEMAN
Unfortunately, I can't. Legally
the sample has to be drawn as soon
as possible. We waited for her to
stabilize, but with an accident
like this, it's imperative we test-

ALLISON
What is he talking about? It
wasn't my fault.

NATHAN
Officer, she doesn't...

DIANE
It wasn't her fault.

POLICEMAN
With an accident of this magnitude
involving fatalities, we're
required...

NATHAN
She hasn't been told.

Fatalities?

DIANE
She hasn't been told! You fucking
asshole. She didn't know.

ALLISON
Mom? What's going on?

POLICEMAN
I'm so sorry.

ALLISON
Nathan. What's going on?

NATHAN
They're gone. They're both gone.

Who's gone? ALLISON

The CAMERA retreats until it's outside the glass of the room. We cannot hear what's being said, but we see that Diane is calmly telling Allison about the death of Molly and Jesse. A man's shoulder arrives in the foreground; watching. We see Allison digest the words.

WE CUT TO THE REVERSE ANGLE INSIDE THE ROOM. The shoulder is Daniel's staring at them all in a stupor through the glass. He looks grey and lost.

HARD CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: A GOOD PERSON

CHYRON: ONE YEAR LATER

7 EXT. DIANE'S HOUSE - DAY 7

Cracked paint. Long grass.

8 INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S BATHROOM - DAY 8

INFLUENCER (O.S.)

Hey, guys. Bella here. Welcome to my bathroom. Today we're gonna learn to cut our own hair! So let's jump in. OK, so grab that first front layer just like I'm doing and hold your scissors on a slight angle just like this?

THE CAMERA PANS past lots of beauty products and lands on an iPhone. It plays a YOUTUBE VIDEO of a TEENAGE INFLUENCER demonstrating how to cut your own hair.

REVEAL Allison in the mirror. She looks pale and medicated as she holds scissors to a large chunk of her hair.

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

OK, it's now or never. Hahah. Go for it!

She hacks off a giant amount of hair. She checks the mirror.

ALLISON

Fuck.

INFLUENCER (O.S.)

You nailed it! You're officially a stylist just like me! Now go ahead and grab that same layer on the other side. And go for it!

ALLISON

Okay.

Allison does the same thing to the other side.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Fuck.

INFLUENCER (O.S.)

Does it look even?

ALLISON

Not really.

INFLUENCER

Good job. You look amazing!

ALLISON

Thank you.

We JUMP CUT through MORE ANGLES of Allison chopping different areas of her hair.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Wow, I love it.

9

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

9

Allison, sporting a truly fucked up new haircut, paints her toenails as she watches TV.

Diane enters from work wearing a blue polo and matching slacks, a uniform of some kind. She kicks lots of small brown boxes over the threshold.

DIANE

Allie! What the hell is all of this? You have got to stop buying all this crap. You promised me you were gonna...

ALLISON

Well one of them is a do-it-yourself acrylic nail set that I'm sure you're gonna appreciate more than me. And the other ones are ankle weights, remember when we said we were gonna get in shape?

She notices her hair.

DIANE

Oh my God. Allison! What the hell did you do to your hair?

ALLISON
It's makeover Monday.

DIANE
It's Friday.

ALLISON
Oh.

DIANE
It's so dark in here.

She opens all the curtains. Allie squints and covers her eyes with her hand. Dust in the air.

ALLISON
No, please, don't open that.
That's so bright.

DIANE
Did you go to physical therapy?

ALLISON
Well, I tried, but I overslept.

DIANE
Allie.

ALLISON
What? I don't need PT.

DIANE
Allie, your hair.

She comes over and runs her hands through it.

ALLISON
You don't like it?

DIANE
I just don't understand why you
would cut your own hair.

ALLISON
The girl said it was easy. It's
not.

DIANE
What girl?

ALLISON
A girl on Youtube. She's an
influencer. She influenced me.

Diane picks up dirty dishes.

DIANE

It's such a pigsty in here. I'm not happy about this.

ALLISON

Hey, mamma, can you tell me where my pills are?

DIANE

Which ones?

ALLISON

Ha.

DIANE

We said we were gonna wean off of those.

ALLISON

Did "we"? Well, "we" are in pain. So "we" need more.

DIANE

They're not gonna give you anymore.

ALLISON

They have to.

DIANE

No, they do not.

ALLISON

I need them.

Diane sits down on the ottoman opposite Allie.

DIANE

Listen to me. You're not in any physical pain anymore. Have you been doing that tapping thing that one shrink taught you? Remember, for anxiety and stress and it calms you down? On the eyes, then the lips...

Diane demonstrates by tapping on her cheek bone.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Or play your piano. That always cheered you up...

ALLISON

Please don't do this right now; I have the worst headache. Can you call the doctors and help me please?

DIANE

Which one, Patel? He said no more.

ALLISON

Fuck Patel. Try Goldberg or Fong.

DIANE

Allie...

ALLISON

Please, mom. Just call them. Just help me please?

DIANE

Guess what? They've all said no more. Patel. Goldberg. Fong. Rosenberg.

ALLISON

I'll try Vromen. He loves me.

DIANE

He's an orthodontist.

ALLISON

Yeah, but he used to flirt with me while his fingers were in my mouth. Very inappropriate; he owes me.

DIANE

Enough is enough. You got to get out of this living room, take off your pajamas, and go get a job. I'm sick of this crap.

ALLISON

Like you have any right to lecture me about medicating yourself.

DIANE

What is that supposed to mean?

ALLISON

It means, mom, you're such a fucking hypocrite. You don't think I clock how many Xanax you're taking every night?

(MORE)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Or how many glasses of wine? I know you think I'm just a zombie who doesn't notice anything, but I see exactly what's going on with you. So can I have my pills please?

DIANE

You're not listening to me.
They're all gone.

Allison gets up and charges upstairs. Diane follows.

10

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

10

Allison enters and starts opening drawers and cabinets.

DIANE

You get right back here, you little brat. What the hell do you think you're doing?! Get out of here!

Diane tries to physically stop her from riffling through her drawers, but Allison is on a mission.

ALLISON

Get off me!

DIANE

Look at yourself! What the hell is the matter with you?!

ALLISON

You are hurting me!

DIANE

Stop it!

She finds a canister of Oxy. Diane slams the bathroom door to keep her from escaping.

ALLISON

Open the door.

DIANE

No.

ALLISON

Mom, open the fucking door and let me out.

DIANE

No. Enough. I'm sick and tired of this.

ALLISON

Let me the fuck out!

DIANE

No!

Diane grabs the canister from Allie. They wrestle and knock things all over the place. Allie's elbow SHATTERS THE GLASS IN THE CLOSET DOOR. Diane manages to get the canister open and pour all of the pills into the toilet bowl. Allison SCREAMS and gets on her knees to try to start fishing them out, but Diane flushes the toilet.

INSERT: All of the little pills swirl down the drain.

ALLISON

Why the fuck did you do that?! I'm in pain. Your daughter is in actual pain.

DIANE

I don't give a shit!

ALLISON

I fucking hate you so much.

DIANE

You're bleeding.

Allison runs out of the bathroom. Diane chases her.

11

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

11

Allie runs down the stairs and out the front door. Her elbow is bleeding.

DIANE

You come back here right now.

ALLISON

Leave me the fuck alone.

DIANE

I'm not going to leave you alone, you little brat.

12 EXT. DIANE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

12

Allie hops on a BMX bicycle and rides off.

DIANE

Allison!

ALLISON

Leave me alone.

DIANE

Where are you going?!

ALLISON

Leave me alone!

13 EXT. NEW HIGH SCHOOL - SOCCER FIELD - DAY

13

Ryan (now 16) appears hardened after a year of grieving the loss of her two parents. Daniel sits in the stands.

DANIEL

Let's go Ryan!!!

Ryan dribbles down the field, weaving around lots of other girls. She attempts to score, but she kicks it far off to the side.

RYAN

Fuck.

GABRIELLA (16, Hispanic) jogs up alongside her.

GABRIELLA

So you're the Ryan who's been talking to Damien?

RYAN

Get the fuck outta my face.

GABRIELLA

See, you talk to people like that, bitch, that's why you have no friends.

RYAN

Then why are you hitting on me.

GABRIELLA

I ain't the one named "Ryan."
That's a fucking dyke's name. You
a dyke?

RYAN

Only when I fuck your mother.

GABRIELLA

At least I have a mother.

That stops Ryan dead in her tracks. She turns and gets right in the Gabriella's face.

RYAN

What the fuck did you just say?

Gabriella SHOVES her.

DANIEL

(from sideline)

Hey!

GABRIELLA

Stay away from Damien, you fucking whore.

Gabriella SPITS in Ryan's face.

DANIEL

Hey! What the hell are you doing?!
Ref! Break it up!

Ryan throws a huge punch to her face, but Gabriella dodges it and lands a KNOCKOUT BLOW to Ryan's left eye. Ryan goes down to the ground. Daniel leaps to his feet and runs onto the field. It's chaos as the coaches and parents try to stop other girls from fighting. WHISTLES BLOWING.

Daniel makes it to Ryan who starts walking off the field.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What the hell was that? What are you doing?

RYAN

I quit. I hate this fucking game.

DANIEL

Cause you got in a fight? That's not you, Ryan. You're tough. You're not a quitter.

Tears start flowing down her face. She stops and turns back to him.

RYAN

She made fun of Mom.

DANIEL

What?

RYAN

She said, 'At least I have a mom.'

DANIEL

Well, then fuck her.

Daniel puts his arm around Ryan as they walk off.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

And what kind of punch was that,
by the way? You threw a hard right-
hook, but then you left yourself
completely open for a jab. We're
gonna need to work on that.

14 EXT. PHARMACY - LATER

14

Allie rides her bike up to the pharmacy and drops it
outside the door.

15 INT. PHARMACY - MOMENTS LATER

15

Allie, in her robe and sweats, bites her nails waiting to
talk to the female PHARMACIST. She steps up to the
counter and puts on a big, fake smile.

ALLISON

Hi, I need to get a prescription
refilled. Last name is Johnson.
Birthday is 8/24.

PHARMACIST

OK. For which medication?

ALLISON

Uh... the Oxy. Oxycontin.

The Pharmacist types away on her keyboard.

PHARMACIST

It says here that you're out of
refills. I see that you've been on
them for over a year now. Your
doctor may be trying to wean you
off of them. As I'm sure you know,
they can be very addictive.

ALLISON
Oh, really? I hadn't fucking heard
that.

The Pharmacist stares at her. Allie tries to buy it back.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Look, I was in a really
bad car accident and I need them
for pain.

PHARMACIST
Just now?

ALLISON
No! What?

PHARMACIST
Your elbow is bleeding.

ALLISON
It's fine.

PHARMACIST
Let me get you a bandage.

ALLISON
I don't need a fucking bandage.
It's fine.

PHARMACIST
Then take this.

She hands her a PAMPHLET on opioid addiction.

ALLISON
Yeah. This is exactly what I need.
Thank you so much.

Allison take the pamphlet and holds it on her bloody
elbow like a bandage.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
Thank you! It feels so much better
already! Bitch.

