

MEANT TO SAY GOODBYE

Written by

Kayla Clarke

EXT. TAYLOR HOME, PORCH - DAWN

Deanna TAYLOR, twenty-seven, blonde stands on the wooden porch. Her hair falls just past her shoulders. She wears a BUTTON UP PLAID SHIRT that fits her loosely, her BLUE-JEANS are worn out and she has WORK BOOTS on.

Deanna has a SMALL BAG slung over her shoulder, it's zipped shut. Inside is an extra SHIRT as well as a PAIR OF JEANS, SOX, and a change of UNDERWEAR.

The SCREEN DOOR swings open and JUSTICE TAYLOR steps out, she is Deanna's younger sister. Justice is twenty-two years old. She's wearing a TANK-TOP, BLUE-JEANS and TENNIS SHOES. Her brown hair's short, pixie style.

The door shuts behind Justice, she observes her sister in silence.

DEANNA TAYLOR

What is it, Justice?

Justice crosses her arms over her chest, never looking away from Deanna. Deanna doesn't quite meet her gaze.

JUSTICE TAYLOR

Are you sure you don't want me to drive you?

DEANNA TAYLOR

I don't need a freakin' baby-sitter.

JUSTICE TAYLOR

No, but you're clearly shaken up. I don't mind.

Deanna fumbles in her JEAN POCKET for her TRUCK KEYS, her hands are shaking.

JUSTICE TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Did you get any sleep last night?

Her keys hit the ground with a CLATTER, she looks up at Justice and shakes her head.

DEANNA TAYLOR

No, I was at the hospital all night. I just came home to shower and grab a change of clothes.

JUSTICE TAYLOR

Can't you stay home? At least for a couple hours. Deanna, you look exhausted.

Deanna reaches for her keys.

DEANNA TAYLOR

I am exhausted, but I have to go. He's gonna wake up and I have to be there.

Justice presses her lips into a thin line.

JUSTICE TAYLOR

Dee. . .

DEANNA TAYLOR

Don't. Don't you give me that. He has to wake up-

JUSTICE TAYLOR

Just go.

Deanna sighs.

DEANNA TAYLOR

I'll call you in a few hours.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - SAME MORNING

Deanna is familiar with this apartment. It's rather small, the kitchen and living-room merged into one, a bathroom and a bedroom. It's all Gabriel could afford.

His LAPTOP sits on the COFFEE TABLE, half open. It had still be on when he left, it's dead now. Clean DISHES are stacked by the sink, they are dry.

Deanna heads straight for the bedroom, it's clear her emotions are fighting their way to the surface. She's trying not to cry.

BEDROOM

The BED is unmade, sheets tangled together. The COMFORTER has been pushed to one side, it's clear where he'd bene sleeping. Deanna sits on the edge of the bed, then flops over her head hitting his pillow.

Her eyes don't shut, she seems to just stare blankly. It takes her a moment but soon she notices the LEATHER-BOUND JOURNAL that's resting on the NIGHT-STAND. She reaches for it.

There's a CLASP that keeps it shut. Deanna sits up, undoes the clasp and opens to a page in the middle. She flips backwards until she reaches the first page.

"GABRIEL LAWSON" is written in cursive. She turns the page, there's more writing.

GABRIEL LAWSON (V.O.)  
Living with depression is like  
trying to breathe under water. You  
keep struggling for air, but you're  
only ever sinking deeper into the  
darkness.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. KALI AND GABRIEL'S HOME - MORNING

BEDROOM

GABRIEL LAWSON a twenty-six year old man with messy hair is lying in bed. RED SHEETS and COMFORTER cover him. He tosses the comforter off his body then kicks the sheets down to the edge of the bed. It resembles the bed Deanna is on now.

He's wearing a T-SHIRT and BOXERS. He stretches, but doesn't bother getting out of bed.

GABRIEL LAWSON (V.O.)  
Every day is the same, a struggle.  
It takes everything to get up, to  
get out of bed. To go to work. But  
you do it, because you don't have a  
choice.

KALI DEVI, his fiance stands by the doorway. She's a petite Indian woman, his age. Kali is holding a CUP OF COFFEE between both of her hands, she leans against the door-frame and stares at Gabriel. There's concern in her gaze.

KALI DEVI  
You're going to be late.

Gabriel yawns and blinks up at her.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
They won't notice.

Kali rolls her eyes.

KALI DEVI  
You always say that. What happens  
when they finally do notice?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
They won't.

KALI DEVI  
You didn't answer my question.

Gabriel groans.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
They won't notice.

Kali sighs, frustrated.

KALI DEVI  
Fine, be late. I'm going to work,  
and I'm going to be on time.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
(sarcastically)  
Oooh, good for you. Sorry I'm not  
perfect.

KALI DEVI  
I never asked you to be perfect.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Then stop nagging me.

KALI DEVI  
I don't have time for this  
argument.

Gabriel sighs and rolls out of bed onto his feet.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
See you tonight.

Kali has her back to him now.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Is it my turn to get dinner?

KALI DEVI  
Yes.

She begins walking away. Gabriel stands in the doorway,  
watching her leave.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Chinese?

KALI DEVI  
That's fine.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LATER THAT DAY

Gabriel is punching in when his co-worker THOMAS PENDANT walks up to him.

THOMAS PENDANT  
Dude, you're late. Again.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
So?

THOMAS PENDANT  
I get that they've been pretty  
chill in the past, but there's new  
management now.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
What are you talking about?

THOMAS PENDANT  
You know Gary?

Gabriel's expression turns sour.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
How could I forget? Guy was nasty,  
refused to even wash his hands after  
using the bathroom. He said he  
didn't see the point.

THOMAS PENDANT  
Yeah. Well, he only had the job  
because his precious mommy was long-  
term dating the owner.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Your point?

THOMAS PENDANT  
My point is they just broke up.  
Gary's out. New guy's in. Makes us  
call him *King*. I don't even know if  
that's his real name, but he's a  
major-

Gabriel coughs, nodding toward the twenty something guy that just walked into the room. He's confident and wears a fine SUIT.

THOMAS PENDANT (CONT'D)

-Tom. How does that song go? Ground  
control to major Tom. . .

Gabriel rolls his eyes, walks up to the stranger and extends a hand.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Gabriel Lawson.

The stranger, King, as he likes to be called. Does not shake Gabriel's hand.

KING

You're late.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Traffic, you know.

KING

According to the records you've  
been late every day for the past  
four months. Not just late, mind  
you, you've missed an exceptional  
amount of days.

GABRIEL LAWSON

. . . Traffic.

KING

That's no excuse. Clean out your  
cubical, you're fired.

GABRIEL LAWSON

What- you're joking.

KING

I don't joke

THOMAS PENDANT

Obviously.

King completely ignores Thomas. Gabriel shoots Thomas a worried look.

GABRIEL LAWSON

You can't do that.

KING

I just did. You have an hour to  
clean out your personal items then  
I'm sending the janitor to dispose  
of what's left.

King pauses in thought.

KING (CONT'D)

Do not take company property or you  
will be charged. Good day.

King leaves without as much as a second glance.

THOMAS PENDANT

Good day my ass.

GABRIEL LAWSON

He can't do that, can he?

THOMAS PENDANT

I think he did, I'm sure you get  
some sort of severance package.

GABRIEL LAWSON

My fiance is going to kill me.

Thomas looks apologetic.

THOMAS PENDANT

I'm sorry, dude.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING, GABRIEL'S CUBICAL - SAME DAY

Gabriel stands in his small cubical, he's holding a CARDBOARD  
BOX. His expression is a solemn one as he picks up his  
personal items and puts them haphazardly into the box.

There's a DYING PLANT on his desk, he frees one of his hands  
and knocks it into the TRASH CAN. He picks up a COFFEE MUG  
and puts it in the box, as well as a few PAPERS.

There's a PICTURE FRAME lying face down on his desk, he  
stares at it for a moment before picking it up. It's a  
picture of him and Kali, he has an arm around her. They're  
not looking at the camera, they're looking at each other.

He sighs and puts the picture in the box too.

CUT TO:



INT. KALI AND GABRIEL'S HOME - THAT EVENING

LIVING-ROOM

It's clear that Gabriel's been on the SOFA all day, there's half empty BAGS OF CHIPS on the COFFEE TABLE. A few opened TWO LITER BOTTLES of SODA, one is empty. There's a FIFTH OF WHISKEY on the table as well, it's nearly empty.

Kali walks through the door, she's exhausted. When she spots the mess her entire body tenses.

KALI DEVI

Did you at least remember to pick  
up dinner?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Nope.

Kali closes her eyes in frustration.

KALI DEVI

Did you even go to work today?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Yep.

Kali sighs, relieved.

KALI DEVI

At least there's that.

She begins walking toward the kitchen. Gabriel sits up.

GABRIEL LAWSON

They fired me.

Kali freezes, her back is still to Gabriel.

KALI DEVI

You're joking.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I'm really not.

Kali finally turns to face him.

KALI DEVI

Did they tell you why?

GABRIEL LAWSON

I've been late too many times. That  
and the new boss is a dick.

KALI DEVI

I told you-

Gabriel glares at her.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Don't. Don't tell me you told me  
so, because I'm in no mood to hear  
it.

Kali frowns.

KALI DEVI

That wasn't my point.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Then where were you going with  
that?

KALI DEVI

I've been telling you, for months  
now. . .

Kali takes a deep breath.

KALI DEVI (CONT'D)

I've brought this up in the past,  
but you've always pushed me aside.

