

"THE CHRONICLES OF ELPININKI DIXON"

STORY & SCREENPLAY

BY

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EXT. - DIXON HOME - NIGHT

"PROLOGUE - FATES, FORTUNES & FAIRY TALES"

FADE IN:

As we fade from black we see two TEENAGE GIRLS laying on top of a car and staring up at the Moon and stars.

It is quiet except for the occasional chirp from a nearby cricket.

The redhead, ELPININKI "ELPI" DIXON, 17, thin and gorgeous has HER hands folded behind HER head and HER legs crossed over one another. Staring. Just staring at the beautiful night sky.

The brunette, DELAYNA HAYNES, 17, petite and beautiful folds her arms over her chest as SHE lays with ELPI. SHE seems bored but content to spend time with HER best friend.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Do you ever think about your own death?

ELPI turns HER attention away from the Moon and on DELAYNA. ELPI gives HER a look of disbelief.

ELPI DIXON

What?

DELAYNA HAYNES

You heard me. Do you?

ELPI DIXON

Delayna. You know I don't like to talk about stuff like that. I have a hard enough time getting through this life to worry about the next one, ya know.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Yea but you gotta face up to it one day, right. There ain't a lot of guarantees in life but one thing is for certain. Everyone gets a funeral.

ELPI smiles HER sarcastic smile.

ELPI DIXON

Wow. What a pleasant thought. I'll sleep better knowing you sit awake thinking about morbid shit like that.

DELAYNA shrugs HER shoulders.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I don't sit around thinking about it but I probably think about it then most teens. You would too if you had a disease that could take your life one day.

ELPI DIXON

I never thought of it like that.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Maybe you should.

ELPI DIXON

Maybe you're right.

DELAYNA smiles at HER friend. SHE always understood. DELAYNA puts HER arm around HER and squeezes.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I know, it's okay.

ELPI smiles.

ELPI DIXON

I don't know what I would do without you. You're my glue that hold me together.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Awww. You can do this stuff on your own, you just have a hard time believing. I'm here to nudge you along.

ELPI DIXON

And you do one hell of a job.

The KIDS laugh.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I'm sure your Mom is very proud of you.

ELPI smiles.

ELPI DIXON

Yea. I think about that sometimes.  
Like when I would do the drugs.  
When I'm drinking. I sometimes  
wonder what she is thinking about  
what I'm doing. I can see her  
disapproving expression.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Do you think you would of turned to  
drugs and alcohol if she was still  
alive?

ELPI shrugs.

ELPI DIXON

I don't know. Probably. Who knows.  
We'll never know for sure.

COLONEL MATT DIXON, 49, stocky and balding comes outside and  
joins the GIRLS.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Kinda hard to do any stargazing  
without a telescope.

ELPI DIXON

Oh. We're doing more talking then  
stargazing anyway Dad.

MATT looks at his watch.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

School night girls.

SHE looks at HER Blackberry.

ELPI DIXON

It's only nine.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

But, you guys needs showers and we  
all know it takes both of you  
sharing one bathroom FOREVER to get  
ready for bed.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Perfection takes time Mr. Dixon.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Perfection for you Delaynie.  
Laziness for her.

ELPI DIXON

Hey!

DELAYNA HAYNES

It's true Elpi. You are almost impossible to get up in the morning.

ELPI DIXON

I'm not a morning person. I'm a night owl.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Well, Night Owl. Let's get it in gear soon, okay?

ELPI DIXON

Yes sir. Did you still want to do some stargazing on the back porch?

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Oh yea.

ELPI DIXON

You said something to me about it yesterday, remember? Old dude.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

This old dude does remember...now. I think we have time for a thirty minute session.

ELPI jumps off the car hood. DELAYNA slithers off and lets HER cane catch HER on HER way down to the ground.

ELPI DIXON

You coming?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Naah. I'm going to hit the shower and go to bed. I'm bushed. You two have fun.

DELAYNA limps inside as MATT and ELPI walk around to the back of the house.

EXT. - DIXON HOME - BACK PORCH - NIGHT

ELPI and MATT pull out chairs and set up the telescope. As ELPI sets it up MATT grabs himself a beer and ELPI a soda and returns to the back porch.

THEY both sit. MATT cracks HIS beer as ELPI lines up the telescope.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
What are we looking at tonight?

ELPI grabs HER pad of paper and checks HER list.

ELPI DIXON  
We are ready to take a look at Mons  
Hadley Delta.

MATT puts HIS beer down and crouches down by HER and looks at the computer.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Okay. Coodinates?

ELPI DIXON  
Yea.

SHE checks HER list again.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Twenty five point eight degrees  
north by three point eight degrees  
east.

MATT nods.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Okay astronomer Dixon.

ELPI giggles.

ELPI DIXON  
Whatever Dad.

MATT smiles back at HIS daughter.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
You're a pretty smart cookie, you  
know that kid?

SHE shrugs.

ELPI DIXON  
I do okay.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
You do more then okay honey.

After ELPI sets the coordinates SHE steps away from the telescope.

ELPI DIXON  
Check my work.

MATT smiles and leans into the telescope and see the mountain on the Moon.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
You got it. I can see it.

HE sits up, looks at HER and gives HER the thumbs up.

COLONEL MATT DIXON (CONT'D)  
All systems go!

ELPI giggles.

ELPI DIXON  
Really? I did it from memory.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
You have come a long way baby. You understand so much about space and the universe.

COLONEL MATT DIXON (CONT'D)  
I'm serious. It's a little frightening.

ELPI laughs, MATT laughs with HER.

COLONEL MATT DIXON (CONT'D)  
Your Mother would be so proud.

ELPI DIXON  
How do you know she's not staring down at us right now with that big smile on her face seeing and hearing everything we say and do.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Your right. I don't. She probably is.

ELPI DIXON  
I had this grand idea.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Which is?

ELPI DIXON  
Let's just suppose when you die, you become a celestial body. You know a star.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
I know what a celestial body is  
Elpi.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. And she watches over us,  
every night she comes out and makes  
sure us Dixons are behaving  
ourselves.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Is she a different star every  
night?

ELPI DIXON  
No. She would have to be one star,  
that watches over us.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Which one would she be?

ELPI DIXON  
Good question.

ELPI looks up in the night sky and watches the stars. Then  
SHE points.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
There. That one.

A bright star twinkles at THEM.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
That's Mom.

ELPI and MATT hold each other as THEY stare at the star.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
She watches us. Keeps us safe.  
Right Dad?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Yes Elpininki. She watches us.

ELPI DIXON  
It's a comforting feeling knowing  
she's right there watching.

MATT pulls away from HIS daughter and looks at HER in the  
eyes.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
 You don't talk about it much. I  
 wonder sometimes if you even  
 remember?

ELPI DIXON  
 Oh course I do. You never say  
 anything to me about Mom.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
 I'm always afraid to. I don't want  
 to upset you.

ELPI DIXON  
 I don't know. I guess Mom is a  
 forbidden subject in this house.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
 That needs to change. We shouldn't  
 act like she never existed. We're  
 not honoring her memory.

HE holds his KID again.

COLONEL MATT DIXON (CONT'D)  
 I think you struggle with it.

SHE looks at HIM.

ELPI DIXON  
 I do. But maybe this star will  
 bring us peace. You know, a sense  
 of her still being with us.

HE holds HER tight.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
 I love you Elpininki.

ELPI DIXON  
 I love you too Dad.

EXT. - KELLY NICHOLS & KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOME - NIGHT

"CHAPTER 1 - ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE"

KELLY NICHOLS, 32, blonde and attractive is seated at the  
 kitchen table with her lesbian girlfriend KAYCEE MCINTOCH,  
 28, short blonde hair and cute eating dinner.

There is an uncomfortable silence while THEY eat. The  
 constant clanging of silverware touching china is repeated  
 and annoying.

KAYCEE stops eating and puts HER knife and fork down and stares at KELLY for a long moment.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
What's your deal?

KELLY NICHOLS  
I don't have a deal. I'm eating my dinner, just like you.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
You have barely even looked at me since you got home. Where's your mind been because it hasn't been here with me.

KELLY NICHOLS  
I'm fine. Really.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
You've been acting all weirded out lately. I thought you liked it here?

KELLY NICHOLS  
I do like it here but--

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
But what?

KELLY NICHOLS  
The stares we get sometimes. Makes me uneasy.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
I know what you mean. But look. It's what you always wanted. Beautiful countryside. Quiet small town.

KELLY NICHOLS  
I know, I know. I mean. You asked me my ideal setting and you delivered, right?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Is it the job?

KELLY NICHOLS  
No, I love the job. The kids are a bunch of great kids.

A beat.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
It's just. I don't know. I guess I  
kinda homesick.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Certainly you don't miss your  
family. Not after how they've  
treated you after Becca's death.  
That's who you miss. Becca. Not  
your family.

KELLY looks up from HER plate and tries to smile back at HER  
girlfriend. KELLY nods.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to upset  
you. I could tell something was  
wrong. Just wanted to help if I  
could.

SHE reaches for KELLY'S hand.

KELLY NICHOLS  
It's okay. I understand why you  
pushed for this place. I needed to  
get away from them.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
I don't understand them. How they  
just shut you out. Not even telling  
you about the funeral.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Yea. I missed saying goodbye to  
Becca completely.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
That was by design. Manufactured by  
your despicable mother! I just  
don't get them.

KELLY smirks at KAYCEE'S dead on comment.

KELLY NICHOLS  
I don't get them either and I'm  
related to them.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
Well, I'm changing the subject.  
Elpininki Dixon is coming back over  
tonight.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Which one is that? You tutor like  
three or four girls.

KELLY NICHOLS  
That's the one you drool over every  
time she comes over.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Ohhhhhh THAT Elpininki Dixon.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Do you know other Elpininki's?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
No, not really.

THEY both laugh.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
Don't give me that. I see how you  
look at her too.

KELLY NICHOLS  
What?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Oh whatever. I see you when you  
guys are studying. You flirt with  
her.

KELLY NICHOLS  
No I don't.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Then what would you call it then?

KELLY NICHOLS  
I don't know. Maybe it's a slight  
crush. Is it THAT noticeable?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Yea. I would be shocked if she  
hasn't noticed it.

KELLY NICHOLS  
I better tone it down. I can't help  
it. I like being around her. She  
makes me feel young again and  
reminds me a lot of myself.

KELLY ponders this for a moment.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
Yep. She makes me feel young again.  
Being around Elpi is like being  
around an adrenaline shot.

KAYCEE laughs.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
She makes you feel nostalgic.  
You've discovered the fountain of  
youth.

KELLY laugh.

KELLY NICHOLS  
I think I have and she needs the  
help. I'm trying to work with her  
to get through this and get her  
grade up.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
You're a good teacher Kelly. You're  
really going to make a difference  
in these kids lives.

KELLY grabs KAYCEE'S hand and squeezes tight. THEY both smile  
at one another before returning to their meal.

INT. - DIXON HOME - DELAYNA'S ROOM - NIGHT

DELAYNA is putting some of her things away. Clothes in  
dresser drawers. As SHE returns from putting clothes in HER  
walk in closet, a sharp intense numbing pain shoots through  
both HER legs.

DELAYNA loses HER balance and almost falls face first and  
hits the floor. SHE silently cries and holds HER legs tight.

Riding out the pain.

SHE struggles to get on the bed and curls up in a fetal  
position.

FADE OUT:

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS & KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOME - NIGHT

FADE IN:

Late at night both KELLY and KAYCEE are in bed. KELLY is  
sound asleep. KAYCEE is wide awake and staring at the  
ceiling.

Finally KAYCEE gets out of bed. Wraps HERSELF with HER bathrobe and steps out onto the back deck.

SHE pulls out a pack of cigarettes from the robe and pops a smoke into HER mouth and lights it. SHE sits in a lawn chair.

SHE enjoys HER smoke. A few more drags and SHE flicks the cigarette. SHE then reaches back into HER robe and pulls out HER cellphone.

SHE dials a number. SHE checks back towards the sliding glass door for any sign of KELLY. KAYCEE focuses HER attention back with the phone call as the ringing stops and someone answers.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

It's me. Yea, I know. Sorry it's so late. Kelly finally nodded off. No. Everything's fine. We're on schedule. Meet? Yea, I remember where you stay at.

SHE hangs up. KAYCEE thinks for a moment. Then giggles.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)

Oh, Kaycee, Kaycee, Kaycee. What a tangled web we weave.

SHE continues giggling as SHE goes back into the house.

FADE OUT:

INT. - DIXON HOME - AFTERNOON

FADE IN:

"CHAPTER 2 - ELPI'S BAD DAY"

After school ELPI comes storming into the house almost in tears. DELAYNA comes in right after HER.

ELPI paces furiously back and forth in the living room. DELAYNA stops and watches HER shocked.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Elpi? What is wrong with you?

ELPI DIXON

I can't. I can't do it anymore Delayna.

DELAYNA HAYNES

What? Do what?

ELPI stops and looks dead at HER.

ELPI DIXON  
Sobriety.

ELPI shakes HER head and sits on the ottoman. Rubs HER face back and forth.

DELAYNA moves closer. Crouches down to be eye level to HER.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
You can DO this. I know you can.

ELPI DIXON  
No...no I can't. I had the most awful day, you don't even know. I had no escape.

ELPI stands and slowly begins pacing back and forth. DELAYNA watches HER in her crouched position in the living room.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Ha! What started out as fun has turned into a way of life for me. I'm lost without it. Without that feeling, ya know? I've done it so long...when I'm sober...I don't even know who that person is. Sober, I'm a stranger. High...I know that person very well and we're cool with one another, ya know?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I miss the stranger. She's the one that rescued me on the playground that day. You DO remember that, right?

ELPI DIXON  
Yea. I remember. I'm not going to forget something like that.

ELPI smiles a bit.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Just checking. That's good you remember. You know...in the end, that's all we have left. Memories. It be a shame for you to smoke them all up.

ELPI DIXON  
I can't do this anymore Delayna.  
I'm going CRAZY! I need it. Where  
is it?

DELAYNA shakes HER head.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I'm not going to help you satisfy  
your addiction, Elpi.

ELPI DIXON  
Yes you are.

DELAYNA yells.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
NO I'M NOT!

ELPI yells back.

ELPI DIXON  
YES! YOU ARE!!

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Oh my God. You are really freaking  
out.

ELPI DIXON  
Please Delayna. Please, please,  
please, please. You've got to help  
me. Be my friend.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I am your friend and if it was  
anything else, you know I would if  
I could but not this. Not doing it  
and besides, I don't have it  
anymore.

ELPI DIXON  
What? Who has it?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Valencia.

ELPI gets pissed.

ELPI DIXON  
Why in hell does she have it?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I needed to get it out of the  
house. I know you've snooped for  
it, right?

ELPI DIXON  
How do you know?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I know.

ELPI DIXON  
Call her.

Suddenly MAYA WILLIAMS, 17, pretty with long brunette hair  
and VALENCIA MILLS, 16, pretty, slim, African-Caucasian mix  
knock on the door and walk on in.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Call who?

ELPI DIXON  
You!

VALENCIA MILLS  
Oh yea? What about?

ELPI DIXON  
That box our sweet and very  
concerned friend Delaynie gave you  
last week.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Ohhhhh. You mean your drug stash.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea, that.

MAYA giggles and pipes up.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Cute box Elpi. I love the hearts  
all over it.

ELPI DIXON  
Thanks dear. Soooo do you have it?

VALENCIA MILLS  
Naw. I got it.

ELPI DIXON  
Is it in your car?

VALENCIA MILLS

Yea. I'm gonna drive around with that shit. It's safe.

ELPI DIXON

You have to go get it. Guys, please. I had the worst day ever. I can't cope. I need an escape.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Play video games.

VALENCIA MILLS

Watch a movie.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Stargaze.

VALENCIA MILLS

Yea!

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yea!

ELPI DIXON

Please.

MAYA WILLIAMS

What happened today that's got you all stressed?

ELPI DIXON

I don't want to talk about it.

MAYA smile.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Ah ha! Now we're getting somewhere. C'mon. What happened. It's just us. The four friends. We share everything, you know that. It's like our friggin' code, ya know. Don't keep it, spill it.

VALENCIA MILLS

Yea. It's us girl. Spill it.

ELPI sits back down on the ottoman. HER friends sit on the couch next to HER.

Barely holding back tears ELPI begins.

ELPI DIXON

Nick broke up with me today.

The FRIENDS all look shocked.

VALENCIA MILLS

What? That Richy Rich pretty boy asshole. I knew he'd pull some stupid shit one day.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Shhhhh. What happened Elpi?

ELPI DIXON

He said he couldn't stand by me. Love me and watch me slowly kill myself with my drugs and my *reckless behavior*.

MAYA WILLIAMS

He knew you had stopped and we helped you stop, right?

ELPI DIXON

I told him. He didn't seem to care. I feel so low. Am I really a hot mess? He said I was. I'm not, am I? That's like the worst thing ever.

The GIRLS slowly, hesitatingly nod.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yea. Pretty much.

DELAYNA HAYNES

BUT...you are on the road to recovery and that's why you're not getting the box back.

ELPI DIXON

I don't know if I can make it.

VALENCIA MILLS

Yes ya can. I did it, remember?

ELPI DIXON

That was alcohol.

VALENCIA MILLS

What difference does it make? Drugs you smoke or drugs you drink, you get addicted to both just as easy. And both recoveries are hard as hell.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Anything worth while is.

ELPI thinks for a moment and then smiles.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. You guys win. I'll stay the  
course and kick this thing.

The GIRLS scream "YAY" and come over and give ELPI hugs.

INT. - HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

KAYCEE walks into the school and walks to KELLY'S class. SHE  
walks in as KELLY is doing paperwork.

INT. - HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

KELLY doesn't noticed HER girlfriend carrying a styrofoam  
container.

KAYCEE clears HER throat.

KELLY looks up and see KAYCEE. SHE smiles and pulls off HER  
reading glasses.

KELLY NICHOLS  
HEY!

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Hi. Brought ya dinner.

KELLY NICHOLS  
You didn't have to do that.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Not much. Just some spicy chicken I  
made.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Thank you so much! I'll nuke it  
later. Need to get these papers  
finished.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Well, you said it was going to be a  
late night.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Yea. I'm sorry. I know you were  
looking forward to some cuddle  
time.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
It's okay. I enjoy doing things for  
you.

KELLY quickly grabs KAYCEE'S hand and squeezes it tight.

KAYCEE nods.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
Okay. Well, I better let you get  
back to your work Ms. Nichols.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Thank you for dinner Ms. McIntoch.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Anytime. See ya at home.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Okay.

KELLY smiles, puts HER glasses back on and gets back to work  
as KAYCEE exits the classroom.

INT. - HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

KAYCEE begins looking around the school. The Principal, BILL  
NASH, 45, slightly grey and slightly overweight notices the  
stranger and approaches HER.

BILL NASH  
Excuse me Miss. Can I help you?

KAYCEE smiles big at HIM. HE smiles back.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Perhaps you can. I understand you  
might have a vacancy in the Phys ed  
department.

NASH chuckles.

BILL NASH  
How did you know that? That hasn't  
been posted yet.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Well. To be honest with you. I was  
tipped off from a old friend of  
mine that is on the PTA.

BILL NASH  
Ah. I see. And this *friend* would  
like their name out of it.

KAYCEE winks and shoots an index finger at him.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Exactly.

BILL NASH  
Are you qualified for the job?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Yes sir.

KAYCEE reaches into HER pocket and pulls out a flash drive.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
Got it all right here if you have a  
few minutes.

BILL NASH  
Absolutely. Why don't you come into  
my office so we can chat and I can  
look over your resume.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Sure. Thank you.

BILL smiles again.

BILL NASH  
Right this way.

KAYCEE and BILL walk into HIS office and HE closes the door.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - DIXON HOME - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

FADE IN:

ELPI is smoking a cigarette while DELAYNA is in HER car  
talking on HER cellphone. The hood of HER car is lifted with  
jumper cables attached to HER battery.

DELAYNA hangs up HER phone and joins ELPI.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
She just picked up Val and they are  
on their way.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. Nice car you got.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
It's better than yours.

