

Elizabeth

written by

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TEASER

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

The city that never sleeps. We look at it from the west: the George Washington bridge aglow with traffic, the West Side Highway a chain of red and yellow lights, downtown all alit like in the movies.

We linger on the bridge, the outbound side returning home to the suburbs. We follow a car, turn to face its destination ... darkness. Woods and palisades obscuring the world within.

EXT. NEW JERSEY HIGHWAY

The car exits off the bridge. Turns off the highway onto a state route. There's a strip mall here like any strip mall in America. Fast food and overpriced bistro. CVS and banks.

Onward: the street lights fade ... a massive corporate building, imperious, set back in dark woods, looms ...

Onward: another stretch of darkness. Just the headlights cutting through the night and heavy forest on either side ...

Out of the darkness there emerges a white marble gate, swung open. The car turns onto the road passing through.

EXT. ELIZABETH STREETS

We're in the land of mansions and real wealth. Block-long neo-gothic castles, huge modern masses of glass and concrete, gated fences and cobblestone driveways.

The car parks beside one. An AVERAGE MAN--40s, white, dressed in a suit, slightly overweight--gets out of the car. He goes up to one of the gates, peers in through the bars. We don't see his face.

He looks up to see a security camera turned to him ... he quickly tails it back to his car. Speeds off.

The road descends in twists and turns ... until it levels into a flat road. The car turns a corner, another, then sails past TRAIN TRACKS. Homes rapidly become squatter, humbler.

The car stops at a red light. We can see a few stoplights up ahead. A column of stoplights and intersections. What looks like the start of a small town.

Then: SCREEEEEECH--a few stoplights up a car swerves and brakes into the center of the intersection.

There's a ringing silence.

SCREEEEEEEECH--BANG--a car PLOWS into the first car.

The sound of the crash resounds in the quiet night.

The first car has been shunted out to the side of the road, smoke billows from the second. Groans, voices. A siren explodes on, howls in the night.

The car idles. Even as the light turns green. We see the back of the Man's head at the wheel. Not moving.

The cop car arrives and two officers rush over. Walkie talkie sounds, more moans, shouts.

The car accelerates around the corner, away from this.

The harsh sounds fade as it drives up a few small hills, around a few corners, around a last to a nice middle-class home. We can no longer hear the sirens.

INT. THE MAN'S HOME/KITCHEN

The man opens his fridge and cracks open a beer ... scrapes up leftovers from the fridge with his hand ... turns on the TV to Sportscenter ... then goes upstairs.

INT. THE MAN'S HOME/BEDROOM

He brushes his teeth, pisses ... changes into pajamas ... nestles into bed with an AVERAGE WOMAN: 40s, white, dressed in a suit, slightly overweight.

We finally see his face as he lays there.

His eyes are WIDE OPEN. In fear. In shock. Hers are too.

WOMAN

How was the office?

MAN

Fine.

WOMAN

The drive home?

MAN

Fine.

WOMAN
The traffic?

MAN
Fine.

WOMAN
All's quiet out there?

MAN
Yes.

WOMAN
Everything's the same?

MAN
Yes.

WOMAN
We're safe?

MAN
Yes.

WOMAN
Good.

MAN
Yes.

WOMAN
Life is good.

MAN
Yes.

WOMAN
We have no worries.

MAN
Yes.

They go quiet. They *stare*.

END TEASER

ACT I

INT. THE SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/MARLENA'S ROOM - NIGHT

MARLENA SANCHEZ (17) looks out her window. She's a moony high school junior dreaming of life beyond little Elizabeth. A young adult in every sense of the phrase.

The room is covered with "American girl" things: posters, mounds of makeup, bright clothes spewing out of a hamper ... GABRIELA SANCHEZ (9) has her bed here too. She's fast asleep.

Marlena's phone buzzes. She reads, smiles, and texts back. She looks out the window at a HOMELESS MAN standing on the corner. She gives him a little wave. He doesn't look.

Her phone buzzes again. She looks in at the screen. This time, her eyes go WIDE.

Suddenly she's in a silent frenzy, wildly sorting through her mess of clothes, the makeup on her bureau.

Gabriela stirs. Marlena doesn't notice.

MARLENA

Calm down, Marlena. Think.

She picks up a few more things, decides on a lacy white blouse, jeans.

Another BUZZ--she pounces on her phone. She chews her finger, writes something back, then throws the phone.

MARLENA (CONT'D)

Bad ... so bad .. stupid, boring--

BUZZ--she picks it up ...

MARLENA (CONT'D)

Okay! Okay.

She picks up eyeliner, blush, lip gloss. Rapidly applies.

Gabriela stirs and sits up, rubs her eyes.

GABRIELA

Marlena?

Malena whips around, half her face done.

MARLENA

Shhhh.

GABRIELA
Why are you--

MARLENA
Shhhhhh! Shut up!

Marlena turns back to the mirror. She's quick but assured.
She looks at her angles, then throws up her hands.

MARLENA (CONT'D)
I don't know, I don't know ...

BUZZ--she's in a frenzy again. Gabriela, agape, watches her.
Marlena text back, composes herself, looks in the mirror one last time. She's afraid, unsure. But thrilled.

She goes up to GABRIELA, grabs her face.

MARLENA (CONT'D)
Gabriela, do not say anything to
Mama. Do you understand?

GABRIELA
Where are you going?

MARLENA
Out.

GABRIELA
But I thought we were playing dress
up tonight.

MARLENA
Next time.

GABRIELA
But--

MARLENA
Gabriela. Next time. Not a word to
Mama. Okay?

Marlena grabs her phone and purse and sneaks out the door. It
shuts with a soft click.

INT. THE SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN

Marlena turns from her bedroom door ... to find her mother,
DIANA SANCHEZ (37). A woman not to be trifled with. She'll
either love you or snap you in half.

MARLENA

Shit.

The kitchen is ugly and cramped. There are photos of family all over the wall. Diana smokes a cigarette.

They speak in Spanish.

DIANA

You look nice.

MARLENA

Thank you, Mama.

DIANA

Why are you dressed up?

MARLENA

I--

DIANA

You were sneaking out.

MARLENA

No, I ... I was gonna tell you.

DIANA

Then why did you say "don't tell mama" to Gabriela.

MARLENA

I don't know.

DIANA

So you lied.

MARLENA

I--

DIANA

Where do you think you are you going?

MARLENA

To see ...

She's going to lie again. But she thinks better of it.

MARLENA (CONT'D)

I was going to see Hyungsoo.

DIANA

Hyungwhat?

MARLENA

He's a boy in my class.

DIANA

A boy.

MARLENA

Mama please. I'll be back soon. I promise.

DIANA

No.

MARLENA

Mama, it's the end of the school year, APs are over, I took SATs, I have a summer internship--Mama I did everything.

DIANA

I snuck out once too. To see a boy. That I liked. Your shit father.

MARLENA

Mama. Please, it's not like that.

DIANA

Not like what?

MARLENA

I'm going to be careful. I promise I'll be okay.

Diana gives her a long, judgmental look.

DIANA

No.

Marlena starts to get worked up. But she realizes something. She heads toward the door.

DIANA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

MARLENA

I'll be back soon, Mama. I promise. I promise.

DIANA

You can't go, I forbid you to--

The door slams. She's off.

EXT. THE KIM'S HOME

Music BLASTS from a black Honda in the driveway. HYUNGSOO KIM (17) sits in the front seat. He's attractive, fashionable, but his hard-edged look somehow doesn't quite fit him. His American friends call him Kevin.