Gabriel squeezes his eyes shut.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I don't need your help, Kali.

Kali takes a seat beside Gabriel.

KALI DEVI

Fine. But I've been trying, I've  
put myself through Hell for you.  
This, what you're doing to  
yourself. It's breaking me. I can't  
live like this, Gabriel. I won't do  
it anymore.

Kali stands, turning away from him once more.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I-

KALI DEVI

You have thousands of excuses, you  
always do, but you're not trying to  
get better.

(MORE)

KALI DEVI (CONT'D)

You're welcoming this pain and I  
can't help but wonder if you enjoy  
it.

She folds her hands together.

KALI DEVI (CONT'D)

The wedding's off.

She pulls off her ENGAGEMENT RING and sets it on the COFFEE  
TABLE.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Please, don't-

KALI DEVI

No.

Gabriel clenches his jaw.

GABRIEL LAWSON

How long ago did you make up your  
mind?

Kali sighs.

KALI DEVI

I've had a bag at my sister's place  
for over a week, but it's been  
longer than that. . .

GABRIEL LAWSON

I should have seen this coming.

KALI DEVI

You weren't looking.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Is there any hope for us?

KALI DEVI

No. It's easier this way. Better  
for both of us.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Better for you.

Gabriel runs a hand through his hair. When Kali speaks  
there's a bitterness to her tone.

KALI DEVI

Yes, better for me.

Kali turns to leave. Gabriel remains silent.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You're being selfish. You know  
that, right?

Kali pauses in the doorway, after a beat she turns around.  
There are tears in her eyes.

KALI DEVI  
I know, but I have the right to be.  
You act like this is easy for me,  
like I had some sort of choice. I  
fought for you, Gabriel. I tried so  
hard to carry you, but you're  
dragging me down.

Kali closes her eyes.

KALI DEVI (CONT'D)  
If you're truly willing to allow me  
to break apart because of you, then  
it's clear you don't love me  
anymore.

She turns away from him once more.

KALI DEVI (CONT'D)  
Goodbye, Gabriel.

Kali leaves, Gabriel reaches for the engagement ring and  
turns it around in his hands.

GABRIEL LAWSON (V.O.)  
I had been angry at first, then I  
thought about what she said. How I  
was dragging her down with me, it's  
what I did to everybody I cared  
about. I started thinking maybe it  
would be better if I just  
disappeared.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Gabriel Lawson is lying on a HOSPITAL BED, all kinds of  
MACHINES are hooked up to him monitoring his health. He's in  
a coma.

There are PHOTO'S OF HIM in PICTURE FRAMES on a SMALL TABLE  
by his bed. Deanna pulls a CHAIR up to the edge of his bed,  
his journal is still in her hands.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Hey.

Deanna licks her lips, her voice is low.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

They said you might be able to hear me, so I thought I'd give this a shot.

Deanna brushes her fingers over the top of his hand.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I brought a few books from your place. . . And I found this.

She holds up the journal.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Now I figure you wouldn't want me to read this, but I'm gonna. Even if you'll be pissed at me when you wake up. I think hearing your own thoughts'll do you some good. Making spark something in that head of yours.

Deanna sighs, then begins to read what's written in the journal.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

It had come to my attention that everything I touched became ash. My natural gift was hurting the people I loved, I wouldn't do that anymore.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. MARTIN HOME - EVENING

Gabriel walks up the front steps of a gorgeous home located in the middle of nowhere. There's lots of woods surrounding it, but not much else. TOYS meant for children scatter the front lawn.

GABRIEL LAWSON (V.O.)

I'd spare them the pain of my existence. They'd miss me, yes, I knew that much. But the pain of my death would be a dull ache compared to the pain I knew I'd eventually cause if I were to remain here.

Gabriel knocks on the front door.

GABRIEL LAWSON (V.O.)  
I went to my brothers home. To say  
goodbye.

JAMES "JIMMY" MARTIN opens the door, he tilts his head slightly and frowns at Gabriel.

JIMMY MARTIN  
I was just about to put the girls  
to bed.

AMELIA MARTIN, a tiny, four year old, blonde girl runs to the front door. She doesn't stop until she crashes into Gabriel's leg. She looks up at him with wide, brown eyes.

Gabriel smiles down at her and ruffles her hair with a hand. She tugs at his pant-leg. He lifts her into his arms.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Sorry, sweet-cheeks, your papa'd  
kill me if I gave you candy. Ain't  
that right, Jimmy?

JIMMY MARTIN  
We don't condone violence in this  
house. But-

GABRIEL LAWSON  
No violence? Good to know.

Gabriel smirks, reaches into his pocket and pulls out a BAG OF GUMMY BEARS. He opens the bag and offers it to Amelia. She claps happily, reaches into the bag, and eats a gummy bear.

Jimmy scoffs.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Where's the other lil' rascal?

JIMMY MARTIN  
I can only hope she's getting ready  
for bed.

Jimmy steps out of the walk. Gabriel enters the home with Amelia still in his arms. Jimmy closes the door behind them.

INT. MARTIN HOME - CONTINUOUS

CLAIRE MARTIN, six years old, runs into sight. She has a TOOTHBRUSH in her hand. She bounces toward Gabriel and tugs on his shirt.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
Uncle Gabe! Uncle Gabe!

This excites Amelia as well who begins to bounce in Gabriel's arms. Jimmy just looks annoyed. Claire turns and addresses Jimmy.

CLAIRE MARTIN (CONT'D)  
Papa, can we stay up hour longer?  
Uncle Gabe's here!

Jimmy presses his lips into a thin line.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Claire, darling, you have a long  
day tomorrow. It's already past  
your bedtime.

Amelia beings to whine. Gabriel gives her another gummy bear to stop her. Claire huffs and turns to face Gabriel.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
Can you tell us a story? I'll even  
get in bed now! We'll be real good  
and just listen all quiet.

Gabriel glances over at Jimmy.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
It's up to your papa. What do you  
think, Jimbo? Can I tell the girls  
a story?

JIMMY MARTIN  
It depends on the story.

Gabriel rolls his eyes and hands Jimmy the bag of gummy bears.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You gotta loosen up, bro.

Gabe smiles down at Claire.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
We're gonna take that as a yes. So  
scoot on up to your room.

He puts Amelia back on the floor.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Take your sister with ya.

Claire yawns, gently takes Amelia's hand, and begins walking away.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
C'mon, Amy, uncle Gabe's gonna tell  
us a bedtime story!

They exit. Jimmy looks at Gabriel, he's not amused.

JIMMY MARTIN  
What sort of story are you going to  
tell them this time?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I dunno, probably something like I  
used to tell you when you wouldn't  
shut up.

Gabriel manages a smile.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
It'll probably have dragons in it.

Jimmy frowns.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Don't worry, they'll be friendly  
dragons. Instead of breathing fire  
they breath fluffy kittens. I know  
you don't condone violence.

JIMMY MARTIN  
You can't fault Sebastian and I for  
not wanting them exposed to  
horrible imagery at just a young  
age.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You were exposed to some horrible  
stuff and you turned out just fine.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Yes, well, you and I didn't have a  
choice. With Claire and Amelia  
we're better equipped to protect  
them.

Gabriel scoffs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You mean shelter them.

Jimmy pauses.



JIMMY MARTIN

Yes, shelter them. They're six and four, Gabriel. I want to preserve their childhood for as long as I can. Nobody should have to grow up like we did.

GABRIEL LAWSON

It wasn't all bad.

JIMMY MARTIN

It wasn't all good either.

Gabriel runs a hand through his hair.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I tried, after dad left, I did my best for you.

JIMMY MARTIN

I appreciate everything you've done for me. I could have wound up on a very different path had you not been there for me.

Gabriel smiles sadly.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Now that just ain't true, Jimmy. We both know you'd have ended up here. You're smart, plus this- it's like fate. You earned this, your happily ever after.

He pauses.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

You are happy, aren't you? I mean, Sebastian, he's good to you?

JIMMY MARTIN

I am. He is.

Jimmy smiles, fond.

GABRIEL LAWSON

That's all that matters.

Gabriel pats Jimmy on the shoulder.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

You think the girl's are still up?

Jimmy chuckles.

JIMMY MARTIN

I think if they were still up  
they'd have come back down here by  
now. I'm sure they're sleeping.

Gabriel almost looks disappointed.

JIMMY MARTIN (CONT'D)

Let them rest, you can tell them a  
story about. . . *kitten breathing*  
*dragons* next time you visit.

Jimmy chuckles and doesn't notice. Gabriel takes a seat on  
the CHAIR. Jimmy sits across from him on a separate CHAIR.

JIMMY MARTIN (CONT'D)

Which brings me to my next  
question. Not that I mind, and the  
girls sure do love it when you  
visit, but why are you here?

Gabriel swallows.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Just missed you, is all.

He shrugs. Jimmy bites the inside of his cheek, pauses, then  
speaks.

JIMMY MARTIN

Gabriel, we haven't spoken much  
about *him* since he passed.

Gabriel groans.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Why'd you have to go and bring that  
up?

JIMMY MARTIN

Because I need to know how you're  
doing.

GABRIEL LAWSON

You don't need to know shit, Jimmy.

Jimmy closes his eyes.

JIMMY MARTIN

I suppose I expected this reaction.  
I do have another question though,  
do you ever talk about him to  
anybody? Your fiancé? Or are you  
still pushing her away as well.

Gabriel glares.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I don't need to open up. I'm just fine.

JIMMY MARTIN

That doesn't answer my question.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Your question don't need answering. Kali left me.

