*Notes*

Claire’s arc should be one where she places the love for her sister over the love she has for herself and her own exploits. Need to show her relationship with her sister and show that they do actually love each other. The plot: Nikki needs to be missing when Claire wakes up, sending the latter into a panic about where she may be. What happens when the company comes over? There is a fall out between the two straight afterwards which leads to a screaming match.

Claire should know the person who attacks the house and robs them blind – gives out her home address stupidly. There needs to be a falling out between Claire and Nicole, possibly surrounding the party that Claire went to last night or the contempt that Claire has for anything that doesn’t relate to her interests.

The major problem here is that Claire doesn’t really have a goal here. In attempting to achieve that goal she must learn something.

“What is it Nicole?” Claire answered, making sure to keep her voice even. “Last night.” came the response. In truth Claire didn’t remember most of what had happened. The fragments she did get were all a blur, she remember starting out pretty fine but her memory became sketchy after 1:30 am. All that mattered was that she made it home in one piece, even though her dress smelled like it had been through the garbage. “What about it?”

Claire almost laughed. If her sibling had really been paying attention in her room this morning then this conversation would be far more interesting. Mainly because that idiot Mason had left his shirt on her floor yesterday morning but Nicole had dismissed it as part of the perpetual tornado that was her room. She’d probably be on the receiving end of some serious anger but it would certainly be more engaging than the current predicament. “We really do ne”

**[This is going somewhere but what are they arguing about? I like the callousness of Claire’s thought processes. Logical and ruthless, she’s playing her sisters reactions. This should tie into ‘Nothing Good’ and have Nicole drag up the events with Claire escaping to answer the door. This will really help expose the relationship between the two of them and show Nicole from Claire’s perspective. Nicole has to be firm but sweet and Claire intelligent but callous and self-centered]**

Darren’s feedback:

The villain is a weak character. The reader knows nothing about him, there is no relating to him. Unless the point was that Claire can’t keep running from her problems.

The villain was really just a plot device to teach Claire a lesson. I will admit that the character that does occupy that space is one-dimensional and doesn’t really do very much. I could always flesh out the dynamic between him and Claire in another draft. I think he was just an oversight as I was so focused on Claire’s perspective and her interaction with her sister that the villain just got lost in the shuffle. He almost represents the hand of fate, coming into Claire’s life and forcing her to accept the truth.

Matthew’s feedback:

Sibling is confusing.

Plot is weak. Claire feels guiltier than she should about her involvement in the attack. Antagonist needs to have more of a personal connection to her if she is to feel as guilty as she does.

Claire feels American.

The plot being weak is a legitimate critique.

Eve’s feedback:

The use of the term ‘sibling’ is out of place because it is too formal.

It gets difficult to discern whether the story is happening in the past or the present, particularly near to the end.

The term sibling is used to emphasize the emotional distance between Claire and Nicole, from Claire’s perspective at least. Will have to reread the essay to see how this happens and change it accordingly. It may be that Claire should, in the first half of the story, refer to Nicole as ‘sibling’ or ‘sister’ and then only call her by name later on. This will place emphasis on the emotional distance by creating a sense of abstraction. The reader is only allowed to see Nicole as a person when Claire does.

Afterwards: Claire has a concussion and Nicole has a broken collarbone plus a cut just above her left eyebrow.