WOOSUK KIM (50s) pulls up beside him. He works for a megalithic international company in the city and looks the part. He drives a Mercedes; his home is a plain split-level.

Woosuk looks over at him. Kevin nods as if he's a stranger.

Woosuk speaks in Korean, Hyungsoo in English.

WOOSUK

Hyungsoo!

Hyungsoo glances back over, fakes a smile. He lights a cigarette. Woosuk's temper flares. He gets out of the car, goes to the driver-side window. Pulls out the keys.

HYUNGSOO

Yo, what the fuck.

WOOSUK

Do not curse at me.

Hyungsoo leans back and smokes his cigarette.

WOOSUK (CONT'D)

Do not curse at me, or say "yo" to me ...

HYUNGSOO

Whatever.

WOOSUK

It's a school night. What are you doing?

HYUNGSOO

Homework.

WOOSUK

Where did this attitude come from?

HYUNGSOO

You, obviously.

WOOSUK

Are you going somewhere?

HYUNGSOO
Out.

WOOSUK
Where?

HYUNGSOO
Out.

Hyungsoo blows smoke, doesn't look Woosuk in the eye.

WOOSUK
Take that cigarette out of your
mouth. They're bad for you.

HYUNGSOO
Really?

Woosuk is a smoker. Hyungsoo has a point.

WOOSUK
It's different for me.

HYUNGSOO
How's that.

WOOSUK
It's something Korean men do.

HYUNGSOO
And I'm not a Korean man?

WOOSUK
You are Korean.

A long beat between them. Hyungsoo rolls his eyes.

HYUNGSOO
On that note.

Hyungsoo grabs the keys from Woosuk and starts the car. The music comes back in loud. He revs the engine.

WOOSUK
Be back before 12.

Hyungsoo doesn't wait to hear. He reverses in a jolt, then drives off.

INT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

Hyungsoo drives leaned back in his car, texting, tweeting, whatever. Not paying full attention to the road.

Suddenly the music stops. There's a loud iPhone bling sound-- a call is coming through. From "Lucas." He silences the call and pulls over. This has reminded him of something.

He opens his glove compartment. There's a big baggie of weed inside, maybe an ounce.

HYUNGSOO

Shit.

He calls someone named ROMERO.

HYUNGSOO (CONT'D)

(over the phone)

Yo, Romero, I've got your kush in
here ... aight I'll come by later
... aight peace and love.

He hangs up and then continues driving, typing.

EXT. SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT

Hyungsoo pulls up. The exterior is a bleak storefront.
There's a side door leading up to the apartment.

INT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

Hyungsoo leans back. The music blasts.

Then stops. There's a call from "Lucas" again.

HYUNGSOO

Fuck ...

He turns it off. The music blasts again, and he's back on his phone. Until there's a KNOCK.

Marlena, giving a shy wave. Hyungsoo slickly opens the locks, and she climbs in. He sits up, leans toward her.

HYUNGSOO (CONT'D)

Yo.

MARLENA

Hey.

HYUNGSOO

You look beautiful.

MARLENA

Stop, I ... thanks.

A brief pause. Hyungsoo just looks at her. Marlana finally meets his gaze, laughing.

HYUNGSOO

What?

MARLENA

I just ... was not expecting this.

Hyungsoo shrugs.

HYUNGSOOL

Let's drive.

MARLENA

Okay.

Hyungsoo revs the car a bit before pulling out. He drives slouched, left hand on the wheel, right hand on the gearshift, looking "cool." MARLENA, nervous, looks down at her pants, at anything else.

Suddenly the music stops, and the ringer plays again. Lucas. HYUNGSOO scrambles for his phone, ends the call quickly.

There's a brief silence.

MARLENA (CONT'D)

Lucas ... Schwartz?

She's interrupted by the music blasting back on.

Then the music stops. Lucas. Again.

HYUNGSOO

Fuck.

Hyungsoo picks up the phone.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/BASEMENT

A well-furnished room: big TV, every new game console, a ping-pong-table, etc. A bong sits smoking on a coffee table.

LUCAS SCHWARTZ (17) and REUBEN CARTER (17) sit on a couch. Lucas, jewish, is spoiled, bored; Reuben, a lanky black kid, is along for the ride. They're stoned. In particular Reuben is really high. Lucas, however, is on edge.

LUCAS

Kevin. I've been calling you.

INTERCUT HYUNGSOO AND LUCAS.

HYUNGSOO
I know. What's good.

LUCAS
Chillin'. Yo what're you good for
right now?

HYUNGSOO
Nothin'.

LUCAS
No tree?

HYUNGSOO
I'm not good right now.

LUCAS
All right man, that's cool, that's
cool, I gotcha ... But for real, do
you have what you got last time?

HYUNGSOO
Nah.

Lucas is getting aggravated. Itching, sniffing.

LUCAS
Nah? What do you mean nah?

HYUNGSOO
I mean nah. I'm not in that
business.

LUCAS
Not in that business? I'll make you
in that business.

HYUNGSOO
Nah.

LUCAS
Seriously, bro. I'm itching. Tell
me where I can cop.

HYUNGSOO
I honestly don't know.

LUCAS
Fuck you. Who's your source?

HYUNGSOO
Dude ... some guy I knew through a
guy.

LUCAS
Well who's the guy?

HYUNGSOO
I barely know him.

LUCAS
Send me his number.

HYUNGSOO
Yo chill with this shit, I don't
know him.

LUCAS
Kevin. Yo. I'm going to keep
fucking calling you until you tell
me.

HYUNGSOO
I'll text you.

LUCAS
Good. Fucking. Man! Peace and love.

Hyungsoo abruptly hangs up. Then Lucas punches Reuben, who's
passed out.

REUBEN
What?

LUCAS
FUCK YEAH DUDE.

REUBEN
What?

LUCAS
We're copping.

REUBEN
We're flush.

LUCAS
You're not listening ... we're
copping.

Lucas's phone buzzes. It's from Hyungsoo. The number. Lucas
quickly texts back.

REUBEN
I told you I'm not into that, man.

LUCAS
You're a pussy.

REUBEN

Nah.

LUCAS

If you weren't a pussy, you'd do it.

REUBEN

Nah man, I just don't like it.

LUCAS

Then go home. If you don't do this shit with me, go home.

Reuben stares at him. Then leans back.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

That's what I thought, bitch.

The text comes in. It's on.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

FUCK. YES.

Reuben wants to say something ... but doesn't.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Let's. GO.

He gets up, jangling his car keys. Reuben follows.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/KITCHEN

JULIE SCHWARTZ (55) and IVAN SCHWARTZ (52) comfortably hang in the kitchen. JULIE, red-haired and sharp-featured, sits at the dining room table. She's looking over documents.

JULIE

What percentage of Elizabeth's budget does trash collection take up? If you had to guess.

IVAN is gray-haired, an immigrant from the Czech Republic, a surgeon at Elizabeth. A successful one. He has a slight accent. He's on his phone, leaning on the counter.

IVAN

If I had to guess? 100%.

JULIE

Come on.

IVAN
I don't know. Too much.

JULIE
Fifteen percent.

IVAN
Is that a lot?

JULIE
It's 100,000 dollars.

IVAN
Eh.

JULIE
Can you please pay attention? It's not exciting to you, I get it. But this is what I'm doing now.

IVAN
You're picking up garbage now?