Jimmy's expression crumbles.

JIMMY MARTIN

Gabriel. I'm sorry, I didn't know.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Well, now you do. Look, I didn't come here to talk about this. I don't want to talk about Luke and I sure as Hell don't wanna talk about Kali.

JIMMY MARTIN

Luke was our brother, and he died. He may not have been much support when we were children but he was still family. I know what that means to you. I know what Kali means to you. You have to talk to someone.

GABRIEL LAWSON

No. I don't.

Gabriel stands, sighs, and runs a hand through his hair. Jimmy stands as well.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

Look. I'm sorry for bothering you, I'm just gonna go.

JIMMY MARTIN

You don't-

GABRIEL LAWSON

Yes. I do.

Gabriel watches Jimmy's expression for a moment then moves forward and hugs him. Jimmy returns the hug. There's a moment of silence.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

I love you.

Jimmy replies tentatively.

JIMMY MARTIN

I love you too.

Gabriel pats Jimmy's back and pulls away from the embrace.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Good. That's all settled. I'm gonna  
head out. Send Sebby my regards,  
tell the girls I love 'em.

He turns to leave, Jimmy watches him with a worried  
expression.

JIMMY MARTIN

Where are you going?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Home.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. SOPHIE'S BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

The bar's not very crowded. Gabriel takes a seat on a BAR  
STOOL and rests his hands on the BAR. Deanna is working  
behind the counter but doesn't notice him yet.

GABRIEL LAWSON (V.O.)

I don't know what I was searching  
for that night. I thought I had it  
all planned out. I'd said my  
goodbye to the only person that  
mattered. Then I found myself at  
that damn bar.

Gabriel grabs Deanna's attention and she nods at him.

DEANNA TAYLOR

What can I getcha?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Just a beer.

DEANNA TAYLOR

It matter what kind?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Whichever you like best.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I'm more of a whiskey drinker,  
myself.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Whiskey it is.

Deanna chuckles.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Coming right up.

Deanna pours him a GLASS OF WHISKEY and sets it in front of  
Gabriel.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Thanks.

Deanna leans against the bar, curious about Gabriel.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You alright?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Why wouldn't I be?

Deanna shrugs.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Don't know, but you seem upset.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I am.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Sorry.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You don't wanna ask why?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
'Course I wanna ask why, but it  
ain't none of my business. If you  
wanna tell me, you'll tell me. Or  
you'll drink a bottle of whiskey  
and then you'll tell everyone.

She smiles teasingly.

GABRIEL LAWSON

About four months ago my brother died.

Deanna bites her lip.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

I refuse to talk about it. My ex-fiance kept trying to make me open up, so did my brother Jimmy. They- I didn't want to.

DEANNA TAYLOR

You don't gotta.

GABRIEL LAWSON

But I do. It's been eating at me. I haven't dealt with it and it's driving me crazy. The thing is, I can't deal with it. If I do and this- this pain goes away then what's left? I don't have anything of his to hold onto.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Were the two of you close?

GABRIEL LAWSON

It was complicated. He was my brother, he wasn't perfect, but he was family. He messed up, got hooked on drugs at a young age. He caused me and Jimmy nothing but trouble. But he was there.

Deanna nods.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

Our dad left us when I was about sixteen years old. My oldest brother, Michael, he left not long after that too. Onto bigger and brighter things. Left me and Jimmy with Luke-

Gabriel chokes back his emotion with a drink of whiskey.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

I took care of everything. Got a job, even managed to finish high school. I've had the same job since-

He takes another drink.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
I did have the same job, but I lost  
that too.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Shit.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Yeah, that's pretty much everyone's  
reaction.

Gabriel finishes his whiskey, then stands.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You're leaving?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Yeah. I've said my peace. Time for  
me to go.

He reaches into his POCKET for his WALLET. He opens it and  
pulls out everything he has left inside, a FIVE, TWENTY AND  
HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL. He puts the cash on the bar.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Keep the change.

He begins to turn away, then looks back at Deanna.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Thanks for listening.

Deanna watches, almost in shock as he leaves.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Deanna takes a deep breath, looks up from the journal. She  
manages a smile, and speaks to Gabriel.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Your ass is lucky I knew something  
was wrong.

She sighs.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
It's also lucky that it was a slow  
night and Sophie let me duck out  
early.

Deanna turns a page in the journal.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
And that my truck even started.

She turns another page.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
And that you happened to pick a  
bridge that was on my way home.  
Cause when I left the bar that  
night I had planned on meeting you  
in the parking lot. Problem was you  
were a lot faster than I expected.  
If you'd gone the other way I  
woulda never seen you again. . .

BEING FLASHBACK:

EXT. BRIDGE - SAME NIGHT

Gabriel's is standing on a bridge. His CAR is parked behind him. His CELL PHONE is in his hand, the light blinks. He scowls.

"SIX MISSED CALLS"

He grabs it, skims through the list. Five of them are from Jimmy, one from Kali. He grunts, finger hovering over the OFF BUTTON. He changes his mind, hits play and puts the phone up to his ear.

KALI DEVI (O.S.)  
It's me.

There's a pause at the other end of the line, Gabriel scoffs.

KALI DEVI (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Gabriel. I understand you're upset,  
and for good reason. I should have  
handled the situation differently,  
and not after you lost-

Gabriel pulls the phone away from his ear and the voice cuts off. His fist clenches around his phone, he's shaking. After a beat he puts the phone back up to his ear.

KALI DEVI (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
-he siad you stopped by the house.  
He was worried. I know you don't  
want to speak with me, but at least  
call your brother back. Please . .  
. Gabriel?



AUTOMATED VOICE  
END OF FINAL MESSAGE

Gabriel allows his arm to drop to his side, his fist still tight. He moves to the edge of the bridge and stares down into the depths of the river. In one swift motion he's dropped his phone. It falls, disappearing in the murky water.

Shaking hands grasp the rail as Gabriel hoists himself one leg at a time into a sitting position. His expression is downcast as he watches the motion beneath him. He doesn't notice Deanna's TRUCK pull in and park beside his car.

Deanna approaches him with caution.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Hey.

Gabriel doesn't react.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

You're the guy from the bar.

Deanna keeps moving closer.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I don't think I ever got your name.

Gabriel replies, but doesn't look in her direction.

GABRIEL LAWSON

You didn't.

DEANNA TAYLOR

No? Well, I'm Deanna. People I like call me Dee. I guess the people I don't like do it too, but they only do it once. Apparently I punch pretty hard.

Gabriel speaks, his voice hollow.

GABRIEL LAWSON

That's funny.

DEANNA TAYLOR

You don't sound so impressed.

Dee's almost close enough to touch him now. Instead she climbs up on the rail with him, dangling her feet over the edge.

GABRIEL LAWSON

What are you doing?

He asks, incredulous.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Sitting.

She states.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I get that. Why are you sitting  
here?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I could ask you the same thing.

Gabriel sighs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You already know.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You're going to jump?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Hard to jump when you're sitting.  
Slide, maybe.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Then what?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Bloop.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What was that?

Deanna scoffs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Me. Falling into the river.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
It wouldn't sound like that.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Right, so you're the expert?

Gabriel tilts his head, looking at her.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Hmm. Let's see. I've lived in this  
town my entire life. Oh, and my dad  
jumped offa this bridge.  
(MORE)

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
I've imagined pretty much every  
sound possible. I don't think it'd  
be a bloop.

Gabriel's hands tighten around the rail.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Your dad?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Yeah. It was awhile back, I was  
still pretty much a kid.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Why'd he do it?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
My mom.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
She left him?

Deanna shakes her head.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
She died. Cancer. I was too young  
to really remember, but I know it  
wasn't pretty.

Beat.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Oh.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Why are you thinking 'bout doing  
it?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I've got nothing left to live for.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What about your brother, Jimmy?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
What about him?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
He'd probably miss you. That ex-  
fiance of your would probably miss  
you too.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
She's a bitch.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Your brother a bitch too?

Deanna nudges him carefully.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
No, but he's better off without me.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
How can you know that?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Because I know him. He's got a life of his own, he doesn't need me for anything anymore. I'd just be a pain in the ass. No job, no money, no home. . .

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I don't think jumping off this bridge is the best option, besides then I gotta jump after you.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You hardly know me. You're not gonna jump off this bridge.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Yeah, and you hardly know me. I'd totally jump off this bridge.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Why would you do it?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Because I'm a good swimmer, and the drop isn't so bad.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You wouldn't off yourself if you'd just lost everything?

Deanna shrugs.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I don't know. Depends, I guess. Right now I wouldn't. I've got my uncle, he's the one who raised me and my sister.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
And your sister?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
She's off at college. I'm working  
my ass off trying to pay the bills,  
can't die yet.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
That's all you got?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Isn't that enough?

Deanna bites her lip.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You ever been in love?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I don't fall in love.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Nobody doesn't fall in love.

Beat. Deanna smiles.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I don't, but climb off this bridge  
and I'll give you a shot.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I just had my heart ripped out of  
my chest, I'm not really looking  
for love.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Hey, you're the one speaking so  
highly of the thing.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I thought I had it all. I mean, my  
job kinda sucked but she was- she  
was *perfect*.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Yeah?

Gabriel sighs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Yeah.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Maybe you can get her back?

GABRIEL LAWSON

She doesn't want me. She's the type of girl that knows what she wants, I ain't gonna tryin' force her back into a relationship.

Beat.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

I'd rather die.

DEANNA TAYLOR

So you think she's it?