Allie storms down the aisle, stealing a package of "Hello
Kitty" barrettes on her way out.

Allie's on a dusty Peloton bike racing as fast as she
can. Sweating.

- 17 INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S BATHROOM - LATER 17
- Allie rifles under the sink. She opens empty canister after canister; tossing them on the floor. There's dozens of them. She sits down on the floor and notices a wrinkled picture on the cabinet shelf. She takes it out.
- INSERT PHOTO: Allison and Nathan making multiple silly faces in a black-and-white photo booth.
- She looks over to see a bottle of COLD MEDICINE under the sink. She grabs it and chugs half the bottle. She closes her eyes and waits for it to kick in.
- 18 INT. ALLISON'S CAR - FLASHBACK 18
- Allie, Molly and Jesse in the car at the moment of impact. GLASS EVERYWHERE. BLOODY AIRBAGS.
- 19 INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S BATHROOM - LATER 19
- Allie snaps out of her nightmare. She's drenched in sweat; still on the bathroom floor.
- 20 EXT. STREETS - MORNING 20
- Allie, dressed in a business suit, rides her BMX bike down the street.
- 21 INT. POSH RESTAURANT - MORNING 21
- Breakfast at a white-tablecloth restaurant. Allie enters and waves to her friend, BECKA.
- BECKA
- Hey!
- ALLISON
- Hi.
- BECKA
- Oh my God, I love your hair! It's so chic. Who did it?
- ALLISON
- Oh... I have a new gal.
- They hug and sit.

BECKA

I was so happy to hear from you
cause you haven't replied to any
of my texts. I mean, of course I
wanted to give you your space, but
I've been worried.

A WAITER approaches.

WAITER

Hi, good morning. Can I get you
anything?

ALLISON

Can I please get a Jack and Coke?

WAITER

Uh... Our bar doesn't actually
open until 11.

ALLISON

Oh, uh, yeah, ok. Just black
coffee then.

BECKA

Oat milk latte, please.

ALLISON

So, how's work? You're still at
Purdue, right?

BECKA

Yup, still repping Purdue. You'd
think it woulda been a shit-show
since the bankruptcy and all the
lawsuits. But, between you and me,
my sales have actually increased.
My bonus was insane last quarter.

ALLISON

It sells itself.

BECKA

Yeah, Karl Marx was wrong. It
turns out the opiate of the
masses... is opium.

(beat)

Anyway. How are you doing? When
are you gonna go back to work?

ALLISON

Listen, I'm gonna cut right to it
cause you're my friend, and I know
you'll get it.

(MORE)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I'm still in a lot of pain, and my docs are cutting off my Oxy scrips cause everyone is so freaked out about addiction these days. And I was wondering...

BECKA

Allie, please tell me you didn't ask me to breakfast to hit me up for pills.

ALLISON

It's just until I can get in to see my docs. My fucking mother flushed my last refill down the toilet.

BECKA

No way. Are you fucking with me right now? If you have a problem, you should get help. I can help you find a rehab.

ALLISON

Please don't hand me a pamphlet, I've already got one.

BECKA

(whispers)

Well, then find them on the street if you have to. Every bar in town's got a guy with a pharmacy in his front pocket.

ALLISON

You know, Becka... I didn't really want it to come to this, but there were a handful of things that happened at your bachelorette party that I have a feeling you'd like kept private.

Becka turns white.

BECKA

Allison, are you trying to blackmail me for Oxycontin?

ALLISON

I'm just asking for your help... as a friend.

(beat)

But you did blow that dancer.

(MORE)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I know it was only for a second.
But you did. I saw it.

BECKA

It never went in my mouth.

ALLISON

It was in your mouth. Past the
tip.

(beat)

Past the fucking tip.

Becka stands up sending silverware CLANKING.

BECKA

You need help, Allie. Destroy my
life if you need to. But for the
love of God, get some fucking
help.

ALLISON

OK. Bye. Fuck you.

BECKA

Fuck you!

She speeds off as the waiter brings Allie her coffee.

ALLISON

I don't have any money, so...
forget it.

WAITER

It's OK. Take it.

(whispers)

I put some tequila in it.

Allie looks confused, then takes a sip.

ALLISON

That's disgusting. But thank you.

PRELAP: A SCHOOL BELL RINGS.

Daniel sits with his hat in his lap in a chair outside an
office door in an empty hallway. The door opens, SANDRA
KEEN (Ryan's Guidance Counselor) steps out.

23

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

23

Daniel and Sandra sit with ALBERTO REYES (Principal of the School).

SANDRA

Thank you for coming in. We met briefly when you first registered Ryan.

DANIEL

Yeah. You played soccer at Rutgers.

SANDRA

Yes! Good memory.

DANIEL

Not really. I just like to root for Jersey.

SANDRA

OK, this is our principal, Alberto Reyes.

DANIEL

Oh. I don't think I've met a principal since I was in high school myself. I already feel like I'm in trouble.

Albert

No, no. Mr. Adams. Not at all. We're happy you're here. Please have a seat.

DANIEL

OK, so what did Ryan do now?

Sandra

Ryan is very smart, Mr. Adams. And she's an incredible athlete, as you know. But she's having a very hard time assimilating into any peer groups here. She's also very often hostile to her teachers, and of course, there was the fight on the field the other day.

DANIEL

Well, now that girl said some horrible things to her about her mother.

Albert

Look, we really have been as patient and empathetic as we possibly can knowing the tragedy that occurred and how she must be grieving.

DANIEL

You know, it's a whole lot different even from when I raised my kids. These phones and the shit they see on the internet... Sorry, I'm cursing in front of the principal.

SANDRA

Mr. Adams, we want to do everything we can to help Ryan. But she has to take some responsibility for her behavior.

DANIEL

That child doesn't listen to a word I say. To be honest, I was hoping you were calling me in to give me some advice. I need help.

ALBERT

It's just that we're a public school. We have 2000 kids to look after. We just don't have the bandwidth to micromanage her in a way she needs and deserves.

DANIEL

What are you saying?

ALBERT

I'm gonna give her an extra strike because of the circumstances. But if she doesn't tone down her language with her teachers or gets in one more fight, we're gonna have to expel her.

This lands heavy on Daniel.

24

INT. DIVE BAR - DAY

24

Allie sits down at the sticky bar. This place is gross; you can smell it just by seeing it. A FEW GUYS watch a horse race on TV. A SCARY GUY plays pinball.

ALLISON
Double tequila, neat.

Allie looks down the bar and sees two guys she recognizes from high school: MARK (27) and DIEGO (28). She quickly looks away and down at her watch, a men's Rolex.

MARK
Allison. Yo. I know you. It's Mark.

ALLISON
Yeah. Hey.

MARK
Yeah. I haven't seen you since high school. You remember Diego?

ALLISON
Hey.

DIEGO
Hey.

MARK
Just having a lil breakfast?

ALLISON
Oh. Yeah. Had to get outta the house.

MARK
Yeah, I feel that.

DIEGO
Hey, I heard what happened to you. The accident. Saw it in the *Star Ledger*. Sorry.

MARK
What happened?

DIEGO
She was in that accident on the turnpike. Two people died.

MARK
Holy shit. That was you. Bro, that would've fucked me up.

ALLISON
It wasn't my fault.

MARK

I'm sure, but still.

Allie shoots down her whole drink. The DINGS and BELLS from the pinball machine punctuate their conversation.

ALLISON

Can I have another please?

MARK

You having a tough day?

ALLISON

Just a day. I just wish I could go as far away from here as possible.

DIEGO

There's this app, it tells you the exact opposite of where you are on the globe is. That's where you should go. I'll look it up for you.

The BARTENDER pours her another double tequila. She downs it. DING. BELL. Diego searches the app in his phone.

MARK

That's how I feel every fucking day of my life. But I can't seem to escape this town. It's like there's a force field around it. Some people know how to get out. The rest of us just keep bumping our heads against the glass.

DIEGO

It's Perth. That's the city on the opposite of the globe from here. You should go to Perth.

ALLISON

I don't have any money to get to Perth. But thank you.

DIEGO

Aren't you engaged to Nathan Adams?

ALLISON

I was.

DIEGO

He was an amazing running back in high school. He ran every fucking play. You remember him, Mark?

MARK

Yeah.

DIEGO

Every fucking play, they'd come over the PA like: "Nathan Adams the ball carrier. Nathan Adams the ball carrier." He was the whole fucking team. Remember that, Mark?

MARK

Yeah. I remember him.

DIEGO

Isn't he deaf?

ALLISON

Just in one ear. Since birth.

DIEGO

Wow. That's impressive. That he could be, like, that good, you know. And half deaf.

ALLISON

Yup.

DIEGO

So you're, like, single?

MARK

Dude, shut the fuck up. You think she wants to date you? Where you going to take her? You live with your mom. Goddamn. I'm sorry, Allison. My fucking friend has no tact at all. We're not used to having pretty girls such as yourself coming in here, so please excuse his lack of decor.

ALLISON

Decorum.

MARK

What?

ALLISON

Decor is the Budweiser lamp above your head. *Decorum* is his behavior. Neither is currently ideal.

BELL. DING. Horse race guys CHEER. The tequila has made it to her blood stream.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Can I ask you guys something? Like between us? Old friends...

DIEGO

You weren't our friend. You were popular. You were a bitch.

MARK

That's old shit. Right, Allison? We're all grown up now. Those of us stuck behind that force field... We gotta stick together these days, right?

ALLISON

Do you guys know where I could get any Oxy?

MARK

Goddman, girl! No foreplay? Nothing? No 'how are you, how's your family?'

DIEGO

We don't fuck with pills.

Allison

I'm not saying you do, but something tells me one of you knows how one could get Oxy. Inside the "force field."

DIEGO

No judgement, I'm just saying me personally, I don't fuck with pills. Pills are legend-killers. Prince, Michael Jackson, Belushi.

MARK

Elvis.

DIEGO

Legend-killers.

ALLISON

I remember in high school that you were the guys who could get anything.

MARK

Now you're just buttering us up.

ALLISON

I don't have any money.

DIEGO

How are you gonna pay for that tequila?

ALLISON

I hadn't gotten that far.

DIEGO

Is that Rolex real?

Allie covers the watch with her other hand.

MARK

Wait. Ms. Allie Johnson, you just stroll in here you got no money, and you expect us to get you Oxy for free. And then you want us to pay for your drink. Now why the hell would we do that?

ALLISON

Nostalgia? We're old friends.

DIEGO

You thought you were such hot shit in high school. You're no different now.

MARK

Shut up. Sorry. No decorum.

ALLISON

He's right.

(beat)

I didn't think I was better than you, I knew it. I looked down on guys like you and thought you were Jersey trash who'd never be able to get out of town. Oops.

DIEGO

Fucking bitch.

MARK

And now here you are. Sitting right beside us; looking for a fix.

ALLISON

A favor.

MARK

The favor is a fix. You're a fucking junkie now.

ALLISON

No, I'm not.

MARK

You're a fucking junky.

DIEGO

Yeah, you are.

ALLISON

I'm not like you.

MARK

Allie Johnson, you're more like who you think we are, than we actually are. Why don't you try saying it?