JULIE
I'm running for council now. There was the Ed Board, and now there's this. A legitimate thing to do. Don't be so self-righteous.

IVAN
How am I being self-righteous?

JULIE
You're belittling my candidacy with your doctor shtick, "how could it be as important as saving lives?"

IVAN
What could be more important than saving lives?

JULIE
This. This could be as important.

IVAN
To who?

JULIE
To me.

Suddenly the basement door, just outside the kitchen, bursts open. Lucas tramps through the kitchen, his eyes lowered. Reuben follows, doing the same.

IVAN
Hey, Lucas.

He holds up a middle finger as he passes.

IVAN (CONT'D)
Hey, Reuben.

REUBEN
Hi, Mr. Schwartz.

Lucas just keeps on walking. Out the door. To the garage.
Then with a slam, he's gone.

Ivan and Julie look at each other.

IVAN
What the hell is wrong with that
kid.

JULIE
He's immature.

IVAN
At his age, I was--

Then Ivan's phone buzzes. He looks at the number and sighs.

IVAN (CONT'D)
I have to go in.

JULIE
Fine.

Ivan goes over to her.

IVAN
I love you.

Julie shrugs him off.

JULIE
I'm busy.

Ivan then kisses her neck. This loosens her up. They still
have this chemistry.

IVAN
See you in the morning?

JULIE
Yes. Fine.

Ivan winks, goes out the door. Julie looks at her papers.

INT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

Marlena glares at HYUNGSOO.

MARLENA
What was that?

HYUNGSOO
I don't sell Lucas Schwartz drugs.

MARLENA
Sounded like you do.

HYUNGSOO
Lucas Schwartz thinks I sell him
drugs.

MARLENA
Do you?

HYUNGSOO
No. I do not.

MARLENA
Do you sell other people drugs?

HYUNGSOO
I do not.

There's a long pause. Marlena looks at him. Eyes him.

MARLENA
I believe you.

HYUNGSOO
Good. Because I don't.

Another long pause. Marlena smiles.

MARLENA
So where are we going?

HYUNGSOO
The best spot in Elizabeth.

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN

Diana sits at the kitchen table, smoking. She's looking through papers, bills.

She sighs and leans back. Looks toward her girls' room ... she hears a voice.

She tip-toes over, listening.

(O.S.) GABRIELA
Because I said so, Marlenaaaa ... I
don't care about your stupid
makeup, I have makeup too ...

Diana smiles, and she almost enters. But this is a parenting moment. She puts on a serious face.

INT. SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/MARLENA'S ROOM

Conversation is in Spanish.

DIANA
Gabriela?

Gabriela is on her bed. She looks guilty, sad.

GABRIELA
Hi, Mama.

Diana goes over to her. Long pause. Then:

DIANA	GABRIELA (CONT'D)
Marlena--	I'm sorry I didn't stop her
	Mama I was asleep and when I
	woke up she already had her
	makeup on and--

Diana grabs her and brings her close. Clutches her, almost.

DIANA (CONT'D)
It's okay. You couldn't have
stopped her. I forgive you.

GABRIELA
Why didn't you stop her?

Diana lets go. Looks away, at the room.

DIANA

You'll get to an age when you'll do
the same thing as Marlana, and
then, just then, you'll understand.

This abstract thought tires Gabriela out. She yawns.

GABRIELA

She's an idiot. She was all crazy.

Diana laughs, tucks her in.

DIANA

Yes. It's crazy. You're right.

But Gabriela is already asleep.

Diana tip-toes out of the room, softly closes the door.

INT. SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN

She sits back down at the table. Distractedly reads, then
puts the papers down.

She picks up her phone. Starts paging through her contacts.
She stops at one. We don't see who it is. Her hand trembles.

INT. KIM'S HOME/LIVING ROOM

Woosuk takes off his shoes, sets them down beside a jumbled
mess of basketball shoes, Keds, sandals. He strips off his
coat, lays it on a table.

INT. KIM'S HOME/KITCHEN

He takes a Sam Adams out of the fridge. Then looks at the
front fridge door: covered with photos of his family.

INT. KIM'S HOME/HALLWAY

He goes down the hall to his kids' bedrooms. Light shines
through a crack beneath one. The other is dark. He crosses
the hall and swings opens the lit door.

INT. KIM'S HOME/WHOOHYUN'S ROOM

WHOOHYUN KIM (12), WOOSUK's young daughter, is sitting
upright in her bed, reading a book: TREASURE ISLAND. She is
bright, mature. Poised. Her room is neat.

He speaks in Korean, she in English.

WHOOHYUN
So you saw Hyungsoo.

WOOSUK
Yes.

WHOOHYUN
He's an asshole.

WOOSUK
My children curse. Since when do my
children curse?

WHOOHYUN
It's an English thing. It comes
natural. Naturally.

WOOSUK
I forget. Do the pirates curse in
Treasure Island?

WHOOHYUN
You've read it before?

WOOSUK
Of course. I've read it a hundred
times.

WHOOHYUN
What's your favorite part?

WOOSUK
... I don't remember.

WHOOHYUN
Who's your favorite character?

WOOSUK
I ... don't remember.

Woosuk's phone rings. It's HYUN-JI (52), Woosuk's wife.

WHOOHYUN
Is it Mom?

Woosuk gives her a look. Whoohyun goes back to her book.

Woosuk picks up as he walks out.

WOOSUK
Good morning, HYUN-JI.

INT./EXT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

The car bumps with blasting music. Marlana looks out the window; Hyungsoo looks cool, but keeps peeking at Marlana.

We see them drive up and over the TRAIN TRACKS, around steep hills, away from downtown Elizabeth, up into the mansions.

INT./EXT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

HYUNGSOO turns onto a cul-de-sac of dirt: it's an active construction site. We can see for miles out over the whole county with brilliant clarity.

MARLENA

Wow.

HYUNGSOO

Yup.

They climb out. Hyungsoo leaves his phone in the car. He jumps on the hood. Marlana follows. It's a still night.

MARLENA

It's so weird being here with you.

HYUNGSOO

Yeah?

MARLENA

Like ... we've texted ... a lot.

HYUNGSOO

True.

MARLENA

I really like talking to you.

HYUNGSOO

I like talking to you too.

MARLENA

You talk to a lot of people.

HYUNGSOO

I'm a people person. My dad says that just means I don't like doing homework ... Tiger Dad, or whatever.

MARLENA

I don't know my dad.

HYUNGSOO

Really?

MARLENA

Nah, I don't remember a man being around ever ... well ... I don't know why I'm telling you this! Okay, I remember this guy, one time, maybe when I was 4? Or 5? Like, walking around in a robe? This was in the DR ... must've been. He had like this black robe with green stripes ... it was so ugly ... I remember him tying the two belt things around his waist, picking up a mug of coffee, and ... and that's it. His name is José, that's, like, all I know.

There's a long silence.

HYUNGSOO

This is gonna sound freaky but my dad has a robe just like it.

MARLENA

Really.

HYUNGSOO

Swear to god ... with the green stripes going vertical?

MARLENA

Yes ...

HYUNGSOO

Oh, for sure.

MARLENA

That's so weird ...

HYUNGSOO

Yo but seriously it's like, the ugliest robe imaginable.

Marlena laughs.

MARLENA

You're funny.

She pauses. Then:

MARLENA (CONT'D)

Are you ... talking to anyone else
right now?

HYUNGSOO

Nah.

MARLENA

Me neither.