GABRIEL LAWSON

I know she's it. Nothing better than her.

DEANNA TAYLOR

That's bullshit.

Gabriel huffs.

GABRIEL LAWSON

You trying to make me jump off this bridge?

DEANNA TAYLOR

No. I'm trying to talk some sense into you. If she was it, she woulda been it. She wouldn't have left you.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I thought you didn't like the idea of love?

DEANNA TAYLOR

I think it's stupid. The idea that there's one person for each of us is crazy. I mean, the odds of even finding that person are slim. If that was true everybody'd be dying alone.

Gabriel scoffs.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Wow, okay.

DEANNA TAYLOR

What?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Nothing.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Tell me.

GABRIEL LAWSON

That's your way of talking me into  
not jumping off this bridge.

Deanna shrugs.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Thought you were gonna slide?  
Sploosh.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I wouldn't sploosh.

DEANNA TAYLOR

I don't wanna find out what sound  
you make.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Alright.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Alright?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Yeah. I won't bloop, or sploosh, or  
anything.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Promise?

Gabriel begins climbing off the rail.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Yeah, I promise.

Dee climbs off as well, smiling at him.

DEANNA TAYLOR

I'm glad.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Why?

DEANNA TAYLOR

You seem pretty cool, I woulda been  
bummed if you jumped.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
It wouldn't have been a major loss.

Deanna shakes her head.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
I guess I need a plan, then.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You can crash at my place, plus  
then I can keep an eye on you. Make  
sure you don't change your mind.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You hardly know me.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I've brought stranger men home,  
besides I could totally kick your  
ass if I wanted to.

Gabriel presses hi slips into a thin line, he agrees.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You could.

Deanna smirks.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I knew it.

CUT TO:

EXT. TAYLOR HOME - SAME NIGHT

It's a small two-story home , the outside is surprisingly  
impressive. The place is clearly cared for.

Deanna parks her truck in the driveway, Gabriel parks behind  
her. Dee hops out and SLAMS the door shut. Gabriel gently  
shuts his car door. He presses the BUTTON on his KEYS, he  
locks the door.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Nobody's gonna steal your stuff.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Habit.

He locks it again.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Sorry.



Beat.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Although just because people don't  
try to steal your shitty truck  
doesn't mean they won't try to take  
my car.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I love my shitty truck, thank you  
very much.

Dee huffs and heads toward the front door, it's unlocked.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Somebody else home?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Nope. I live alone.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You don't lock the door?

They step inside.

INT. TAYLOR HOME - CONTINUOUS

Deanna tugs off her jacket, stepping fully inside and  
allowing Gabriel to close the door behind them.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No reason to. Told you, nobody's  
gonna steal your stuff.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I can't image leaving the door  
unlocked. Even when I am home I  
lock it.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What are you worried about?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I don't know. Somebody breaking in.  
Getting shot.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Getting shot ain't so bad.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You've been shot?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Once. In the shoulder.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
How?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Somebody had a gun.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
No shit. I mean why? Who?

Deanna shrugs.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
It's a long story.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I don't get to hear it.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Not yet.

Beat.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Gabriel.

Deanna looks up, confused.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
It's my name, Gabriel. Gabe

Dee chuckles.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I can't believe you never told me.  
Well, hey there, Gabe. Guess you  
can call me Dee.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You're not going to punch me?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I'll only punch you if you say  
something stupid.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I'll try my best not to then.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Deanna is sleeping, curled up in a CHAIR that faces Gabriel's bed. Jimmy has arrived, he carefully places a hand on her shoulder.

JIMMY MARTIN

Deanna.

He shakes her gently.

JIMMY MARTIN (CONT'D)

Deanna, honey, wake up.

Deanna wakes up, eyes going wide. When she realizes who it is she relaxes. She yawns and stretches.

DEANNA TAYLOR

What time is it?

JIMMY MARTIN

Three thirty. Have you gone home?

Deanna continues to stretch, she nods.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Yeah, I stopped by his apartment too. Grabbed a few things. Thought I ought to brighten the place up a little.

Jimmy smiles.

JIMMY MARTIN

I'm sure he appreciates that.

DEANNA TAYLOR

You mean he would, if he was awake.

She bites her lip.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

He will. When he wakes up.

Jimmy frowns.

JIMMY MARTIN

I suppose the doctors didn't tell you.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Tell me what?

Jimmy shakes his head, he waits a moment before answering.

JIMMY MARTIN

Nothing. Just that they don't know  
if he'll wake up.

Deanna scoffs.

DEANNA TAYLOR

'Course they told me that. But I  
know better, he's gonna wake up.

She nods. The journal is on the floor, she leans down and  
picks it up.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I've been reading to him.

She glances up at Jimmy.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

It's uh- must be his journal. I'd  
never seen it before, but he's  
written about. . . About everything  
as far as I can tell.

Jimmy frowns and takes a closer look. Deanna keeps the  
journal close to her.

JIMMY MARTIN

Are you sure he'd want you reading  
that, Deanna?

Dee shrugs.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Maybe not, but I'm reading it out  
loud. Maybe he'll hear it and  
remember, or maybe me reading his  
journal'll piss him off enough for  
him to wake up.

Jimmy manages a smile.

JIMMY MARTIN

That would be a sight to see.

Deanna curls up in her large chair. Jimmy sits in a smaller,  
less comfortable CHAIR.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Have you told Amelia and Claire  
yet?

Jimmy shakes his head.

JIMMY MARTIN  
No.

Deanna frowns.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
They'll want to see him.

JIMMY MARTIN  
I know. I'm just not sure how to  
explain all this, how much  
information to share.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Just tell them the truth.

JIMMY MARTIN  
It's not that simple.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Why not?

JIMMY MARTIN  
Because the truth would only hurt  
them.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Claire's smarter than you think,  
Jimmy. She's nine years old, if you  
don't tell her what's going on  
she'll figure it out and end up  
resenting you.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Why me?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
For keeping Gabe from her.

Jimmy frowns.

JIMMY MARTIN  
I'm not keeping Gabe from her.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You might as well be. I'm not gonna  
bring up the what-if scenarios.  
(MORE)

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
'Cause honestly I just don't wanna  
think 'bout that.

Dee sighs.

JIMMY MARTIN  
You're right. Sebastian and I will  
explain everything to the girls  
tonight.

She smiles, leans back in her chair, pulls her legs up and  
flips open the journal.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Do you mind if I read out loud?

JIMMY MARTIN  
Not at all.

Jimmy leans back in his chair as well. Deanna begins to read  
from the journal.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Deanna got me a job at the bar. I  
don't know why I thought it'd be a  
good idea, I had no experience, but  
I needed the money.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. SOPHIE'S BAR - NOON

It's a slow night, a few PEOPLE scattered and sitting at  
various TABLES. Gabriel is behind the bar, he's wiping the  
counter with a WASH CLOTH.

SOPHIE MAR a confident African-American woman walks behind  
the counter. She nudges Gabriel's foot with her own.

SOPHIE MAR  
Looks like today's not going to be  
very exciting.

Gabriel shrugs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I'm not going to complain. At least  
this way if I completely mess up  
not many people will see.

Sophie leans against the counter and crosses her arms over  
her chest. Smiling at Gabe she shakes her head.

SOPHIE MAR  
You won't mess up.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You have too much faith in me.

SOPHIE MAR  
Dee has faith in you, so I do too.  
He folds the wash cloth up and sets it aside.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You and Dee are close?

Sophie nods.

SOPHIE MAR  
Yeah, we both grew up here in town.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You went to school together?

SOPHIE MAR  
Yeah.

Gabriel leans against the counter.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Then you know how she got shot?

SOPHIE MAR  
What?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
When I first met Dee she told me  
that getting shot isn't so bad. I  
asked her 'bout it but she wouldn't  
explain.

Sophie snorts.

SOPHIE MAR  
Yeah, she'd do that.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
So she's never been shot?

SOPHIE MAR  
No, no, she's been shot. It's just  
like her to brag about it.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I don't get why that's something to  
brag about.

SOPHIE MAR  
It's in the way it happened.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
And how's that?

SOPHIE MAR  
She brought a knife to a gun-fight,  
but that's all I can say.

Gabriel huffs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
What? You can't just leave it at  
that. Who was she fighting? Why?

SOPHIE MAR  
It's not my story to tell, you'll  
have to ask her.

Sophie's PHONE begins to ring, she digs it out of her pocket  
and flips it open.

SOPHIE MAR (CONT'D)  
Hello?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
A flip phone, are you for real?

Sophie ignores him and rolls her eyes.

SOPHIE MAR  
Yeah. Yeah, I can be there. Ten  
minutes. Bye.

She flips her phone shut and shoves it in her pocket.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You leaving me?

SOPHIE MAR  
I won't be longer than an hour. My  
girlfriend's car blew a tire, she  
needs a spare. Will you be alright  
here?

Gabriel snorts.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Yeah, I'll be fine. Go be a hero.

SOPHIE MAR  
An hour! Promise. If you get  
swamped-



Sophie looks around the bar.

SOPHIE MAR (CONT'D)  
You won't, but if you do call Dee.

Sophie smiles at him, then leaves. Gabriel sighs and looks around the bar. Everybody is minding their own business, there doesn't seem anything to do.

The silence is disrupted by JAKE DODGER who bursts in through the front door. He's clearly intoxicated, he stumbles toward the bar and takes a seat on a BAR-STOOL.

He speaks to Gabriel, words slurred.

JAKE DODGER  
You ain't that pretty blonde girl.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
No, I'm not.

He sighs.