(beat)

Come on, say it. "I'm a fucking junkie." You might like it.

ALLISON

Fuck you. It's a pill.

MARK

It's heroin in a pretty dress.

He leans in. Menacing. BELL. DING. PINBALL MACHINE MUSIC.

MARK (CONT'D)

Say, "I'm a fucking junkie."

ALLISON

I thought you were the nice one.

MARK

You want us to take care of you? Why don't you say it? Say "I'm a fucking junkie" and I'll get you whatever you want. Anything. Say it. Just come out with it.

ALLISON

I'm asking for a favor. I'll owe you one.

MARK

You know who never has any money, Allie Johnson?

ALLISON

Who?

MARK

Junkies. Tell me you're a fucking junkie, and I'll get you whatever you need.

ALLISON

I'm currently a bit reliant...

MARK

No, that's not what I fucking said. You sneaky little bitch, that's not what I fucking said.

(to Diego)

Is that what I said?

DIEGO

No.

MARK

That is not what I said. Say you're a fucking junkie. Look at me...

Her giant eyes fill. Mark SLAMS his hand on the bar to get her attention.

MARK (CONT'D)

Look at me! Look me in the eyes and say, "I'm a fucking junkie."

DIEGO

Say it.

ALLISON

I'm a fucking junkie.

MARK

Good girl.

(to bartender)

Beth, I got these tequilas. I'm sorry for raising my voice. Were just catching up. Allie, this is Beth. She's divine.

25 EXT. DIVE BAR - BACK DOOR - LATER 25

Mark and Diego pack a glass pipe.

ALLISON
That's not Oxy.

MARK
Same exact shit.

Mark smokes the heroin through a glass pipe off of a piece of tinfoil and passes it to Allie. She smokes it.

HARD CUT TO BLACK.

26 INT. DIVE BAR - BACK STAIRS - LATER 26

Allie's asleep on the dirty back stairs of the bar. She wakes up and vomits.

27 INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 27

Allison enters through the back door looking nauseous in her wrinkled business suit to find a distraught Diane. She's on the phone and chain-smoking.

DIANE
(into phone)
She just walked in.

She hangs up and runs to hug Allison.

DIANE (CONT'D)
Oh my God. Where have you been? I was so worried.

ALLISON
I'm so sorry. I'm sorry. I need help.

DIANE
Oh, baby. I never should have flushed those pills down the toilet. I had no right. I'm so sorry. I'm just so worried about you.

ALLISON
Can you help me please, mamma?

DIANE
I already did. Here...

She reaches into her pocket and pulls out a canister.

DIANE (CONT'D)
I got these from Linda, the gal
that runs the toy kiosk next to me
at the mall. They gave them to her
after she got punched by a shop-
lifter, but she never needed them.
She just swears by her neck brace.
Not like you, baby. You need them.
So here, these are from Linda.

She places them in Allison's hand and closes her fingers.

DIANE (CONT'D)
We'll tackle beating it later.
Let's not rush it. What's most
important is that you're home
safe.

Allie looks down at them in her hand.

28

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

28

Allison sits on the floor in front of Diane on the couch,
high on Oxy. Diane wields scissors, cleaning up the
haircut.

DIANE
You know, I used to cut my
grandmother's hair.

ALLISON
Well, don't make me look like her.

DIANE
Oh, stop it. Granny Annie was
beautiful. Skin like a porcelain
doll until the day she died. I was
just a little girl. I couldn't
believe she was letting me cut her
hair. I felt so special.

ALLISON
She probably just wanted to be
with you.

INSERT: THE SCAR FROM THE ACCIDENT on the back of Allie's
head. Diane gently runs her fingers across it.

DIANE

Yeah, you're probably right. I liked to think it's cause I was so good at it, but I was only seven, so...

ALLISON

Oh my God, mom. You've been telling me you cut hair my whole life, you never told me you were seven.

They both share a hearty laugh. A release.

DIANE

What can I say? I was a prodigy. They say Mozart wrote his best shit before puberty.

They CRACK UP.

29

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

29

Daniel returns home carrying Chinese food.

DANIEL

Ryan?

As he walks in the house, MUSIC coming from upstairs THUMPS louder and louder.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Ry! I got sweet and sour chicken and beef and broccoli. Ryan?

He walks upstairs and opens her bedroom door to reveal Ryan and QUINN (20) making out in bed together. Ryan wears a bra. Quinn is down to his boxers.

30

INT./EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - RYAN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

30

RYAN

Daniel! Get out!!

Quinn leaps out of bed and heads for the window. Daniel drops the Chinese food bags and pins the shirtless boy by his neck against the wall.

QUINN

Woah, woah. Calm down, it's not what you think.

DANIEL

I'm pretty sure it's what I think.
How old are you?

RYAN

Daniel! Get off of him.

DANIEL

Shut up! I said, how old are you?

QUINN

I'm 20.

DANIEL

She's 16, and I was a cop. Looks
like you picked the wrong girl.

RYAN

You're choking him!

QUINN

She said she was 18 online.

DANIEL

If I ever see you anywhere near my
Granddaughter again, I'm gonna rip
your fucking dick off myself and
shove it down your throat. You
hear me?

QUINN

Yes.

DANIEL

You want that to happen?

QUINN

Get my dick ripped off? No, that
sounds horrible.

DANIEL

Now get the fuck out of here.

QUINN

I need my clothes.

DANIEL

They're in my house, so they're my
clothes now. Run away.

RYAN

Daniel, get out of my fucking
room!

Quinn runs out of the room and out the front door. Daniel pulls Quinn's DRIVERS LICENSE out of his WALLET and examines it. Quinn runs in his boxers to his car. Daniel screams after him.

DANIEL
Hey, look, everybody! Statutory
rapist from Williamsburg!

Some neighbors turn and stare.

QUINN
I need my keys!

Daniel grabs them out of his jeans. And throws them out.

DANIEL
Here you go! Look at him! He's
traveling to his car! Statutory
rapist!

BELINDA (60's, neighbor) is watering her lawn. She stares at naked Quinn.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Belinda, I just found that boy in
bed with my Ryan.

QUINN
(to Belinda)
She said she was 18 online.

She sprays him in the groin with her hose.

BELINDA
You're a fuck boy. He's a fuck
boy. That's what the kids call
them. Get out of our neighborhood,
fuck boy! Right fucking now, wet
flaccid fuck boy!

BACK INSIDE:

RYAN
I can't believe you just did that!

DANIEL
Give me your phone. Give me the
fucking phone right now. You are
grounded, young lady. You are
grounded until... I can't even
think of a time right now that you
won't be grounded.

RYAN

You can't just lock me up, Daniel.

DANIEL

For the last fucking time, Ryan,
you call me "Grandpa!"

He slams the door shut.

RYAN

I hate you! I fucking hate you!

31 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 31

Daniel crosses into the kitchen. He closes his eyes, seething with rage. He bangs his head on a cabinet and then opens it. He slides a blender aside to reveal a BOTTLE OF WHISKEY. He brings it down and places it on the counter.

He steps back and stares at it. It's a stand-off. He crosses to it and twists off its cap and places it beside the bottle. Then backs up to stare it again.

32 EXT. SUBURBAN ROADS/CHURCH - MORNING 32

Allison rides her bike while looking at SCRAP OF PAPER with an address on it. She rides up to a small church and locks her bike out front. She covertly fishes out a pill from her pocket and is about to take it, but she stops herself and breaks it in half before swallowing it.

33 INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY 33

Allie sheepishly walks into an NA meeting that's about to begin. People are mingling and getting coffee. Just as she's about to sit, she looks up to see Daniel. They make eye contact. She races out the door.

34 INT. CHURCH LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER 34

Allison races out. Daniel trails behind her.

DANIEL

Allison. Don't go.

ALLISON

This was a mistake.

DANIEL

No, it wasn't. Trust me, I know how hard it is to get yourself here. It's close to impossible, and you did it. Don't run away now because of me.

ALLISON

There's a million of these meetings; I'll find another one.

DANIEL

But this one has the best snacks.

ALLISON

I wanna go.

DANIEL

If you came this far, you shouldn't.

ALLISON

I don't wanna be here.

DANIEL

No one does at first.

ALLISON

I don't wanna be anywhere.

DANIEL

Then you're definitely in the right spot.

ALLISON

I thought you were sober.

DANIEL

I've been sober 10 years. I slacked off from coming regularly and recently I started realizing I could really use the support.

ALLISON

Because of what happened?

DANIEL

What? No, no, no.

ALLISON

Is the accident the reason you had to come back?

DANIEL

No! It's always good to...

ALLISON

Daniel! Am I the reason you're here?!

DANIEL

Yes! Yes! Of course! What the fuck do you want me to say?! Yes!

He's instantly sorry. And collects himself.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Look... I've got 10 years, and lately I would really like a drink. This works.

ALLISON

Thank you. I'm going to find somewhere else. There are thousands of these meetings.

DANIEL

There are. But somehow you ended up at this one. Now isn't that something?

He puts out his hand. She stares at it.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Come on.

She takes his hand, and he slowly leads her back inside.

35

INT. CHURCH HALL - MOMENTS LATER

35

They reenter the meeting. SIMONE (tough, 40's) is starting the meeting. Under the below dialogue: Daniel walks Allie to an open seat. She takes it. Daniel finds a seat across the circle.

SIMONE

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is the regular meeting of the "Live and Let Live" group of Alcoholics Anonymous. My name is Simone and I'm an alcoholic and your secretary. Let us open the meeting with a moment of silence to do with as you wish, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

A beat of silence. Allie stares at her Converse, too afraid to look up.

GROUP

God, grant me the serenity to
accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I
can, and the wisdom to know the
difference.

Allie looks up to make eye contact with Daniel. He gives her a friendly nod.

36

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

36

Diane sits on a daybed with a book and a cigarette as Allison approaches.

DIANE

Hey, you got up awfully early this morning.

ALLISON

I went to an NA meeting.

DIANE

Really? Oh, I'm so happy to hear that. Look at you.

ALLISON

I'm not saying I'm gonna go again.

DIANE

Well you have to start somewhere. And you did. So that's good.

ALLISON

I saw Daniel there.

DIANE

Daniel who?

ALLISON

Nate and Molly's dad Daniel. My almost father-in-law.

DIANE

Oh my God. What did you say? You didn't talk to him did you?

ALLISON

I tried to leave. But he told me to stay.

DIANE

We've got a whole 'nother year before the statute of limitations is up. Stay far away from him.

ALLISON

It wasn't like that. He was nice. He's raising Ryan.

DIANE

That's what I'd heard.

ALLISON

He looked so much older. Like an old grey statue in a park.

DIANE

I'll bet. It's like presidents.

ALLISON

What?

DIANE

Remember how young Obama looked when he won? Like, two days later, his hair was grey. It's like they took him into some secret bunker and told him just how fucked everything is, and he came out looking 10 years older. Well you're on your way. Just keep on going to those meetings. "It works if you work it." That's one of their sayings.

ALLISON

I don't know if I'm gonna be able to just quit, mom. I think I need real help. Like an inpatient kinda thing.