There's a long, happy pause. They let this sink in.

They touch hands. Then look up at each other ...

Hyungsoo's eyes dart sideways.

HYUNGSOO

Get down!

He ducks. Marlena follows suit, confused.

MARLENA

What's going on?

HYUNGSOO

There's a cop.

MARLENA

We're not allowed to be here?

Hyungsoo makes a face: "not exactly."

MARLENA (CONT'D)

Oh my god ...

Marlena looks amused more than anything. Hyungsoo smiles too,
then his expression changes. The weed.

INT./EXT. LUCAS'S CAR

Reuben and Lucas in Lucas's BMW. Contemporary hip-hop
blasting from the speakers. Lucas is aggressively into it.
Reuben just stares out the window.

They pass out of the mansions ... and over the TRAIN TRACKS
... they make a few turns.

LUCAS

Yo what do your parents think
you're doing right now?

REUBEN

I don't know. Just chillin'.

LUCAS
We are just chillin'.

Music blasts. Lucas takes a turn.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Yo why do you hate them so much?

REUBEN
Why do you hate yours so much?

LUCAS
Cuz they fuckin' suck.

REUBEN
Yeah, man. Same shit.

Another long pause. The car stops.

INT./EXT. LUCAS'S CAR

They're outside Romero's house. It's a shack. The lawn is overgrown. A mess. There's noise coming from the back.

LUCAS
I think I know why you hate your parents.

REUBEN
Okay.

LUCAS
Because they're poor and they can't do shit for you. And at my house you can smoke all the weed you want and eat all the pop-tarts you want and no one gives a shit because my parents don't give a shit what I do.

Reuben doesn't know what to say.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Let's go, pussy.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/KITCHEN

Julie looks through the papers. Then rubs her eyes. She takes a sip of wine. The house is eerily quiet.

Then--a noise. Like a thump. She gets up to follow it.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM

Rugs, glass vases, a huge TV, a piano. More emptiness.

THUMP--there's the noise. Again.

She passes by the door to the basement. She puts her hand on the doorknob. She sniffs, makes a face. It looks like she's about to go in, when.

THUMP. Upstairs.

She follows the grand, winding staircase up to the second floor.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/UPSTAIRS

She looks both ways down a hall. She's concerned, worried.

THUMP. It's coming from the bathroom.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/BATHROOM

She throws open the bathroom door ... and nothing's there. She takes a huge sigh. Looks herself in the mirror. The quiet seems to intrude again. It's audible, almost.

She shakes her head. Eyes the window cabinet.

JULIE

No. No.

She looks in the mirror again. Smiles. Professional.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I, Julie Schwartz, am running for counsel. My platform begins with clean streets and ends with clean bodies...

EXT./INT. COP CAR

OFFICER JOE KOWALSKI, (30s), dopey-looking, sits in the passenger seat. OFFICER MICHAEL COLE (60s) sits in the driver's seat.

COLE

I'm too old for this shit. You take it.

Kowalski nods, steps out with a flashlight.

EXT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

They hear Kowalski step out. Then see the flashlight on either side. Hyungsoo is really panicking.

HYUNGSOO

Run.

MARLENA

What?

HYUNGSOO

We've gotta run. There.

He points somewhere down a slight slope.

MARLENA

What?

But Hyungsoo takes off. Marlena crashes after him.

EXT. ELIZABETH/BACKYARD

They run down the slope toward a grassy backyard. There's a bush--they dive behind it. They look up: Kowalski shines the light downward from the edge they climbed down. Lazy effort. Then walks away.

INT. COP CAR

Kowalski sits back down.

COLE

Well?

KOWALSKI

Just some kids.

COLE

Did you check the car?

KOWALSKI

They're kids. Come on.

Cole sighs. They should do more. But he's tired.

COLE

All right.

EXT. ELIZABETH/BACKYARD

Marlena and Hyungsoo breathe heavily, look at each other.
After a beat, they both start laughing uncontrollably.

MARLENA

Oh my god.

HYUNGSOO

Wooo!

MARLENA

Ah ... oh my god.

The laughing calms down a little. They realize they're laying
very close to each other. The tensions thickens.

INT. HYUN-JI'S APARTMENT - SEOUL - MORNING

Hyun-ji sits at a granite-topped table in a clean, modern-
looking apartment kitchen. She's a thin woman, serious-
looking. Her hair is up in a tight ponytail.

INTERCUT HYUN-JI AND WOOSUK, SEOUL AND ELIZABETH.

They speak Korean with one another.

HYUN-JI

It's late for you.

Woosuk sits at the table, next to his coat.

WOOSUK

Not too late.

HYUN-JI

Was it a long day of work?

WOOSUK

Yes.

HYUN-JI

How is Whoohyun?

WOOSUK

In bed. Reading.

HYUN-JI

What is she reading?

WOOSUK

(in English)

Treasure Island.

Hyung-ji smiles a thin smile. A long beat.

HYUN-JI

And Hyungsoo? What's he doing?

Woosuk finishes his beer.

WOOSUK

I don't know.

Hyun-ji looks at her wristwatch. It's on U.S. time.

HYUN-JI

It's a school night.

WOOSUK

Yes.

Hyun-ji purses her lips at this.

Woosuk gets up for another beer. He pulls out another Sam Adams, cracks it open. He closes the fridge door, and we see the fridge pictures closer now. They're all old, faded.

A voice, some commotion, sounds within Hyun-ji's apartment.

HYUN-JI

She's waking up, Woosuk.

Woosuk coughs into his fist: a smoker's cough.

WOOSUK

One day she won't.

Hyun-ji's composure breaks a little.

HYUN-JI

Are you getting behind at work?

Woosuk takes a long drink of the beer.

WOOSUK

No, I am not behind.

HYUN-JI

Then why do you bring up my mother's health? Do you still want to provide for our children's education? Their livelihood? Do you still want me? I'll come to America when you can afford to bring me there--and my mother.

Hyun-ji's mother cries out again.

HYUN-JI (CONT'D)
I have to take care of her. Call me
when you have found our son.

She hangs up, quickly resets her face. It's like nothing has happened to her. She goes to her mother.

INT. SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN

Diana's finger trembles above the number. We see which contact she's stopped on: JOSÉ. She pulls hard at a cigarette. Then she hits the call button.

It rings and rings and rings ... and hits his voicemail.

JOSÉ
This is Jose. Please--

She hangs up. Presses out her mostly-full cigarette.

DIANA
Asshole, asshole, asshole ...

She quickly calls someone else: JOSEFINA MARTINEZ (40), née Sanchez. We stay on Diana as they talk.

JOSEFINA
You called him again.

DIANA
Yes.

JOSEFINA
We're not talking about that dude.

DIANA
I know. I know.

JOSEFINA
What's wrong?

DIANA
Nothing.

JOSEFINA
Seriously?

Diana laughs, pulls out a cigarette.

DIANA
Marlena went out to see a boy
tonight.

JOSEFINA

Oh, baby.

DIANA

I told her not to go but she walked away from me.

JOSEFINA

You gonna ground her?

DIANA

I don't know if I can.

JOSEFINA

Right, right.

Diana stares off into space. She puts her arm through her shirt absentmindedly, starts rubbing her breast. But it's not for pleasure. There's something there. She winces.

JOSEFINA (CONT'D)

Now what is it?

DIANA

Nothing.

JOSEFINA

Diana. My love. You can't lie to me.

DIANA

It's nothing.

JOSEFINA

Fine. If you're going to be like that, I'll talk.