JAKE DODGER  
Where she at?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
It's her day off.

Jake groans.

JAKE DODGER  
Guess I'll take a beer anyway.

Jake sways.

JAKE DODGER (CONT'D)  
Or two.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
How many have you had?

JAKE DODGER  
That ain't none of your business.

Jake huffs, slamming a TEN DOLLAR BILL onto the counter.

JAKE DODGER (CONT'D)  
Money. Beer. Go.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I'm not sure you should do that.

JAKE DODGER  
You're worse than my wife, just  
give me a fucking beer.

Gabriel clenches his jaw, but pours Jake a glass of BEER and  
slides it across the counter. He grabs the ten dollar bill  
and puts it away.

JAKE DODGER (CONT'D)  
Good man.

Jake takes a drink.

JAKE DODGER (CONT'D)  
You got a wife?

Gabriel shakes his head.

JAKE DODGER (CONT'D)  
A girlfriend?

Gabriel frowns.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
No.

JAKE DODGER  
You gay?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Nope.

JAKE DODGER  
What's wrong with you?

Gabriel scowls.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Why's something have to be wrong  
with me?

JAKE DODGER  
No girlfriend, no wife, you ain't  
gay. Something's wrong.

Jake takes another drink.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I don't have to explain myself to  
you.

JAKE DODGER  
I wanna know.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You wanna know what's wrong with  
me?

Jake nods.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Plenty, but I don't have to give  
any details to you.

JAKE DODGER  
Must be your tiny dick.

Gabriel takes a deep breath, grabs a ten dollar bill and sets  
it in front of Jake.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Here's your money back, get out.

JAKE DODGER  
You can't do that. I'm drinking.

Gabriel grabs the beer and dumps it out. Jake stands, hands  
grabbing the bar to keep himself steady.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You've had more than enough, it's  
only noon. Walk back home and drink  
some water.

JAKE DODGER  
You ain't got no right doing this!

Jake raises his voice, glaring at Gabriel.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I got all the right, now please  
leave.

Jake sighs.

JAKE DODGER  
Alright, okay, fine.

Jake begins to leave, stumbles slightly, leans down and grabs  
the legs of the bar stool. Gabriel moves closer, still on the  
other side of the bar, worried about Jake falling. Jake  
doesn't fall though, he stands, lifting the chair with him.

Gabriel doesn't have time to react, Jake swings the chair and  
hits him in the head with the seat side of the stool. Gabriel  
falls to the floor.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER THAT DAY

Gabriel is lying on the HOSPITAL BED, he opens his eyes to see Kali sitting in a CHAIR beside his bed. She's texting on her IPHONE.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
What happened? Why are you here?

Kali looks up and puts her phone away.

KALI DEVI  
You're awake.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Obviously. That didn't answer my question.

KALI DEVI  
A drunk man hit you in the head with a bar stool. You've been unconscious, I was your emergency contact.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Just my luck.

KALI DEVI  
Being hit in the head? Or me?

Gabriel sighs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Why did you come, Kali?

KALI DEVI  
You're in the hospital, I was worried.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I'm surprised you found the time to come.

KALI DEVI  
Please, don't do this, not now.

Kali stands.

KALI DEVI (CONT'D)  
I'll go get the doctor, I'm sure they'll want to check you over.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Does Jimmy know I'm here?

KALI DEVI  
I haven't called him yet. I didn't  
want to worry him without knowing  
the all the details.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Good choice.

Gabriel sighs, Kali takes a step towards him instead of the  
door.

KALI DEVI  
Gabriel . . .

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Don't say my name like that, I  
don't want to do this.

KALI DEVI  
What are we doing, exactly?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I don't know, but I know I don't  
like it.

Kali sighs.

KALI DEVI  
There's so much I need to tell you.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You may need to say it, but I don't  
want to hear it. I'm beyond caring  
about what you need, Kali.

She looks hurt.

KALI DEVI  
You can't hate me forever.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You misunderstand, I don't hate  
you.

KALI DEVI  
Then what is this?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
YOU hurt me. More than a fucking  
bar-stool ever could. I can't let  
you hurt me again.

KALI DEVI  
I won't.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You can't promise that, you can't  
promise anything.

Kali sighs.

KALI DEVI  
You hurt me too, Gabriel.

Gabriel looks away.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I know.

KALI DEVI  
I'll go tell the doctor you're  
awake, then I'm going home.  
Goodbye, Gabriel.

Deanna bursts into the room.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Gabe! Thank god you're- oh.

Dee hesitates for a moment, her eyes settling on Kali. She quickly shrugs it off, pushes past her and stands by Gabriel's side.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
When Sophie got back to the bar the  
ambulances had already hauled your  
ass away. Luckily somebody told her  
what went down and she called me.

Deanna continues to ignore Kali, she doesn't allow Gabriel to get a word in edgewise.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Had to threaten the bitch at the  
front desk though. Shit head wasn't  
gonna let me see you. How are you  
feeling?

Gabriel glances at Kali, then back at Dee.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
My head hurts.

Deanna brushes a hand through his hair.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Of course it does, I'll find a  
doctor, get 'em to give you the  
good kind of pain killers.

She pauses, continuing to look at Gabriel

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
She who I think she is?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Dee, this is Kali.

He sighs.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Kali, this is Dee.

Kali sighs, stepping away from the pair.

KALI DEVI  
Pleasure. Gabriel, I'll call you.

Kali leaves and shuts the door behind her. Deanna pulls away from Gabriel.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I have to go to the bathroom.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You-

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Be right back.

Dee darts out the door.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - SAME AFTERNOON

Deanna glances over at Jimmy.

JIMMY MARTIN  
You talked to Kali, didn't you?

Deanna runs a hand through her hair.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Maybe.

Jimmy sighs.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Whatever you said to her, she  
didn't deserve it.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I was upset. . .

JIMMY MARTIN  
She's not evil, Deanna.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I know, but I-

JIMMY MARTIN  
Just tell me.

Deanna swallows thick.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Fine.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - SAME DAY

Deanna runs down the hallway until she catches up to Kali.

DEANNA TAYLOR (V.O)  
I did something I'm not too proud  
of.

Dee grabs Kali's shoulder and turns her so they're facing  
each other.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
What the hell were you doing here?

KALI DEVI  
Excuse me?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You heard me. You dumped his ass,  
broke his damn heart and now youw  
ant him back?

KALI DEVI  
I never said that-

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Please, bitch. You love him, it's  
written all over your face.

Deanna scoffs.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
I just hope he can't read whore.



Kali blinks a few times, stunned. She replies calmly.

KALI DEVI  
Are you two together?

Dee frowns, that's not the reaction she was expecting.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No.

KALI DEVI  
Then this is none of your business.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
That's where you're wrong-

Kali presses close, glaring at Deanna.

KALI DEVI  
You have no right to insult me.  
Should Gabriel wish to speak with  
me that's his prerogative. You will  
not decide for him.

She leans away.

KALI DEVI (CONT'D)  
You do not own him, he is not  
yours. Just as he is not mine.  
There is no reason for you to be  
treating me with such disrespect. I  
love him, yes, but-

Kali's cut off by Deanna punching her in the left tit as hard  
as she can.

Kali reacts almost instantly and punches Deanna in the nose.  
This time when Dee's fist comes around Kali leans out of the  
way. Deanna's nose is bleeding.

KALI DEVI (CONT'D)  
Are we done here?

Deanna glares at her, a hand going up to stop the bleeding.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
If you broke my nose I swear-

Kali scoffs.

KALI DEVI  
You don't scare me, Deanna.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Leave him alone.

Kali doesn't bother replying, turns away, leaves.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - SAME AFTERNOON

Jimmy's frowning, Deanna looks embarrassed.

JIMMY MARTIN  
That was unnecessary, Deanna.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You're telling me. I don't know why  
I did that. . .

Jimmy presses his lips into a thin line.

JIMMY MARTIN  
You were jealous.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Why though? Gabe and I ain't  
together, Jimmy. He's not my  
boyfriend. We're not a thing, we  
weren't then either. So why'd I get  
upset?

Jimmy sighs.

JIMMY MARTIN  
What happened next?

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME AFTERNOON

Deanna slips back into Gabriel's room.

DEANNA TAYLOR (V.O.)  
I went back to his room, still had  
a bloody nose. I was kinda ashamed.

Gabriel looks up at her.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
What the Hell happened to your  
face?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Walked into a door.

Gabriel frowns, he doesn't believe her. Dee sighs and grabs a few TISSUES. She holds them up to her nose.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Don't ask.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I won't.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Thanks.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Kali's really not coming back, is she?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Nope.

Deanna glances at him.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Did you want her to?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I guess not.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You guess?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Yeah.

Deanna sighs.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Don't tell me you want her back.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I can't have her back.

Deanna refuses to meet his gaze now.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Right.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I don't know what I'm saying.

Dee looks upset.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

Dee?

DEANNA TAYLOR

Why? Why her?

GABRIEL LAWSON

I don't know. I guess it's just  
always been her.

DEANNA TAYLOR

After everything she put you  
through? When I met you-

Deanna's nose has stopped bleeding, she throws the tissue  
into the GARBAGE and sighs.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

You were in such a bad place,  
because of her. You can't go back  
to that. Not when. . .

GABRIEL LAWSON

It was never because of her. If  
anything She was in a bad place  
because of me.

Gabriel bites his lip.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

You said not when. Not when what?

JORDAN WRITE, his doctor, walks into the room.

JORDAN WRIGHT

Hello, Gabriel.