ELPI laughs.

ELPI DIXON  
No it's not because right now you  
have the same mode of  
transportation as I do. My legs.  
It's a POS Delayna. But that's  
okay, I still love you.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I think that's the nicest thing  
anyone has ever said to me.

Both GIRLS giggle.

Just then MAYA and VALENCIA roll up in MAYA'S car. ELPI and  
DELAYNA hop in and they speed off.

CUT TO:

INT. - MAYA WILLIAMS' CAR - MORNING

MAYA WILLIAMS  
This isn't going to be like a  
habit? Otherwise you guys need to  
cough up some gas money.

ELPI DIXON  
As many times as my Dad has  
chauffeured you around when we were  
younger? I think you owe me a few  
hundred rides, Maya.

The rest of the GIRLS laugh.

VALENCIA MILLS  
No joke. Do you really have a sense  
of self entitlement?

MAYA WILLIAMS  
What? It's my car. My gas. I don't  
have a job Valencia. There is only  
so much Uncle Dex will dole out to  
me.

ELPI winks at MAYA.

ELPI DIXON  
I got your back.

MAYA smiles.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Cool.

A beat

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)  
So. How you feeling today? You  
know, after everything.

ELPI DIXON  
Oh good God people. Will you let  
the Nick thing go for a minute. I'd  
like to not think about it for  
once. It's all I have thought about  
since it happened and I am SO sick  
and tired of thinking about it and  
crying about it. I just want to  
move on, okay?

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Sorry Elpi. We are just worried  
about you, that's all.

ELPI sits back in the backseat and folds HER arms.

It is silent for a moment. ELPI notices DELAYNA rubbing HER  
legs back and forth sitting in the seat next to HER.

ELPI DIXON  
Are you okay?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Yea. I'm fine.

ELPI DIXON  
Why are you rubbing your legs like  
that?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Oh, charlie horse.

ELPI looks suspicious at HER.

ELPI DIXON  
Are you sure? Has your MS come  
back?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
No. I would know if that was back.  
I'm fine.

                  ELPI DIXON  
Okkaayy.

                  DELAYNA HAYNES  
I promise. I'm fine.

                  VALENCIA MILLS  
That's been in remission for a  
minute, huh girl?

                  DELAYNA HAYNES  
Yea.

ELPI isn't sure if SHE is telling the truth and keeps silent  
and just smiles.

EXT. - HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - MORNING

The FOUR FRIENDS get out of MAYA'S car and begin heading  
toward school. ELPI walks with THEM for a moment then stops  
and begins moving in a different direction.

DELAYNA stops and looks back.

                  DELAYNA HAYNES  
Hey. Where are you going?

ELPI slows down but SHE never stops and calls back to HER  
best friend.

                  ELPI DIXON  
I'll catch up with you guys later!

ELPI scurries off abandoning HER friends.

                  VALENCIA MILLS  
Well that's real nice. Just up and  
leave.

MAYA shakes HER head.

                  MAYA WILLIAMS  
That's Elpi.

THEY all walk into the school.

EXT. - HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - MORNING

ELPI comes to a van and climbs into the passenger's seat and closes the door. SHE acts like it was HER van the way SHE nonchalantly opens the door and gets in.

INT. - CHUCK MASON'S VAN - MORNING

ELPI's drug supplier. CHUCK MASON, 18, nice looking and fit sits in the driver's seat.

HE smiles at HER.

CHUCK MASON  
Hey stranger.

ELPI smiles back.

ELPI DIXON  
Hey. Yea. I've been going low pro for a while. Until the heat is off me.

CHUCK MASON  
It's been like two months!

ELPI DIXON  
I know. My Dad grounded me for six friggin' weeks!

CHUCK MASON  
Well, that should teach you not to sneak out at two in the morning, get drunk and climb windmills with Maya Williams.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea. Sometimes I don't know what goes on in my head, ya know. Stupid. I had to totally rearrange my lifestyle because of that.

CHUCK shrugs HIS shoulders.

CHUCK MASON  
Oh well. It's over.

CHUCK passes a joint over to ELPI. SHE smiles and takes it from HIM.

ELPI DIXON  
It certainly is.

SHE takes a hit and passes it back.

CHUCK MASON  
What cha need?

ELPI DIXON  
Quarter.

ELPI places a twenty dollar bill on HIS dash. CHUCK pulls out a sack of weed and hands it to HER.

CHUCK MASON  
Pleasure doing business with you.

ELPI giggles.

ELPI DIXON  
I gotta get inside.

CHUCK smiles and nods HIS head.

CHUCK MASON  
Awright Elpi. Stay cool.

ELPI smiles and exits the van.

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS' ENGLISH CLASS - LATE MORNING

"CHAPTER 3 - WHEN THE WALLS FELL"

It is quiet as the students are reading silently to themselves as KELLY NICHOLS grades papers at HER desk at the front of the classroom.

All four girls; ELPI, DELAYNA, MAYA and VALENCIA are in KELLY'S class.

VAL isn't reading. Instead SHE is making paper balls and flicking them at MAYA and ELPI. DELAYNA is reading, like the good student SHE is.

KELLY'S desk phone rings and SHE answers the call.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Hello? Yes. Yes she's here.  
Certainly. Your welcome. Bye.

KELLY puts the phone down and call out.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
Delayna?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Yes?

KELLY NICHOLS

Your school counselor, Mr. Preston would like to see you in his office, please.

DELAYNA HAYNES

(hesitantly) Okay.

SHE looks over at ELPI, who gives HER a look of "what's going on?" And DELAYNA shrugs HER shoulders at HER.

DELAYNA HAYNES (CONT'D)

(whispering) I don't know.

SHE gathers HER things and exits the classroom. Once the door closes, KELLY gets up and surveys the class.

KELLY NICHOLS

I keep hearing laughing going on back here. Snickering. Those things have nothing to do with reading chapter sixteen and seventeen.

As SHE walks past VALENCIA's seat, SHE notices a few paper balls on VAL'S desk. SHE quickly snatches them up as SHE walks past.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)

If I find anymore paper balls on the floor I will assign several students to clean this classroom, *AFTER SCHOOL*.

KELLY returns to HER desk.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)

You guys have twenty minutes. Finish your chapters.

INT. - COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - LATE MORNING

DELAYNA walks into the reception area of the office. The secretary, MARGARET HAWTHORNE, 62 is seated behind HER desk typing. SHE stops and acknowledges DELAYNA.

MARGARET HAWTHORNE

Good morning Delayna. Mr. Preston will be with you in a minute, he's on the phone. You can take a seat there.

She points to a row of chairs by the inside window. As DELAYNA walks over to a seat, SHE sees ELPI walking down the hall and spots DELAYNA in the office.

Becoming bored since it has taken some time, DELAYNA read a novel when ELPI runs up to the window. ELPI gives off a puzzled look.

DELAYNA responds with a shrug of HER shoulders. ELPI nods.

MRS. HAWTHORNE notices ELPI and points off in a direction, silently telling HER to get to class.

ELPI DIXON

I'll catch up with you later.

DELAYNA nods and looks away as ELPI walks off. JOHN PRESTON, 31, brown short hair, slender emerges from HIS office.

JOHN PRESTON

Miss Haynes. Good to see you. Would you like to come into my office please?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Sure.

Delayna picks up HER things and walks with JOHN PRESTON into HIS office.

CUT TO: JOHN PRESTON'S office.

It's a small office with not much decor. Degrees and awards are displayed on the wall behind PRESTON'S desk. JOHN sits and offers DELAYNA a seat.

JOHN PRESTON

Have a seat. Be just a minute.

DELAYNA smiles and sits patiently. HE picks up his phone and dials a few numbers and waits.

JOHN PRESTON (CONT'D)

Yes. Mrs. Alburn. John Preston. I have one of your students here with me. Delayna Haynes. I have a meeting with her and promise to get her to your class as soon as possible. Yes, that's right. Okay. Thanks...goodbye.

He sets the phone down and concentrates on DELAYNA.

JOHN PRESTON (CONT'D)

Delayna, I haven't seen you in a few months. You were coming to see me almost weekly. This has nothing to do with your academics. You are making good grades. Can you tell me what's going on at home?

DELAYNA HAYNES

I have got a lot of bagels on my plate right now Mr. Preston.

JOHN chuckles.

JOHN PRESTON

Okay. Such as? What's going on Ms. Haynes? Talk to me. I want to help if I can.

DELAYNA rolls HER eyes toward HER forehead and thinks.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Well. I WAS pregnant. Miss carried last month.

JOHN frowns.

JOHN PRESTON

Yes. I heard about that. I am SO sorry Delayna.

DELAYNA shrugs HER shoulders.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Everything happens for a reason.

JOHN smiles at HER.

JOHN PRESTON

Have you been depressed since that happened?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Sometimes. I try not to think about what could of been.

JOHN PRESTON

I understand. So...you don't feel like you are going through post partum depression?

DELAYNA giggles a bit.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
NO! I don't have that. Who have you  
been talking to?

JOHN PRESTON  
News travels fast. Gossip travels  
twice as fast.

DELAYNA nods HER head. SHE understands.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Well. My Mom and step Dad kicked me  
out of the trailer home. Said I  
cost them too much. They couldn't  
afford me anymore. The hospital  
bills. My disease.

JOHN interjects.

JOHN PRESTON  
And how is the Multiple Sclerosis?

DELAYNA nods.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
My legs hurt. I have good days and  
bad days.

JOHN PRESTON  
And what kind of day are you having  
today?

SHE thinks.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Fair to partly cloudy, I'd say.

JOHN PRESTON  
If you need to talk, my door is  
always open to you. You're a great  
kid, you have a good head on your  
shoulders. We're only human and  
humans make mistakes. Before I let  
you get back to Mrs. Alburn's  
class. You said your parents kicked  
you out of your house. What are you  
doing about housing? Are you going  
to try and patch things up with Mom  
and Step-Dad?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
You don't know my Mom. She holds  
grudges, Big time.  
(MORE)

DELAYNA HAYNES (CONT'D)

No, for the time being I am going to stay with Elpi Dixon at her and her Dad's house.

JOHN PRESTON

I don't know if that's such a good idea. Ms. Dixon doesn't seem to be too interested in an education and more interested in getting into trouble. She runs with the wrong crowd. You are the exception.

DELAYNA nods HER head in agreement but defends HER friend.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I know. I have tried to talk to her about it but she's kinda on the stubborn side. I haven't and won't give up on Elpi and I don't think you should either, Mr. Preston.

JOHN smiles at the kind hearted nature of DELAYNA. SHE can still see the good in people even when life seems to be at it's darkest.

DELAYNA HAYNES (CONT'D)

She's been through a lot too. It's not easy to basically raise yourself. Her Dad is never around. Always away at some military outpost or base somewhere. Her aunt is suppose to keep an eye on her but does a piss poor job and she has gotten involved with the wrong crowd thanks to her cousin. That whole sex, drugs and rock and roll thing. With me it was just sex and rock and roll.

JOHN PRESTON

Maybe I should try and reach out to her again. It didn't get me very far the first time.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Like I said Mr. Preston. Don't give up on her.

JOHN PRESTON

I won't and I've taken far too much class time up with you and I apologize for that.

JOHN scribbles a hall pass for DELAYNA and tears it off the pad and hands it to HER.

JOHN PRESTON (CONT'D)  
Here, you better take a hall pass  
back with you.

SHE takes the hall pass and grabs HER things and heads out of HIS office. As SHE leaves JOHN offers HER one more bit of encouragement.

JOHN PRESTON (CONT'D)  
Keep your chin up.

INT. - HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATE MORNING

DELAYNA is walking to class and runs into HER ex-boyfriend JAY FRANKLIN, 17, cute and skinny and HIS new girlfriend, JENNY STEVENSON, 17, gorgeous and brunette.

JENNY looks DELAYNA over and giggles.

JENNY STEVENSON  
Look what the cat dragged in?

JENNY looks DELAYNA over again.

JENNY STEVENSON (CONT'D)  
Where'd you find that outfit? The  
Salvation Army?

JENNY laughs.

JAY looks uncomfortable and annoyed at HIS new girlfriend picking on HIS old one.

JAY FRANKLIN  
Shut up Jenny. Go get lost for  
five.

JENNY STEVENSON  
What?

JAY FRANKLIN  
I need to talk to Delayna alone.

JENNY STEVENSON  
Are you kidding me Jay?

JAY FRANKLIN  
No. I'm not. I have to talk to her  
alone. GET!

JENNY STEVENSON

Okay. Damn!

JENNY walks over to few of HER girlfriends at their locker and begin chatting.

JAY motions for DELAYNA to walk over to an adjacent hallway to talk.

DELAYNA HAYNES

What's up?

JAY FRANKLIN

Nothing. I just wanted to see how you were doing. I don't see much of you anymore now that you don't ride the bus and are living with Elpi Dixon.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I'm fine Jay. You got what you wanted. A hot chick, your buddies and their video games. Probably an endless supply of Totino's pizzas in your freezer too.

JAY FRANKLIN

I felt bad when I heard you lost the baby.

DELAYNA laughs.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Oh really? Did ya now? Thank you for all of your support. I mean, you were right there every step of the way...oh wait. No, you weren't and as a matter of fact you weren't there for any step of the way, were you Jay?

A beat.

DELAYNA HAYNES (CONT'D)

HUH?

JAY FRANKLIN

No. I wasn't. I couldn't. You know how my parents felt about you.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Gutter trash, that's me.

JAY FRANKLIN  
It wasn't just that. They didn't  
want me being with someone with a  
disease like you have.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
But what did you want?

JAY looks at DELAYNA straight in HER eyes.

JAY FRANKLIN  
I didn't want to be with someone  
with problems like that either.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Then why in hell did you even go  
out with me in the first place.

JAY shrugs HIS shoulders.

JAY FRANKLIN  
I don't know. You're nice. Cute.  
Lovable.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Stop. Must of not been too lovable,  
you dumped me.

JAY FRANKLIN  
I did what I thought was best for  
me.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
How selfish of you.

JAY FRANKLIN  
I would of been a part of that  
kid's life if it had survived.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
It?

JAY FRANKLIN  
I never heard what the sex of the  
baby was.

DELAYNA furious begins to walk away. SHE stops and turns  
around.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
It was going to be a girl Jay. Two  
months ago I had to bury our  
daughter. Where were you?

DELAYNA walks off.

JAY stands in the hall looking and feeling stunned. It never hit him until just now what had happened. What DELAYNA went through and what a dirt bag HE was for not being there.

INT. - HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

"CHAPTER 4 - ESTRANGED"

The FRIENDS scatter to their classes. DELAYNA notices a familiar face talking to KELLY NICHOLS across the hall.

HER estranged Mother, AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY. 39, ratty blonde hair, slightly over weight and frumpy.

DELAYNA can't believe it.

AIMEE sees DELAYNA and makes a beeline towards HER. KELLY stays back by HER class doorway and observes.

DELAYNA HAYNES

What are you doing here?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

I haven't heard from you. Thought I might catch you here unless you had dropped out. I see you haven't. Good.

DELAYNA HAYNES

What do you care Mom? You kicked me out. Remember?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

I know how you came to be not living with me any longer, young lady. Watch your tongue. I am still your Mother, got that?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Yea I got that. For what it's worth.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Worth your life, bitch. Don't look at me with those...those disapproving eyes. You think I'm some kind of monster?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Aren't you? You spent five years locked up like an animal.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Well, besides that, I could no longer afford you, Delayna. You know my situation. My record. It was hospital bills for that baby you never had. Medical bills for all the MS drugs you're *suppose* to take.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I took them, Mom! You quit buying them for me.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Yea. Because I am flat friggin' broke, little Missy.

DELAYNA HAYNES

So kicking me out was the best you came up with, huh?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Fraid so kid.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Well, you could of not done time for armed robbery. Gee, what an awesome role model you've been for me. If I ever get the inkling to become a worthless white trash bitch, I know who to model after, don't I?

AIMEE slaps DELAYNA squarely across the face. KELLY sees the incident and rushes over.

KELLY NICHOLS

What the hell do you think you are doing Mrs. McCoy?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

(to Delayna) Don't you back talk me, girl!

KELLY NICHOLS

(to Delayna) Are you okay?

DELAYNA nods while massaging HER cheek.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)

I suggest you leave the school immediantly before I call security and have you escorted out of here, Mrs. McCoy.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Don't you threaten me Blondie!

                  KELLY NICHOLS  
It's not a threat, I assure you. It  
is what will happen if you don't  
get out of MY school.

AIMEE smirks at HER and walks closer and looks KELLY squarely  
in the eyes.

                  AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Now you listen to me Blondie. I  
*assure* you I am not anyone you want  
to make enemies with. I am one of  
the heads of the PTA. Keep talking  
loud mouth.

KELLY stands back as AIMEE strolls past HER and out the front  
doors.

                  AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY (CONT'D)  
(calling back to Delayna) We have  
unfinished business Delayna. Come  
by tonight. I have the rest of your  
clothes all bagged up and ready for  
you. See ya soon babygirl.

KELLY again focuses HER attention to DELAYNA.

                  KELLY NICHOLS  
Are you sure you're okay?

                  DELAYNA HAYNES  
Yea. I've had worse.

KELLY gives HER a sad look and pats HER on the back.

                  KELLY NICHOLS  
I'm so sorry honey. I wish there  
was something I could do.

                  DELAYNA HAYNES  
It's okay Ms. Nichols. I got the  
best BFF ever taking good care of  
me now.

                  KELLY NICHOLS  
Ah. Elpi Dixon.

                  DELAYNA HAYNES  
Yep. It's all good. Except I'm now  
late to class. Something else I can  
thank my Mom for.

KELLY slides HER hand in HER pocket and pulls out a pen and pad and quickly scribbles on it and hands it to the TEEN.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Here's a hall pass.

DELAYNA'S eye lit up and SHE smiles at HER.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Thank you Ms. Nichols! I was already in Mr. Simon's doghouse for tardies.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Well, get going.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I'm going. I'm going. Thanks.

DELAYNA begins to walk away and then stops.

DELAYNA HAYNES (CONT'D)  
Oh, Ms. Nichols?

KELLY NICHOLS  
Yes Delayna?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Please don't tell anyone about this. About what happened between me and my Mom.

KELLY NICHOLS  
I won't. I promise.

DELAYNA smiles.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Thanks.

SHE grabs HER text books and cane and limps on down the hall to Mr. Simon's class. KELLY begins to return to HER'S when the principal, BILL NASH approaches with the high school's newest faculty member.

BILL NASH  
Ms. Nichols, did we just miss something?

KELLY NICHOLS  
Ohh. A slight altercation between parent and student. I asked the parent to leave. Aimee McCoy.

BILL NASH

Oh. Say no more. Mrs. McCoy's reputation proceeds her.

A beat.

BILL NASH (CONT'D)

I see it was nicely handled. Thank you. And I wanted to introduce you to our newest staff member. Our new girls PE instructor, Kaycee McIntoch.

KAYCEE comes out from behind the shadow of NASH to reveal HERSELF to KELLY.

KELLY at first looks shocked but then changes HER expression after NASH notices a bit to an expression of pleasantness and all smiles.

KAYCEE extends HER hand out. THEY shake hands.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Pleased to meet you Ms. Nichols.

KELLY NICHOLS

Pleasure. Look forward to working with you Ms. McIntoch.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Same here but I don't know what a PE teacher and a English teacher would be working on together?

KAYCEE laughs. BILL snickers. KELLY frowns.

KELLY NICHOLS

Well. *Coach*. Every spring we help the middle school with their field day. I imagine since you are a PE teacher and the PE department participates. I can only assume, you will be required to help out too and as it so happens I am the event coordinator of field day.

BILL senses some tension between the two blonde headed ladies. KAYCEE smiles and give KELLY a look of astonishment.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

I did not know that Ms. Nichols. Then I stand corrected. I look VERY forward to working and assisting you on field day.

KELLY smiles.

BILL NASH  
I will leave you to your class,  
Kelly.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Thank you Mr. Nash.