DIANA

Please.

JOSEFINA

Well let me tell you about my shithead son Romero ...

Josefina goes on and on. Diana spaces out, hand in her shirt.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/BATHROOM

JULIE

And that is why I, Julia Schwartz--

THUMP. It's coming from inside the room.

JULIE (CONT'D)
And that is why I, Julia Schwartz,
am the best choice for coun--

THUMP. From inside the cabinet. The door slides open on its own--

No. Julie has slid it open. And she's holding a pill bottle. She stares at it.

JULIE (CONT'D)
Fuck it.

She takes two, a glass of water. She fixes her face, smiles at her reflection.

JULIE (CONT'D)
And that is why I, Julia Schwartz,
am the best choice for council this
upcoming election. Vote for me.

INT. ROMERO'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM

Crazy rave music blasting, laser lights swinging. People all over: it looks like they're barely moving. Lucas and Reuben sit on a couch. Lucas is bumping his head. Reuben looks like he's freaking out a little.

ROMERO MARTINEZ (23), stout and tough, comes over.

ROMERO
What it do? Kevin tells me you're
itchin. What's scratchin'?

Lucas pantomimes a pipe, a hit.

LUCAS
Kevin had it last week ... he said
it was yours. He was carrying for
you. That's the shit I want.

ROMERO
You mean the sour diesel? Yeah bro
I gotchu some.

LUCAS
No. Not the sour diesel.

Someone on a nearby couch groans, falls over.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
The other shit.

Romero raises an eye at him.

ROMERO
You lookin' for coke, bro?

REUBEN
He wants the 'h'.

ROMERO
Who the fuck are you?

REUBEN
Reuben. I'm Reuben.

LUCAS
Whatever shit you gave Kevin. I
want exactly that shit. The exact
shit.

ROMERO
Shit's costly.

REUBEN
He's rich.

LUCAS
The exact. Same. Shit.

ROMERO
All right bro. Hang on a sec.

Romero goes off. On another couch, we see two people are
fucking--as if in slow motion.

Romero comes back with a thin glass pipe. The end is black
with heroin residue and burn scars.

LUCAS
YES. Come on. How much?

ROMERO
40 for the hit and another.

LUCAS
I'll take it. Gimme that.

He pulls out two twenties. Hands it over.

ROMERO
Easy man. Take it--

But Lucas takes a big hit. He immediately starts reacting. He
laughs, his body goes limp. His anxious tapping quiets.

LUCAS
Shiiiiiiiit, dude. Pussy, take some.

Reuben follows suit. He too sinks into his seat. They sit there staring, heads lolling.

REUBEN
Bro. You know why I hate my parents?

LUCAS
Why?

REUBEN
Because they beat the shit out of me.

A beat. Then Reuben starts laughing. Lucas joins in.

EXT. ELIZABETH/BACKYARD

Quiet, but between them it's electric. They're touching hips, touching everywhere they can.

HYUNGSOO
Do you ever go to the city?

MARLENA
Sometimes ... my aunt lives in the Heights. Washington Heights.

HYUNGSOO
I've never been there.

MARLENA
It's fine. Dirty and loud. Parties right by the Hudson.

HYUNGSOO
Cool, cool ... I like looking at the river by the cliffs. Went to a barbecue in the park there once. Ot was fun.

MARLENA
We should do that.

HYUNGSOO
Yeah. This summer.

MARLENA
Yeah, definitely.

Long pause.

HYUNGSOO
I want to move to the city. I think
I want to end up there ... maybe
I'll go to NYU. Or Columbia.

MARLENA
Yeah. Maybe Columbia.

Hyungsoo laughs.

HYUNGSOO
Nah ... probably not. Probably not
for me.

Hyungsoo looks back at her. Marlena has that look.

Hyungsoo kisses her. He goes in again, this time for longer. Marlena opens her mouth. Hyungsoo opens his too. It's jaw-y, juvenile, but impassioned. Hyungsoo puts his hand on the upper seam of Marlena's jeans. She shudders and detaches.

MARLENA
Wait.

Hyungsoo takes his hand off of her.

HYUNGSOO
What?

Marlena's face is flushed. She's waiting for her brain to catch up with her body. But it doesn't.

MARLENA
Nothing.

HYUNGSOO
Yeah?

MARLENA
Yeah.

They make out again. It quickly escalates.

END ACT II

ACT III

EXT. BACKYARD

Marlena and Hyungsoo lay together breathing heavily. Marlena looks satisfied, happy. Hyungsoo a little confused.

HYUNGSOO
That wasn't your first time?

MARLENA
... no.

HYUNGSOO
Man ...

MARLENA
You thought I was a virgin?

HYUNGSOO
Nah.

MARLENA
Yes you did.

HYUNGSOO
Maybe.

Marlena laughs. Sits up.

MARLENA
Not yours either.

HYUNGSOO
No.

They both laugh. It's comfortable now. They lay back, look up at the stars.

MARLENA
Do you think ... kids grow up
faster these days?

HYUNGSOO
Probably.

MARLENA
My mom didn't ... until she was
eighteen.

HYUNGSOO
We're seventeen.

MARLENA

Yeah.

A long pause.

MARLENA (CONT'D)

And then she had me.

HYUNGSOO

I used a condom.

MARLENA

I know. I'm just saying.

A long pause.

MARLENA (CONT'D)

Maybe we're getting older slower.

HYUNGSOO

We're smarter.

MARLENA

What do you mean?

HYUNGSOO

We use condoms and shit.

MARLENA

My mom used condoms.

A tense pause. Hyungsoo smart enough to not say anything.

MARLENA (CONT'D)

Or maybe she didn't.

HYUNGSOO

Ask her.

MARLENA

Yeah right.

HYUNGSOO

Why not?

MARLENA

Would you ask your parents that?

HYUNGSOO

No.

MARLENA

Right.

Hyungsoo doesn't want to go there.

HYUNGSOO
Who knows.

MARLENA
Yeah, who knows.

The conversation comes to an end. Hyungsoo stretches.

HYUNGSOO
Fuuuck I don't want to go to school
tomorrow.

MARLENA
Ugh, same.

Hyungsoo makes to pull out his phone but he doesn't have it.

HYUNGSOO
Shit what time is it?

Marlena checks her pants too.

MARLENA
My phone's in the car.

They get up. Start walking up the hill.

They get to the top, dust themselves off, and go over to the car.

INT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

Hyungsoo looks at his phone. He has 10 missed calls from Romero. 5 texts. Yo pick up your fuckin phone. Yo this is serious. Pick up the phone. Yo your fuckin boy's havin issues. Pick up your phone.

Hyungsoo immediately calls. Marlena picks up on the tension.

MARLENA
What's wrong?

Hyungsoo waves her off. Romero picks up.

HYUNGSOO
Yo what the fuck is going on?

INT. ROMERO'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM

Romero, on the phone, is pacing. Lucas is on the couch, eyes rolled back, drool coming out of his mouth. Skin pallid.

Next to him Reuben sits up right, his head in his hands.

ROMERO

Yo what the fuck's up with your
boy? I thought you said he was
cool.

INTERCUT HYUNGSOO'S CAR, ROMERO'S HOUSE

HYUNGSOO

My boy--what are you talking about?

ROMERO

YOUR FUCKIN' BOY.

REUBEN

Lucas.

ROMERO

Lucas.

(to Hyungsoo)

Your boy Lucas is fucked up bro you
gotta get him out of here.