She looks up from her CLIP BOARD.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Deanna. I'm his-

Her tone sours.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

We're just friends.

Gabriel frowns.

JORDAN WRIGHT

I see. Well, now that he's awake  
we'd like to run a few tests. He'll  
be here for awhile. Will you be  
staying with him?

Jordan looks at Gabriel. Deanna shakes her head.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No, I was just leaving.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - SAME AFTERNOON

Deanna continues reading from the journal, Jimmy is still sitting on his chair.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I hadn't wanted her to leave, I never meant to upset her. But it's good she did. I stayed at the Hospital that night. They did plenty of tests and the results were worse than I expected.

Deanna looks up at Jimmy.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
What does he mean?

Jimmy frowns.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Deanna.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Don't- don't sound like that.

Deanna's trying not to cry.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Maybe you've read enough for today, Deanna.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No. No, I have to know what he means.

Deanna looks down at the journal.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. GABRIEL'S CAR - LATE AFTERNOON, CHRISTMAS EVE

GABRIEL LAWSON (V.O)

I guess that's why I started  
writing in here. I wanted it on  
paper, everything that happened.  
Everything that was important to  
me. Like my family, Deanna. Even if  
it wasn't perfect all the time.

Deanna sits in the passenger seat, her hands smoothing out  
her DRESS. She fidgets, uncomfortable, and looks over at  
Gabriel. He's dressed nicely as well, they're going to his  
family's Christmas party.

Gabriel's in a particularly chipper mood. His IPHONE is  
hooked up to the radio and it's playing Christmas music. He's  
singing along. He glances over at Deanna and notices she's  
still uncomfortable.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

You nervous?

DEANNA TAYLOR

(sarcastically)

No, sometimes I just forget how to  
breathe for fun.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Easy, Dee. You're gonna feel right  
at home. You don't gotta impress  
anybody, just be yourself and  
they'll love you.

DEANNA TAYLOR

What if they don't love me though?  
What if they hate me? What if they  
compare me to her?

GABRIEL LAWSON

They won't, I know them. 'Sides,  
you're nothing like her. She wasn't  
a big fan of all this Christmas  
holiday cheer stuff. This wasn't  
her kinda party.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Yeah?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Yeah, she was a party pooper.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
There will be no party pooping from  
me, I swear.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I know, that's why I invited you.

Gabriel snorts.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
It's gonna be a blast. Plus I'm  
planning a surprise for the kids.

Dee chuckles softly.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What's that?

Gabriel smirks.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
It's a secret.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
When do I get to know?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
When the girls do.

Deanna rolls her eyes.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
And when's that?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You'll see.

Gabriel waggles his eyebrows.

He drives onto the GRAVEL DRIVEWAY, and pulls off to the side. He reaches for his iPhone, unplugs it, turning off the music. He's still grinning.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
We're here. You ready?

Deanna takes a deep breath.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
As I'll ever be.

Deanna unbuckles herself and reaches into the backseat for the PIE she made for the party.

EXT. MARTIN HOME, FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Gabriel steps out of the car and opens the trunk to grab TWO LARGE BAGS and a BOTTLE OF WINE. Deanna steps around the side of the car and closes the trunk for him. He hands her the bottle.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
(sing songs)  
Thank you.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Yep.

Gabriel walks toward the porch, up the steps and reaches the front door. He's about to knock when Deanna grabs his wrist.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Wait.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
What is it?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
How do I look?

Gabriel arches a brow.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Really?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Yeah, really.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Since when do you care?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I always care.

Gabriel scoffs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
And I always wear a tie made of unicorn feathers.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Gabe.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You look beautiful, as always. Can we go now?



Deanna nods, Gabriel KNOCKS on the door. Jimmy opens the door, smiling.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Merry Christmas.

Gabriel practically bounces through the door, almost knocking Jimmy over.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Merry Christmas! I'm starving!  
Where should I drop these?

He holds up the two bags, clearly excited.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Where are the girls? Sebby? Bet  
they're in the kitchen!

Gabriel bounces off to the kitchen. Dee's left standing on the porch.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Deanna, I presume?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Yep, you must be Jimmy?

Jimmy nods, gesturing for Deanna to enter.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Gabriel's mentioned me?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
He has.

Deanna steps inside.

INT. MARTIN HOME - CONTINUOUS

ENTRY WAY

The Martin home is exquisitely decorated, CHRISTMAS COLORS around every corner. There's a LARGE CHRISTMAS TREE in the living room, a few WRAPPED PRESENTS underneath it.

Deanna feels very out of place, she holds up the pie and the bottle of wine. Jimmy takes the pie with gentle hands.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Let's join the others in the  
kitchen.

Deanna sighs, grateful. She follows Jimmy into the kitchen.

# KITCHEN

SEBASTIAN "SEBBY" MARTIN is standing at the kitchen table. Sebastian is wearing an extravagant CHRISTMAS SWEATER with the sleeves rolled up. He's finishing up the Christmas dinner.

Amelia and Claire are sitting on chairs. Gabriel is standing between them. They're making CHRISTMAS COOKIES. Gabriel has a REINDEER COOKIE CUTTER pressed into the dough.

Sebbby beings whistling Christmas songs.

Amelia, the youngest watches Gabriel with wide eyes. She reaches for the cookie cutter. Gabriel slides it closer to her.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Alright, Amy, go ahead and lift it!

Little Amelia lifts the cookie cutter, Gabriel takes it from her gently. She claps excited. Claire grabs Gabriel's sleeve, trying to get his attention.

CLAIRE MARTIN

Look! I can make snowmen!

GABRIEL LAWSON

I see that, they're perfect!

Gabriel pokes Claire, smudging her nose with FLOUR.

DEANNA TAYLOR (O.S.)

Do you remember this?

(beat)

Can you even hear me?

END FLASHBACK:

# INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - EVENING

Deanna's sitting by Gabriel's side, her eyes are red as though she's been crying. She removes a hand from Gabriel's Journal and reaches for his hand. She takes a deep breath.

Her voice is weak when she speaks.

DEANNA TAYLOR

You're gonna be so pissed at me  
when you wake up.

She forces a smile, an almost laugh.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I'd been so nervous about meeting them all, I don't even know why. It's not like I *needed* to impress them. It all worked out in the end though, well for the most part.

Deanna pulls her hand back and opens the journal once more.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Your brother showed up, Michael. I didn't think anything could get you out of that Christmas mood. He did though.

(beat)

I wonder if he'll come to see you.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. MARTIN HOME - CHRISTMAS EVE

Gabriel and Deanna are sitting close to each other on the LOVESEAT. Jimmy and Sebastian are sitting together on the SOFA. An empty GLASS OF WINE is on the COFFEE TABLE in front of Gabriel. Deanna holds a half full GLASS OF WINE.

Jimmy has a GLASS as well. Sebby, trying to be sneaky, takes the glass from Jimmy. Jimmy doesn't mind, he just rolls his eyes in a playful manner.

There's a KNOCK at the door. Gabriel bounces up before anyone can say anything.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I'll get it!

Jimmy glances at Sebastian with a concerned expression.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN

Gabriel, darling. Wait.

It's too late, Gabriel reaches the door and pulls it open. On the other side is MICHAEL LAWSON, the eldest of the brothers. He's a few inches taller than Gabriel. He's dressed nicely, each hair in perfect place.

MICHAEL LAWSON

Can I come in? It's Christmas.

The joy on Gabriel's face vanishes instantaneously. Michael takes a deep breath, sadness in his expression.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
We need to talk first.

Gabriel stands very still, he looks behind him to make sure they're still alone. They are.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Why are you here now?

MICHAEL LAWSON  
I thought-  
(beat)  
I didn't want to spoil Christmas  
for the girls.

Gabriel frowns.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Then you shouldn't have shown up at  
all.

Michael closes his eyes, there's a bitterness in his tone.

MICHAEL LAWSON  
You're right. I shouldn't have  
come.

Gabriel takes a deep breath, and steps aside.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Since you're here, I guess Jimmy  
would like to see you.

Michael wavers on his side of the threshold, then steps inside. Gabriel closes the door.

MICHAEL LAWSON  
Thank you.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
They're in the living room.

MICHAEL LAWSON  
We should talk first.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Nothing good will come from  
talking. You know that. Besides, I  
got nothing to tell you.

Michael sighs.

MICHAEL LAWSON  
That's simply not true.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
It's Christmas.

MICHAEL LAWSON  
You've always loved Christmas.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Since when do you care? In fact  
since when do you give a rats ass  
about your family?

MICHAEL LAWSON  
You've got this all backwards,  
Gabriel. I do care, it's you that's  
causing trouble. As much as you  
like to blame me for-  
(beat)  
It's not my fault.

Michael's tone implies he doesn't quite believe his own words.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Now it's me causing trouble? You  
left. Just like dad did. And since  
then you've been more absent than  
you'd probably like to admit.

Gabriel takes a step closer, then tension rising.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
He needed your help and you turned  
your back on him. He wasn't perfect  
but he was our brother.

MICHAEL LAWSON  
I didn't leave by choice, you  
wanted me gone. The both of you. I  
tried to stay, I always tried to  
stay. I wanted to do right by you,  
by all of you, but nobody wanted my  
help.

Michael doesn't back down.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I never wanted any of you to leave!  
I was sixteen, I didn't need that  
responsibility! I didn't need your  
bullshit on my shoulders.

MICHAEL LAWSON

Yet you picked his side. Even then he was using drugs, he was never equipped to watch out for you or Jimmy.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Then why did you leave!?