KELLY extends HER hand out to KAYCEE.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
And it was REAL nice meeting you  
Ms. McIntoch.

KAYCEE grabs KELLY'S hand and squeezes tight as they shake hands.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Oh no. The pleasure was ALL mine.

While THEY shake hands, KELLY stares down KAYCEE as KAYCEE returns the favor.

THEY release hands and KAYCEE catches up with NASH as HE makes HIS way down the hall. KELLY just stares at KAYCEE as SHE scurries off and shakes HER head.

The word unbelievable kept going through KELLY'S mind as SHE returned to HER class and closes the door.

EXT. - HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

ELPI is waiting around for MAYA and the GIRLS to arrive at HER car, when SHE sees HER jock, star quarterback ex-boyfriend, NICK HELLER, 17, athletic, good looking, walking out of the building with his football buddy, BILLY THORNTON, 16, athletic.

HE notices HER, smoking a cigarette. HE waves off his FRIEND and approaches ELPI, who rolls HER eyes a bit watching HIM approach HER.

NICK HELLER  
Hey.

ELPI nods and mutters.

ELPI DIXON  
What do you want Nick?

NICK HELLER

Just thought I'd see how you are  
doing, that's all.

ELPI DIXON

What do you care? You were the one  
that dumped me, remember.

NICK HELLER

I remember who broke up with whom,  
Elpi. I still care about you. I  
can't switch on and off my  
emotions.

ELPI exhales a plume of smoke in NICK's direction.

ELPI DIXON

You could of fooled me, bud. Sorry,  
I wasn't cheerleader material  
enough for ya.

NICK HELLER

That had nothing to do with it.

ELPI DIXON

Yes it does. It has everything to  
do with it. Your family didn't even  
like me and I have never done  
anything for them to dislike me.

NICK HELLER

They just want the best for me.

ELPI DIXON

And that apparently wasn't me, huh.  
Don't get mixed up with a girl from  
the wrong side of the tracks, and  
you didn't, right?

NICK HELLER

You just won't let me get a word in  
edge wise, will you?

ELPI drops HER cigarette and squishes it with HER shoe.

ELPI DIXON

Say what you came here to say Nick.

NICK HELLER

I just think you can do better then  
the riff raff you hang out with.

ELPI DIXON

Hating on my choices again. That was the other thing. How I roll. I never built up an illusion of who I am and what I like to do.

NICK HELLER

But it's a waste. You're a smart girl, surely you can see that?

ELPI DIXON

I'm young, Nick. Haven't you ever heard of wasted youth? This is the only time in my life I will be able to live reckless and care free and I'm doing it!

NICK HELLER

It is impossible to talk to you, Elpi.

SHE is defiant. Throws up HER hands at HIM.

ELPI DIXON

It is what is it Nick.

DELAYNA, VALENCIA and MAYA show up.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Soooo. What's going on guys?

NICK walks away with a disgusted look on HIS face.

NICK HELLER

Nothing.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Okaaay. (to Elpi) What was that all about?

ELPI shakes HER head.

ELPI DIXON

Nothing. Nick being Nick. Forget about it. I already have.

THEY all get in MAYA'S car and drive off.

EXT. - HAYNES TRAILER HOME - AFTERNOON

"CHAPTER 5 - IMAGES OF SORROW & PICTURES OF DELIGHT"

DELAYNA HAYNES drives up to the gravel driveway next to HER mother's trailer home. Inside a large trailer park on the outskirts of town.

DELAYNA gets out and walks to the door and knocks on it. AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY answers the door with a smirk.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Well, well, well. Little birdy came  
back to the nest after all.

AIMEE turns around and walks back in the house. The storm door slams shut. DELAYNA flings it open and enters right behind HER.

DELAYNA notices right away a pretty young looking woman sitting at the kitchen table sipping a cup of coffee. SHE smiles at DELAYNA as SHE swallows the hot liquid and sets the cup down.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY (CONT'D)  
Oh. This is my lovely daughter,  
Delayna.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Hello Delayna. I'm Kaycee.

SHE extends HER hand out to the TEEN and THEY shake hands.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Hi. Nice to meet you.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Oh no. The pleasure is all mine.  
Wow Aimee. You never told me how  
beautiful your daughter is.

DELAYNA bashfully smiles.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Thanks.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Pretty on the outside. Jacked up on  
the inside.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Thanks Mom.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Hey. That needs to stop.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
She is. Got that Goddamn disease.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
(to Delayna) What disease?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I have multiple sclerosis.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Oh no. I'm so sorry sweetheart. Are  
you in a lot of pain?

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Comes and goes.

KAYCEE holds DELAYNA'S hand and squeezes it tight for a  
moment.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
I think you better get your hands  
off my daughter.

KAYCEE shoots AIMEE a death stare and gets up from the  
kitchen table and gets in AIMEE'S face.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Listen BITCH. I unlike you have  
some compassion for Delayna. You  
couldn't even afford to keep her  
around. Your good for nothing loser  
husband instead of working on the  
assembly line at Ford is now  
serving 5 to 10. That's the real  
reason you're in the mess you're in  
and the only reason you called me.

AIMEE is scared of KAYCEE and backs down. SHE turns HER  
attention to DELAYNA.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Your clothes are in those bags.

The silence was thick. The WOMEN were tense. DELAYNA walks  
over and picks up the two trash bags full of clothes.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I didn't come here to fight Mom. I  
came here to get my clothes.

KAYCEE watches AIMEE with the same death stare as SHE walks  
back to HER chair in the kitchen.

DELAYNA began heading for the door. SHE stops for a moment  
and looks back at the feisty blonde.

DELAYNA HAYNES (CONT'D)  
It was nice meeting you.

KAYCEE winks at HER and smiles.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
It was real nice meeting you too  
Darling.

DELAYNA doesn't look at HER Mom as SHE exits the trailer.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
See ya later Mom.

EXT. - MCCOY TRAILER HOME - AFTERNOON

DELAYNA struts to HER car with a big smile on HER face. SHE  
throws the bags in HER backseat, get in and drives off.

EXT. - HIGHWAY ROAD - AFTERNOON

DELAYNA sees NICK HELLER walking down the side of the highway  
carrying a gas can. SHE pulls over and rolls HER window down  
to talk to HIM.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Need a lift?

Without hesitating HE jumps in.

NICK HELLER  
Thanks Delayna! Ran out of gas  
about four miles back.

DELAYNA drives on.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Well, I can get you to a gas  
station and back to your car again  
if you like?

NICK HELLER  
That would be super!

DELAYNA HAYNES  
No problem.

The car becomes silent. THEY both feel the uneasiness.

NICK HELLER

I really appreciate you doing this.  
I mean, I'm sure I'm not very  
popular with Elpi's friends these  
days.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Well Nick. Actually...you're not.

NICK nods HIS head.

NICK HELLER

I figured. I don't blame them. I  
think I really hurt her.  
Just...didn't know what else to do.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I understand why you did it.

NICK HELLER

You do?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Yea. She told me. You don't like  
what she's been up to lately. Her  
new friends. The drugs. The booze.

NICK HELLER

Yea. I mean, I like to party every  
once in a while like everyone else  
but that's not what I'm all about.  
Elpi? That's what she's all about  
and she's gonna end up in serious  
trouble or worse.

DELAYNA pulls into an empty parking lot and parks the car.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Look Nick. Like I said I understand  
why you broke up with her. She's  
self destructing.

NICK HELLER

I know she is and that's why I had  
to get out of that whole thing.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Okay but that's the reason to have  
stayed to try to help her. She is  
so self destructive right now, she  
might go over the deep end.

NICK HELLER

I don't think she's that far gone.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Can you say that for sure?

NICK HELLER

Well...no.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Okay then. I'm just really worried about her. I think you should give her another chance. She is trying. She gave me her stash to hide so she'll quit.

NICK looks surprised.

NICK HELLER

She gave you her precious stash?

DELAYNA nods.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Yes. Like I said. She's trying. And I know you still love her. She still loves you. It's not too late.

NICK HELLER

Do you think she would take me back?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Shyee! Like, in a freaking heartbeat, dude! But you can't come off like some savior. Like the only reason you came back was to do the righteous thing and help her recover. Elpininki Dixon is a very smart girl.

NICK HELLER

Yea, I know she is. That's why I can't understand she let this situation happen. She's smarter than this.

DELAYNA HAYNES

It is what it is. Look, you have to come back to be with her for her and not look like you're on some Mother Teresa trip, okay.

NICK HELLER

Okay. I don't want it to look like I'm coming back out of pity.

A beat.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
 Exactly. Please Nick. At least  
 think about it. We are going to  
 have to band together to get her  
 through this. I think she's worth  
 it.

NICK smiles and nods.

NICK HELLER  
 Yea. She's defiantly worth it.  
 Okay.

DELAYNA raises HER fists in the air.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
 Awright, let's go get ya some gas.

SHE spins the car around and back out of the parking lot.

EXT. - KELLY NICHOLS & KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOME - AFTERNOON

"CHAPTER 6 - MOMENTS IN CLARITY"

KELLY pulls in and parks HER car. SHE seemed to leap out of  
 HER car, grab HER briefcase and scurry up the step and into  
 the house to confront HER girlfriend.

As KELLY enters, KAYCEE is seated at the kitchen table,  
 sipping some coffee. KAYCEE smiles.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 Hi.

KELLY smirks.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 Don't "hi" me, McIntoch. What the  
 hell are you up to?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 I got a new job.

KELLY laughs.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 Yea. I know. What are you trying to  
 prove?

KAYCEE stands and walks over to HER lover and puts HER arms  
 around HER. KELLY seems to resist at first but relinquishes.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

I'll prove to you and anybody else  
I don't have any problem with being  
around teens. I can control it.  
What better way to prove I am over  
with playing around with young  
girls then to be the girls PE  
teacher.

KELLY NICHOLS

You expect me to buy that? Jesus  
Kaycee, if you get caught. If we  
get discovered, they'll chase us  
out of her with pitchforks and  
torches!

KAYCEE kisses KELLY and holds HER tight, then smiles.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

It's not going to come to that  
because I am a good health  
instructor.

KELLY NICHOLS

You're one of the best in the  
proper environment. I just don't  
know if this is the proper  
environment.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Then I will have to prove it to you  
I can control myself in the company  
of cute girls.

KELLY NICHOLS

Oh. Well, we can put that theory to  
the test beginning tonight.

KAYCEE gives HER a strange look on HER face.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Who ya tutoring tonight?

KELLY NICHOLS

Elpi Dixon.

KAYCEE smiles reassured.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

That's not going to be a problem.  
You know, I'm like Foreigner. I'm  
cold as ice.

KELLY NICHOLS  
She'll be here in like fifteen  
minutes.

KAYCEE looks surprised and pulls away from KELLY and begins walking towards their bedroom.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Thanks for the warning.

KELLY giggles.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Your welcome.

EXT. - KELLY NICHOLS & KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOME - NIGHT

ELPI DIXON is seen stepping out of DELAYNA'S car in front of KELLY & KAYCEE'S home and jogs up to the front door as the car drives off.

SHE knocks on the door. KELLY answers.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Hi Elpi. Come on in.

ELPI smiles and walks in.

ELPI DIXON  
Thanks Ms. Nichols.

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS & KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOME - NIGHT

KAYCEE gets up and walks over to THEM. SHE extends HER hand towards ELPI.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Hi, Elpininki.

ELPI smiles back.

ELPI DIXON  
Hi, Ms. McIntoch.

THEY shake hands.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Call me Kaycee.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay.

KELLY NICHOLS

Well, come on in. Make yourself comfortable. I need to grab some books and worksheets for us to go over and then we can go into the study and get to work.

ELPI DIXON

Sounds good.

ELPI walks over and sits on the couch. KAYCEE joins HER.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

So. Still having some trouble in her class.

ELPI DIXON

I guess I'm just not getting it. I thought I was but I keep getting bad grades from her.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Well, some people just need individual help to quote, unquote get it, ya know.

ELPI DIXON

Yea. I'm thinking that's what I need.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Kelly is a great teacher. I'm sure this tutoring is going to help you out tons.

ELPI DIXON

I hope so. I have to bring this grade up.

KELLY re-enters the room and smiles at the two GIRLS.

KELLY NICHOLS

All set?

ELPI DIXON

Yep. Lead the way.

KELLY NICHOLS

Follow me.

SHE smiles and extends HER arm out for ELPI to follow HER.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
(to Kaycee) And you, get back to  
your novel.

KAYCEE winks at KELLY.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Oh, I am. Have fun you two.

ELPI DIXON  
(sarcastic) Oh yea. We're gonna  
have tons of fun.

ELPI giggles. As ELPI turns and follow KELLY, KAYCEE gives  
HER the once over and bites HER lip.

FADE OUT:

ELAPED TIME

FADE IN:

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS & KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOME - BACKROOM -  
NIGHT

KELLY is looking over a few worksheets ELPI has already done  
while SHE is working on another worksheet. KELLY keeps  
glancing at ELPI. The TEEN finally takes notice.

ELPI DIXON  
Is there something wrong, Ms.  
Nichols.

KELLY NICHOLS  
No. Why would you ask me that?

ELPI DIXON  
Because you keep looking at me. I  
can feel your stare. Is there  
something wrong with my work?

KELLY looks over HER papers.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Oh, no. Elpininki. It wasn't that  
at all.

KELLY begins to feel embarrassed. SHE had been caught red  
handed.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
 Just the way the light was hitting  
 your hair. It is very beautiful.

ELPI smiles.

ELPI DIXON  
 Thanks.

KELLY smiles back.

KAYCEE suddenly barges in on THEM with a plate of freshly  
 baked chocolate chip cookies.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 Cookie time!

KELLY is shocked but smiles at the nice gesture.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 Awww, thanks!

SHE looks at HER watch.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
 I guess it has been about an hour.  
 (to Elpi) Would you like to take a  
 break?

ELPI DIXON  
 Sure.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 Don't worry about a thing. I'll  
 take care of our special guest.

ELPI gets up from HER seat. KAYCEE wraps HER arm around  
 ELPI'S.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
 Come with me, my dear.

KAYCEE leads ELPI out of the study. KELLY didn't think much  
 of it and continued grading ELPI'S work.

EXT. - KELLY NICHOLS' HOUSE - BACK DECK - NIGHT

KAYCEE leads ELPI out on the back deck. ELPI is astonished by  
 the scenery.

ELPI DIXON  
 Wow. Beautiful view. You guys have  
 a wonderful home here.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Thank you. Have a seat.

ELPI sits at the patio table, KAYCEE sits next to HER and places the plate of cookie in front of HER.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
Dig in, honey.

ELPI smiles and grabs a cookie.

ELPI DIXON  
Thanks.

KAYCEE scoots HER chair closer to ELPI. SHE places HER chin in the palm of HER hand for support and just stares at the TEEN for a long moment.

ELPI feels the stare as SHE nibbles on HER cookie. SHE then stares back at KAYCEE.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
There seems to be a lot of that going around in this house.

KAYCEE looks puzzled for a moment.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
What do you mean, hon?

ELPI DIXON  
First I caught Ms. Nichols staring at me and now, you.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Would you like to know why, honey?

ELPI shrugs.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
Because we are both attracted to you.

ELPI DIXON  
What?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
You heard me sugar.

KAYCEE moved HER hand along ELPI'S leg.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
You don't even realize how sexy you are, do you Elpi?

ELPININKI didn't know what to say. How to react. SHE stuttered.

ELPI DIXON

Uhhhhh.

Embarrassed and shy, SHE lowers HER head and mutters.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Thanks.

KAYCEE smiles. SHE puts HER index finger under ELPI's chin and raises HER head so THEY'RE eyes meet.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

What else do you want me to say?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

That you want me too.

ELPI DIXON

(bitchy) Not interested. Are you serious?

KAYCEE is taken a back from the TEEN'S attitude.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

I'm sorry. I shouldn't of said that but I don't think that was any reason for you to act like a bitch.

ELPI gets mad and stands up and points a finger at KAYCEE.

ELPI DIXON

Now you listen to me. I came over here to bring my English grade up, not for a twenty something lesbian chick to hit on me!

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

We'll I didn't realize you were going to make such a big frickin' deal but after all, you are just a teenager.

ELPI DIXON

What does that suppose to mean?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Should of known you were just an immature kid.

ELPI DIXON  
 What does that make you? A  
 pedophile?

KELLY steps out on the deck to see KAYCEE and ELPI arguing.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 What the hell is going on here?

ELPI DIXON  
 Your roommate, girlfriend,  
 whatever, has been hitting on me  
 out here and I got in her face  
 about it.

KELLY looks at KAYCEE.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 What?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 I'm sorry. Jeez. Look at her, she's  
 gorgeous. Don't give me that face,  
 Kelly. You talk about Elpi all the  
 damn time.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 That is none of Elpininki's  
 business. You have no right to  
 invade my privacy like that! (to  
 Elpi) I am SO sorry Elpininki. I  
 never meant for any of this to  
 happen. I will take you home.  
 Please, can you wait inside for a  
 few minutes.

ELPI is silent. SHE nods and exits through the sliding glass  
 door.

KELLY turns HER attention to KAYCEE.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
 I don't believe you! Are we going  
 to have to go through this again?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 I know. I'm sorry. I don't know  
 what came over me. I thought I  
 could control it.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 Well, it's obvious you can't. Face  
 it, you have a serious problem and  
 your the new girls PE teacher.  
 (MORE)

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
 Perfect Kaycee. You are a  
 pedophile.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 That's what Elpininki said.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 She's a smart girl and she's one  
 hundred percent right.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 No, I'm not. I like young girls.  
 It's not like--like ten year olds.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 Not yet. Who knows what thoughts go  
 through that head of yours, Kaycee.

KAYCEE slumps down in HER chair again and begins to cry. SHE  
 covers HER mouth as SHE wails.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 (crying) I'm so sorry Kelly. I  
 don't mean to hurt anyone.

Tears well up in KELLY eyes. SHE kneels down to by close to  
 KAYCEE.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 I know baby. You need help baby.

KELLY strokes KAYCEE's cheek.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
 You can beat this. I'm going to  
 help you to.

KAYCEE nods and sniffles.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 Okay.

KELLY stands.

KELLY NICHOLS  
 Now, I have to take Elpininki back  
 home. We'll talk more when I get  
 back.

KAYCEE nods. KELLY walks back into the house.

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS' HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

ELPI is seated on the couch. KELLY sits down next to HER.

KELLY NICHOLS

Elpininki. I can't tell you how sorry I am this incident happened. I am SO ashamed. I don't know what to say.

ELPI DIXON

I don't know what to say either.

KELLY NICHOLS

What are you going to do?

ELPI DIXON

I was just thinking about that myself.

KELLY NICHOLS

I wouldn't blame you for saying something. I wouldn't like losing my job because of someone else's stupidity, but I would understand.

ELPININKI DIXON thinks and stares KELLY in the eye.

ELPI DIXON

What I would like to go do is to finish this tutoring session, if that is *at all possible*?

KELLY NICHOLS

You mean, you're not going to say anything? Not even to your Dad?

ELPI DIXON

Look. I don't want you to lose your job Ms. Nichols. You're a good teacher. It's not like someone older, rather that be a guy or gal hasn't hit on me before. (pause) Ya know, Kaycee said that I don't realize how *hot* I am. I know. I know what I look like, I'm a target because I'm a pretty girl. I learned a long time ago to be cautious. I understand Kaycee too. Some people can't help themselves to temptation and she has no self control, something I *can* relate to.

KELLY NICHOLS  
No one has ever accused you of  
being a dumb girl.

ELPI smiles.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
We have about thirty minutes of our  
session left, wanna go knock it  
out?

ELPININKI DIXON  
That would be great.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Let's go.

ELPI follows KELLY back into the back room.

CUT TO:

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS & KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOME - BACK ROOM -  
NIGHT

As THEY walk into the back room, there is a tension in the  
air that KELLY quickly distinguishes by placing some  
worksheets in front of ELPI as SHE sits back down in HER  
seat.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Do you see what you did wrong,  
here?

ELPININKI carefully looks over the problem and studies it.

ELPI DIXON  
Ummmmmm. It look right to me? It's  
not right?