HYUNGSOO

What's happening? What'd he do?

ROMERO

I don't fuckin know man ... this is
your problem! You sent him here,
you pick his ass up. I'm not
calling an ambulance.

HYUNGSOO

An *ambulance*?

ROMERO

GET THE FUCK OVER HERE.

HYUNGSOO

ROMERO. YO ROMERO.

Hyungsoo looks at his phone. Romero has hung up. Marlina glares at him.

MARLENA

Romero?

Hyungsoo looks down, ashamed.

MARLENA (CONT'D)
Romero *Martinez*?

HYUNGSOO
You know him?

MARLENA
He's my cousin ... my god.

HYUNGSOO
I don't know what you've heard
about me ... people say a lot of
shit. But I'm not a drug dealer.

MARLENA
No? That's weird, because Romero is
a drug dealer. You just got off the
phone with Romero.

HYUNGSOO
It's not like that.

MARLENA
Then what is it? Don't lie to me.

HYUNGSOO
I ... used to ... deal pot.

MARLENA
Used to?

HYUNGSOO
I stopped
(off Marlena's look)
I don't want to be that. That's not
a life. That's not me.

Long pause.

HYUNGSOO (CONT'D)
Look, I've gotta do something right
now. I'll take you home. I--

MARLENA
Lucas Schwartz is fucked up.

Hyungsoo looks at her. With real affection.

MARLENA (CONT'D)
I'll help you.

She holds out a pinky.

MARLENA (CONT'D)
If you don't ever talk to my cousin
ever again.

Hyungsoo takes it.

INT. THE SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN

Josefina still talks. Diana's eyes flutter open and shut.

A CRASH from the girls' room jolts her awake.

She hangs up, slams over to the room.

INT. THE SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/MARLENA'S ROOM

Gabriela is on the floor, the contents of Marlena's desk
spilled all around her. Gabriela's cheeks are red with blush.

GABRIELA
(in English)
I woke up and did my make up and
then all of the sudden I was
falling and I--

Diana notices the makeup all over the rug. It's a mess and
she's furious. She storms out.

INT. SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN

Diana picks out a rag, runs hot water over it, storms back.

INT. SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/MARLENA'S ROOM

Diana is still crying and whining.

GABRIELA
I'm sorry I didn't mean to--

Diana SLAPS Gabriela. She immediately stops.

DIANA
Help me clean this up. Get another
rag, and then put this shit back on
Marlena's desk.

Gabriela rushes out. Diana washes the makeup from the rug.
She barely gets any off: it just blurs and blends.

EXT. ROMERO'S HOUSE

Marlena and Hyungsoo pull up. They get out. Start walking toward the back.

INT. WOOSUK'S HOME/KITCHEN

INTERCUT WOOSUK AND HYUN-JI.

Woosuk looks at his phone, sees the call has ended. Hyun-ji won't be calling for the rest of the night.

Hyun-ji gets up, walks toward her mother's room.

Woosuk sets down the phone and finishes the rest of the drink. He wipes his mouth with his shirt.

Hyun-ji stands in the doorway looking at her MOTHER (75). She's a shriveled, sick woman. Breathing tubes and orange pill bottles everywhere. She clutches for air.

Woosuk gets up, grabs two beers, and pulls out a pack of cigarettes from his coat pocket.

Hyun-ji takes two cotton balls from her pocket. She puts them up her nose.

HYUN-JI
Good morning, Mom.

Woosuk steps out onto the back patio. He lights a cigarette. Cracks a beer. Pulls out his phone. Goes to a contact: "Helen." He texts her. "What are you wearing?"

EXT. ROMERO'S HOUSE

They walk around to the back door. They knock. Noise and music from the interior. Romero comes out from the darkness.

ROMERO
Yo Kevin what the ...

He sees Marlena. His jaw drops. Then he comes at Hyungsoo.

ROMERO (CONT'D)
Yo what the fuck are you doing
getting my fam--

Marlena steps in front of him. Puts her hand on his shoulder.

They speak in Spanish.

MARLENA
Romero. Chill out.

ROMERO
What are you doing here?

MARLENA
I'm with Kevin.

ROMERO
He your boyfriend? This fucking
guy?

MARLENA
Yes.

Romero steps back. Gives Hyungsoo a "we have a problem look."

ROMERO
Aight. Don't tell your mom about
this. This is my livelihood, man.

Marlena nods. He waves them in.

INT. ROMERO'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM

He walks them over to the couch. We have a better view of the
room now. It's a full-on heroin den.

ROMERO
There it fuckin' is.

We see Lucas and Reuben. They've barely moved. Lucas has
gotten worse.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/KITCHEN

Julie sits at the kitchen table again. Looking over papers.
She starts licking her lips. She's thirsty.

Then she's at the counter. Tap water overflows her cup and
spills onto her hands.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM

She's in the living room, pouring the water into a plant.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/KITCHEN

Back at the kitchen. Still thirsty. Confused about that-- didn't she just drink water?

She's at the fridge. Barely anything in there.

INT. SCHWARTZ'S HOUSE/GARAGE

And then she's in her car, inside their dark garage. The radio is blasting. She looks surprised. But hits the garage door button.

INT. ROMERO'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM

HYUNGSOO

What are we supposed to do?

MARLENA

Is he breathing?

Marlena looks closer at Lucas. A slight rise and fall.

ROMERO

He's good, he's good. Needs to sleep, he'll sleep it off, he's good. Kevin, you know where this kid lives?

HYUNGSOO

Yeah.

Romero gets close to Hyungsoo. Intimidating, commanding.

ROMERO

Then get him the fuck out of here.

Reuben groans. Romero crouches next to him. SLAPS him.

ROMERO (CONT'D)

Can you walk?

REUBEN

Fuck ...

Hyungsoo and Romero go over to Lucas. They hoist him up onto their shoulders. He's dead weight. They drag him out.

The people in the den barely notice.

ROMERO
(to Reuben)
Let's go!

Marlena helps Reuben stand. Walks by him.

They head to the door.

EXT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

They throw Lucas into the backseat. Marlena takes Reuben around to the other side. Romero takes the moment to say something to Hyungsoo.

ROMERO
I don't ever want to see your chink
ass with her again. You understand
me? You fucked me on this one.

He nods at Marlena across the car.

ROMERO (CONT'D)
Tell tía I say hello.

Romero runs back inside. Marlena and Hyungsoo get in the car.

INT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

They quickly get their seatbelts on. Get ready to drive.

HYUNGSOO
I'm sorry.

MARLENA
Whatever. Let's go.

Hyungsoo peels off.

INT./EXT. JULIE'S CAR

Julie hums happily. Smacks her lips.

The mansions pass by in slow motion. Fast motion. The streets all look the same. They seem to yawn and flex. She's disoriented. But keeps driving.

Out of the mansions ...

INT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

Hyungsoo makes a few turns. Reuben groans in the back.

Hyungsoo takes his right hand off the wheel. He opens his hand and lays it beside Marlana. We see him peering out of the corner of his eye.

Marlena sees his hand. Then she looks up at Hyungsoo, whose eyes dart away.

She crawls her hand into his.

INT./EXT. JULIE'S CAR

The world goes by in starts. The pills are kicking in hard. She drives over the TRAIN TRACKS ...

INT./EXT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

Hyungsoo stops at an intersection by the tracks. He looks over at Marlana.

The light turns green. He drives through.