MICHAEL LAWSON

I wasn't that much older, nineteen when I left. I had a scholarship, I had a way out.

GABRIEL LAWSON

You abandoned us!

MICHAEL LAWSON

What was I supposed to do?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Fight back!

MICHAEL LAWSON

For what? For people who hated me? Why would I go through that? What would be the point? Why suffer when I could start fresh. . .

GABRIEL LAWSON

That's the problem, everything's always about you.

MICHAEL LAWSON

This is pointless, Gabriel. It's in the past. You and Jimmy both turned out fine.

GABRIEL LAWSON

But we didn't, I'm not-

Gabriel presses his lips into a thin line.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)

It doesn't matter, and you're right. What happened back then, it's not important. What's important is now, because it just proves that nothing's changed. You'll still turn your back on us when we need you most.

MICHAEL LAWSON

I wasn't turning my back on him! I thought he wanted money for drugs, I refused him. It's not like he ever told me the truth.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Then you should have gotten him into rehab!

Michael laughs bitterly.

MICHAEL LAWSON

He'd been through rehab, four times. I'd tried. I know you think I gave up on him, but I didn't. He gave up on himself. There was nothing I could do.

GABRIEL LAWSON

I didn't know. . .

MICHAEL LAWSON

There's lots of things about him you didn't know. I tried to help him, Gabriel. You can't save someone who doesn't want to be saved.

Jimmy walks into the room, Deanna isn't far behind him. Jimmy frowns at the pair of them, not saying anything. Deanna slips past him and huffs.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Are you two done? Because if not I'll use my important voice and kick you both outside.

Michael sighs.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Yeah, Dee, we're done. Right, Michael?

MICHAEL LAWSON

(mumbling)

For now.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - SAME AFTERNOON

Deanna frowns at the journal.

DEANNA TAYLOR

He never said- never even wrote it down.

She looks at Jimmy.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Will you just tell me?

She's upset.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Tell me what he meant by the results of the tests?

Jimmy frowns.

JIMMY MARTIN

I can't, Deanna.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Why not?

JIMMY MARTIN

Because-

DEANNA TAYLOR

*Because* isn't a good excuse.

JIMMY MARTIN

He's sick, Deanna. He's been sick.

DEANNA TAYLOR

With what? How long? How long have you known?

Jimmy frowns.

JIMMY MARTIN

It's a tumor. He didn't tell me, I don't think he told anyone. The doctor's told me after the car accident.

Deanna holds her breath for a beat.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Is that why his car went off the road?



JIMMY MARTIN  
He had a seizure, lost control of  
the vehicle.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
He shouldn't have been driving.

JIMMY MARTIN  
I don't know if that would have  
made a difference.

Deanna holds his journal close, and keeps shaking her head.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
There's not much left in the  
journal. . .

Jimmy sighs.

JIMMY MARTIN  
You should get some rest, read it  
later.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No, I have to read it now. Maybe he  
says something-

JIMMY MARTIN  
It won't make a difference.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
It will to me. . . Can I have a  
moment alone, Jimmy?

Jimmy stands.

JIMMY MARTIN  
I'll go get some coffee.

He leaves and Deanna begins to read.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. TAYLOR HOME - VALENTINES DAY

Gabriel and Deanna sit next to each other on the SOFA, the  
T.V. is on and an episode of Shark Week is playing via  
Netflix. A woman, DEBBIE, is on the screen. She's walking  
through the shallows of the ocean when a SHARK attacks.

NARRATOR (V.O)

The shark attacked Debbie, taking a chunk from her foot. Luckily her friends were able to return her to shore.

Deanna scoffs.

DEANNA TAYLOR

(sarcastically)

Oh no, a chunk of her foot's missing. What's the point of even living anymore.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Debbie went through months of physically therapy. She is able to walk, but she'll never fully recover from the emotional trauma the attack caused.

Deanna snorts. Debbie is shown on screen with a group of MEN each missing a limb or two. She's super perky and stands in front of the group.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

She joined a support group for victims of shark attacks.

Deanna nudges Gabriel.

DEANNA TAYLOR

You know what I'd do if I was one of those guys?

Gabriel shrugs.

GABRIEL LAWSON

What's that?

DEANNA TAYLOR

I'd walk right up to her and I'd say *suck it, Debbie*. Then I'd punch her with my nub.

Gabriel rolls his eyes.

GABRIEL LAWSON

You're an asshole.

Deanna shrugs.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Come on! Look at those guys!  
They're all missing limbs, they got  
dragged down into the ocean. She  
got a fucking chunk of her foot  
ripped off. I'd be grumpy as hell  
if she joined my shark attack  
support group. Tell her she can't  
join 'till she gets her entire leg  
eaten off.

Gabriel rolls his eyes, smiling fondly at her.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Good thing you didn't get attacked  
by a shark then.

DEANNA TAYLOR

You know why that is?

GABRIEL LAWSON

Why you haven't been attacked?

DEANNA TAYLOR

Yeah.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Why's that?

DEANNA TAYLOR

I don't swim in the fucking ocean.  
It's kinda like how you can't win  
the lottery if you don't play. You  
can't get eaten by a shark if you  
don't go into the water.

Gabriel chuckles.

GABRIEL LAWSON

You're adorable.

Deanna rolls her eyes.

DEANNA TAYLOR

I know.

She smiles

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

So this is it, this is our  
valentines day? Two single losers  
chilling on my sofa drinking cheap  
wine.

She nods toward the HALF EMPTY BOTTLE OF WINE on the COFFEE TABLE.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
It's not so bad.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No, it's kinda nice actually.

Deanna shifts, leaning back against the arm of the sofa and puts her legs in his lap. He keeps watching her. She smiles at him.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Why do you keep looking at me like that?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Like what?

Deanna wiggles.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Like that!

Gabriel rolls his eyes.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You gotta be more specific.

Deanna shrugs.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Not sure how to describe it.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Is it creepy?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Nope.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Is it a good look?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I think so.

Gabriel scoffs.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Then why are you complaining?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
It's just strange.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Why's it so strange?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Makes me feel like you're thinking  
of me in a way that our friendship  
ain't quite used to.

Deanna sits up, legs still in his lap.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Would you be pissed if I was?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Then yeah, Dee, maybe I've got a  
confession to make.

Dee slides her legs off of him and scoots close.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What's that?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You found me when I was in a pretty  
dark place. When we first met I was  
ready to die.

Gabriel sighs.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
I had it all planned out, I was  
gonna check right out of this life  
and spare everyone the pain of my  
existence.

He looks into her eyes.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Then I met you, and-

His voice cracks, he breaks eye-contact.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
I don't wanna die.

Deanna cups his face, shifting to sit on his lap.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Shh.

She brushes her thumbs under his eyes.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
You're not gonna die. Not anytime  
soon, not on my watch.

Gabriel reaches for her hands, pulls them down between them  
and laces their fingers together.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
What's got you talking like this?

She kisses his cheek.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I just had an epiphany lately, made  
me realize what I want in life.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What's that?

Gabriel shakes his head.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I wanna live. Really live. For as  
long as I got left.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You've got plenty of time for  
living.

He takes a deep breath.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
It all goes by so fast, Dee.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What does a girl gotta do to make  
you stop talking like this?

He looks up at her.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Kiss me.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You sure about that?

Gabriel nods.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
But only if you want to.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I do.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Then do it.

DEANNA TAYLOR

What's it gonna mean though? For us.

GABRIEL LAWSON

We can figure that out after, Dee.

He leans forward, their lips brush. Deanna closes the distance. They exchange kisses all the way to Deanna's room where they do the do.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

INT. TAYLOR HOME, DEANNA'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

A majority of the PILLOWS have been tossed onto the bedroom floor. Deanna rests her head on Gabriel's chest, a BLANKET COVERS THEM.

Gabriel runs a hand through Deanna's hair, kisses the top of her head and sighs softly.

DEANNA TAYLOR

That was a bad idea.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Don't. Don't ruin the moment, Dee, please.

She sits up and looks at him.

DEANNA TAYLOR

You're worried about the moment, I'm worried about our friendship.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Why? Why are you so worried about our *friendship*?

DEANNA TAYLOR

Because it means everything to me.

GABRIEL LAWSON

Why won't you let it be something more?

DEANNA TAYLOR

Because I can't, Gabe.

Gabriel pulls away from her.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Fine. Then pretend this never  
happened. Let it mean nothing to  
you.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
It didn't mean nothing to me, it  
doesn't.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Then why do you do this? Why do you  
push me away?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Because I'm afraid.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Of what?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Of getting close.

She sighs.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Of losing you.

Gabriel looks away, runs a hand through his hair and closes  
his eyes.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I'm sorry.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Don't be. I don't regret this.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
You say that-

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I mean it.

GABRIEL LAWSON  
I'm not sure you do.

Gabriel slides off the bed.

GABRIEL LAWSON (CONT'D)  
I should go.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You don't have to.



GABRIEL LAWSON  
You need time.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
For what?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
To figure stuff out. You know what  
though?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What?

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Maybe you're right, keeping me at a  
distance. Maybe it's better. For  
you. I know what I want, Deanna.  
Maybe you know too.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I thought I did but. . .

GABRIEL LAWSON  
Just. Don't. I'll call you  
tomorrow.

Gabriel leaves.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL, GABRIEL'S ROOM - SAME AFTERNOON

Deanna closes the journal. Jimmy knocks on the door, then  
steps inside, he has TWO CUPS OF COFFEE with him. He offers  
one to Deanna. She accepts it.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Is everything alright?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No.