KELLY NICHOLS  
Does that word look right to you?

ELPI looks at the word again. Nods.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea.

KELLY NICHOLS  
You have these two letters  
inverted.

ELPI laughs.

ELPI DIXON

Oh yea, I do. I do that all the time.

KELLY smiles.

KELLY NICHOLS

Ah hah.

ELPI DIXON

Ah hah, what?

KELLY NICHOLS

I'm beginning to see the light.

ELPI DIXON

Would you care to fill me in?

KELLY NICHOLS

How long have you had this problem.

ELPI DIXON

I don't know. Ever since I could remember, really.

KELLY NICHOLS

Have you ever been tested for Dyslexia?

ELPI DIXON

I don't think so.

KELLY NICHOLS

I think I just found out your problem. It's not that you can't comprehend the lessons, it's that you may be Dyslexic and more than anything else, I correct your spelling, Elpininki. Tomorrow I will schedule testing for you for next week.

ELPI flashes HER a smile.

EXT. - DIXON HOME - NIGHT

ELPI gets out of KELLY'S car and walks to the front and lets HERSELF in.

INT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

ELPI enters the home. Most lights are off. As SHE takes off HER jacket SHE seems to hear groaning.

ELPI is startled for a moment. Curious the next.

ELPI DIXON

Hello?

Finally a familiar voice.

DELAYNA HAYNES

ELPI!

ELPI looks around.

ELPI DIXON

Where are you?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Kitchen!

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

ELPI sees DELAYNA on the floor. SHE rushes to HER.

ELPI DIXON

Oh my God! Are you okay? What's wrong?

DELAYNA HAYNES

It's the MS.

ELPI DIXON

I thought you said it was still in remission?

DELAYNA HAYNES

I lied.

ELPI DIXON

I thought so!

DELAYNA HAYNES

Please don't yell at me.

ELPI DIXON

I'm not going to yell at you. I'm gonna go yell at my Dad.

ELPI walks a few paces and calls up to MATT'S bedroom.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
DAD! DAD!

MATT comes bolting out of HIS room and jets down the stairs.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
It's Delayna.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
What's wrong.

ELPI DIXON  
It's her MS. It's back.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Oh no.

MATT kneels down to be close to DELAYNA.

COLONEL MATT DIXON (CONT'D)  
Tell me what's going on dear.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
My legs. They hurt so bad I can't walk. Can you get me to my room?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Yea, of course, sweetheart.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay.

MATT grabs DELAYNA and lifts HER up over HIS shoulders and carries HER up to HER bedroom.

INT. - DIXON HOME - DELAYNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

HE gently lay HER on HER bed.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
What can we do for you?

DELAYNA shrugs HER shoulders.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Nothing. Just gotta ride this flare up out.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
We gotta get you to the doctor.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Do you seriously think I or my  
broke down family has any money for  
health insurance.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Don't worry about the financial  
part. I'll take care of that. Now,  
you're under my roof and as such  
under my care.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I never asked--

MATT holds up HIS hand to DELAYNA.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

I know you didn't. I want to help.

DELAYNA feeling touched by MATT'S unselfish act of kindness,  
wipes a tear from HER cheek.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Thank you so much Mr. Dixon.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

You can thank me by getting better  
Delaynie.

DELAYNA laughs.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Okay Mr. Dixon.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Okay. You're sure you don't need  
anything?

DELAYNA HAYNES

Maybe some ibuprofen?

ELPI DIXON

I got some Dad.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Okay. Well, I certainly hope the  
pain has subsided by tomorrow  
morning. I will check on you first  
thing. If no change I will take you  
to our family doctor.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Okay. Mr. Dixon. We'll play it your  
way. Like I'm in any position to  
argue.

Before leaving HE stops.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Try to get some rest Delayna. Elpi,  
get her that medicine.

ELPI DIXON  
I will Dad. (to Delayna) I'll be  
right back.

ELPI and MATT leave the room together.

Moments later SHE returns with a pill bottle.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Here. Take like three.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
No. Gimme four.

ELPI DIXON  
That's like the mex.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
I know. Gimme four!

ELPI DIXON  
Okay, okay.

ELPI shakes out four pills and hand them to HER. DELAYNA  
reaches out for HER water bottle. ELPI hands it to HER. SHE  
pops the pills and downs the water.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Thanks.

ELPI DIXON  
Hope that helps.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Yea. Me too.

ELPI DIXON  
I better let you get some sleep.

DELAYNA HAYNES  
Elpi.

ELPI DIXON

Yea?

SHE looks around for a moment.

DELAYNA HAYNES

Take a seat and close the door.

ELPI DIXON

This sounds serious.

DELAYNA just nods. ELPI grabs a chair and places it by HER bed. SHE then walks over to the door and shuts it.

VOICES could be heard as the camera pans back.

FADE OUT:

INT. - DIXON HOME - ELPI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

FADE IN:

ELPI is awoken to the sound of HER blackberry going off. SHE thumbs around for it on the floor and grabs it. The backlight of the device blinds HER for a second.

SHE reads the new message waiting.

ELPI DIXON

Nick? What do you want.

SHE reads the message aloud in a whisper to HERSELF.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Elpi. Please meet me at the swing now. I have to talk to you. It's important. Now?

SHE looks at HER clock. 5:17am.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Okay Nick. Okay.

SHE quickly responds to his e-mail and crawls out of bed.

SHE kneels down by her side table and silently pulls out a small weed pipe and a lighter. SHE flicks the lighter and takes a quick hit. SHE slowly lets the smoke release through her mouth as she lifts the window and lets the smoke travel out.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

That's better.

EXT. - THE SWING SET - MORNING

"CHAPTER 7 - "MENDING BROKEN WINGS"

NICK is sitting in one of the swings as ELPI arrives and sits in the one next to HIM.

There is silence. ELPI stares straight, glancing at NICK from HER peripheral vision.

Waiting...waiting.

ELPI DIXON

Well?

NICK HELLER

How are you?

ELPI giggles.

ELPI DIXON

Did you really ask me here to ask me that? You could of asked me that in a text.

NICK HELLER

I know. It's just I'm not real sure how to start this?

ELPI DIXON

Start what? You've never been at a loss for words. Spill it.

NICK HELLER

Start reconciliation.

ELPI DIXON

Ha! You want me back now?

NICK HELLER

Just...hear me out.

ELPI nods.

ELPI DIXON

I'm listening.

NICK takes a deep breath. Looks at HER and smiles.

NICK HELLER

Okay. Me abandoning you was wrong. I should of never done that.

(MORE)

NICK HELLER (CONT'D)

You deserved better than a  
boyfriend who tucked his head in  
between his legs at the sign of  
first trouble.

ELPI DIXON

Everybody has problems Nick.

NICK HELLER

Yea. You still have that problem  
because I can smell it on you.

A beat.

ELPI DIXON

For me it's not a problem. Nick,  
this is a way of life for me. I  
can't function without it.

NICK HELLER

Well, you can but usually people  
can't quit on their own.

ELPI DIXON

And you want to help.

NICK HELLER

Of course Elpi! I still love you. I  
never wanted to leave you.

ELPI DIXON

But you did.

NICK HELLER

I know. I'm sorry.

ELPI DIXON

Look. Life gets hard. It's the only  
way I know how to deal with it when  
it get rough.

NICK HELLER

There are other ways to deal with  
stress. Drugs aren't the answer.

ELPI smirks and nods.

NICK HELLER (CONT'D)

Will you let me be there for you?  
Will you let me help you?

HE smiles at HER. SHE returns HIS smile. SHE stands and HE  
joins HER.

SHE puts HER arms around HIS neck.

ELPI DIXON

Okay.

THEY kiss a passionate kiss. Once their lips unlock from one another, SHE hugs NICK. HE holds HER tight as THEY begin walking back from the park and begin holding hands.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - GRASSY FIELD - MORNING

FADE IN:

The breeze blew in from the north. It was a hot, humid breeze that slapped HER in the face. SHE didn't feel it much. Not from the numbness. Not from all the drinking.

SHE stumbled again. Lost HER footing and collapsed. SHE giggled. It wasn't funny. SHE was just drunk. SHE struggles to pull the plastic half pint bottle of Vodka from HER back pocket.

SHE takes a swig and wipes HER sleeve over HER mouth. SHE then lays on the grass and stares at the sun beaming back down at HER. Sweat beads roll from HER forehead.

SHE wipes HER brow. It's quiet, peaceful.

SHE focuses on a point ahead. Through the trees. SHE sees a figure standing on the edge of a cliff above the crashing shores of a large lake.

SHE weakly stands. SHE takes another drink and finishes the bottle. As SHE begins to stumbly walk towards the figure SHE tosses the bottle.

SHE makes all kinds of noise but the figure doesn't move. Doesn't even flinch. ELPI keeps advancing. Moving closer.

SHE gets right behind the figure and stands as silently as possible.

Then the FIGURE moves. ELPI stands back. The FIGURE turns their head to reveal DELAYNA. SHE looks deep in ELPI'S eyes. ELPI looks back. DELAYNA smiles and gives ELPI DIXON one nod and turns HER head back.

DELAYNA HAYNES

I'm ready, Elpi.

ELPI takes a deep breath and with all of HER might shoves DELAYNA off the edge.

CUT TO:

INT. ELPI DIXON'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

ELPI is awoken from HER dream and HER nap by the thunderous voice of HER father.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
ELPI! ELPI?

SHE calls out, still lying on the bed.

ELPI DIXON  
YEAH??

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Dinner's ready. Your Aunt made your favorites tonight.

SHE feels disoriented but understands and responds.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. Be there in a sec.

SHE looks at HER alarm clock. 5:51pm

SHE rubs HER eyes and crawls out of bed and walks into HER bathroom. SHE turns the water on and splashes HER face trying to wake up.

SHE flips the bathroom light on and starts the shower. SHE turns back to face HERSELF in the mirror. SHE smirks at HERSELF and shakes HER head.

INT. - DIXON HOME - HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

"CHAPTER 8 - PUSHING THE NEEDLE INTO THE RED"

ELPI exits HER room, SHE then knocks on DELAYNA'S door.

ELPI DIXON  
Dinner's ready, Hop-A-Long.

SHE grabs the door knob but it's locked. SHE tries jiggling it a couple of times.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Since when do you lock your door?

There is no answer.

ELPI doesn't think anything of it and begins to walk downstairs.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Well...hurry up.

INT. - DIXON HOME - DINING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

MATT and his sister, ANNE SULLIVAN, 39, long hair, pulled back in a ponytail, average build. Slightly frail but still manages.

SHE is busy putting the last of the food on the table. The others, MIKIE SULLIVAN, 18, nice looking, slender, ELPI'S rocker party animal cousin. MAYA, VALENCIA are already seated and talking as ELPI joins THEM.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Hey Elpi!

ELPI smiles.

ELPI DIXON  
Hi!

VALENCIA MILLS  
Damn girl. We haven't seen your ass in a minute.

ELPI gives VAL a look of confusion.

ELPI DIXON  
Really? Doesn't seem that long ago. Time flies when your having fun, I guess?

The GIRLS smile.

MIKIE smiles at HER.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
How's the Elpster?

ELPI smiles back.

ELPI DIXON  
Good. How are you, Mikie?

MIKIE giggles.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

I'm good.

MATT passes the fried chicken to HIS daughter.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Here hon. Take one and pass it down  
to our guests.

ELPI takes the plate of hot fried chicken and places a piece  
on HER plate. After SHE passes it to MAYA, SHE begins to look  
around and notices a person missing from the dinner.

ELPI DIXON

Guys. We can't start eating yet.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

And why is that my beautiful  
daughter of mine?

ELPI DIXON

Dad? Duh?

SHE calls out.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

DELAYNA! I told you to hurry you,  
you're missing dinner!

Suddenly all movement stopped and it becomes deafly silent.  
You could hear a pin needle drop. All eyes on ELPI.

THEY are stunned. ELPI notices the stares.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

What? Oh. Sorry for yelling. She's  
never on time. She'll be late to  
her own funeral.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Elpi.

VALENCIA MILLS

No, she was on time.

ELPI looks at VALENCIA strangely.

ELPI DIXON

What do you mean?

VAL seems a little put off by ELPI'S apparent poor attempt of  
a joke.

VALENCIA MILLS

What do you mean, what do I mean?  
Making jokes about Delayna isn't  
cool, Elpi. I don't care if she was  
your best friend. Not cool.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I agree.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Guys. Something wrong is going on  
here. Are you okay, sweetheart?

ELPI begins to feel a cold sweat building.

ELPI DIXON

Why are you all looking at me like  
that?

MATT sighs.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Elpi. Come on. You know Delayna is  
gone.

SHE looks bewildered.

ELPI DIXON

What do you mean GONE?

EVERYBODY stares at HER and are astonished SHE has forgotten.  
MATT realizes HIS daughter is in denial.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Sweetie. Listen to me carefully. I  
know you have been through SO much  
over the past two weeks. Maybe,  
this is your mind's way of healing.

ELPI DIXON

What are you talking about? None of  
this makes sense. Where is Delayna?

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Delayna committed suicide two weeks  
ago. I don't understand why you  
can't remember that.

ELPI DIXON

No. You're lying! You kicked her  
out, didn't you, Dad?

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Elpi! No I didn't.

MAYA WILLIAMS

It's true.

ELPI DIXON

So, how did she supposedly kill herself?

MAYA WILLIAMS

She hung herself in her closet.

ELPI DIXON

You mean her bedroom closet?  
Upstairs? Here?

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yea.

ELPI springs up and jets up the stairs.

INT. - DIXON HOME - HALLWAY - EVENING

ELPI climbs the stairs quickly and goes to DELAYNA'S door and rattles the door knob. SHE begins feverishly banging on the door.

ELPI DIXON

Delayna? Come on. Open up!

Nothing. Silence.

SHE knocks louder.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

PLEASE, open the door!!

By this time, MATT, ANNE, MIKIE, MAYA and VAL have reached ELPI.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Come on dear. Let's go sit down and take a rest.

ELPI DIXON

No! NO, DAD!

Now SHE is banging very hard on the door.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Elpi stop it.

SHE continues. MATT yells.

ELPI DIXON  
ELPI! STOP!

HE grabs HER by the arms to try to corral HER.

ELPI begins to cry.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
No! This isn't true! This isn't  
happening!

As MATT holds HER, ANNE holds HER hand.

ANNE SULLIVAN  
It's going to be okay, Elpininki.

ELPI DIXON  
How can you say that? Delayna is  
dead! My best friend is dead!

The rest of the guests huddle by HER and HER father to try to console HER as she weeps and wails for DELAYNA.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - CARSON'S CEMETARY - DUSK

"ONE MONTH LATER"

FADE IN:

ELPI finally reaches DELAYNA'S grave. SHE stares at the tombstone for the longest time. SHE holds a bouquet of flowers. SHE grips the stems tight.

Holding back tears and pain. SHE composes HERSELF and begins softly talking to the grave as if DELAYNA herself was standing there listening.

ELPI DIXON  
Hey. It took a lot for me to come  
here. I didn't want to believe you  
were gone. I guess I blocked it out  
of my mind. I still don't remember.

SHE kneels down closer to the grave and continues.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
That's what gets me. That's what I  
can't understand for the life of me  
is why? Why Delayna?

SHE begins to cry.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

I don't get it! And here's the funny part. You always said, we had to stick together. We had to help each other get through life together and now you're gone.

Yelling now.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Just what am I suppose to do now? Huh? You deserted me. Thanks! Some friend you turned out to be. Life gets tough and you turn your back on everyone that ever had any kind of feelings for you at all! Okay. I'm pretty pissed at you. I have every right to be.

ELPI throws down the flowers in front of DELAYNA'S tombstone.

ELPI turns and storms off. As SHE passes a large oak tree, a ghastly figure comes around and speaks to ELPI.

THE DEAD GIRL

You were there.

ELPI is startled by the presence. SHE looks at this creature. HER skin all pale white. Veins popping out all over HER neck. SHE wore a white nightgown. HER feet covered in mud and insects.

SHE looked disgusting. ELPI walked away from HER until SHE noticed.

ELPI DIXON

Delayna?

THE DEAD GIRL

You're right. I did abandon everyone.

ELPI DIXON

So, you've come back?

THE DEAD GIRL

I have no choice. I am stuck in between plains of existence. I can't move on until you remember it all. You accept what happened.

ELPI DIXON

I don't know what happened. I wasn't there. I don't even remember your funeral.

THE DEAD GIRL

You..you have to. My spirit can't move on until you accept my fate and remember what happened. And yes. You were there.

ELPI DIXON

But I wasn't there.

THE DEAD GIRL

Yes you were.

ELPI DIXON

I don't remember any of it.

THE DEAD GIRL

Elpi, you have to. I can't languish like this for eternity. You're the only thing stopping me from finishing my journey.

ELPI DIXON

Blame me for this. I don't remember Delayna. Swear to God I have no clue what happened to you. I have no recollection of the past few months. A complete blank. I'm not trying to surpress it.

THE DEAD GIRL

But you are. Even if you don't think you are. You are. You have to remember.

ELPI walks back to the grave and sits at the bench nearby. The ENTITY formally known as DELAYNA HAYNES sits next to HER.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

You know. We talked about this.

ELPI DIXON

This what? What in the hell did we talk about.

THE DEAD GIRL

You have to remember it on your own. I am not allow to assist.

ELPI DIXON  
Not allowed?

DELAYNA looks up to the sky.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Rules from above.

ELPI DIXON  
Oh.

ELPI stares at HER for a minute.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
It's good to see you. What's left  
of you.

DELAYNA smiles.

THE DEAD GIRL  
That's so precious. Thank you. If  
it's any consolation. It's good to  
see you too.

ELPI wipes HER tears.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Don't be sad for me Elpi. We talked  
about this in excruciating detail a  
few months ago.

ELPI DIXON  
But I miss you Delayna.

The old FRIENDS hug one another.

THE DEAD GIRL  
I miss you too sweetheart. Tell  
Maya and Val I miss them too, okay.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. I will but they won't believe  
that I saw you like this.

DELAYNA smiles.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Oh. Yes they will. Trust me.

A beat.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
 In the meantime. I need for you to  
 concentrate on that afternoon and  
 remember what happened. PLEASE  
 Elpi.

ELPI thinks for a moment.

ELPI DIXON  
 Okay. I will try to remember.

Without another word, DELAYNA rose from the bench and  
 dissipates into a thin mist.

ELPI just sits there trying to take it all in.

INT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT ROOM - DAY

MIKIE is sitting in a chair listening to HIS ipod when ELPI  
 comes back from the cemetery. SHE walks past HIM as SHE makes  
 HER way to the staircase leading to HER bedroom.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
 What? You weren't even gonna say hi  
 to me?

ELPI DIXON  
 No. Not really. I'm tired. I was  
 going to go take a nap.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
 Come over here. Can we talk?

ELPI DIXON  
 Serious talk?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
 Well...yea.

ELPI DIXON  
 Why don't we do that in my bedroom.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
 Sure.

MIKIE gets up and follows ELPI upstairs.

INT. - DIXON HOME - ELPI'S BEDROOM - DAY

ELPI plops on HER bed. MIKIE stands with HIS hands in HIS  
 hoodie pockets.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Are you okay.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea. I'm just really exhausted.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
You're white as a ghost.

ELPI DIXON  
Nice analogy.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
What?

ELPI DIXON  
Nothing.

ELPI looks at MIKIE. SHE wants to tell HIM about what happened at the cemetery but he'll surely think of HER as crazy.

SHE swallowed the truth.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
You haven't been the same since.  
You know. Delayna.

ELPI DIXON  
I know. I don't know if I will ever  
be.

SHE looks at HIM like SHE wants to spill HER guts. HE notices.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
What?

SHE'S about to...then.

SHE smiles blankly at HIM.

ELPI DIXON  
Oh. Nothing.

And changes the subject.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Look. I really appreciate you and Aunt Anne staying here and helping out. You're more than just my cousin, you're a good friend Mikie. I have always appreciated your friendship.