DIANE

Well, neither of us has any insurance, so how the hell are we supposed to pay for it, Allie? You need to get a job.

ALLISON

Who's gonna hire me like this, mom?

DIANE

You're a 26-year-old, beautiful woman. You're smart, you're funny...

ALLISON

You're describing the old me.

DIANE

You're still you.

ALLISON

No, I'm not. I'm something else now... something...

Silence.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I was thinking maybe dad was gonna give me a wedding gift. I mean, I'm sure he was gonna at least come, right? Maybe instead of whatever he was gonna give me, he could help me pay for help.

DIANE

Ha.

ALLISON

Would you call him for me?

DIANE

Allie, I will never speak to that man again as long as I live. He packed his car and left us with nothing.

(beat)

I'm sorry that you only have me. That isn't... that isn't what I had planned for you. But it is what it is, and you gotta pick yourself up. Now.

ALLISON

Thanks, mom. I'm sorry I can't get over this as fast as you want me to.

She walks off.

37

EXT. DUCK POND - DAY

37

Daniel sits on a bench feeding the ducks. Nathan approaches. The ducks all scatter.

DANIEL

Well, look who it is.

NATHAN

Hi, Dad.

DANIEL

What brings you to the less-glamorous side of the river?

NATHAN

Ryan asked me to come see her. Turns out, she really wanted me to talk to you. She's worried about you.

DANIEL

She's worried about me? That girl is crazy.

NATHAN

She says she thinks you need a friend.

Nathan sits.

DANIEL

I don't need a friend, I need a dog-crate the size of a teenager. Look, I understand why you wanted to move away after the breakup, but I never imagined I'd be doing this all by myself.

NATHAN

You raised two kids.

DANIEL

Yeah, but I had your mother. And you and your sister were so well behaved compared to Ry.

Nathan shakes his head.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What? Speak your mind, son.

NATHAN

We were "good" because we were terrified of you. So, I'm not surprised you don't have any tools in your arsenal, since you lost the only one you had; fear.

DANIEL

Oh, c'mon, Nathan. When are you gonna let all that go, huh? I've apologized a hundred times to you for the way I was. I can't go back. I was a drunk; I've done the work. I got 10 years, man. Your sister found a way to give me a second chance. Why can't you?

NATHAN

Cause Molly never really got the brunt of it, did she? I protected her.

DANIEL

I guarantee you if she was standing here right now she'd be begging you to let it go and help me raise her child.

NATHAN

Well, she isn't.

DANIEL

No, she is not. So, there's no future for us then? All we've got are pleasantries: "Hey, how are ya?" "Good. You?" That's all we've got until they shovel me into a fucking hearse? We should be here for each other, Nathan. We're all we've got left.

NATHAN

I gotta catch the train.

Nathan stands and starts to leave.

DANIEL

I saw Allie.

He stops and turns back around.

NATHAN

Where?

DANIEL
I'm not supposed to say.

NATHAN
AA?

DANIEL
I'm not supposed to say.

NATHAN
Why the hell does she need AA?

DANIEL
I'm not supposed...

NATHAN
...to say. I got it. Of all the meetings, she has to go to yours?

DANIEL
She saw me and tried to run away.
I pulled her back in.

NATHAN
Why?

DANIEL
Because she's suffering, Nate.
Broken. Lost.

NATHAN
You're the one who blamed her! I stood by her.

DANIEL
Yeah, until she left your ass.
(beat, that stung)
Sorry. That came out harsher than I meant it to.

NATHAN
I have to catch the train.

DANIEL
Nate. I need help.

NATHAN
Look, Ryan asked me to come by and say hi to you. And I did.

DANIEL
OK, well... Hi.

Nathan walks off.

38

EXT. SOUTH ORANGE TRAIN STATION - LATER

38

Nathan waits for his train. He taps a VIDEO on his phone.

PHONE INSERT: The VIDEO is the moment Nathan mentioned in his toast at the engagement party. It's Allison playing the piano at the bar and serenading him. He holds the camera out in selfie-mode to include himself.

NATHAN

(IN VIDEO)

Best first date ever!

Allie LAUGHS in the video. Nathan freezes it on her smile. He thinks for a moment. His thumb hovers over the DELETE BUTTON. He pushes it.

39

INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY

39

The group sits in a circle. Allie is there.

DANIEL

I used to drink whiskey until I blacked out. Wake up in the morning to find out what I'd done; who I'd been. My father was a drunk, and he beat me right up until the day he died. So I promised myself I'd never lay a hand on my children. And I didn't...

(beat)

when I was sober. But in the blackness, I did. I'd always deny it in the morning. Because the truth is, I didn't remember. Sometimes there'd be a bruise. "Oh, you must have fallen. I'm your daddy, I'd never hurt you." August 11th, '99, I awoke on my front porch to the sound of both the church bells and the ice cream truck. I knew that meant Sunday. First thing I saw was my Captain standing over me; poking my rib cage with his nightstick. An ambulance. My son, Nathan... sitting on the back bleeding from his head. The medics had bought him a popsicle. It turns out that in the blackness I'd beat him so badly he lost the hearing in his right ear. Forever.

Allison's eyes widen in shock. She never knew.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

To this day, every time I see him,
I beg him for his forgiveness.
It's just a little dance we do...
merely a formality. Because we
both know that some things are
just too impossible to forgive.
Yeah. I do think even God knows
that.

He makes eye contact with Allie. She meets his gaze.

40

INT. DINER - DAY

40

Daniel and Allison sit awkwardly in a booth. He has a mug
of black coffee, she has a glass of water, no ice.

DANIEL

When I was a cop, I'd eat here all
the time. Free coffee refills.

She flips the pages on the TINY TABLE-SIDE JUKEBOX.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Are you hungry?

ALLISON

No.

DANIEL

It's funny how many things you
stop caring about, huh? I used to
wanna travel. I used to flip
through National Geographic and
dog ear the exotic places I'd one
day visit once I retired. I'll
never do that now.

ALLISON

You still could.

DANIEL

I couldn't.

ALLISON

I wasn't drunk you know. Or on
anything.

DANIEL

What?

ALLISON

When I saw you the other day at the meeting, I instantly started worrying that you thought I may have been drinking or on drugs the day of the accident. I was sober. It wasn't my fault.

DANIEL

I've got every report that was written memorized.

ALLISON

So you know it was the backhoe guy's fault. Alvarez.

DANIEL

I don't wanna get into all that.

ALLISON

Yeah. You're right.

(beat)

Nathan told me he'd been deaf since birth.

DANIEL

He never told you?

ALLISON

Maybe he wanted me to like you.

DANIEL

Oh, I doubt that.

(beat)

I thought in raising Ryan I'd have a second chance at being a better father than I ever was, but... I'm in way over my head. I went and got this audio book out of the library about how to talk to a teen...

He laughs. She smiles.

ALLISON

How's that working out?

DANIEL

Well, it's from the 80's... It's on cassettes. It recommended I chaperone a school dance.

(a laugh)

A dance.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I just caught her having sex with a boy who looked like a man. A dance... ha. A dance would be delightful.

ALLISON

Can I give you some advice from a former teenage girl? She's gonna have sex. Nothing you say is gonna stop that. Just make sure she gets on birth control.

DANIEL

Birth control? She's 16. We'll be going the abstinence route.

ALLISON

Well, no offense, but there's a knot in your logic. You're trying to solve the problem by looking away.

(beat)

You know... I could talk to her. If you want.

DANIEL

Oh... No. It's very nice of you to offer. But I don't think it's appropriate.

ALLISON

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Of course. I understand. I don't even know why I said that, it's just... No, it's OK. I just don't think...

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I just felt the need... the instinct to try and help you in some way. It's the least I can do.

(beat)

I don't know how to do this.

DANIEL

What?

ALLISON

Start all over. How do you do that?

DANIEL

Takes work.

ALLISON

Can I tell you a secret?

DANIEL

Sure.

She leans in every so slightly.

ALLISON

(whispers)

I'm not sure I have the will.

He nods. He's been there. He throws a quarter into the little JUKEBOX and plays a song. She notices a TATTOO on his wrist. It says "Amor Fati".

ALLISON (CONT'D)

What does "Amor Fati" mean?

DANIEL

Certain things are private.

ALLISON

Do you think I'm fucked up?

DANIEL

Are you high right now?

ALLISON

No.

DANIEL

Look, I was a cop for 40 years and an addict for 50; so I'm gonna ask you again. Are you high right now?

ALLISON

I broke a pill in half. So half?

DANIEL

Then, yes. I think you're fucked up, Allison. And not half. All fucked up.

ALLISON

Do you think I'll ever pull out of this? I mean, do you think I'll ever be the type of person that people would love to have hang out with their Granddaughter?

DANIEL

I have no idea.

ALLISON

Yeah. Me neither.

He sips his coffee. They listen to the song.

41

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

41

Daniel paints a miniature figurine for his train town as Ryan comes down the stairs and sits half-way down.

RYAN

Can I please have my phone back?

DANIEL

I'm running out of ideas on how to handle you, Ryan.

RYAN

Everyone has sex at my age, Grandpa. I know it was different when you were younger, but that's just, like, not how it is anymore.

Daniel thinks a second, then summons the courage.

DANIEL

Are you... using protection?

RYAN

Oh my God. I am so not gonna talk about this with my grandfather.

DANIEL

Well, how the hell do you think I feel? Look, I know you're upset.

RYAN

I'm not upset.

DANIEL

Maybe you should go see that therapist again.

RYAN

No. I just want my phone back. I don't have any friends at Columbia, and I need to hang onto the few I still have from Long Beach Island.

DANIEL

Why can't you make friends?

RYAN

I've been through a lot this year. And nobody understands. They try.

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

Some. But it's fake. Don't you think most people are so fake?

DANIEL

I'd probably say duplicitous.

RYAN

What does that mean?

DANIEL

Fake.

They both smile.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I'm on your side.

RYAN

I know.

DANIEL

You can have your phone back, if you start taking birth control.

RYAN

Oh my God! Daniel!

DANIEL

Grandpa. Deal? I'll make the appointment.

RYAN

Ugh. Fine. But I never want to talk about sex with you ever again.

DANIEL

Really? Cause I love this shit.

He crosses off to get the phone.

42

EXT. SETON HALL CAMPUS - DAY

42

Allie walks with Simone through the bustling campus.

SIMONE

Have you been on campus before?

ALLISON

Not since I was a kid. I used to come here for swim meets.

SIMONE

You were a swimmer?

ALLISON

Well, I was twelve. But I was pretty damn good. Still got all the ribbons and trophies.

SIMONE

That's cool. What stroke?

ALLISON

Mostly freestyle.

SIMONE

Why'd you stop?

ALLISON

My father left. It was the thing we did together. He'd cheer so loud I could hear him underwater. Seemed kind of pointless to do it without him.

SIMONE

Where'd he go?

ALLISON

Ohio. He started a whole other family in Ohio. He has ten-year-old twins. Not sure if they swim or not.

SIMONE

I'm always amazed by these people who can just up and leave their kids. I don't understand how you could sleep at night.