Hyungsoo glances at Marlana. And then looks up--

THERE'S A HOMELESS MAN IN THE ROAD--

A reflex instant later he SWERVES--

LOUD SCREEEECH--Hyungsoo THROWS the wheel left to try and keep it straight ... he does.

Thin smoke up from the wheels. Everything's been thrown around in the interior. Marlana and Hyungsoo breathe heavily. The boys groan.

MARLENA

Holy shit. Are you all right?

HYUNGSOO

Yeah, I'm--

JULIE's car comes SCREAMING into theirs.

HUGE CRASH. CAR HORNS, TWISTING METAL, ALARMS, HISSING GAS. THE TWO CARS SMOKE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

ANGLE ON THE HOMELESS MAN. He vomits.

END ACT III

ACT IV

EXT. ELIZABETH/CAR CRASH

A cop car comes screaming up to the wreck. Officer Kowalski and Officer Cole step out of their car.

KOWALSKI

Holy shit.

Cole gets out. Stares at the Homeless Man, untouched, in the road. Cole is reacting. Getting emotional.

Kowalski starts running towards Julie's car while calling into his walkie-talkie. Cole walks over to the Homeless Man.

He gets down on one knee. Shakes him.

COLE

Hey.

He shakes him more violently.

COLE (CONT'D)

HEY!

The Homeless Man wakes up as if from a long nap. He looks up at Cole. Fondly.

HOMELESS MAN

What--

Cole picks the man up by his shirt.

COLE

I don't know how many chances I've
given you son, but I'm going to
give you one more. Run. Now.

The homeless man stares for a beat. Then runs off in the opposite direction.

Cole gets up slowly. Then he hobbles after Kowalski.

INT./EXT. JULIE'S CAR

Julie, semi-conscious, murmurs in her seat. There's a gash on her face, glass everywhere, the windshield is busted through. Smoke fumes up through the open window. She coughs.

A moment later Kowalski throws open the car door.

KOWALSKI
M--Mrs. Schwartz? Shit. Mrs.
Schwartz. MRS. SCHWARTZ.

She murmurs, looks over. Her eyes roll, then straighten.

SCHWARTZ
Yes?

KOWALSKI
I need to remove you from the
vehicle. Can you move your limbs?

Julie groggily takes off her seatbelt

SCHWARTZ
Yes ... I can ...

She begins to step out of the car. Kowalski grabs her and
escorts her from the smoking car.

At this point Officer Cole, heaving, comes up.

COLE
Kowalski, you--

KOWALSKI
GET THE FUCKING KIDS!

COLE
The kids ...

JULIE
What ... OH MY GOD.

She lets out a hideous shriek.

Cole looks off to the car. His face drops.

Off his look we see over to Hyungsoo's car.

Hyungsoo is unconscious, the airbag rapidly deflating in
front of him. Marlana is looking at Cole through the
windshield--then she starts to shove Hyungsoo awake. Lucas
has been thrown from his seat--his body hangs limply out the
back seat window. We can't see Reuben.

Police mode finally engages. Cole sets off at a sprint.

JULIE (CONT'D)
LUCAS!! LUCAS!!

Julie starts thrashing. Kowalski tries to grab her.

KOWALSKI

Ma'am, I'm going to need you to sit here. Ma'am, I'm--

JULIE

NO--

She gets away. Sets off at a sprint too.

INT./EXT. HYUNGSOO'S CAR

Officer Cole arrives at Marlana first. She glares at him.

COLE

Can you walk?

MARLENA

He's bleeding from his mouth he's not waking up.

COLE

Everyone's bleeding, kid.

She touches the huge slash on her face. Looks at the red blood on her fingertips. Steps gingerly out of the car.

Cole goes over to Lucas, hanging out of the window. He looks entirely limp. Cole checks his pulse.

Julie comes running up a moment later.

JULIE

MY BABY. LUCAS. LUCAS! LUCAS!!

COLE

(to an approaching
Kowalski)

GET HER OUT OF HERE.

Kowalski picks her up, drags her away. She screams for Lucas.

COLE (CONT'D)

(into walkie-talkie)

I SAID I NEED BACK-UP.

A strange emptiness after. There's still work to do.

Cole goes to the other side, where Reuben is.

COLE (CONT'D)

Can you walk?

Marlena sees Hyungsoo cough: blood spatters out his mouth.

MARLENA
HE'S COUGHING UP BLOOD!

Reuben pukes out the window. It lands on Cole's shoes.

COLE
HEY--are you fucked up, kid?

REUBEN
No--

Cole throws open the door, grabs Reuben. Throws him into the street. We see Reuben's leg is broken. He screams.

Cole finally gets to the front, to Hyungsoo. He's nodding off, there's blood all over his shirt, the air bag.

COLE
Kid. Can you walk?

Hyungsoo murmurs and sways. He's in bad shape.

COLE (CONT'D)
Kid, have you been drinking?

Hyungsoo makes some sounds. Completely indistinct. Cole says some code into his walkie-talkie.

Then, finally, an ambulance SWERVES into the scene, and paramedics take over.

Cole steps away and directs traffic.

We can still hear Julie's screams.

INT. THE SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/MARLENA'S ROOM

It's quiet except for Diana's washing.

Then, abruptly, she stops. She's done. She gets up.

DIANA
Finish putting those things back on
the desk.

Gabriela keeps on scrubbing.

DIANA (CONT'D)
Gabriela, stop. It's useless.

Diana turns and walks out. Door closes behind her.

INT. THE SANCHEZ'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN

Diana sits back down at the table. There's a rosary on the wall. She picks it up. Thumbs it. Closes her eyes.

DIANA

En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo,
y del Espíritu Santo. Amen ... Creo
en Dios, Padre todopoderoso,
creador del Cielo y de la Tierra
...

She puts it down. Sighs. It's not enough right now.

And then the phone rings.

EXT. WOOSUK'S HOME/BACKYARD

He looks out onto the neighbor's house. The AVERAGE MAN from the teaser drinks his beer, staring wide-eyed at nothing.

Woosuk looks away, at his own yard: a joyless concrete slab littered with cigarette butts. He throws another one into the pile. Pulls out another cigarette.

His phone buzzes. It's from Helen. He opens the text.

"Nothing ;). Want to see a pic?"

Woosuk quickly texts back. "Yes."

A text bubble comes up ... then pops. "It's 25 dollars for my tits. You want that, sexy?"

"Yes."

Then the house phone rings.

INT. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/OPERATING ROOM

Ivan is scrubbed up, mid-surgery. A group of young surgeons surround him, looking on.

IVAN

The thing about an appendectomy is
... it's not hard. It's not a *hard*
surgery. But you can lose focus.
The idea is to make it a routine.
Make it fun. Set yourselves goals.

While he's talking a fellow surgeon shows up at the front door. The students look over.

IVAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to make a perfect tie-off. I'm going to incise perfectly along my tie. I'm going to get better every--

STUDENT

Dr. Schwartz?

IVAN

What?

STUDENT

There's someone looking for you.

Ivan looks up at the fellow surgeon. He goes over. A hushed conversation. The fellow surgeon shakes his head. There's a beat. And then--Ivan tears off his gloves and runs out.

INT./EXT. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/ER INTAKE

The ambulances come screaming into the ER parking lot.

Hyungsoo comes rolling out first--he has an oxygen mask over his mouth. Doctors come running out to meet the paramedics.

DOCTOR #1

Blood pressure?

PARAMEDIC #1

60 over 40. Dropping.