MIKIE smiles.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Right back at cha, Elpster. I haven't approached you anything about Delayna since we began staying here but all I'm going to say. When I heard about it, I felt SO bad. I know how close you guys were.

ELPI puts HER hand over HIS mouth and quiets HER cousin, then moves HER hand down to HIS shoulder where it rests as SHE looks at HIM and tries to smile.

ELPI DIXON

Thank you honey.

Then hugs HIM. HE hugs back. Normally they never showed each other emotion. Today was different.

The embrace ends.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Well. Go take a nap.

MIKIE begins to head for the door.

MIKIE SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

You've earned it soldier.

HE smiles back at HER.

ELPI DIXON

Oh. Why thank you Major Moron.

He turns back with a shocked look on HIS face.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Moron?

ELPI DIXON

Major...Mental Midget?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Yea, that's better.

ELPI DIXON

*Get out of here!*

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Okay, okay. I'm going.

HE leaves laughing and closes HER door. SHE giggles. SHE curls up in HER bed still giggling at HER silly cousin.

ELPI DIXON

I love you Mikie.

SHE closes HER eyes still giggling. Then SHE remembers and the giggling stops. SHE opens HER eyes again but only for a moment. SHE closes them again, this time not smiling, no giggling, just remembering.

EXT. - PARK - AFTERNOON

KAYCEE gets out of HER car and takes the walking path into a wooded area until SHE comes to a nook with a bench overlooking a small creek. AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY is sitting on the bench.

KAYCEE doesn't look at HER. SHE leans on the railing looking down at the creek as SHE lights a cigarette.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

What took you so long?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Don't worry about it.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Well I've been sitting here for almost a half hour.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Oh. Did I put you out?

KAYCEE finally looks at HER as SHE sits next to AIMEE.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)

Let me tell you something about being put out. What I have gone through making this happen. You've done nothing.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

I brought this opportunity to you. That's what I freaking did.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Big goddamn deal McCoy. You didn't uproot your entire life. Not just my life. My girlfriend's life.

(MORE)

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how difficult it was lying and scheming behind Kelly's back to make this all work out and then to push her to get hired at the school.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Thanks to me.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Yea. Thanks for your membership to the PTA.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

It helps that people around this dumpy town are scared of me. They know my rep. They just kinda let me do whatever I want so they don't have to deal with me.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

How touching. You're a real pillar aren't you?

AIMEE bats HER eyelashes at KAYCEE.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Why yes baby. I certainly am.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

When this goes down, we're going to have to hit the road.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

I know.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

What about your daughter?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Who gives a shit. She done burned her bridge with me.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

From the sound of it the other day, I would say it was the other way around.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Whatever. Bottom line is, she's not a concern of mine and I'm not a concern of hers. Just the way I like it.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Coldhearted but whatever. All I  
care about is hitting that treasury  
safe at the school and getting the  
hell outta here and starting my  
life over.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Screw the girlfriend?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Don't get me wrong. I like Kelly  
but she's just a means to an end at  
this point.

AIMEE pulls out a gun and hands it to KAYCEE.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Take this.

KAYCEE takes it from AIMEE.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
I have a gun but if you're willing  
to give me this one.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Yea, take that one. Has no serial  
numbers on it.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Nice. Don't call me again unless  
it's an emergency if something is  
jacked up with the plan.

KAYCEE stands and slides the gun down her belt.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
Then you call me. Otherwise I will  
see you at the house.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
I'll be there.

KAYCEE turns and walks away.

FADE OUT:

INT. - MAYA WILLIAMS HOUSE - MAYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

FADE IN:

"CHAPTER 9 - WHAT WE SEE OR SEEM TO SEE IS JUST A DREAM  
WITHIN A DREAM"

MAYA is fast asleep in HER bed as the camera pans in to HER face as the scene fades into a dream.

EXT. - FOREST - AFTERNOON

MAYA and VALENCIA are walking along a trail in the forest and talking girl talk.

MAYA has just told VAL some shocking news and as the dream begins, VAL is reacting astonished.

VALENCIA MILLS  
No you didn't!

MAYA smiles and nods HER head.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Yes I did.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Oh my God, no!

Still smiling.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Yes I did. I swear.

VALENCIA stands there in a state of shock.

VALENCIA MILLS  
So. What was it like?

MAYA WILLIAMS  
I'm not gonna kiss and tell.

VAL outraged.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Oh, whatever Maya. I told you about my first time.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Voluntarily. No one wanted to hear about it but that didn't stop you any, did it.

VAL smiles.

VALENCIA MILLS

I was proud of myself. I wanted to share.

MAYA begins walking down the trail again. SHE looks back and doesn't see VAL anymore. SHE stops.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Val?

No answer. SHE didn't see anything out of the ordinary except no sign of VALENCIA.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Val? Where'd ya go?

SHE begins walking back.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Valencia?

As SHE walks back, SHE sees HER sitting on a bench, slumped over on the bench, like SHE is out of breath and tired.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Hey. Are you okay? Do you want to go back down the trail?

VAL finally raises HER head but it isn't VAL at all, it's DELAYNA, dressed in VAL'S clothes.

MAYA is shocked and lets out a small scream, then holds HER hand over HER mouth. DELAYNA gets up and approaches HER. MAYA backs away.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

What is going on?

THE DEAD GIRL

I need to talk to you.

MAYA WILLIAMS

You're dead.

DELAYNA stops and shrugs HER shoulders.

THE DEAD GIRL

I still need to talk to you, breathing or not, Maya.

MAYA is silent. SHE doesn't know what to say.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

Besides. It's just a dream.

MAYA thinks about that for a moment. True, SHE thinks. That made HER feel a little better.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
True. Okay, what?

THE DEAD GIRL  
Walk with me.

THEY begin walking back down the trail. DELAYNA notices the sunshine dancing on the creek water. The birds chirping. Peaceful.

SHE smiles.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Glad I picked this place. You know, Elpi and I use to play in the rock formations for hours when we were little.

DELAYNA points.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Just over there.

MAYA looks where SHE is pointing. DELAYNA remembers back and smiles.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Those were good times. I miss it.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Then why did you leave us?

DELAYNA smiles and puts HER hand on MAYA'S cheek.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Because of my disease. I have a challenge for you.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Challenge? What are you talking about now?

THE DEAD GIRL  
Your mission, if you choose to accept it, Maya. Is to locate my secret diary.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
I didn't know you kept a diary.

DELAYNA now being sarcastic.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 Yea, see. That's why I call it my  
*secret* diary.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
 You're still a smart ass, even in  
 death.

DELAYNA smiles. MAYA smiles back at HER.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)  
 I miss you.

DELAYNA smiles again and wraps HER arm around HER.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 I miss you too.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
 Where is the diary?

THE DEAD GIRL  
 It's in the Dixon house somewhere.  
 It'll be your task to find out,  
 where. Read it. Read it to  
 everyone.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
 I will.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 You will learn a great many things  
 and your questions about everything  
 will be answered, I promise you.  
 This should give my loved ones some  
 sense of closure, okay?

MAYA smiles.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
 Okay Delayna. I understand what  
 this is all about now.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 I knew you would.

A beat.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
 That's not the only reason I came.

MAYA listens intently to THE DEAD GIRL.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

It's Elpi. She's on a destructive path.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I know but what can ya do?

THE DEAD GIRL

No Maya. She's on a destructive path. Her lifeline is almost over. It is going to happen soon if you don't do something about it.

MAYA WILLIAMS

What? You mean she's gonna die soon too.

THE DEAD GIRL

She's on a destructive path.

MAYA gets pissed off at DELAYNA.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Quit saying that. Tell me in term I can understand Delayna.

THE DEAD GIRL

Yes. She'll be dead soon unless you act. Unless Valencia acts. And I can't rest until you do something!

MAYA WILLIAMS

Why you?

THE DEAD GIRL

She is holding me here on this plain of existence and preventing me for moving to the next level. Until she releases me from her grief, I can't rest. You will be saving both of us, Maya.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I would of died for you Delayna.

DELAYNA hugs MAYA.

THE DEAD GIRL

I know. If it could of been any other way, you know I would of tried. Just wasn't in the cards for me.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
I accept your challenge.

DELAYNA smiles.

THE DEAD GIRL  
I knew you would.

Suddenly the forest and DELAYNA vanishes.

CUT TO:

INT. - MAYA WILLIAMS HOUSE - MAYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MAYA awakens from the dream. Tears stream from HER eyes. SHE sits up a bit, and wipes HER eyes.

SHE thinks for a moment about the dream and slightly smiles.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON

FADE IN:

ELPI is walking to DELAYNA'S car when MAYA rushes up on HER from behind.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Hey...Elpi! Wait up!

ELPI DIXON turns around.

SHE smiles.

ELPI DIXON  
Hey. I haven't seen you all week.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Yea I know. Sorry.

ELPI DIXON  
What's the deal?

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Can we talk at your house?

ELPI DIXON  
Sure.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
You still driving Delayna's car.

ELPI DIXON

Yea. I ain't letting her Mom's grubby hands near it. She'd just sell it.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Oh yea, I know they would too. Is she still calling your house bugging you.

ELPI DIXON

Yea, but this last time my Dad got on the phone and threatened her so I don't think she'll be calling again.

THEY begin walking to their cars as they continue to talk.

VALENCIA MILLS

Is that legal? I mean, their daughter, their car, right.

ELPI stops.

ELPI DIXON

I don't give a shit Maya. After what they did and after they contributed NOTHING to her funeral. My Dad paid for all of it. Not even a Goddamn thank you. Screw them. They get nothing and like it.

THEY begin walking again.

EXT. - DIXON HOME - DRIVEWAY - AFTERNOON

ELPI parks and both GIRLS get out and head for the front door together.

INT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT ROOM - AFTERNOON

As THEY walk in, the GIRLS are greeted by MATT and HIS sister, ANNE, both sitting in the front room playing a hand of cards.

ELPI DIXON

Hey guys.

THEY both turn around and greet HER and MAYA.

ANNE SULLIVAN

Hi Maya. Haven't seen you in a while.

MATT smiles.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Yes. Where have you been keeping yourself.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I have been so swamped with finals the past few weeks. I know, I've neglected my friends but gonna make up for it today.

VAL puts an arm around ELPI.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Well. Not sure how Elpi's gonna do. She's missed a lot of school.

ELPI DIXON

Yea. I've been preoccupied with my self pity.

ANNE SULLIVAN

No dear. Not pity. Grief. You've been grieving which is understandable and no one will think any less of you because of it or because you've missed a lot of school time.

ELPI and MAYA just stand there and listen to the mini lecture HER Aunt was conducting.

ELPI DIXON

Okay. You're probably right Aunt Anne.

HER Aunt smiles and ELPI and MAYA go upstairs.

INT. - DIXON HOME - ELPI'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

ELPI walks in first, MAYA quickly comes in second and shuts the door. ELPI sits on HER bed as MAYA paces back and forth.

ELPI DIXON

Okay, okay. What's this big news?

MAYA WILLIAMS

Oh my God. I don't know where to start.

ELPI DIXON

From the beginning usually works.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Funny. No, seriously.

ELPI DIXON

What is it. Now, you're freaking ME out.

MAYA WILLIAMS

You're really gonna be freaking out once I tell ya.

ELPI DIXON

Tell me what? Spill it, okay?

MAYA WILLIAMS

Okay.

A beat.

VALENCIA MILLS

Delayna had a diary.

ELPI looks stunned.

ELPI DIXON

What? No she didn't.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yes. Yes she did.

ELPI DIXON

She lived with me and I never knew anything about it.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Trust me, I know. She had a diary and it's in this house some place.

ELPI DIXON

And how do you know all of that?

MAYA hesitates for a moment.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Because...Delayna told me. In a dream I had last night.

(MORE)

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

I know it sounds crazy and I didn't think it was real at first but it was too real to be just a dream.

ELPI DIXON

No, no Maya. It doesn't sound crazy top me at all. Not after the past few days. I--I probably wouldn't of believed you but now anything is possible.

VALENCIA MILLS

Did you have a dream about her too?

ELPI DIXON

Not exactly and let's just leave it at that. But she didn't say anything about a diary. Are you sure?

VALENCIA MILLS

Positive.

ELPI DIXON

In this house.

VALENCIA MILLS

Yep.

ELPI DIXON

Delayna's bedroom.

ELPI shoots up off HER bed like a rocket and opens HER door and MAYA jets out of the room and down the hall to DELAYNA'S door with ELPI in tow.

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

MAYA rattles the locked door knob.

MAYA WILLIAMS

You got the key?

ELPI DIXON

My Dad does.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Can you get it from him?

ELPI DIXON

I don't know. I've asked to go in her room before. A few weeks ago and he refused to give it to me because he said, it was too soon and it would be too emotionally draining for me.

MAYA WILLIAMS

We gotta get into that damn room. I can't imagine where else it would be if not in her old room.

ELPI DIXON

No, if Delayna has a diary, it's in that room. She hardly ever came out of that room unless I coaxed her out of there.

MAYA WILLIAMS

It has to be in there. Can you imagine what answers lie in those pages Elpi. It could explain *everything!*

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS & KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOME - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

KELLY is getting rid of the last few moving boxes sitting in HER walk-in closet. SHE notices a box of KAYCEE'S and decides to take a look inside.

SHE discovers a old gym bag. SHE pulls it out. It seems somewhat heavy, peaking HER curiosity even more.

After thinking about it for a moment SHE opens the bag and finds the heavy item inside. A snub nose .38 Calibur revolver.

KELLY NICHOLS

Oh my God. What--what the hell is she doing with a gun?

SHE puts the gun aside and really begins going through the bag. SHE finds all kinds of prison records in a folder.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)

Prison? Kaycee was in prison?  
You've got to be kidding me?

SHE rifles through the paperwork and mug shots.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
I don't even know Kaycee Lee  
McIntoch. Who is this person I have  
uprooted my life for?

SHE digs around in the gym bag again and pulls out all kinds  
of post-it notes with names and phone numbers on them.

SHE recognizes one name.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
Aimee Haynes-McCoy? Delayna's Mom?  
What in the hell is going on?

FADE OUT:

INT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT ROOM - DAY

FADE IN:

"CHAPTER 10 - THE DEAD GIRL'S SECRET DIARY"

MIKIE is sitting on the couch listening to HIS ipod and  
playing a game on HIS phone when VALENCIA comes down the  
stairs and sits next to HIM.

MIKIE glances at HER.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Where did you come from?

VALENCIA MILLS  
I just got here about ten minutes  
ago. Elpi and Val are still  
upstairs.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Okay...what?

VALENCIA MILLS  
Nothing. So...how are you?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Fine. This is weird.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Why is this weird.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Because you NEVER come and talk to  
me. As a matter of fact, you avoid  
me like the plague.

VALENCIA MILLS

Well, I'm not avoiding you now.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Probably because you want something from me.

VALENCIA MILLS

Why would you say that?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Don't you?

VALENCIA MILLS

Well, I never said that.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Exactly. That's a little surprising.

VALENCIA MILLS

Why's that?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Never pegged you as a druggie.

VALENCIA MILLS

Who said I wanted drugs, Mikie?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Oh, I just assumed. What else would it be?

VALENCIA MILLS

Well, I do need a favor from you.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

I knew it.

A beat.

MIKIE SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

So, I know this is a long shot but this favor, wouldn't be sexual in nature would it?

VALENCIA MILLS

Ummm, no. It WOULDN'T.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Okay, okay. Just checking. What is it.

VAL leans in to MIKIE'S ear and she tells HIM her favor.

MIKIE nods.

MIKIE SULLIVAN (CONT'D)

Okay. I can do that.

VALENCIA gives HIM a soft kiss on HIS cheek and returns upstairs.

FADE OUT:

INT. - DIXON HOME - ELPI'S BEDROOM - DAY

FADE IN:

MAYA, VALENCIA and ELPI are laying on ELPI'S bed. MAYA is reading. ELPI is sleeping. VAL is playing on HER phone.

Suddenly the door creaks open and MIKIE comes slithering through it.

ELPI wakes up. MAYA puts HER romance novel down but VAL continues to play on HER phone. MIKIE walks over to the bed and scrounges in HIS front pocket and pulls out a set a keys.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

You owe me. I just spent forty five minutes listening to your old man and his "Nam" stories to last two lifetimes Elpi. I finally acted like I was thirsty before he volunteered to go get us some ice tea before I could snag his key ring.

ELPI DIXON

The one by his rifle cabinet, right?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Yep. That's the one.

MIKIE drops the key ring into ELPI'S waiting palm.

SHE smiles at HIM.

ELPI DIXON

Thanks Cuz.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

You're welcome. Okay. I've done you girls the dirty work, now you have to fill me in on what's going on?

ELPI DIXON

Delayna had a diary that nobody knew about. We're pretty sure it's somewhere in her old bedroom.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Why is it locked up in the first place?

The GIRLS get out of the bed and begin to exit the room.

VALENCIA MILLS

Quit asking stupid questions. Just follow us.

MIKIE silently nods and follows THEM.

INT. - DIXON HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

ELPI, MAYA, VAL and MIKIE reach DELAYNA'S door.

ELPI DIXON

What's my Dad doing?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

When I left him, he was beginning to take a nap.

ELPI DIXON

Okay, good.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

What is it with old people anyway. Always taking naps.

ELPI DIXON

Because they're old?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Being old must really suck. Always nappin, forgetting everything, have to take like 15 pills a day just to keep your heart pumping, wearing pacemakers, drooling.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Jesus Mikie. Elpi's Dad is old, not a vegetable!

VALENCIA MILLS

This is so surreal guys. I don't know 'bout you all but I got the bubble guts right 'bout now.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

The bubble what?

MAYA WILLIAMS

She's got butterflies Stoner. We all do Val.

ELPI puts the key in the lock and opens the door.

ELPI DIXON

Bingo.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Are you sure you're strong enough for this?

ELPI shrugs.

SHE opens the door, flips the light and all three enter.

INT. - DIXON HOME - DELAYNA'S ROOM - DAY

THEY all look around the room. It is silent. Cold. Chilling. ELPI notices MIKIE looking around.

ELPI DIXON

What are you doing?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

I'm looking around the room, just like you.

ELPI grabs HIM by the shoulders and points HIM out of the room.

ELPI DIXON

You are our lookout for father time, now go and look...out.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yea and if you see anything give us the secret sign.

MIKIE smiles and nods.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Okay.

HE begins to walk out of the room, then stops HIMSELF.

MIKIE SULLIVAN (CONT'D)  
Wait a minute.

ELPI DIXON  
Now what?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
The sign is so secret, I don't know  
what it is.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Why don't you come back in here and  
tell us he's coming.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Okay. Gotcha.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
So easy even you can't screw it up  
Big Mike.

MAYA gives HIM a smiles.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Ha..ha..ha.

HE exits and closes the door behind him as THEY begin  
searching the room for anything resembling a diary.

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - DELAYNA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Elaped time as finally MAYA locates the diary in the back of  
DELAYNA'S walk-in closet.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
I think I might of found it.

ELPI DIXON  
Let me see?

MAYA pulls out a dark but shiny diary book with a lock  
located on the front.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Do you think that's it?

ELPI DIXON  
Yea, this is it.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
That's gotta be it.

ELPI grabs it out of MAYA'S hand. SHE tries to open it.

ELPI DIXON  
It's locked.

ELPI looks the book over and discovers a small envelope attached to the back of the diary.

VAL realizes what's inside.

VALENCIA MILLS  
There it is. The key is in that envelope. I use to have one just like this.

ELPI pulls the envelope off the diary. SHE notices it is wax sealed.

ELPI DIXON  
It's beautiful. I almost hate to break the seal.

The GIRLS are silent as ELPI open the envelope and opens the diary with the key. As ELPI opens the diary, dust flies off the pages as SHE flips through it.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Find the last date she made an entry.

ELPI thumbs through the diary until SHE finds the last log entry.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)  
There.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea.

SHE stops and begins reading out loud.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
May seventeen. Two thousand eleven.  
Dear diary. It calls to me yet again. I must go. I fear leaving behind those who have stood by me but I can't endure this pain any longer--

As ELPI reads on, the GIRLS listen intently as the camera pulls back and ELPI'S voice fades as the screen fades to black.