ALLISON

For so many years, I thought I'd done something wrong; like it was my fault or I let him down somehow. Then I just realized... maybe some people just aren't good.

SIMONE

It's like he just restarted a level in a video game with a fresh life.

ALLISON

That's exactly what he did! He just packed up the car, left his Rolex in the attic of my dollhouse and drove away.

SIMONE

Let's sit for a second.

They sit on a bench.

SIMONE (CONT'D)

Look, I'll sponsor you, but you gotta start taking this seriously. You can't keep coming to meetings high.

ALLISON

What?! How did you know?

SIMONE

Ha. Sweetheart, I was you. And I've helped dozens of women who were you. Some beat it, some are dead. But if you want my time, you gotta commit. I've got a toddler, I don't have time for bullshit.

ALLISON

I do. I really wanna beat it.

SIMONE

OK, well then I want you to do 90 meetings in 90 days, and we're gonna get you started on step 1.

ALLISON

OK.

SIMONE

Also, enough hiding out. It's time you shared with the group.

Off Allie's terrified face.

43

INT. CHURCH HALL - DAY

43

The group sits in a circle. Simone sits across from Allie next to Daniel.

ALLISON

Hi. I'm Allison and I'm... I'm addicted to, uh, pills.

GROUP

Hi Allison.

ALLISON

Sorry. Can I start again? I've never done this before, and I'm nervous.

SIMONE

You got it.

ALLISON

Hi, I'm Allison, and I'm an drug addict.

GROUP

Hi Allison.

ALLISON

Hi. I um. Hmmm. I... I was the driver of a car that was in a bad accident. Two people died. They uh... it was the woman about to become my sister-in-law.

Simone puts it all together and looks at Daniel. Daniel meets her gaze and then looks back to Allison.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

We were going to look at wedding dresses. And then we weren't. It wasn't my fault. I wasn't on drugs or drunk at the time. But, uh... surviving that day, was/is the most painful thing I'll ever have to live through. I got hurt too. They put a hole in my head. Which helped, because at least I had something to blame the pain on. But then that healed, and I was still hurting. And I guess that's why I never noticed how bad it got. Because to me, I was still in so much pain. I was prescribed them for physical pain... and they really did help with that... but they also made me numb. Blissfully numb. Without them I want to die. Every day. I've never said that out loud before. I haven't really ever faced reality without them. And I don't know if I'll be able to handle what I see, but I'm here to try.

(MORE)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

(beat)

OK. That's it. What happens now?

Simone smiles at her.

44

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

44

Daniel and Allison stand around the model train set.

ALLISON

You made all of this?

DANIEL

I assembled and designed it all, yeah. The buildings come in kits you buy, so I put them together and paint them. The schoolhouse I built from scratch.

INSERT: TWO FIGURINES, a pair of kids innocently kissing.

ALLISON

Hey, there's two kids making out back here.

DANIEL

Yeah. That's me.

ALLISON

You were handsome. And tiny.

DANIEL

Ha. My very first kiss behind the school. Olivia Williams. It was fall, the tip of her nose was ice cold, running a bit. She stood on her tiptoes and tasted like bubble gum.

ALLISON

Is that who you married?

DANIEL

Ha. No. She dumped me the next day for Charlie Cook. He smoked Camels and drove a Buick Riviera Roadmaster. Way cooler than me.

ALLISON

Is this all inspired by your life?

DANIEL

Kind of. It's meant to be South Orange. I grew up here. I was a cop in Newark, but I've always lived here.

ALLISON

Who's the soldier?

INSERT: A FIGURINE of a young soldier in uniform smiling ear to ear as he races towards his beaming father.

DANIEL

That's me the day I got home from Vietnam. That's my father picking me up from the station.

ALLISON

This is incredible. How long did this take you?

DANIEL

Oh... years. I started with a single figure-eight and a two-car train. Just an engine and a caboose. I would just watch it go around and around. I work on it when I can. I've had a lot more time since I retired and my wife passed. When Ryan was little she'd hang out down here with me. She liked the whistle and the microphone.

ALLISON

There's a microphone?

DANIEL

Oh yeah, right next to you. How else are you supposed to let your passengers know the train's coming?

She picks up the train whistle and blows it. They both smile. She picks up the CB-style microphone.

ALLISON

(sing into mic)

*Take the last train to Clarksville
And I'll meet you at the station*

(MORE)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

*You can be here by four-thirty
 'Cause I've made your reservation,
 don't be slow
 Oh, no, no, no
 Oh, no, no, no*

DANIEL

*(sings)
 And I don't know if I'm ever
 coming home.*

ALLISON

*Just a little serenade for your
 people from the heavens.*

DANIEL

*I think that's probably one of the
 reasons I enjoy it so much.*

ALLISON

Why? Because you get to play God?

DANIEL

*So much of my life, I've been out
 of control. But down here, I get
 to decide if Olivia Williams
 chooses me, and I get to decide if
 my father shows up to meet me at
 the station when I came home.*

INSERT: FATHER FIGURINE'S BEAMING SMILE.

ALLISON

Did he?

DANIEL

*No. He was passed out drunk in our
 backyard. He'd been face down long
 enough for an inch of snow to have
 collected on his back. The next
 morning at breakfast, he asked me
 if I wanted a beer. I drank a beer
 with him at breakfast and never
 stopped.*

*(beat)
 When did you last talk to Nathan?*

ALLISON

*(through mic)
 Daniel, this is God. Allison would
 like to change the conversation
 now.*

DANIEL

Yeah, I'll bet she does. OK. Lets
get out of here.

45

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

45

They emerge from the basement steps just as Ryan comes in
the front door. Daniel is surprised. Allie goes white.

DANIEL

Oh, Ryan. Wait, it's only 1
o'clock. Why are you home?

RYAN

We had a half-day for the active
shooter drill. I told you this
morning.

DANIEL

Ryan, this is a friend of mine
from the program.

ALLISON

Hi.

RYAN

Hi.

DANIEL

Well, you should probably get
going...

RYAN

Wait. I know you from somewhere.

DANIEL

No, you don't.

ALLISON

You do?

RYAN

How do I know you?

ALLISON

My name is Allison.

RYAN

I've seen you before.

DANIEL

I thought the active shooter
drills ended at two.

RYAN

That's when the pretend shooter fights back. Today, he shot himself, so we got out early. Why do I know you?

ALLISON

I'm not sure what I'm supposed to say.

RYAN

You were Nathan's fiancé.

DANIEL

No.

RYAN

You were in the car.

DANIEL

No.

ALLISON

I was.

RYAN

Weren't you driving? Wasn't she driving?

DANIEL

We're in the program together.

RYAN

But I thought you said it was her fault.

ALLISON

What??

RYAN

How could you bring her into our house?! Get out of our fucking house!

Ryan cannot control the tears that start to stream down her cheeks.

DANIEL

Oh, baby. I'm so sorry. This is my fault. I thought you were at school. Allie, you really gotta go.

RYAN

You ruined my life!

ALLISON

I know. I know that. I'm really sorry.

RYAN

You shouldn't be here! My Mom grew up in this house! I sleep in her bedroom. I use her sheets!

DANIEL

OK, OK, she's going, she's going.

Allison opens the front door. She turns back.

ALLISON

Just in case this is the only time I ever get to talk to you. Please know I wish it was me. Okay? I do.

(beat)

I'm gonna go.

She starts to leave.

RYAN

I never got to say goodbye.

ALLISON

I know.

RYAN

They were going to see a play.

ALLISON

I know.

RYAN

She wanted to see a musical because she loved all the fancy costumes.

ALLISON

I didn't know that.

RYAN

She said you made Nate happy. That you were the best thing that ever happened to him.

ALLISON

He made me happy too. We were a good team. I'm gonna go.

She starts to cry again. Daniel goes to comfort her.
After a beat, Allison starts to exit the front door.

DANIEL
Allison...

ALLISON
Yes.

DANIEL
Would you like to stay for dinner?

RYAN
What?!

Off Allie's unsure face...

46

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

46

The three of them sit around the table finishing pizza.

RYAN
So you're an alcoholic, too?

DANIEL
Ryan.

ALLISON
Alcohol's not really my problem.

RYAN
What is? Meth?

	DANIEL	ALLISON
Ryan.		Ha. No. Not meth.
		Prescription pain killers.

RYAN
Oxy.

DANIEL
How do you know about Oxy?

RYAN
Kids in my school snort it.

DANIEL
It's heroin.

RYAN
No, it's not. I could get it
quicker than I could get a beer!
(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

They sell it at RiteAid! So why
did you dump Uncle Nate?

DANIEL

Ryan.

ALLISON

RYAN

I just...

He said you ghosted him.

DANIEL

That's none of your damn business.

RYAN

I just don't understand how if he
was gonna stay with you, even
after all that happened, why you'd
break up with him?

ALLISON

I was upset, so I ran.

DANIEL

Sounds like you quitting soccer.

RYAN

Shut up.

DANIEL

Don't you say shut up to me ever
again.

ALLISON

Why did you quit soccer?

RYAN

DANIEL

Because I hate every girl She got into a fight.
on the team.

ALLISON

Your parents were bragging to me
about how amazing you were.

RYAN

They did?

ALLISON

Oh yeah. Your Dad said you were
definitely gonna get a
scholarship.

RYAN

I wanna go to Stanford.

DANIEL

Ha.

RYAN

Why are you laughing?

DANIEL

You quit the team! You're mouthing off in school. You're not doing your homework. You think you're gonna get into Stanford?

RYAN

I didn't say I quit the team permanently. I said I wanted to take a break. And I had a 4.0 down the shore, I could get it back in a second if I cared.

ALLISON

Why don't you care?

RYAN

Why do you think?

They stare each other down. Silence.

DANIEL

Why don't we call it a night, huh?

ALLISON

Yeah. I should get going. Hey...

She takes out her journal and jots down her number.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Just in case you ever want to talk, need to talk - this is me. And it's up to you, but I'm here. OK.

Daniel clocks the exchange with concern. Ryan takes the paper. Daniel walks Allie to the foyer. They speak in hushed tones.

DANIEL

I'm sorry about all that. You see what I'm dealing with.

ALLISON

It's fine.

DANIEL

Allie. Look, she's a very fragile kid. I'd appreciate it if you didn't make contact with her.

ALLISON

Oh. OK. I just wanted her to know that I'm available to her if she ever wants to talk.

DANIEL

I'm asking you to please just let her be.

She holds up her hand with the Vulcan salute.

ALLISON

OK. Scout's honor.

DANIEL

You're doing Spock's "Live long and prosper." We scouts do this.

He holds up his two fingers.

ALLISON

I think I prefer Spock. Live long and prosper, Daniel.

She exits the front door.

47

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S BEDROOM - MORNING

47

Allie tries to write a song on her keyboard. She notices the canister of pills in front of her and turns the label facing away.

She plays a few more chords before frustratedly resting her head on the keys making a CLANG.

She sits up, grabs her phone and opens up Instagram. She hesitates a beat. Then types in Nathan's handle. Her thumb floats above his profile in the menu. Just as she's about to push it, she gets a text:

Ryan: *Hey, it's Ryan. Coffee?*

48

INT. COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - INTERCUT

48

Ryan sits alone at an empty table in a packed cafeteria. We INTERCUT between both locations as they text.