Jimmy frowns, Deanna tries not to cry.

JIMMY MARTIN  
What's wrong?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I think I'm in love with him.

Jimmy reaches out to gently touch her shoulder.

JIMMY MARTIN

I know.

Deanna begins to tear up.

DEANNA TAYLOR

The worst part is-

She chokes back a sob.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

He loved me, and I was too stupid  
to see it.

JIMMY MARTIN

You weren't ready.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Why'd I have to be ready now? I  
don't wanna be ready- I don't wanna  
know. Not when he's like this. Not  
when it's too late-

Jimmy takes the cup of coffee back from her and sets it  
aside. Deanna and Jimmy hug, she hides her face in his chest.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

The night of the accident- he was  
with me. He shoulda stayed with me,  
but I chased him off. Because I was  
scared, I don't know.

Jimmy rubs her back soothingly.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Maybe if I had made him stay, maybe  
if I'd have known then that I'd  
feel this way.

JIMMY MARTIN

It wouldn't have changed anything,  
Deanna. You can't blame yourself.

Deanna pulls back, tears in her eyes.

DEANNA TAYLOR

I need him to wake up Jimmy. I need  
to tell him.

JIMMY MARTIN

I know.

DEANNA TAYLOR

He's gotta-

There's a KNOCK on the door. Deanna looks up and wipes the tears from her eyes.

JIMMY MARTIN

I hope you don't mind. After our talk I called Sebastian, that must be him and the girls now.

Deanna moves to stand.

DEANNA TAYLOR

You want me to give you guys some space?

Jimmy gently touches her shoulder.

JIMMY MARTIN

You can stay if you'd like.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Thank you.

The door opens, Sebastian steps inside, Claire and Amelia are hiding behind him. Deanna manages a smile.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Hey, girls.

Amelia scurries to Deanna's side and crawls onto her lap. She stares at Gabriel's sleeping form with wide eyes. Claire takes hold of Sebastian's hand, they fully enter the room and Sebby shuts the door behind them.

Jimmy looks exhausted, worn down, but he forces a smile. Claire tugs Sebastian to stand next to Jimmy. Claire looks at Gabriel.

CLAIRE MARTIN

(whispering)

Can he hear us?

DEANNA TAYLOR

I like to think he can.

Claire nods.

CLAIRE MARTIN

I hope he's dreaming.

AMELIA MARTIN

No scares!

CLAIRE MARTIN  
Yeah, no scares. Just the good  
dreams. 'Cause then he won't be  
lonely.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
He's not lonely, we're all here.

Deanna nods.

AMELIA MARTIN  
Stay for him to wake up?

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
We talked about this, Amy.

AMELIA MARTIN  
Can't leave, he get lonely!

JIMMY MARTIN  
We can stay as long as you want.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Don't worry, I'll be here. He won't  
be lonely.

Amelia huffs quietly.

AMELIA MARTIN  
Good.

JIMMY MARTIN  
Deanna...

Deanna rolls her eyes.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I'm staying.

Sebastian places a hand on Jimmy's shoulder.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
Is he gonna die?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
We don't know, Claire. He's very  
sick.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
Is he sleeping to get better?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
That's the goal.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
Can't a doctor wake him up?

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
No, he has to wake up on his own.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
How come?

Sebastian sighs.

JIMMY MARTIN  
It's complicated, Claire.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
But I wanna understand, I wanna help.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Just being here is helping, Claire.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
It's not enough! It's not making him better!

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
Lower your voice, Claire.

CLAIRE MARTIN  
No!

Claire stomps her feet.

CLAIRE MARTIN (CONT'D)  
Wake him up! Wake him up!

Amelia covers her ears and hides her face against Deanna's shoulder. Claire begins to cry, Jimmy leads her out of the room.

Sebastian sits on the now empty seat. Amelia uncovers her ears, crawls down from Deanna's lap and onto Sebastian's.

AMELIA MARTIN  
Claire upset.

Amelia mumbles, eyes still wide.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
Are you upset, Amy?

Amy frowns.

AMELIA MARTIN  
Just sad.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
You miss your Uncle?

Amy shakes her head.

AMELIA MARTIN  
He's right there.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
I see.

AMELIA MARTIN  
He gonna wake up.

Deanna bites her lip.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
Amelia.

AMELIA MARTIN  
He is.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Why do you say that, Amy?

Amy shrugs, looks away, Sebastian hugs her and glances at Dee.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
How are you holding up, Deanna?

Deanna glances at Amelia, then back to Sebastian.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I'm fine.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
Have you gotten any sleep?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Some.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
You should go rest, get something to eat.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Do you just want me out of here?

Sebastian sighs.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
Of course not, Darling.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I'll give you guys space if you  
want it.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
That was not my intention, Jimmy  
and I are just worried about you.

Deanna runs a hand through her hair.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You don't have to be.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
Someone does.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I'm fine.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
You don't have to be.

Dee closes her eyes.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Yes, I do.

She looks at Sebastian.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Maybe you're right, I could use  
some rest. I just- I don't want to  
leave him.

SEBASTIAN MARTIN  
We'll call you if anything changes.

Deanna stands, gaze tracing Gabriel's unconscious form. She  
moves to the side of his bed, brushes the hair from his face  
and kisses his forehead.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
(whispering)  
I love you.

She leaves the room.

FADE OUT:

INT. TAYLOR HOME - EARLY EVENING

KITCHEN

Deanna enters the kitchen. Her uncle, JOE JOHNSON a lumberjack of a man is standing on the opposite side of the table. Her sister, Justice is sitting on a chair a MUG OF COFFEE nestled between her hands.

JUSTICE TAYLOR

Dee!

DEANNA TAYLOR

Hey, Justice, uncle Joe.

JOE JOHNSON

How is he?

DEANNA TAYLOR

Still unconscious.

Deanna scoffs.

JUSTICE TAYLOR

How are you?

DEANNA TAYLOR

I wish people would stop asking me that.

JUSTICE TAYLOR

Is there anything we can do for you?

DEANNA TAYLOR

No. Just- give me some time, okay?

JOE JOHNSON

No more questions.

Joe reaches into the FRIDGE and grabs TWO BOTTLES OF BEER. He cracks them both open and hands one to Deanna.

DEANNA TAYLOR

Thanks, Uncle Joe.

Deanna takes a drink.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I don't think I'm gonna be here long. A few hours, I wanna get back to the hospital.

She looks at Justice.



DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Justice, you mind waking me up in a couple hours? I don't wanna sleep through my alarm.

Deanna goes up to her room. Justice looks at Joe.

JOE JOHNSON  
You go talk to her.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
I don't know what to say.

JOE JOHNSON  
You know her better than anyone.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
I know she doesn't want to talk.

JOE JOHNSON  
You know how she gets if she keeps it bottled up like this.

Justice scoffs.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Giving her alcohol doesn't help.

JOE JOHNSON  
She deserves a beer after everything she's been through.

Justice rolls her eyes.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
I'll go talk to her.

JOE JOHNSON  
Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. TAYLOR HOME, DEANNA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Justice KNOCKS on the door.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Dee? Can I come in?

Deanna is curled up in her bed.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Yeah, it's not like I was almost  
sleeping or anything.

Justice steps inside, and shuts the door behind her.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
You're not gonna sleep, Dee. I know  
you.

Dee sits up, Justice sits next to her. Dee sighs and runs a  
hand over her tired features.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You're right.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
You're gonna talk about this.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I don't want to.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
I know, that's why it wasn't a  
question. You're going to talk, I'm  
going to listen.

Deanna groans.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
What do you want me to say?

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
It's not about what I want.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
But it is, this isn't about me.  
This is about you and Joe feel  
better.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Why, because we're worried about  
you?

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I told you not to be worried.

Justice rolls her eyes.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Look, Dee, I know you. I know this  
is freaking you out. The thing is,  
there's nothing wrong with freaking  
out.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
You want me to cry? Is that it?

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
If it'll help you feel better.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I've cried enough. I don't need you  
to hold my hand through this.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Remember in high school when Ron  
dumped me?

Deanna nods.

JUSTICE TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
You bought me a tub of chocolate  
ice cream and held my hand when I  
was a mess. Every time I was hurt,  
you helped me up. Let me help you.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Remember that black eye he got a  
week after he dumped you?

Justice nods.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
That mighta been my fault.

Dee smiles sheepishly, Justice rolls her eyes.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
I figured as much. If there was  
somebody who needed a black eye in  
this scenario I'd gladly be the  
cause.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
No, no black eyes.

Justice reaches for Deanna's hand.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Then tell me what I can do.

Deanna takes her hand and sighs.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
There's nothing to do, that's the  
worst part. I can't help him, I  
just have to wait.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Wearing yourself out doesn't do him  
any good either, Dee.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I know.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Do you? Because you hardly sleep.  
When was the last time you ate  
something?

Deanna shrugs.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I haven't been hungry.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
You still need to eat, at least  
something little.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
I'll make myself something in a  
couple hours.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
How about you stay here, try to get  
some rest and Joe and I'll cook you  
something.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Deal.

Justice squeezes her hand.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Try to sleep?

Deanna sighs.

DEANNA TAYLOR  
Fine. See you in a little bit.

Justice stands to leave.

DEANNA TAYLOR (CONT'D)  
Hey, Jay.

Justice turns to face Dee.

JUSTICE TAYLOR  
Yeah?

DEANNA TAYLOR

I love you.

Justice smiles.

JUSTICE TAYLOR

I love you too, Dee. Sleep tight.