EXT. - KELLY NICHOLS AND KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOUSE - DUSK

FADE IN:

"CHAPTER 11 - THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAY"

Exterior shot of the home occupied by KELLY NICHOLS and KAYCEE MCINTOCH.

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS AND KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM  
- DAY

KAYCEE is sitting on the couch reading HER novel when KELLY comes out with that same gym bag SHE discovered earlier in the closet.

KELLY heaves it at KAYCEE. KAYCEE notices it flying towards HER head in time to bat it away.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
What do you think you're doing?

KELLY stands in front of HER and whips out the gun and points it at HER.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Looking for this?

KAYCEE hesitates for a moment.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Not really. I know where I stashed by piece...at least I THOUGHT I knew where I stashed it and I would appreciate you NOT point it at my face.

KELLY NICHOLS  
What about all those prison records in the bag? Five years? When in the hell were you going to tell me you are a felon Kaycee? That you spent years of your life in prison. For-- for armed robbery?

KELLY grabs the bag and ruffles through it and pulls out some of the post-it notes. SHE flips through them until SHE finds the one with DELAYNA'S MOM'S name on it.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
 And..and you know Delayna Haynes'  
 Mother? Aimee McCoy? The one that  
 everyone tells me to steer clear  
 of. You just happen to know her,  
 huh. In this small time. Just a big  
 coincidence, right? Of all the  
 small towns, waddya know.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 Put. The. Gun. Down...NOW!

KELLY NICHOLS  
 Or what? Waddya gonna do? Nah-uh.  
 I've got all the damn cards this  
 time sister. You just sit there and  
 start chirpin' like a bird.

KELLY walks over and sits next to HER on the couch.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
 And I am going to stand here, have  
 this gun on you and listen.

KELLY cocks the hammer.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
 How does that sound, my dear.  
 HMMMMM?

KAYCEE knows SHE is trapped. SHE sits on the couch and gives  
 HER lover a smile.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
 Sounds great. Where would you like  
 me to start?

KELLY NICHOLS  
 Why don't we try the beginning and  
 go from there.

EXT. - NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DUSK

As the SUN goes down ELPI DIXON makes HER way to one of HER  
 favorite chill spots. A half constructed home. SHE walks into  
 the dark basement. The floor was still gravel. SHE finds a  
 corner and crouches down.

SHE opens HER backpack and pulls out DELAYNA'S diary, a  
 flashlight and a package of cherry flavored Twizzlers.

SHE opens to a page where a bookmark had been placed. SHE flips the flashlight on, pulls out a Twizzler and bites down on it and snaps off a piece. SHE closes HER eyes and flips through the diary and then stops. SHE opens HER eyes and looks at the page SHE blindly selected and begins reading.

ELPI DIXON

I often think about the moment  
Elpininki Dixon came to be in my  
life.

ELPI stops. SHE knows this story all too well. SHE giggles remembering back. The continues reading.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

It was the fifth grade. I was new  
to the school. The boys were  
particularly mean. Pointing and  
calling me names like--

Suddenly from the shadows, the dead girl, DELAYNA finishes the line.

THE DEAD GIRL

Cripple or gimp.

ELPI is startled to see DELAYNA come out of the shadows and into the light before HER.

ELPI DIXON

Delayna?

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS AND KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM  
- NIGHT

KELLY still standing with a gun on KAYCEE who is still seated on the couch.

KELLY throws some prison records in KAYCEE'S face.

KELLY NICHOLS

So...tell me about all these prison  
records. You freakin' served hard  
time. Little miss innocent, huh.  
Nice act.

KAYCEE shrugs HER shoulders.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

It's served me well over the years.

KELLY NICHOLS

Yea. I fell for it.

KAYCEE smiles.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Hook, line and sinker.

KELLY NICHOLS  
How dare you use me like that.

KAYCEE gets up and begins pacing back and forth. KELLY still holding the gun on HER.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Look. I did what I had to do to survive. For what was best for Kaycee, okay?

KELLY NICHOLS  
What about what's best for Kelly?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Not telling you about my shameful past I thought anyway, WAS what was best for Kelly.

KELLY lets down HER guard and HER gun.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
I didn't want you to know about that.

KELLY NICHOLS  
What about Delayna's Mom?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
When we were getting out she said something about her small hometown. She said it was small out of the way and very peaceful. When you were going through your family war, you said you wish you could find some small peaceful town where no one knew who you were and where you could begin life all over again. Did I NOT deliver?

KELLY laughs and cocks back the hammer and puts the gun away. KAYCEE looks relieved.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
Whew! For a minute I thought you were going to kill me.

KELLY NICHOLS

Nawww. Just trying to scare the truth outta ya.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Well. You did.

KELLY NICHOLS

I can see that. Glad I know everything now.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

It's all good.

THEY kiss.

INT. - CONSTRUCTION HOUSE - NIGHT

DELAYNA crouches next to ELPI.

THE DEAD GIRL

When I was alive. I thought about that day. A lot. It always made me smile. To remember how you came in and kicked the shit outta those boys. (giggles) Priceless.

ELPI DIXON

Well. They had it coming.

THE DEAD GIRL

Yes they did.

ELPI DIXON

What are you doing here?

THE DEAD GIRL

This is where I am. Here. And there. Unable to depart. In a temporary holding pattern.

ELPI DIXON

What's holding you back?

THE DEAD GIRL

YOU! You HAVE to remember what happened.

ELPI DIXON

I told you. I don't remember anything. I wake up one day and you're dead! Why can't you just tell me what happened?

THE DEAD GIRL  
Because it is forbidden. You HAVE  
to remember it on your own.

ELPI DIXON  
Well, I can't.

THE DEAD GIRL  
That's because you're not trying  
hard enough.

ELPI DIXON  
Yes I am. I have tried. It's just  
not there.

THE DEAD GIRL  
It is there. Locked in your brain.  
Please Elpininki. You have to find  
the key to unlock it. Time is  
running out.

ELPI DIXON  
What do you mean time is running  
out?

THE DEAD GIRL  
The more I stay out here on this  
plain, in my present state.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea? Go on.

THE DEAD GIRL  
The more acceptable of going to  
hell I am. They eventually will  
come for me. I can only outrun them  
and dodge them for so long. That's  
why I said time is running out and  
that's why it is SO important for  
you to remember what happened. To  
accept what happened and to let me  
go so I can be welcomed into  
Heaven.

ELPI DIXON  
Delayna. I WANT to remember. I have  
tried but I'm tired of trying. I  
would rather remember the good  
memories and not how you died.

ELPI'S voice cracks.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
 I miss you Delayna....SO MUCH!  
 GODDAMMIT!

ELPININKI breaks down. DELAYNA can only watch in anguish and with a broken heart.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
 You said...we would always be there  
 for each other. You always  
 said...we'd get each other through  
 life.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 We've been through this before.

ELPI DIXON  
 Have we?

THE DEAD GIRL  
 Yes.

ELPI DIXON  
 I don't remember it.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 You're blocking it.

ELPI DIXON  
 I know what to do...I know what to  
 do.

ELPI stands and faces THE DEAD GIRL.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
 I'll just come with you.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 You can't. It's not like you can  
 follow me. The only way you can  
 come with me is if you were--

HER voice trails off as SHE notices the desperate look on ELPI'S face.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
 NO!

ELPI smirks at the CORPSE.

ELPI DIXON  
 Why not? You did it.

THE DEAD GIRL

That was different. I--I did it to rid myself of my pain.

ELPI points at HERSELF and barks back.

ELPI DIXON

I HAVE PAIN TOO!

ELPI walks past DELAYNA. SHE pulls out a bottle of Vodka and drops the diary. SHE open the bottle and begins to put it to HER lips then stops.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll just drink myself to death.

THE DEAD GIRL

Don't say that. You're not serious about killing yourself Elpi. Stop it.

ELPI DIXON

Sure about that?

SHE takes a huge drink. SHE barely swallows it as some of it oozes out of HER mouth and down HER chin. SHE puts the cap back on and the bottle goes back in HER pocket.

SHE bends down and picks up the diary that fell open. ELPI looks at the page it had opened to.

Suddenly a look of shock comes over ELPI'S face.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Oh my God!

THE DEAD GIRL

What?

ELPI DIXON

So. That's where you hid it.

THE DEAD GIRL

Hid what?

ELPI begins to recite from the diary what the DEAD GIRL had wrote.

ELPI DIXON

July 8th. Feels really good to rid Elpi of that evil stash box. God, I hated that thing. Funny part is where I hid it from her. Ha-ha.

(MORE)

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
 She'll never find it and it's right  
 under her nose. The crawl space  
 under her bed.

ELPI snaps the book closed. DELAYNA looks devastated.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 Oh God. I forgot I put that in  
 there. Don't get any funny ideas.

ELPI DIXON  
 Too late. What better and faster  
 way to commit suicide than an  
 overdose.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 No.

ELPI turns and walks out of the house. DELAYNA stays at the  
 sliding glass door opening.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
 Don't ignore me Elpi.

ELPI DIXON  
 I'll talk to you later Delayna.

DELAYNA still at the opening stares at HER best friend and  
 shakes HER head.

THE DEAD GIRL  
 No. This isn't right. This wasn't  
 the way this was suppose to be.  
 This is all wrong!

EXT. - DIXON HOME - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

CHAPTER 12 - "I, DISAPPEAR"

As ELPI comes walking back up the street SHE sees HER father  
 loading luggage into HIS car and MIKIE loading luggage in HIS  
 Mom's SUV.

SHE approaches MATT still fitting things in HIS trunk.

ELPI DIXON  
 Today's the day huh?

MATT stops and faces HIS daughter.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
 Next tour date's here.

ELPI DIXON

I know.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Sure you're gonna be alright. You can stay at Aunt Anne's. I'm sure Mikie would get you to school.

ELPI DIXON

Dad.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Just until I get back in a few weeks.

ELPI DIXON

We've been through this.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

I know. Just worried about you.

ELPI smiles and looks at HER father.

ELPI DIXON

It's going to be okay. I'm going to be okay, Dad. I don't want you to worry. I don't want you to miss me.

MATT smiles.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

I'm always going to miss you Elpi. Your my daughter.

ELPI DIXON

I know. Just know that I am fine, okay Dad.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Okay Elpi.

MATT seems it to be strange for HER to open up to HIM like that.

COLONEL MATT DIXON (CONT'D)

Are you sure you're okay?

ELPI sounds reassuring.

ELPI DIXON

I'm fine Dad. Go inspect.

MATT laughs.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Okay, okay.

HE shuts the trunk and pulls out his keys. MIKIE and ANNE joins THEM.

COLONEL MATT DIXON (CONT'D)

Well Sis. I can't thank you enough for everything.

ANNE SULLIVAN

You know I would do anything for Elpininki.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

I know.

While MATT and ANNE continue to talk ELPI grabs MIKIE and THEY step away from the ADULTS.

ELPI DIXON

I wanted to thank you for being cool about that dairy thing.

MIKIE smiles.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

You're my favorite cousin and besides I really liked Delayna. I was just getting up the courage to ask her out before...you know.

ELPI DIXON

Really? You had the hots for Delayna?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Yea. pretty, sweet, smart, funny. What's there not to like?

ELPI DIXON

You were not her type. She was as striaght laced as they come.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Maybe a good woman is enough to change a guy.

ELPI DIXON

Is that what you're looking for?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

I think so.

ELPI smiles and gives HIM a hug.

ELPI DIXON  
You're gonna be just fine.

MIKIE gives HER a strange look.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
What do you mean?

ELPI smiles and turns HER attention to AUNT ANNE and gives her a HUG.

ELPI DIXON  
Thank you for everything.

ANNE SULLIVAN  
I'm glad you are doing so much better Elpininki.

ELPI DIXON  
Thanks to you guys.

ANNE SULLIVAN  
If you need anything, anything at all. Call us.

ELPI smiles.

ELPI DIXON  
I will.

Both ANNE and MIKIE get into the SUV and drive off. ELPI and MATT hug again.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
I'll call you once I get into the next state.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay.

HE gives HER a kiss on the forehead.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
I love you Elpi.

ELPI DIXON  
I love you too Dad.

MATT gets in and starts the engine. ELPI stands in front of the car and watch HIM as HE leaves.

Holding back HER tears SHE waves as the car fades out of sight.

FADE OUT:

INT. - DIXON HOME - MORNING

"CHAPTER 12 - SPIRAL"

ELPI enters the house and races upstairs to HER bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - ELPI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

ELPI shoves HER bed out of the way to try and get to the wooden floors under HER bed. There is a lot of junk under HER bed, SHE flings it out of the way as SHE begins feeling down on the floor searching for a loose board.

SHE finds it and rips it up. Then another board. And another. The hole is pitch black dark. ELPI reaches into HER pocket and pulls out a Bic lighter. SHE flicks it and lets the flame light the hole, revealing a dusty wooden box.

ELPI smiles.

ELPI DIXON  
There it is!

SHE exclaims as SHE grabs the box and pulls it out of the hole.

ELPI snickers.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Huh. Telling me Valencia had it.  
All this time it was under my bed.  
Sneaky little bitch.

ELPI again shoves HER bed back and clears all the junk on HER bed and sits with the box and stares at it for a moment.

SHE removes the thick rubberbands holding the top on the box on and tosses them aside. SHE stops, takes a big deep breath.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Here we are again.

SHE opens the box to reveal some needles, small knife, a few small bags of heroin, spoon, a few lighters.

SHE looks over the contents.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
It's all here. I can't believe she  
didn't flush the heroin.

HER blackberry goes off. SHE stops and checks the message.

SHE smiles.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Nick.

SHE types back.

"Come over"

SHE waits a few moments, then a response.

"Okay."

SHE types again.

"Cool."

Then puts the phone down and thinks for a moment. Then SHE  
smiles.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT PORCH - DAY

FADE IN:

"CHAPTER 13 - SMELLS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT"

NICK arrives and knocks on ELPI'S door. ELPI answers the  
door. SHE stares at HIM for a moment. HE doesn't know how to  
react. HE isn't sure if SHE is okay or not.

HER face is emotionless, then SHE comes alive and smiles. HE  
smiles back in relief.

NICK HELLER  
I thought something is wrong.

ELPI shakes HER head.

ELPI DIXON  
Nawwwh. I was decidin' somethin' in  
my head. Come in.

NICK enters the home and ELPI closes the door.

SHE smiles at HIM again. HE'S puzzled.

NICK HELLER  
What? Why do you keep smiling at me  
like that?

ELPI DIXON  
No reason.

NICK HELLER  
Uh huh.

ELPI DIXON  
Seriously. No reason.

NICK HELLER  
So...what's up?

ELPI shrugs HER shoulders. SHE doesn't say another word and reaches for HIS hand. HE reaches for HER'S.

NICK HELLER (CONT'D)  
What?

E doesn't speak. Instead she leads HIM upstairs and into HER bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - ELPI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Once inside HER room SHE lets go of HIS hand and faces HIM.

ELPI DIXON  
Close the door.

NICK seems a bit leery but does what SHE asks.

NICK HELLER  
What's going on? Are you okay?

ELPI sits on the bed.

ELPI DIXON  
I'm fine.

SHE pats the bed next to HER. HE sits next to HER. SHE grabs HIS hand again and with HER other hand, SHE touches HIS cheek and looks deep into HIS baby blues.

NICK HELLER  
What is it Elpi?

ELPI stops and takes a deep breath, then looks back at HIM.

ELPI DIXON  
I love you Nick.

NICK smiles.

NICK HELLER  
I love you too Elpi.

ELPI DIXON  
Do you?

NICK HELLER  
Yes. I do!

ELPI smirks at HIM. SHE pulls HERSELF back onto HER bed.

ELPI DIXON  
Prove it.

NICK immediantly knows what SHE is talking about and gives HER a questionable look.

NICK HELLER  
Are you sure?

ELPI DIXON  
Haven't you wondered what I was like?

NICK HELLER  
Well...yes...of course.

ELPI DIXON  
Stop wondering.

HE pulls HIMSELF up and lays on top of HER. HE caresses HER cheek.

NICK HELLER  
I've waited a long time for this.

ELPI DIXON  
Stop talking.

THEY begin kissing heavily. Hands all over each other. HE kisses HER neck. Goose bumps go racing through ELPI'S body. Goose bumps had never felt that good before.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Whoa.

NICK stops.

NICK HELLER

What's wrong?

NICK releases HER. SHE sits up and wipes spit off HER lips and mouth.

ELPI DIXON

I never felt goose bumps like that.

NICK HELLER

Intense?

ELPI DIXON

Yes. Very. And the way you were looking at me when we were kissing. What's the rest gonna be like?

NICK smiles.

NICK HELLER

I would think you would know what it's like. I'm the one with the little experience.

ELPI smirks and nods HER head slightly.

ELPI DIXON

Ahhh. Is that would you think?

NICK HELLER

Well. You got a rep Elpi.

ELPI DIXON

Uh huh. An assumed reputation.

NICK HELLER

You never discounted it.

ELPI DIXON

No one ever gave me a chance to. You just assumed I was screwing around. It wouldn't of mattered, you guys will believe what you wanna believe.

NICK HELLER

What are you trying to say?

ELPI DIXON

I'M A VIRGIN NICK!

NICK HELLER

I never would of thought--

ELPI DIXON

Exactly. You never thought and  
neither did anyone else in that  
goddamn school.

NICK straightens up.

NICK HELLER

Elpi, I'm sorry. I don't know what  
else to say. If you don't feel  
right about this, I completely  
understand. It's a big decision.

ELPI DIXON

No, no. I want this to happen  
between us. I'm--I'm just scared.  
I'll get over it.

NICK HELLER

Scared of the unknown?

ELPI DIXON

Yea.

SHE lays down again and smiles at HIM.

NICK HELLER

Come here.

HE leans over and THEY begin kissing again as the camera  
pulls back.

EXT. - THE FOREST - DAY

"CHAPTER 14 - DEATH AND THE DEAD GIRL"

THE DEAD GIRL is wandering through the forest. SHE hears  
growling behind HER. SHE stops and looks back.

DELAYNA HAYNES - THE DEAD GIRL

That's not a good sound. Crap!

SHE begins moving swiftly. The growling gets louder.

SHE is running now, skipping through the leaves and branches.  
Suddenly SHE stops dead in HER tracks.

A figure dressed in a black cloak. HIS hands, pale white. HIS  
fingernails, long and dirty. HIS face shrouded in shadows.  
HIS voice, low and gravelly, speaks to HER.

GRIM REAPER

We...we have felt your presence for  
some time now. Another lost soul.

DELAYNA is silent. The FIGURE continues.

GRIM REAPER (CONT'D)

What is lost. Is found again.

THE DEAD GIRL

No.

GRIM REAPER

Oh yes. But you must. It is the way  
of things. The way of the  
afterlife.

THE DEAD GIRL

I just need a little more time and  
I will be gone from this plane.

GRIM REAPER

Time is running out on you little  
one.

THE DEAD GIRL

Please. I just need a little more  
time.

GRIM REAPER

Time. Precious time. Tick tock,  
tick tock. Goes time.

HE begins to circle HER.

GRIM REAPER (CONT'D)

Always in motion is time. It never  
stops. Always moving forward, never  
looking back. As you should do my  
dear.

THE DEAD GIRL

I'm not suppose to be here.

GRIM REAPER

Indeed. You are to be one of us.

THE DEAD GIRL

Please, no!

GRIM REAPER

Why do you think HE decided this  
fate for you?

THE DEAD GIRL

He, who?

GRIM REAPER

God.

THE DEAD GIRL

God didn't decide this for me. I did.

GRIM REAPER

And there is a price you must pay for taking your own life.

THE DEAD GIRL

NO! I was told I would be spared Hell if Elpi releases me and I can save her.

GRIM REAPER

Save her? You couldn't even save yourself, now could you?

THE DEAD GIRL

You don't understand.

GRIM REAPER

Oh, no. I understand perfectly. Now you understand this.

HE moves closer to HER. HE grabs HER by the throat. SHE struggles to be released by the GRIM REAPER. HE tightens HIS grip.