Allie: *Daniel asked me to give you some space.*

Ryan: *I wanna know more about that day.*

Allie stares at her phone. After a beat...

Allie: *Go back to the soccer team. Tell Daniel I convinced you.*

Allie: *I'll come to your game. I wanna see you in action.*

Ryan stares at her phone. Allie waits for a reply.

Ryan: *...Fine.*

Allie: *Wait? Really?!!*

Ryan: *Yeah. I'm not gonna let those bitches keep me from Stanford. See ya Saturday.*

Allie smiles faintly. A tiny win.

49

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

49

Daniel and Allison, sitting on opposite ends of the bleachers, cheer as Ryan SCORES A GOAL!

DANIEL

That a girl!

Ryan looks over at them and makes a goofy face. Daniel looks over to see Allie. She looks back at him.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(mouthing from afar)

Thank you.

She smiles. They turn back to the game.

50

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S ROOM - NIGHT

50

Allie tosses and turns in bed. She's covered in sweat and shaking from withdrawal. JUMP CUTS OF INSOMNIA. She tries tapping different parts of her face and chest.

51

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S ROOM - MORNING

51

Allie lies awake in bed. No sleep. HER PHONE DINGS.

Daniel: *Allie, this is Daniel. Maybe it would help for Ryan to talk to you. Coffee with her after school?*

Allie thinks...

52 EXT. HIP COFFEE SHOP - DAY 52

Allie pulls up on her bike and locks it.

53 INT. HIP COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER 53

Allie sits at a table across from Ryan. She looks white from withdrawal.

RYAN

Why do you ride a bike everywhere?

ALLISON

I haven't been in a car since the accident.

RYAN

Cause you feel guilty?

ALLISON

No. Because I feel scared.

RYAN

Daniel says you were on your phone.

Allison looks back at Daniel sitting at a table out of earshot.

ALLISON

I was using MAPS. Everyone uses MAPS.

RYAN

He has all the reports. He's memorized them. He stares at them at night. It's weird.

ALLISON

Well... I was there. Whoever wrote those reports wasn't there.

RYAN

Tell me why you ended it with Nate? My mom would want you guys to be together still.

ALLISON

Well... I don't even know what to say to that.

RYAN

My mom used to really look out for him, you know? And I was thinking like... maybe I'm supposed to now. Cause she can't...

ALLISON

I bet that would make your mom proud.

RYAN

Don't you miss him? I can tell you about what's happening in his life, if you want.

Allie's lungs tighten.

ALLISON

That's OK. Thank you, though. I've been really trying to avoid...

RYAN

He moved to Tribeca.

ALLISON

Wow, OK.

RYAN

He has a dog.

ALLISON

A dog?

RYAN

Yeah, it's a French Bulldog named Jasper.

ALLISON

Wow. He never really struck me as the Frenchie type.

RYAN

Well, it's his girlfriend's.

ALLISON

Oh. I don't need to hear this.

RYAN

Are you OK?

ALLISON

Yeah, I'm fine. It's just... How long have they been going out?

RYAN

Like four months, I think?

ALLISON

Wow.

RYAN

Yeah, she's a paralegal? I don't even know what that is. Is that like a good thing to be?

ALLISON

Yes. Wow.

RYAN

You just keep saying, "Wow."

ALLISON

It's just a lot to take in. I'm so happy for him. He deserves to be happy.

RYAN

I shouldn't have told you.

ALLISON

No. It's fine.

RYAN

But you look so upset now.

ALLISON

He and I went through so much together. I only want good things for him.

RYAN

I'm sorry I upset you. I really meant for this to be friendly.

ALLISON

I'm fine. I'm just gonna go use the bathroom.

She darts for the bathroom. Daniel watches, concerned.

54

INT. HIP COFFEE SHOP - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

54

Allie closes the door to the stall, pulls out her phone and goes as fast as possible to Nathan's Instagram page. She proceeds to look at every picture he has posted.

WE SEE FULLSCREEN FLASHES: the French Bulldog, Nathan laughing, Nathan on a Beach with his girlfriend, the two of them kissing under mistletoe at Christmas, etc. Tears stream down her face as she silently cries at the life that might have been hers.

55

INT. HIP COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

55

Allie reemerges with red eyes passing Daniel's table.

DANIEL

Is something wrong?

ALLISON

Yeah, I just... I forgot I have a job interview. So, I gotta go.

DANIEL

You sick?

ALLISON

Yeah.

DANIEL

Withdrawal?

ALLISON

Trying.

DANIEL

Don't stop.

ALLISON

OK.

DANIEL

Don't use.

ALLISON

OK.

DANIEL

Don't stay home tonight. Go do something.

ALLISON

OK.

DANIEL

Do you need a hug?

ALLISON

If you hug me, I'm going to sob,
so no.

DANIEL

I can handle that.

ALLISON

I better not. In front of Ryan.

DANIEL

OK.

(beat)

I'm hugging you with my eyes.

ALLISON

Thank you.

DANIEL

Be careful.

ALLISON

OK.

She nods and exits the coffee shop, passing Ryan's table,
unable to look at her.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

(in passing)

I have to go, so I'll see you
another time.

RYAN

Bye.

DANIEL

Let's go; these assholes charged
me six dollars for a cup of
coffee.

56

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S BEDROOM - LATER

56

Allie smashes pills with a stapler on her desk and leans
down to snort them into her nose. She paces.

MONTAGE: Allie tripping higher than she's ever been on
Oxy. Imagery from her life FLASHES and RAMPS SPEEDS as
she rides out the tremendous high.

57 INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S BATHROOM - EVENING 57

TIGHT INSERT: the bathtub faucet as it slowly drools from its mouth onto Allison's face. She startles awake as a drop lands in the crease of her eye.

58 INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 58

Allison plays the piano. High.

59 INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S ROOM - LATER 59

She's lying on her bed, staring at the ceiling fan. The blades are covered in dust. High and alone.

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

INTERCUT WITH DIANE IN THE HALLWAY:

DIANE

Allie? Allie? Allie? Did you job-hunt today?

ALLISON

Please leave me alone.

DIANE

Listen, I've been looking on Etsy. I was thinking we could find a craft we both like and sell them. Maybe we could make some extra money that way. Whaddya think?

Allie shakes her head. She's trapped and very fucking depressed. Her phone chimes. Someone!

Ryan: *I'm so sorry.*

Allison: *Don't be! I'm fine!*

Ryan: *Wanna do something?*

DIANE (CONT'D)

Something fun. Like baby bibs. Or invent our own salad dressing? Allie, we could be on *Shark Tank*! Can you imagine? And I know you're like, "Shut up, mom, you're drunk again," but listen...

60

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - INTERCUT

60

Ryan sits on the couch painting her nails.

Allison: *I can't. I'm writing a song.*

Ryan: *This super hot guy I know is going to see a band play in the city. Please come! I HAVE NO FRIENDS! LOL!*

Allison: *Don't think Daniel would be cool with us going to the city.*

DIANE (O.S.)

I just thought of the best idea.
We could do paper mache!

Ryan: *OK. Well I'm taking the 8:10pm train from South Orange station. If I get kidnapped, it's your fault!*

BACK AT ALLISON'S:

Allie throws her phone and shakes her head. She looks up at herself in the makeup mirror.

DIANE (CONT'D)

"Hey, Sharks, I'm Diane and this is my associate. Allison. And this is our... you know, whatever..."

ALLISON

(to herself in
mirror)

You weak piece of shit. Couldn't go two days. I fucking hate you. I hate you so much.

DIANE

Allie, do you remember when you were in the fourth grade and you built that giant mitochondrion? Someone would buy that, I promise you! "Hey, Sharks, you know how everyone loves paper mache?"

Allie leaps up and opens her bedroom door.

61

INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

61

Allie comes out and steps over her mom.

DIANE

I knew you'd like that idea!

She walks to the bathroom holding a canister of pills and slams the door.

62 INT. DIANE'S HOUSE - ALLISON'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 62

She stares in the mirror, grabs the canister, opens it up without pausing and dumps the entire vial of pills in her mouth. A lethal dose. She keeps them in her mouth. She's about to swallow.

A QUICK FLASH OF NATHAN LOOKING INTO THE LENS.

She spits them all out and watches them slide down the sink drain. She sits on the side of the tub. Terrified.

63 EXT. SOUTH ORANGE TRAIN STATION - NIGHT 63

Ryan waits alone on a bench in a provocative outfit. A TRAIN RUMBLES by to reveal Allison standing on the opposite platform. Ryan stands and celebrates.

RYAN

Yes!

ALLISON

You're on the wrong side.

RYAN

What? No, I'm not.

Allison points to a sign that says "Trains to Manhattan."

RYAN (CONT'D)

Oh. Well, good thing you came!

Allie shakes her head.

64 INT./EXT. DIANE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 64

Diane stands in the kitchen texting.

Diane: *Where r u????!!!*

A KNOCK on the front door. She looks up in fear and runs to the door. She opens it to reveal Daniel with his hat in his hand.

DANIEL

Hello, Diane. I'm very sorry to call on you this late, but I didn't have your number.

She stares at him in shock.

DIANE

Oh, hey.

DANIEL

It's Daniel, Nathan's father.

Diane covers her mouth with her hand. She's frozen.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Don't you remember me?

DIANE

Yes, of course. I'm sorry, it's been a long time.

DANIEL

There's no need to be afraid of me. I'm just trying to find Ryan.

DIANE

I'm not afraid of you. To be honest, I thought it might be the police. A bit of PTSD I suppose.

DANIEL

Yes, well... I don't know how much Allie's told you, but we've been going to the same program.

DIANE

Yes. I know. She said.

DANIEL

Yeah. So, my granddaughter, Ryan's, taken quite an interest in Allie, and now I can't find her, so I thought I'd stop by and see if they might be here. I tried texting Allie, but all my texts are turning green. Do you know what that means?

DIANE

I have no idea. I hate it when they go green, and you don't know if it's sent. It drives me crazy. You'll have to let me know if you figure that out. I'm not a techie.

They stand there nodding with their phones.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I've actually been trying to find Allie as well. Do you think they're together?

DANIEL

They're both missing at the same time, so it does feel a bit curious.

DIANE

No matter how old they get, you never stop worrying, but they always seem to turn up.

DANIEL

Well... not always.

Diane is taken aback by his bluntness.

DIANE

Yes. Well... please let me know if you find them.

DANIEL

I will.

Daniel begins to walk away as Diane starts to close the door. She summons the courage and calls to him.

DIANE

Thank you.

DANIEL

What's that?

DIANE

I just wanted to say thank you for... being kind to Allie. She told me you were... very warm to her. And you know... some people wouldn't be like that.

DANIEL

We're all just trying to move on, I suppose.

DIANE

I don't think Allie and I are doing a very good job of that, Daniel.

DANIEL

Well, you know what they say.

DIANE

What?

DANIEL

"Comparison is the thief of joy."

DIANE

I didn't know they said that.

DANIEL

Well, somebody did.