The doctor takes a scissors, cuts open Hyungsoo's shirt. There a livid purple swelling in his abdomen.

DOCTOR #1

WE NEED AN OR, STAT. LET'S GO,
LET'S GO, LET'S GO.

Ivan shows up at the door in a daze. The doctor runs past him with Hyungsoo in the gurney.

DOCTOR #1 (CONT'D)

SCHWARTZ. I NEED YOU ON THIS, KID'S
GOT 30 MINUTES. SCHWARTZ!
SCHWARTZ!!

Ivan is staring off O.S., where Lucas is now being brought out. More doctors flare out behind him, meet the gurney.

DOCTOR #2

What's going on?

PARAMEDIC #2
Dilated eyes, slow breathing, heart
rate at 50/120. Could be
concussion, no internal bleeding,
could be ... I don't know.

Doctor #2 looks at Lucas suspiciously. Then it dawns on him.

Ivan floats over in a daze.

IVAN
Lucas?

Doctor #2 opens his mouth as if to say something. Then thinks
better of it.

DOCTOR #2
I've got him, Schwartz. Don't
worry. Save the kid.

Doctor #2 pushes past him, another doctor joins him.

DOCTOR #2 (CONT'D)
Push Naloxone, STAT.

Schwartz, hearing this, looks back in shock.

DOCTOR #1
SCHWARTZ!!! YOU GONNA BE ABLE TO DO
THIS?

A third gurney comes out. Julie. She's bolt upright. Talking
incessantly. Officer Cole is beside her, writing.

JULIE
You're not listening, I said I was
driving, just driving, going to get
some groceries, some water, I was
thirsty.

She swallows.

JULIE (CONT'D)
It was a green light, the kids
weren't paying attention, the
fucking kids swung into the
intersection as if I wasn't there,
he wasn't paying attention, the
asian kid wasn't paying attention,
he was drunk, are you listening? he
swerved like a drunk--

She sees Ivan.

JULIE (CONT'D)
IVAN! Ivan, my love, I'm so sorry,
I'm sorry, Ivan, I'm so sorry.

He goes up and kisses her.

IVAN
Tell me you're okay, love.

Her eyes are still glassy from the drugs.

JULIE
Ivan ... Lucas. The asian kid
killed Lucas. My Lucas, oh my god,
my little Lucas.

She starts sobbing again. Then looks up, livid with rage.

JULIE (CONT'D)
SAVE LUCAS, IVAN. SAVE HIM.

Ivan looks shell-shocked. Doctor #1 grabs his shoulder.

DOCTOR #1
SCHWARTZ. NOW OR NEVER.

Ivan looks at the doctor. At his wife.

IVAN
I have to go.

JULIE
To save Lucas?

He shakes his head as he's being whisked off.

JULIE (CONT'D)
No! NO!

Officer Cole continues to scribble.

COLE
Mrs. Schwartz, I need you to start
from the beginning.

Doctors come out and take her away while Cole follows.

The next gurney: Reuben, passed out, but breathing well. His
leg looks mangled, but it's up in a splint.

PARAMEDIC #3
Broken leg. Concussion. Cop thinks
he's drunk.

DOCTOR #3
Check. We'll get him in an ER.

The doctors run him up.

Marlena comes out last. Her eyes are open. She looks lost in thought.

PARAMEDIC #4
She's fine. Concussion unlikely.
Perfectly coherent. She provided
contact information for the
patients.

DOCTOR #4
Great. We'll run some tests.
Stitches for the cut. Get a psych
eval. Thanks for everything.

Marlena doesn't hear them. She stares as they wheel her away.

INT. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/HALLWAY

Ivan, in a fog, jogs after Hyungsoo. Sound is muffled. He's in shock too. Motion is hazy all around him.

INT. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/OPERATING ROOM

Ivan scrubs up. Sequence of his prep is fast: everyone's rushing. Hyungsoo doesn't have much time.

Ivan steps out of the preparation area, and suddenly everything becomes clear. Sharp.

He goes over to Hyungsoo.

IVAN
I'm going to save you, kid.

He picks up a scalpel from the table.

The anesthetist gives him a nod.

The EKG turns on. It's slow. But going. It continues throughout the following scenes.

INT. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/LUCAS'S ROOM

A nurse gets Lucas's vein, another pushes a syringe of Naxoprone into the IV just as it's set up.

Lucas's body relaxes. But there's no eye movement.

A doctor comes in and shines a light into his eyes. The pupils dilate, but don't move. He's alive. Unresponsive.

INT. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/WAITING ROOM - LATER

Woosuk and Whoohyun burst in. Woosuk runs up to the receptionist. His english is thick with his Korean accent..

WOOSUK

I'mma Woosuk Kim. Hyungsoo Kim, he here?

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Kim, we'll get someone to talk to you right away. Please hold on a moment.

WHOOHYUN

They need us to wait here, Dad.

Woosuk stands there. Nervous and scared. Unsure how to proceed.

Diana and Gabriela storm in a moment later. Diana's english is thick with her Spanish accent.

DIANA

Diana Sanchez? Sanchez, I got a call.

RECEPTIONIST

Mrs. Sanchez, we'll get someone to talk to you right away. Please hold on a moment.

They wait there too. Next to the Kims. The two families eye each other warily.

A Korean doctor comes out. They speak in Korean.

DOCTOR #5

Mr. Kim? Korean?

WOOSUK

Yes?

DOCTOR #5

Come over here with me.

They go off together to a corner. Serious talk.

A moment later, a hispanic Doctor comes out. They speak in Spanish.

DOCTOR #6
Diana Sanchez?

DIANA
Yes.

DOCTOR #6
Come with me. You can see Marlana.

DIANA
She's okay??

DOCTOR #6
We're going to keep her here. But
you can talk to her.

DIANA
Praise god.

Gabriela, silent for all of this, keeps on frowning

INT. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL/MARLENA'S ROOM

Diana and Gabriela are let into the room.

Marlena is upright on her bed. Look at her phone.

DIANA
Marlena!

Diana runs over, hugs her.

MARLENA
Ow, Mama.

Diana isn't expecting this reaction. But Marlana isn't paying attention. She's watching something on her phone.

DIANA
What are you looking at?

Marlena looks up at her. Focused. Then down at the phone one more time.

MARLENA
This.

She turns the screen toward her.

It's a video taken from the inside of Hyungsoo's car. We can hear her ragged breath as she comes to. There's a siren approaching. Marlana looks over to Hyungsoo.

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

Oh my god. Hyungsoo. Wake up.

There's groaning in the back. She tries to turn, but can't--she's too stiff. We hear her mutter in pain.

Then the cop car comes burning around the corner. We see Kowalski step out, run over to Julie's car. And then Cole, talking to the Homeless Man.

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

OVER HERE! OVER HERE!

The Homeless Man runs off. Then Cole goes over to Julie. We hear Kowalski scream--then Cole looks over. The phone drops below, and we just hear Marlana.

MARLENA (CONT'D)

Hyungsoo? Hyungsoo?

Cole comes over, they talk, and Marlana steps out. Cole grabs Reuben, throws him from the car. We see Hyungsoo puke up blood, Marlana's scream, and Cole accuse an unconscious Hyungsoo of being drunk.

And then, as the ambulances arrive, we get one last look at Cole shouting orders, then sidling up to a shrieking Julie.

COLE

Tell me what happened, Mrs. Schwartz. I'm not going to let anything happen to you. This is our story. Now what happened?

THE END