GRIM REAPER (CONT'D)

If you do not resolve this issue in-  
-ohhhh let's say in twenty four  
hours. Nothing is going to stop me  
from delivering you to my Lord. Is  
that perfectly clear?

DELAYNA petrified, stands HER ground.

THE DEAD GIRL

No. I need more time.

GRIM REAPER

A girl with virtue? Standing up for  
one's self in the face of death?

GRIM REAPER tightens HIS grip on DELAYNA'S throat.

THE DEAD GIRL

I need more time.

GRIM REAPER thinks for a moment, then releases HIS grip.

GRIM REAPER  
Forty eight hours.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Seventy two hours.

GRIM REAPER  
Twelve.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Seventy two.

GRIM chuckles.

GRIM REAPER  
From twelve to seventy two? Why  
would I agree to seventy two when I  
know for a fact I can have your  
soul in a minor twelve hours, my  
lovely?

THE DEAD GIRL  
Because I will keep dodging you as  
long as I can and I've done a  
pretty good job so far.

GRIM REAPER  
I could take your soul now.

THE DEAD GIRL  
But where is the game in that? You  
do like games don't you?

GRIM REAPER  
You seem to know me well for such a  
young creature. Is this a game  
little one?

THE DEAD GIRL  
Yes. And the game's rules are you  
have to allow me seventy two hours  
for my friend's memory to come  
around. If it doesn't happen, then  
in seventy two hours, I will freely  
give my soul to your Lord.

GRIM REAPER nods.

GRIM REAPER  
Seventy two hours. The game begins.  
Now, go.

DELAYNA doesn't hesitate and races out of the area. The GRIM REAPER watches HER go and laughs.

INT. - DIXON HOME - ELPI'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

NICK and ELPI resting after sex in HER bed. Both still naked but covered under the blankets. HE is holding HER. SHE has HER eyes closed.

NICK HELLER

You okay?

ELPI doesn't speak right away, like SHE was thinking about it.

ELPI DIXON

Yea. I'm pretty okay.

THEY both smile. HE leans down and kisses HER on the forehead.

NICK HELLER

How you feel?

ELPI giggles.

ELPI DIXON

Have to admit. Feeling pretty good right now.

NICK HELLER

Cool.

ELPI DIXON

Cool. The closest I've ever been with someone. Some things about it I wasn't expecting.

NICK HELLER

Like what.

SHE thinks again.

Looks up at HIM.

ELPI DIXON

I don't know. Like when it was happening...the way you looked into my eyes...like you could see right through me, ya know. The REAL me. Nobody has ever seen the real me. I don't know if I like that.

NICK HELLER

Elpi. A relationship is about sharing. We're suppose to share EVERYTHING, ya know. It's more then a Facebook status.

ELPI DIXON

I know it's more then a Facebook status, Nick. I'm a private person. Always have been. Doesn't help matters when your old man is gone half the year and your Mom is dead.

NICK HELLER

Do you think you would be a different person if your Mom had lived?

ELPI smirks.

ELPI DIXON

Me and Delayna were talking about that.

ELPI stops smiling. SHE sighs. NICK feels bad for HER.

NICK HELLER

Sorry.

SHE looks back up at HIM.

ELPI DIXON

It's okay. Shhhhh. No more talking. Let's just enjoy this moment.

NICK smiles down at HER and THEY kiss.

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS AND KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM  
- AFTERNOON

KELLY and KAYCEE are seated around the kitchen table. Both sipping from their coffee cups.

KELLY stares at HER lover. The woman SHE apparently hardly knows.

KELLY NICHOLS

There is another side to you. Like a whole different person.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

That person is dead and buried Kelly.

(MORE)

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)

I kept my past from you for reason.  
Not only to protect you but for me  
to begin a new life. A life with  
you. So you see, you're not the  
only one starting over.

KELLY NICHOLS

A new life you've jeopardized by  
coming onto one of my students.

KAYCEE puts HER hands over HER face.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

I know! Oh God I am SO sorry. I've  
really screwed things up for us. My  
job. Maybe even your job. I am so  
stupid.

KELLY NICHOLS

No you're not. We can fix this.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

How?

KELLY NICHOLS

Come with me over to Elpininki's  
and apologize to her.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

You think that's going to do it.  
Just say, hey sorry about coming  
onto you, no hard feelings? C'mon.

KELLY NICHOLS

You two are going to have to come  
to some kind of agreement that  
she'll keep her mouth shut.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

If it means we can work this  
through, I'm all for it.

KELLY takes one more sip from HER cup.

KELLY NICHOLS

Then I suggest my dear, we go over  
there.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Okay.

FADE OUT:

INT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

"CHAPTER 15 - WHEN THE HEART RULES THE MIND"

It is dark. A few lights on. Silent as the camera moves from the front room, up the staircase and down the upstairs hall. Dimly lit light emanating from underneath ELPI'S bedroom door. Rock music can be heard blaring.

As the camera moves into the room, filled with lit candles, we see ELPI hunched over the end of HER bed. The box is in front of HER. SHE stares at the box. Tears stream down HER cheek. SHE sighs and talk to the box.

ELPI DIXON

I promised Delayna I would never touch you again. I would never use you again. (giggles) now I'm using you to be with her.

SHE shuts HER eyes and cries.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Dad for what I'm about to do. I hope you can forgive me!

Trembling SHE opens the lid to the box and dumps out the contents.

SHE takes the bag of Heroin and places a few rocks on the spoon. Taking a small squirt bottle she squirts some in the spoon with the heroin. SHE flicks the lighter and burns the drug into a liquid.

SHE holds the lighter too long and burns HER fingers.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

OUCH! Shit!

ELPI tosses the lighter a side. Still holding the spoon, SHE reaches for a hyperdermic needle. SHE sucks up the drug with the needle and fills the entire needle. Enough heroin for five or six doses.

SHE holds it up in HER face and stares at the lethal dose. SHE closes HER eyes again. When SHE opens them again, SHE wipes everything off the bed, still holding the needle in the other and crawls up on the bed.

SHE leans over the bed and grabs a belt laying on the floor. SHE puts the needle in HER mouth for a second while SHE fixed the belt around her arm.

SHE takes the needle back out of HER mouth and again stares at it.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Stop Elpi!

ELPI jerks HER head around to see DELAYNA standing in the doorway.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Don't you do it!

ELPI cries and looks at HER dead friend.

ELPI DIXON  
Why not? You did it.

DELAYNA lowers HER head.

THE DEAD GIRL  
I had reasons.

ELPI DIXON  
So do I.

THE DEAD GIRL  
I had terrible pain I couldn't stand anymore, Elpi.

ELPI grits HER teeth.

ELPI DIXON  
So. Do. I.

DELAYNA holds HER hands out to ELPI like SHE is directing traffic.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Please...don't. Do you have any idea what you're getting yourself into?

A beat.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
It's nothing like I ever expected.  
You know I always loved Jim Morrison.

ELPI laughs through HER tears.

ELPI DIXON

Yea. You loved all those corny poems that made absolutely no sense.

DELAYNA laughs with HER.

THE DEAD GIRL

Yea. Except now I understand what he was saying in one of them. He knew before he died. Being dead isn't any fun. In fact...it's down right scary here.

ELPI DIXON

What poem?

THE DEAD GIRL

The Severed Garden.

ELPI DIXON

Ahh. Good song too.

THE DEAD GIRL

Yea.

DELAYNA clears HER throat and begins reciting it to HER.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

They are waiting to take us into the severed garden..do you know how pale and wanton thrillful comes death on a strange hour..unannounced, unplanned for..like a scaring over-friendly guest you've brought to bed.

DELAYNA stares at HER best friend who stares back. Still holding the needle to HER arm.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

Death makes angels of us all and gives us wings where we had shoulders smooth as raven's claws.

A beat.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

No more money, no more fancy dress this other kingdom seems by far the best until it's other jaw reveals incest and loose obedience to a vegetable law.

(MORE)

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

I will not go, prefer a feast of  
friends to the giant family.

Silence for a moment, then DELAYNA speaks again.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

He knew death wasn't anything to  
run to. It's something to run from.  
Don't do this Elpininki Dixon. You  
will regret it and you can't go  
back. I don't want you to join me.  
Got that. Beat it!

ELPI feels hurt. Betrayed by DELAYNA'S words.

ELPI turns the needle towards HER inner arm. Stops listening  
to DELAYNA and begins singing an old PINK FLOYD song.

ELPI DIXON

...Goodbye cruel world...I'm  
leaving you...to-day--Goodbye--

THE DEAD GIRL

No Elpi!

ELPI DIXON

Goodbye--

THE DEAD GIRL

You can't do this!

ELPI DIXON

Goodbye--

THE DEAD GIRL

This is all wrong!

ELPI stares at DELAYNA as SHE continues singing, almost  
yelling at HER.

ELPI DIXON

...GOODBYE ALL YOU PEOPLE...THERE'S  
NOTHING YOU CAN SAY...TO MAKE ME  
CHANNNNNNNNNGE MY MIND--

DELAYNA gets on HER knees in front of ELPI and pleads for HER  
to stop the suicide.

THE DEAD GIRL

PLEASE ELPI! Don't kill yourself!  
Please STOP!

ELPI stares at DELAYNA.

ELPI DIXON

Goodbye.

ELPI plunges the needle into HER vein. DELAYNA can only look on in horror.

THE DEAD GIRL

NOOOOOOOOOO!

Suddenly knocking on the front door. The sound both startle ELPI and DELAYNA.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

Somebody's here.

ELPI gets up off HER bed slowly, falls forward against the wall and slides HER way out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

The knocking on the door has turned into pounding on the door. ELPI comes down the stairs and tumbles down part of the staircase.

CUT TO:

EXT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

KAYCEE and KELLY are at the door. KAYCEE is pounding away. SHE stops when SHE sees ELPI through the front door window. HER belt still strapped to HER arm.

KAYCEE notices it right away.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Oh my God! I know that look. She's overdosing on something.

KELLY NICHOLS

How can you tell.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

I can tell. We have to get in there...NOW!

Both WOMEN begin kicking at the door until they break it open.

Inside, THEY rush to ELPI'S aid.

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

ELPI is unconscious and twitching.

KELLY NICHOLS  
What did she take?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
I have no idea. It's bad whatever  
it is.

KAYCEE feels HER pulse. It's weak.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
She's dying. We're going to lose  
her unless we do something. C'mon.  
Grab her legs, we gotta get her to  
the hospital...NOW!

KELLY grabs her legs. KAYCEE her arms and THEY both carry HER  
out to KELLY'S car and put the dying TEEN in the backseat.  
KAYCEE slides in beside HER. KELLY gets in the driver's seat  
and peels out of the driveway.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - REHAB FACILITY - MORNING

"2 DAYS LATER..."

"CHAPTER 16 - IN THE CRADLE OF THE HEALING HANDS"

Exterior shot of the large building in the country. A big  
majestic forest engulfs the facility. It is serene and  
peaceful, except in room #334. ELPI DIXON'S room.

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - MORNING

ELPI is in HER bed, strapped down. A NURSE is fixing the  
window blinds when intern NATE BELLOWS, 24, black, thin &  
good looking walks into the room and nudges HER to wake up.

NATE BELLOWS  
Ms. Dixon? Ms. Dixon?

ELPI stirs and opens HER eyes.

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)  
Good morning miss.

ELPI DIXON  
Where am I?

NATE BELLOWS  
Same place you've been for the past  
two days. Town and Country rehab.

ELPI still disoriented.

ELPI DIXON  
Rehab? I don't even remember what  
happened.

NATE looks at ELPI'S chart.

NATE BELLOWS  
Says here a drug overdose and  
attempted suicide.

ELPI whispers to HERSELF.

ELPI DIXON  
Delayna.

NATE BELLOWS  
Excuse me?

ELPI DIXON  
Nothing.

ELPI notices the straps holding HER in the bed.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
What's this?

NATE BELLOWS  
They said you were violent when  
they brought you in here.

ELPI DIXON  
How can I be violent when I was  
ODing on heroin?

NATE BELLOWS  
This was after your hospital visit.  
When they brought you in here you  
were coherent and crazy.

ELPI DIXON  
I'm not crazy.

NATE looks over HER folder.

NATE BELLOWS  
Well, I don't know. Looks like all kinds of crazy from this report.

ELPI DIXON  
I've been through a lot.

NATE BELLOWS  
I see that. Lost your friend to suicide.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea.

NATE BELLOWS  
You thought you hook up with her in the afterlife?

ELPI DIXON  
Something like that.

NATE BELLOWS  
What are you?

HE looks at HER chart.

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)  
Seventeen?

NATE leans in to be close to HER face.

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)  
Look. I know life can suck sometimes. It happens to all of us. It's not all sunshine and rainbows, kid. Sometimes life is suppose to suck. That's when you dig deep and suck it up.

ELPI gives HIM a blank stare.

ELPI DIXON  
Am I seriously being lectured by a dude I don't even know?

NATE BELLOWS  
You're right. We don't know each other very well yet. That'll change and something that won't change is how you go down that addiction road. In that respect, I DO know all about it. I've been there.

(MORE)

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)  
Addict myself. Spent five months  
here. This place saved my life. And  
it'll save yours, if you let it.

ELPI DIXON  
Who says I want saving.

NATE BELLOWS  
Maybe you don't right now. Maybe  
you hate life right now.

ELPI DIXON  
I do. I hate my life. It sucks.  
This place sucks and YOU suck!

NATE giggles.

NATE BELLOWS  
Wow. Nice.

ELPI ignores HIM and stares out the window.

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)  
Just think. I was about to get you  
out of those straps.

SHE whips HER head around to HIM.

ELPI DIXON  
You better get me out of this. I'm  
not an animal!

NATE BELLOWS  
After that display of hatred, I  
think that's a matter of opinion. I  
think it be best if you stayed like  
that a little while longer.

ELPI goes ballistic. SHE spits at NATE and flexes her arms  
and legs trying to get free.

ELPI DIXON  
You son of a bitch! Let me out of  
here!

NATE ducks from the spraying saliva and heads for the door.

NATE BELLOWS  
Not until you cool down, kid!

NATE slips back out of the door and slams it shut. ELPI  
stops. Out of breath SHE begins to cry.

ELPI DIXON  
I want to die!

FADE OUT:

INT. - REHAB - ELPI'S ROOM - DAY

FADE IN:

ELPI is sitting in a wheelchair, facing the window and staring out of it. SHE is still handcuffed and HER ankles are chained to the wheelchair.

NATE silently slips into HER room and stands behind HER.

NATE BELLOWS  
Pretty day.

ELPI doesn't look at HIM, just stares. SHE shivers slightly from the drug withdrawals that are beginning to take their toll on HER.

ELPI DIXON  
Who cares.

NATE BELLOWS  
Well. You're the one, looking out the window, I thought you did.

ELPI DIXON  
Well...I don't.

NATE BELLOWS  
Okay. That's cool. You're uncaring.

ELPI DIXON  
I never said that.

NATE sits on the bed close to ELPI.

NATE BELLOWS  
Yea. I think you did.

ELPI finally turns HER head and looks at HIM.

ELPI DIXON  
Why are you trying to provoke me?

NATE BELLOWS  
I'm not. Just trying to find out the truth.

ELPI laughs. SHE realizes what HE'S trying to do.

ELPI DIXON

Nice. (German accent) Her' doctor.  
Close but no cigar.

NATE BELLOWS

Ah.

NATE smiles.

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)

Clammin' up on me already, huh?

ELPI DIXON

I know what you're doing. I'm not  
stupid.

NATE BELLOWS

I certainly never said anything of  
the sort. I on the contrary think  
you are very, very smart. Too smart  
for your own good.

ELPI DIXON

What's that suppose to mean?

NATE BELLOWS

It means...young lady. You know the  
difference between right and wrong.  
You purposely choose the wrong.  
Like you can't stop yourself.

ELPI DIXON

How do you know how I feel. What I  
think?

NATE BELLOWS

I'm right on the money and you want  
to know why? Like I said. Been  
here, done that.

ELPI DIXON

They liked you so much they gave  
you a job.

NATE BELLOWS

Yes they did.

ELPI DIXON

Out of pity probably. Felt sorry  
for ya cuz you are this jacked up  
black dude who doesn't know his ass  
from a hole in the wall.

NATE BELLOWS

That's right. I'm man enough to admit I was a loser back then.

ELPI DIXON

Oh...just like I'm a loser now.

NATE BELLOWS

Wanna know something...that's right. A loser. A fool with nothing better to do then to get strung out on some jack and waste their life shootin' up, smokin' pot, drinkin' booze.

NATE gets up from the bed.

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)

Awesome. What a great lifestyle you have. I'm sure your Mom and Dad are proud of the positive role model you turned out to be.

HE begins to leave. ELPI swings HER wheelchair around and screams at NATE.

ELPI DIXON

You listen to me. You don't know me. You think you do. So what? You had some bullshit happen to you. Did your best friend kill herself in your own home? Under your care? Did she or he?

NATE stands there quietly and slowly shakes HIS head.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Or--or--or losing your Mom when you're eight years old. Ever go through that? I bet you still have a Mommy, don't you?

Silence and then--

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

DON'T YOU?

NATE BELLOWS

Yes.

ELPI DIXON

Yea, so don't come in here thinking  
you know me and thinking you're  
gonna be my pal cuz we had similar  
experiences cuz yours can't  
possibly compare to mine!

NATE grins at HER. ELPI feels confused.

NATE BELLOWS

See there. Got you to open up,  
didn't I?

ELPI thinks for a moment and then realizes SHE got duped. HER  
jaw drops.

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)

If you're up for it. I know you're  
suppose to have some visitors  
today. I'll be back in a few hours  
with a guard. Might be a good idea  
if you had a shower.

ELPI sits silently as NATE back out and locks the door behind  
HIM.

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - HALLWAY - MORNING

NATE walks down the hall, almost marching down the hall. HE  
comes to DR. ROBERT DIX'S office door and knocks.

DR. ROBERT DIX

(VO)

Come in.

NATE walks in and shuts the door.

INT. - DR. ROBERT DIX'S OFFICE - MORNING

DR. DIX, 37, average, tall and scruffy sits at HIS desk  
looking over paperwork. HE stops and looks up.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Nate.

NATE BELLOWS

Dr. Dix.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Have a seat.

NATE sits as ROBERT looks through the documents HE is reviewing.

HE stops, puts the papers down and smiles at NATE.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
Now. What can I do for you Mr.  
Bellows.

NATE BELLOWS  
Yea. I wanted to talk to you for a  
second about one of our new  
patients, I've been assigned to.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Sure.

NATE BELLOWS  
Yea..umm. I think you have your  
first session with her tomorrow  
sometime.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Hold on. What's the name?

ROBERT grabs his planner and digs through it.

NATE BELLOWS  
Elpininki E. Dixon.

The DOCTOR stops looking through the planner.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Elp--wh--what?

NATE BELLOWS  
El-pi-nin-ki.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Lord a mighty. That's a mouthful  
Nate.

NATE BELLOWS  
Yes sir. She goes by Elpi.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Okay, well...I might be able to get  
by with that. Elpi. Yea, I can  
handle that.

HE digs back into his planner.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
Yea, here she is. My number three  
of the day. And?

NATE BELLOWS  
Yea. She's came in here a few days  
ago. Suicide attempt. She's very  
volatile and her family is coming  
today for a visit.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
They put her here?

NATE BELLOWS  
Yes.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Annnnd you don't think it's going  
to go well.

NATE BELLOWS  
I'm pretty sure it's going to be a  
disaster Doctor.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
And that's today.

NATE BELLOWS  
Yea, like I said. I think it could  
turn ugly quick, ya know. I don't  
know what your schedule is like for  
the rest of the day but--

DR. ROBERT DIX  
I'll be there.

NATE smiles.

NATE BELLOWS  
Thanks Dr. Dix.

ROBERT smiles at HIS EX-PATIENT.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Your welcome but I'm curious Nate.

NATE BELLOWS  
Sir?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
I don't recall you taking this much  
of an interest in one of your  
patients. Why her?