(beat)

I best be going.

DIANE

Yes, of course.

DANIEL

Goodnight.

65

INT. ROCK CLUB - NIGHT

65

CARY BROTHERS and his BAND play on stage. Quinn, the guy from Ryan's bedroom, is in the audience. We waves to Ryan from afar.

RYAN

Oh my God, there he is. Look how hot he is.

ALLISON

Is that a face tattoo?

RYAN

Yeah!

THOMAS (22, guitarist in the band) appears to be staring at Allie.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I love this song. Quinn sent it to me in a playlist. He knows so much about music.

ALLISON

I haven't seen live music in so long. Thank you. For getting me to come.

RYAN

The guitarist, that's Thomas. He's staring right at you.

ALLISON

Not interested.

RYAN

I know, you can do so much better.
But he is fucking hot. OK, I'll be
right back. I gotta go get someone
in.

ALLISON

Should I come with you?

RYAN

No! I'll be right back.

Ryan rushes off. Allison continues to get into the music.
She closes her eyes. She sways her head with her eyes
closed and a tiny smile crawls across her lips.

SLOW MOTION: She's having a moment of genuine happiness.
The moving stage lights dance around her face.

She opens her eyes to see Nathan, staring right into the
lens. Is this A DREAM??? Reveal JOELLE, his new
girlfriend.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Surprise!

Allie is in shock. So is Nathan. They have to speak
loudly over the MUSIC.

ALLISON

Nathan?

NATHAN

Hi.

ALLISON

Hey.

NATHAN

Ryan.

RYAN

What?

JOELLE

Hi.

Allison is stuck in shock. She can barely breath.

NATHAN

Uhhhh, sorry. Allie, this is my girlfriend, Joelle.

ALLISON

Hi. Sorry. So nice to meet you.

JOELLE

I've heard so much about you.

ALLISON

Oh. OK...

NATHAN

I think we're the victims of a teenage girl's good intentions.

ALLISON

What?

NATHAN

I said, I think she meant well; Ryan.

ALLISON

OK. Um, I have to go.

NATHAN

Are you good?

ALLISON

Yeah. Yup. Everything's good.
Yeah. But, I have to go.

Allison races away. They watch her go.

NATHAN

What the fuck did you do that for?

RYAN

(to Joelle)

You weren't supposed to come. No offense. I know that being a paralegal is a good job. But he's supposed to be with Allie. I'm sorry.

NATHAN

Ryan, what the fuck did you do?

RYAN

I'm fixing it. For mom.

NATHAN

Go find her. And then I'm taking you home.

She runs off. Nathan shakes his head. Fuck.

NATHAN (CONT'D)

(to Joelle)

I am so sorry.

JOELLE

It's fine.

NATHAN

Yeah? You're good?

JOELLE

I'm fine. I need a drink, but I'm fine.

66

INT. ROCK CLUB - BACK BAR - MOMENTS LATER

66

Allie grabs someone's drink that's been left on the bar and downs it. Ryan arrives.

ALLISON

Why the fuck did you do that?!

RYAN

I thought it would make you happy.

ALLISON

You thought it would make me happy?! Are you insane?

(to bartender)

Can I have a triple tequila neat please? I can't breathe.

RYAN

Calm down. I'm sorry.

ALLISON

You did this on purpose; to hurt me. You set me up.

RYAN

No, I didn't!

Thomas and Quinn come rushing over.

THOMAS

Yesssssss!

RYAN

Hi, I'm Quinn's friend, Ryan. You guys sounded so good. You're gonna be so famous.

THOMAS

I know. I really have to savor my anonymity.

QUINN

We're going to this party over in Williamsburg. You guys wanna come?

ALLISON

Yes. I need to get out of here.

She downs the tequila that's just arrived and they all leave excitedly. Nathan watches from afar wondering what the fuck is happening.

67 INT. SIMONE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

67

Simone and her boyfriend, MAX, eat takeout while watching TV. Their toddler, ELVIS, is on her lap. Her phone RINGS.

SIMONE

Hey Danny. Everything OK?

68 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - INTERCUT BACK AND FORTH

68

Daniel paces.

DANIEL

I can't find Ryan, and I've tried everything. Anyway, my mind couldn't help but wonder if you'd heard from Allie or not.

SIMONE

No, I haven't. I can text her, if you want.

DANIEL

Well, I keep trying them both, but neither one is replying.

MAX

What's wrong?

SIMONE

Daniel can't find his granddaughter.

MAX

If he pays for her phone, he can login to her account and use "Find My Phone".

SIMONE

Daniel, do you know what "Find My Phone" is?

DANIEL

No, what the hell is that?

69

INT. WILLIAMSBURG LOFT - NIGHT

69

A group of WILLIAMSBURG TYPES smoke and drink. Ryan and Quinn wear VR HEADSETS drunkenly playing some game.

RYAN

Woah, this is amazing.

Allison stands in the kitchen and stares at her phone as a BARRAGE OF MISSED TEXTS start streaming in.

Mom: *WHERE ARE YOU!*

Simone: *Daniel's looking for Ryan. Any idea where she is?*

Daniel: *Allie, are you with Ryan?*

Mom: *Call or text me plz!*

Simone: *Why aren't you texting me back???*

Thomas brings JARVIS over to Allie.

THOMAS

Allie, this is Jarvis. He brought the thing you asked for.

JARVIS

I don't have any 30's. Just dope.

ALLISON

I'll just take whatever you have.
(to Thomas)
Can you spot me? I promise I'll pay you back.

THOMAS

Uh OK.

Thomas pays him and hands Allie the tiny bag of heroin.

ALLISON

You want some?

THOMAS

Nooo. I don't fuck with that shit.

ALLISON

Oh, I don't either, but I don't have any of the medicine I take, so I'm just gonna do a tiny bit.

She turns her back from the party and snorts some.

THOMAS

I mean, don't get me wrong; I wanna be Kurt Cobain, but I don't wanna be Kurt Cobain. Know what I mean?

(beat)

Did you like the show?

ALLISON

What?

THOMAS

Our set. Did you like it?

ALLISON

Oh, yeah. Yeah. You were great.

THOMAS

I play with Cary when he's on tour, but wait until you hear my stuff.

ALLISON

Great.

THOMAS

Do you think I'm gonna be famous?

ALLISON

What?

THOMAS

I said, do you think I'm gonna be famous?

ALLISON

Oh, I don't know.

THOMAS

One day, when I'm super famous,
you can tell people I bought you
heroin once.

ALLISON

Yeah... for sure.

Behind her we see Ryan being led into a bedroom by Quinn.

70

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

70

Daniel sits using "Find My Phone" at his kitchen table
while Simone talks him through it on his own phone.

DANIEL

OK, it's coming up. I think it's
working...

SIMONE (O.S.)

What's it say?

On the screen we see the map come alive and show a dot on
the loft in Williamsburg.

71

INT. WILLIAMSBURG LOFT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

71

Ryan is wasted, she and Quinn are making out on the bed.

RYAN

The whole room is spinning.

Her PHONE PINGS on the bed.

RYAN (CONT'D)

That's my phone.

QUINN

Don't worry about it.

RYAN

Wait, just stop for a second.
Where's my phone?

WE PUSH in on the phone on the bed. WE CAN SEE IT SAYS
"FIND MY PHONE ALERT."

72

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

72

We see the apartment pinpointed on Daniel's computer.

DANIEL
What the fuck?!

73 INT. SIMONE'S APARTMENT - INTERCUT BACK AND FORTH

73

SIMONE
What?

DANIEL
She's in the fucking city! She's
in motherfucking Williamsburg!

SIMONE
Daniel. Wait. I'll pick you up.
You don't wanna do something
you'll regret.

DANIEL
I'm gonna fucking kill him.

SIMONE
Exactly. That's what I'm worried
about. I'm on my way.

BACK AT DANIEL'S:

DANIEL
FUCK!!!

He slams his phone down. His anger grows. He turns his head to stare at the high cabinet where he keeps his WHISKEY. He crosses to the pantry and uses the step-stool to reach the high cabinet. He pulls down the BOTTLE OF WHISKEY again.

He pulls open a drawer revealing a small gun safe. He taps in his code and it pops open revealing his REVOLVER.

74 INT. WILLIAMSBURG LOFT - NIGHT

74

AN HOUR OR SO LATER. The party is even more packed. Allie straddles Thomas on the couch. She tries to get up, but falls over onto other people on the couch.

THOMAS
OK. Easy does it. You're wasted.

ALLISON
No, I'm not. I gotta find her.

Allie stumbles sideways through the party. HER POV: the hallway comes IN AND OUT OF FOCUS as we travel on a diagonal towards the door. LASER LIGHTS from a PARTY GLOBE splash her face as she weaves through the people.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Ryan!

75 EXT. WILLIAMSBURG LOFT - MOMENTS LATER 75

Simone's CAR SCREECHES to a stop in front of the apartment. As Daniel hops out of the passenger side, the NOW-EMPTY WHISKEY BOTTLE falls out of his coat pocket and SHATTERS on the ground. SIMONE clocks it.

76 INT. WILLIAMSBURG LOFT - STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS 76

Daniel climbs the stairs and pulls out his gun.

77 INT. WILLIAMSBURG LOFT - MOMENTS LATER 77

Allison has made her way to a locked bedroom door and starts to knock.

ALLISON

Ryan! Ryan, are you in there?

QUINN (O.S.)

She's fine. Go the fuck away!

Daniel and Simone burst in and weave their way through the party. We can see the drunken RAGE in Daniel's eyes. They find Allie knocking on the door.

ALLISON

Ryan!!! Can you open the door please?!

DANIEL

Allison!

ALLISON

What are you guys doing here?

DANIEL

(slurring)
Where's Ryan?!

ALLISON

She won't open the door.

DANIEL
Ryan?! Ry! It's grandpa. Open the door?

No answer.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Open the door, baby.

QUINN (O.S.)
Fuck off!

The cop in Daniel steps back and KICKS OPEN THE DOOR.

78

INT. WILLIAMSBURG LOFT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

78

He bursts through to see Ryan being groped on the bed.

QUINN
What the fuck?!

Daniel raises his gun and points it at Quinn.

DANIEL
You again. Get the fuck up.

Allison and Simone come rushing in. Quinn jumps up with his hands in the air.

SIMONE
Danny! No, no, no, don't do that.

QUINN
Nothing happened.

DANIEL
She's passed out! Tell me why I shouldn't kill you?

QUINN
We were just making out.

DANIEL
You hurt my baby. Now it's time for me to hurt you.

He cocks the revolver's hammer back.

NATHAN (O.S.)
Dad, stop.

REVEAL Nathan has appeared behind him in the doorway.

DANIEL

What the hell are you doing here,
Nate? This is family business.

NATHAN

Please don't do this.

DANIEL

Go on back to your new life.

QUINN

Put the gun down. Please! Please!

NATHAN

He's not worth it.

DANIEL

I have nothing left to lose.

NATHAN

You have me. You have Ryan. We
need you. If you do this, it's
over. We get no more time.

SIMONE

Danny, put the gun down.

Nathan steps in front of his father, so the gun is now
pointed at him. Daniel with all of his rage stares his
son down. Nathan, with newfound bravery, slowly takes the
gun out of his father's hand.

Nathan turns to Quinn.

NATHAN

That's my niece. She's 16 years
old.

He PUNCHES Quinn hard in the face. Quinn goes down.

QUINN

Agh! My fucking nose!

Nathan goes to the bed and helps Simone stand Ryan up.
She stirs enough to lean on Simone and Nathan as they
walk out.

SIMONE

We gotta get outta here.

SLOW MOTION: Danny walks through the party with Allison
by the arm, like the criminals he used to arrest. Simone
and Nathan follow carrying Ryan.

Everyone jumps out of their way; terrified. The LASER LIGHTS dance across their faces.

79

EXT. WILLIAMSBURG LOFT - NIGHT

79

Simone and Nathan handle Ryan as Daniel holds Allie by the arm. He pushes her away from him on the sidewalk.

DANIEL

What the fuck is the matter with you?

ALLISON

I was trying to protect her.

DANIEL

Protect her? I told you to stay away from her! Protect her? Who the fuck are you to try and protect anyone? You're a mess.

NATHAN

Dad.

ALLISON

I was trying to help you with her. To make things right.

DANIEL

Well, let me tell you something, Allison. You could never, ever fix what you have done to me. You hear me?! I want my fucking life back! You hear me?! I want my child back. My baby girl. My Molly. You took my baby away from me!

Tears well in his eyes. From rage. From grief.

NATHAN

Dad. Enough.

ALLISON

Let him say it.

DANIEL

I wanted to hate you, but I stopped myself. And when you walked into that meeting, I said to myself "This is God testing me. This is proof there's a higher power! He's testing me in this church right now.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

He's seeing if he can break me.
But I'm gonna show him... I'm
gonna show him that I am
unbreakable, and I am gonna offer
my hand to this sorry, little,
fucking pill-junkie."
All I asked was that you stay away
from this child. Now look at her.

Allie looks over. Simone cradles her on the steps.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

She's got no mother, no father...
And how many years could I have
left? What a fucking waste you
are. What a waste of a soul. What
a waste of a chance.

He walks away a beat to calm down.

SIMONE

OK, Danny. You've said your piece.
Enough.

DANIEL

This wasn't how it was supposed to
go. I'm a good person. I'm not
saying God has to be fair, but I
never thought... I just never
thought he could be this cruel.

He exhales. Nods his head. He's done.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Taxi!

SIMONE

Danny, let me take you home.

DANIEL

No.

NATHAN

I'll go with them.

A cab pulls over. Danny opens the door and places Ryan
inside. He comes back to Allie; inches from her face. She
can smell his breath.

ALLISON

You drank.

DANIEL

You reopened the MAPS app at 17:36 and 22 seconds. The impact was at 17:36 and 24. Tire skids show you lost 30 feet before you swerved. You didn't have time to stop because you were looking at your fucking phone. Stop blaming Alvarez. They're dead because of you.

He walks away and gets in the cab. Nathan makes eye-contact with Allie briefly and joins his father. They drive off. Allie stands in the middle of the street. Decimated.

FADE TO BLACK.

80 INT. SIMONES APARTMENT - MORNING

80

Allie wakes up on the couch to see Simone's toddler, Elvis, playing. HER ROLEX sits on the coffee table in front of her. She stares at it as she sits up.

ELVIS

Good morning.

ALLISON

Good morning.

ELVIS

I made a house. Do you have a headache?

ALLISON

Yeah.

81 INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

81

Allie walks to the counter and hands the watch to the Pawn Shop Owner. She sweats and shakes.

ALLISON

Hey, can I sell this please?

He inspects the watch.

PAWN SHOP OWNER

I'll give you twelve-five.

ALLISON

Yeah. OK. Thank you.

PAWN SHOP OWNER

It's a beauty.

He passes her the cash.

82 INT. INPATIENT REHAB - DAY

82

MONTAGE: Allie's 28-Day Program.

82A: Allie is searched in her dorm room by a STAFF MEMBER checking all of her pockets for contraband. She finds the leftover bag of heroin.

82B: Allie walks nervously into her first meeting. She looks haggard and frail as she joins the circle.

82C: Allie is given a pill in a paper cup as she leaves a group meeting and heads down a hallway. She looks through the window in a door to notice a tiny music room with a piano. She lifts open the cover. She stares at it a beat and then sits down to play the original song we have heard her writing in her room at home.

82D: Ryan scores the winning goal on the soccer field. Daniel and Nathan cheer.

82E: Allie dives into a lap pool and swims.

82F: Allie is back at the piano playing and singing.

82G: Daniel sits reading a *WOMEN'S FITNESS* MAGAZINE in the waiting room of a GYNECOLOGIST'S OFFICE. Ryan exits from the doctor's office with a PACKAGE OF BIRTH CONTROL PILLS in her hand. Daniel gives her a thumbs-up. She rolls her eyes.

82H: Allie, in her room, writing her mom a handwritten letter.

82I: Diane lies in her bed on the side porch reading Allie's letter. She smiles.

82J: Ryan laughing with a CUTE BOY her age in the high school hallway.

82K: Allie in a group counseling session.

82L: Ryan sits in the basement, chatting away to Daniel. He paints a new structure: A MODEL OF HIS OWN HOUSE.

82M: Allie singing the song she wrote at the piano.

82N: Allie walks down a hallway. She enters a Visitor's Room and is clearly anxious about who's she's looking at.

82O: Allie surfaces from underwater in the pool and takes a huge breath.

83

INT. INPATIENT REHAB - VISITOR'S ROOM - DAY

83

REVEAL Allie's visitor is Nathan.

ALLISON

Hey.

NATHAN

Hi.

They sit down opposite one another at a table.

ALLISON

Thank you so much for coming.

NATHAN

You look great.

ALLISON

Ha. I was about to put make-up on and then laughed at myself. Do you like my clips?

NATHAN

Wow. Yeah.

ALLISON

Thanks. I stole them from a pharmacy. Not recently, like awhile back.

He smiles.

NATHAN

I don't know where to start.

ALLISON

I'll just start. Nate, I didn't have the faintest idea how to handle my own grief. I didn't even know if I was allowed to grieve.

NATHAN

We were all flailing.

ALLISON

But I abandoned you. That was so selfish. I ran as fast as I could away from you.

NATHAN

I still wanted you to be my wife.

ALLISON

I know. The truth is...

She takes a deep breath. Exhales.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

The truth is, Nathan... I was so sure that I was gonna...

NATHAN

I know...

ALLISON

And I... you know... I tried... but I couldn't. Because I didn't ever want to hurt you again.

NATHAN

It wasn't your fault.

ALLISON

It was, Nate.

(beat)

Your dad's right. If I hadn't been checking my phone, I could have stopped in time.

(beat)

You deserve an apology that has never come. I'm so sorry.

He digests this. Nods.

NATHAN

I've been spending a little more time with him lately. It's a work in progress.

ALLISON

Good. He kept me alive.

(beat)

I know about your ear.

She puts her hand to his right ear.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

I want you to be clear on one thing... Look at me. I loved you so much. Along with everything else, I will forever grieve for the life we might have had.

NATHAN

Me too. We were a good team.

(silence...then)

It would be nice if we could one day find a way to be in each other's lives. Maybe that's unrealistic...

ALLISON

Maybe.

NATHAN

Maybe.

He reaches his hands across the table to hers. She grabs them and holds them. She puts them on her face, and they smile at one another.

84 INT. INPATIENT REHAB - NIGHT

84

Allie's last night at the recovery center. Supportive families are there in attendance. We see Diane holding flowers. Allie stands at the podium mid-speech. She speaks passionately and ends with a laugh.

ALLISON

Momma, I'm so grateful for you. Thank you for everything you've done for me, and I love you.

Allie crosses to Diane, and they hug. She looks up to see Daniel standing in the doorway.

Her face drops as she mouths "Hi." Daniel smiles warmly and nods. She wants to go to him, but she's inundated with well-wishers around her.

When she looks up again, he's gone.

WE FADE TO BLACK on Allie's face searching for Daniel.

85 INT. HUMBLE APARTMENT - EVENING

85

Allison eats alone at her kitchen table. She checks her watch, A CHEAP CASIO.

86 INT. MUSIC BAR - STAGE - NIGHT

86

A tiny music bar in downtown Newark. Allie is on stage at the piano playing an original song. She finishes.

ALLISON

Thank you. I'm selling my first EP over at the coat check, cause I'm also the coat-check girl. So come buy an album... or I won't give you your coats back.

They LAUGH. She smiles.

87 INT. MUSIC BAR - COAT CHECK - MOMENTS LATER

87

Back in her booth, Allie's phone rings: it's Nathan.

ALLISON

I know you're calling about one year clean, but guess what I just did?

Her face drops.

88 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

88

Allie and Nathan set out food for mourners dressed in black. Diane and Ryan play with Elvis and Simone. As Allie clears a bunch of empty plates back to the kitchen, she walks by the basement door. She stops and stares at the door.

89 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

89

Allie flips on the lights and descends the stairs into Daniel's sacred lair. She gingerly approaches his train town and flips the switch. His MINIATURE WORLD lights up. She smiles and notices an envelope leaning against the MODEL OF HIS HOUSE. It says: *Allison*. A TINY FIGURINE sits on top that he has made of Allison on her bicycle.

She opens the letter; it appears as though it was typed on an old typewriter. She begins to read. We'll recognize the writing as Daniel's VOICEOVER that opened the film.

DANIEL (V.O.)

Dear Allison, down here, in 1:87 scale, the lovers always kiss, the neighbors are always kind and the trains always take you to the far off places you always swore you'd go. In life, of course, nothing is as nearly as neat and tidy.

90 EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - FLASHBACK 90

Sitting on his porch, Daniel, looking older, pecks out the note Allison is reading on an OLD TYPEWRITER. Nathan and Ryan sit on the porch swing talking.

DANIEL (V.O.)

Everything I own has been left to Nathan and Ryan. Nathan has agreed to move home and be her guardian until she's off to college. He'll need help.

91 INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS 91

Allison continues reading.

DANIEL (V.O.)

Please help him, Allie. Molly always said Nathan was the best version of himself when he was with you. Who knows, maybe you can even get her into Stanford. Haha.

(beat)

When we first met in that diner, you asked what my tattoo meant. "Amor-Fati" is Latin. It means "to love one's fate." Neither of us chose this fate, Allie. But perhaps we can find a way to love it. Fate has given me one final year with my son. He looks at me differently these days. Once in awhile, I even catching him smiling at me with a look that might just even be love. Amor Fati, Allison. Until we meet again, Daniel

Allison is frozen.

RYAN (O.S.)

Allie?

Allie whips her head around to see Ryan on the steps.

RYAN (CONT'D)

What are you doing? Come on
outside.

ALLISON

OK.

She climbs the stairs.

92

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

92

Allie joins Ryan on the front stoop. Nathan stares off at
the trees.

Allie looks shell-shocked. Frightened. And then, the
softest of smiles tiptoes across her lips. Amor Fati.

HARD CUT TO BLACK.