NATE BELLOWS

I see a lot of potential in her Doctor. I see me, four years ago and it scares me. I really want to help her get through this.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Four years. Seems a lot longer considering how far you've come from those days.

NATE BELLOWS

Thanks to you.

ROBERT chuckles.

DR. ROBERT DIX

No Nate. It was all thanks to you. All I did was point you in the right direction.

NATE BELLOWS

Well I want to point Elpi in the right direction with your help.

DR. ROBERT DIX

We will. We'll get--

HE looks at HER name again on the planner.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)

The Dixon ship pointed in the right direction.

NATE smiles and stands.

NATE BELLOWS

You bet. They'll be here at three.

DR. ROBERT DIX

I'll be there Nate and good work.

NATE BELLOWS

Thank you sir.

NATE opens the door and walks out.

ROBERT immediately finds ELPI'S case file and begins going through it.

EXT. - STREET - DAY

Shot of KAYCEE sitting in HER car across from the school.

CUT TO:

INT. - KAYCEE'S CAR - DAY

KAYCEE is sitting in HER car. Engine running. School has been over for a few hours. Just some milling about of the last few faculty members leaving for the day.

CUT TO:

EXT. - HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

Once the last of the teachers have left the parking lot. KAYCEE sets HER stop watch and times HERSELF how quickly SHE can jog across the street and unlock one of the high school's locked doors. Once she unlocks the door, SHE stops the watch and checks HER time.

SHE smiles as SHE walks slowly back to HER car. SHE gets back in.

CUT TO:

INT. - KAYCEE'S CAR - DAY

SHE looks and checks HER watch again. Giggles a bit, then whips out a pack of cigarettes and lights up.

SHE snatches HER cellphone in the passenger seat next to HER and calls HER accomplice.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Yea, it's me. Just timed myself from across the street. Did good. Just 47 seconds from my car to unlocking those doors. Yea. This is going to be SO easy. What about your end? (beat) Okay. Make sure you have our route confirmed. I wanna get the hell outta here as soon as this job is over.

As SHE listens to AIMEE, KAYCEE takes a long drag from HER cigarette, slowly allowing the grey smoke to pour back out HER nose.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)

Don't worry about it. You go your way and I'm going my way. (beat)  
 Yea, I got some good friends in Texas. Got it covered. Dude, we thought this thing through. Remember, no stone left unturned. You're careless, you get caught and I ain't gettin' caught again.

Beat.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)

Well, you know I don't like to talk and drive at the same time. Yea, next time. Bye.

KAYCEE tosses HER flip phone onto the seat next to HER and drives off.

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - AFTERNOON

"CHAPTER 17 - UNDER PRESSURE"

ELPI is laying in bed. Covers pulled up, reading a paperback novel and smoking a cigarette as DR. ROBERT DIX enters the room along with a SECURITY GUARD.

ELPI doesn't flinch or even look HIS way.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Ya know. Smoking in bed could be hazardous to your health.

ELPI stops reading, looks over at the STRANGER with a dumb look on HER face.

ELPI DIXON

Smoking period is hazardous to your health.

DR. ROBERT DIX

True.

ELPI DIXON

Who are you? What do you want?

DIX smiles HIS good side matter doctor smile.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Well actually you had an  
appointment to see me tomorrow but  
some individuals here felt it might  
be a good idea if we chatted today.  
Before your family arrived.

SHE puts the book down.

ELPI DIXON  
You're Dr. Dix.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Yes.

DIX slides a chair up to HER bed and sits.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
And you are...Elp-inink-i Ella  
Dixon. Seventeen years old. Here  
for...drug and alcohol addition and  
suicide attempt. Well, that's just  
sad, isn't it?

ELPI DIXON  
What is? The suicide?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
All of it..all of it Elpi, may I  
call you Elpi? That would make my  
life a lot easier.

ELPI gives HIM a half giggle.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea, that's fine.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
So, who ya mad at?

ELPI DIXON  
How do you know I'm mad?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Because I know. I know you were put  
here against your will. I know you  
hate it here. I know you are  
hurting from withdrawals. Just like  
I know you want to die.

ELPI DIXON  
I don't want to talk about it.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Too bad.

ELPI DIXON  
I'm NOT talking about it.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Yes. Yes you are Elpi. It's the  
only way to move forward.

ELPI DIXON  
Who says I want to move forward?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Well if you don't, then we have a  
real problem, don't we?

ELPI puts HER hands over HER face.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
Withdrawals?

ELPI DIXON  
Among other things, yea.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Ya want to know what I think?

ELPI DIXON  
No, I really don't Doc.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Well, I'm going to tell you anyway.

ELPI DIXON  
Then why did you ask me then?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Just in case you decided you  
actually wanted to participate in  
your recovery.

ELPI DIXON  
You don't think I want to recover  
and get the hell out of here?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Oh, I think you want to get out of  
here but I don't think you really  
want to recover, do you? That taste  
of weed still fresh in your mouth,  
is it? Hmm? Miss the taste of a  
good stiff vodka on the rocks?

ELPI DIXON

Shut up.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Is that what you want to get back to.

ELPI DIXON

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

DR. ROBERT DIX

No, I can't. See...that's what they pay me for. To NOT shut my mouth. You wanna die. We're going to find out why and THEN we are going to correct that problem.

Tears roll down ELPI'S cheeks.

ELPI DIXON

You don't know me.

Suddenly a knock on the door. The GUARD answers it.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Sir, the patient's family is here.

DIX looks at ELPI.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Well, I was hoping for some more time. Are you ready to see your family, Elpi?

ELPI pulls HERSELF to the end of the bed, still wearing HER hospital gown.

ELPI DIXON

Ohhh..I'm ready.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Going to be a good visit, right?

ELPI DIXON

Ohhh yea. Can't wait for the big reunion.

DR. ROBERT DIX

No cussing, no screaming, no throwing things. Right?

ELPI ignores HIM as NATE brings in MATT DIXON, ANNE SULLIVAN and MIKIE SULLIVAN.

MIKIE waves at ELPI.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Hi Elpster! Looking good.

ELPI laughs.

ELPI DIXON  
Yea. I look great, Mikie.

DIX sticks out HIS hand and shakes MATT'S hand.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
You must be Elpi's father?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Colonel Matt Dixon. United States  
Army.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Pleasure to meet you. I am Elpi's  
new therapist. Dr. Robert Dix.

MATT walks over and sits in the chair DIX was sitting in.

ELPI stares at HER bare feet. MATT looks at HER. HE then tries to put HIS hand on HER shoulder but ELPI jerks away from HIM.

MATT hesitates to speak but then finally does.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Elpi. I know you're upset with us  
for putting you in here.

ELPI looks up at HER old man on the verge of tears.

ELPI DIXON  
You locked me up like an animal.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Elpi. You need help. Help I can't  
give you but they can.

ELPI DIXON  
An animal Dad. Or a criminal.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
You're neither Elpi.

ANNE steps forward.

ANNE SULLIVAN

Sweetheart. Your father did the only option left to him because you gave him no other choice. Let's not forget young lady, you tried to kill yourself and was almost successful. You're mad at him for saving your life?

ELPI stands up on HER bed and screams.

ELPI DIXON

IT WASN'T HIS LIFE TO SAVE!

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Elpi! Calm down!

ELPI DIXON

NO! I'm NOT going to calm down! And you (pointing at ANNE) You were suppose to watch me when he's gone and you never did, you never check on me. See what the hell I was doing. What I was into. You were more concerned about how fast you could get to the bottom of that damn rum bottle, right?

COLONEL MATT DIXON

ELPI! ENOUGH!

ELPI DIXON

That's why Mikie's Dad left, isn't it?

ANNE SULLIVAN

How DARE you talk to me like that Elpininki!

ELPI DIXON

GET OUT!

ELPI jumps off the bed and grabs anything SHE can find and begins heaving objects at THEM.

By this time NATE and another INTERN enter the room and corral ELPI and hold HER down to the floor. ELPI kicks and screams as THEY wrestle HER down to the ground.

NATE BELLOWS

Folks, time to go. Please follow Dr. Dix out.

THEY all begin to leave the room while the INTERNS hold ELPI.  
ELPI looks up at MIKIE.

ELPI DIXON  
Mikie! Tell Maya and Valencia I  
need to see them! Tell them to  
hurry!

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Okay. I will Elpi. I promise!

CUT TO:

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

DIX escorts THEM out of ELPI'S room and shuts the door.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Down this way folks. My office.

As HE leads THEM down the hall, ELPI'S screams can still be  
heard. MATT cringes with each one. ANNE stops HER brother.

SHE touches HIS hand.

ANNE SULLIVAN  
Matt. Are you okay?

The normally stonic MATT DIXON composes HIMSELF long enough  
to utter a few words back.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
No Anne. I am NOT okay. Do you hear  
that? That's my daughter.

HE begins walking again and follows DIX and MIKIE into HIS  
office.

INT. - DR. ROBERT DIX'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

All are standing in the DOCTOR'S office.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Is everyone alright?

A beat.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
I will admit, Mr. Dixon. I am not  
too familiar with this case yet.  
(MORE)

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
I wasn't even suppose to meet with Elpi until tomorrow but one of our interns thought it might be a good idea if I met with her before your visit from what he has observed with your daughter since she's been here.

MATT nods in agreement.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
This is all new to me Doctor. I had no idea my daughter was an addict or in this bad shape. She did a great job of hiding it.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
You guys can have a seat on the couch. Colonel Dixon, please.

DIX walks around to HIS desk as the OTHERS sit.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
Now. How did she get in this condition?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Elpi has recently suffered a tremendous loss. Her best friend committed suicide a few months ago and she hasn't been the same sense.

DIX picks up a pad of paper and begins jotting notes as the questioning begins.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Do you know what exactly happened?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Yes. Of course. It happened in my own home.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Oh?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Yea. Elpi's friend, Delayna Haynes came to live with us after her parents had kicked her out of their home. She had a lot of problems.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
I see.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Can I say something?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Absolutely mister--

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Mike Sullivan. I'm Elpi's cousin.

A beat.

MIKIE SULLIVAN (CONT'D)  
It was going on before Delayna.

ANNE SULLIVAN  
What do you mean Michael?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
I'm sorry for not saying before  
Mom. We keep secrets. Elpi and me.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
What secrets Mikie?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Yes sir. Her drug addiction. I knew  
about it a long time ago. Most of  
her friends knew.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Valencia? Maya?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Yea. They knew. But they tried to  
help her quit. We all did at one  
time or another.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
I don't believe this.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
The old saying reigns true Colonel.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
What saying?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Parents are the last ones to find  
out.

MATT nods HIS head.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

It is true. But also reminded of the saying, old habits die hard. Mikie, while I sincerely appreciate what you and her friends tried to do, you still should of came to me with this. Now look what kind of mess she is in.

NATE walks in.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Well?

NATE BELLOWS

We had to give her a sedative. Shes sleeping now. We had to restrain her in her bed again.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Well. It's the humble opinion of this thearpist that a return visit from you guys today is out of the question. Now, I begin sessions with Elpi tomorrow.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

How long before we can come back?

DR. ROBERT DIX

Can't really give you a time frame. Were talking about dealing with the mind.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Right.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Hopefully we can make enough progress in the next few weeks that she feels comfortable enough to allow you guys to come back.

COLONEL MATT DIXON

Okay. I just want my little girl back.

DR. ROBERT DIX

And I promise Colonel Dixon, you will have your little girl back but it's going to take a lot of time, patience, love and understanding on everyone's part to get her back to where she's suppose to be.

DIX smiles at all of THEM.

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - AFTERNOON

ELPI awakens to being strapped in her bed. THE DEAD GIRL is sitting in a chair by HER bed. HER legs are up on the chair and HER knees in HER chest.

SHE stares at ELPI smiling.

THE DEAD GIRL  
WOW! That was EPIC Elpi!

DELAYNA cackles aloud.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
That was awesome!

ELPI DIXON  
Shut up Delayna! Look at me!

THE DEAD GIRL  
I'm looking. Ya know. I've seen you look better and I had no idea you were into BDSM at all!

ELPI DIXON  
Very funny.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Look Elpininki. I told you not to do it and did you listen to me, my dear?

A beat.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Ummmm, no you sure didn't!

DELAYNA moves over to ELPI and whispers in HER ear.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Trust me I've learned. Every decision has a consequence. Every action...has a reaction...got it?

ELPI silently nods.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Huh?

ELPI DIXON  
Yea...I got it.

THE DEAD GIRL

Okay.

DELAYNA sits back in HER chair and puts HER legs back up and just stares at ELPI.

ELPI DIXON

What?

THE DEAD GIRL

So. Remember anything recently.  
Like, oh I don't know. A suicide perhaps.

ELPI DIXON

OH MY GOD! I have no idea. I wasn't there Delayna, I wasn't involved in your death. Let it go!

THE DEAD GIRL

Really? Are you sure? Because I swear you had something to do with it.

ELPI DIXON

Are you accusing me of something Delayna?

THE DEAD GIRL

No Elpi, I'm not. This wasn't a murder.

ELPI DIXON

Then what do you want from me?

THE DEAD GIRL

I want you to remember so I can go to Heaven, Elpi. That's exactly what I want from you.

ELPI DIXON

Why me? Why can't you just go. I mean, you're dead, right?

THE DEAD GIRL

When things on Earth aren't right and the truth can correct those things then we have a responsibility to correct them before we can move on. Like some kind of Angel mantra.

(MORE)

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

All I know is they won't let me in until this wrong is righted and the only way for that to happen is for you to remember what happened. It's all right there, locked in that brain of yours.

ELPI DIXON

Delayna. I seriously have tried and I can't. I don't even remember your funeral!

DELAYNA looks at ELPI for a long moment, then stands and puts HER pale dead hand over ELPI'S forehead and closes HER eyes.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Delayna? What are you doing?

THE DEAD GIRL

Well, that I can help you with.

ELPI DIXON

Help me with what?

THE DEAD GIRL

Helping you recall my funeral.

DELAYNA opens HER eyes and looks at ELPI quickly.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

It was touching. You'll cry. If I was alive, I would of been balling. Just sayin'.

DELAYNA smiles and then closes HER eyes again as ELPI closes hers.

FADE OUT:

INT. - CHURCH - MORNING

FADE IN:

"CHAPTER 18 - GREEN PASTURES"

As the scene fades out of black we see a small church, filled to capacity. Everyone dressed in their Sunday best. ELPI sat with HER father MATT, her AUNT ANNE and cousin MIKIE while across the aisle sat MAYA and VALENCIA. All the other characters are seated throughout extras.

PASTOR MILT BEASHEARS, 58, tall, big and greying stood at the podium finishing a verse from the HOLY BIBLE.

PASTOR MILTON BEASHEARS

None of us lives to himself, and  
 none of us dies to himself. If we  
 live, we live to the Lord, and if  
 we die, we die to the Lord; so  
 then, whether we live or whether we  
 die, we are the Lord's. For to this  
 end Christ died and lived again,  
 that he might be Lord both of the  
 dead and of the living.

HE smiles at the crowd. HE motions to ELPI to come up. ELPI  
 nods but everyone else is in a state of shock to see  
 ELPININKI DIXON, with tears in HER eyes, get up and walk  
 courageously to the podium.

MAYA looks over at MATT who shrugs HIS shoulders back at HER.

PASTOR BEASHEARS takes a seat in a chair placed a few feet  
 back from the podium. ELPI clears HER throat and puts HER  
 lips to the microphone.

ELPI DIXON

I didn't know I wanted to get up  
 here until I got here this morning  
 and asked Pastor Beashears. He said  
 it was okay. I don't know how long  
 I can be up here because--

HER voice begins to quiver but SHE continues.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Because I'm pretty upset about this  
 whole thing. I'm lost without my  
 best friend. I miss her. I miss her  
 A LOT!

SHE nervously giggles. SHE stops and whips HER tears.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

I want to read a few passages I  
 looked up last night.

SHE pulls out a piece of crumpled paper and begins reciting.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Revelations twenty one. Then I saw  
 a new heaven and a new earth; for  
 the first heaven and the first  
 earth had passed away, and the sea  
 was no more. And I saw the holy  
 city, new Jerusalem, coming down  
 out of heaven from God, prepared as  
 a bride adorned for her husband;

(MORE)

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.

ELPI looks out to the sea of mourners. Before SHE is about to begin speaking again SHE sees DELAYNA'S MOM, AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY sitting in the front row. ELPI looks stunned for a moment, then regains HER purpose of being up there and continues.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

And a verse from one of her favorite songs. By The Alan Parsons Project. She always loved those sappy eighties songs.

A low laughter is heard from the mostly silent crowd. ELPI doesn't try to sing the verse, SHE reads it cold.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Goodbye my friends. Maybe forever.  
Goodbye my friends, the stars wait for me. Who knows where we'll meet again. If ever? But time, keeps flowing like a river. On and On. Until it's gone forever. Gone forever. (long pause) Gone forevermore.

A beat.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

We all love you Delayna! Thank you.

BEASHEARS stands once again and pats ELPI on the back.

PASTOR MILTON BEASHEARS

That was well spoken, Elpi. Well spoken. Delayna had a dear friend in you.

ELPI smiles.

PASTOR MILTON BEASHEARS (CONT'D)

Thank you dear.

ELPI DIXON  
Your welcome Pastor Beashears.

With a sense of purpose, ELPI marches off the stage and walks straight to where AIMEE was sitting and with all of HER might and force, SHE face slaps AIMEE and begins screaming at HER.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE HERE!  
HOW DARE YOU! THIS IS YOUR FAULT!  
SHE WOULDN'T BE DEAD NOW IF IT  
WASN'T FOR YOU!!

MATT, MIKIE, NICK and BILLY all rush to restrain ELPI.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Elpi! It's okay.

ELPI DIXON  
IT IS NOT OKAY DAD! LET ME GO!

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Not until you calm down. Nick, take  
her in the visitors room until she  
calms down.

NICK HELLER  
Yes sir.

NICK, MIKIE and BILLY take ELPI to the visitor's room. PASTOR BEASHEARS attends to AIMEE who was still rubbing HER cheek.

PASTOR MILTON BEASHEARS  
Ma'am, I am terribly sorry.

AIMEE smiles.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
It's okay hon. I've been trough  
worse.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Excuse me Ms. McCoy. Considering  
the circumstances, maybe you should  
think about paying your respects to  
your daughter some other time.

AIMEE smiled at MATT again.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Well, it's no secret I'm not well  
liked here. Especially from that  
brat of yours Dixon.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Now you hold it. Elpi has done more  
and cared for your daughter than  
you ever did.

AIMEE gets up and begins shoving HERSELF through the aisle.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
One loser caring for another loser.

SHE zips past MATT and begins walking out of the church.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Seems to me ma'am you would be the  
first to recognize a loser!

AIMEE keeps walking out of the church.

INT. - CHURCH - VISITOR'S ROOM - MORNING

PASTOR BEASHEARS enters the room. ELPI is slumped in a chair.  
NICK is sitting in another chair beside HER, holding HER  
hand. BILLY is standing in the corner playing on HIS phone.

PASTOR MILTON BEASHEARS  
Elpi dear? You are better?

ELPI DIXON  
Yes. Thanks. Sorry to make a scene  
like that.

PASTOR MILTON BEASHEARS  
Understandable after I got the full  
story from your father.

MATT opens the door and enters now.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Elpi?

ELPI DIXON  
I'm sorry Dad.

MATT walks over and hugs HIS kid.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
It's okay honey. You've been  
through an awful lot. The service  
is moving to the cemetery.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
We're all suppose to meet there in  
an hour.

ELPI DIXON  
What happened?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
She left.

ELPI DIXON  
She didn't make a scene? I'm sure  
she was chomping at the bit to ruin  
Delaynie's funeral. She ruined her  
life, why not ruin her death too,  
right?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
No scene. She left quietly.

ELPI DIXON  
You know as well as I do, she had  
no right to be here.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Delayna is her daughter.

ELPI DIXON  
I don't care.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Okay, okay. Let's not get you all  
worked up again.

ELPI stares at the door for a moment then focuses again on  
MATT.

ELPI DIXON  
Who's still out there?

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Just one person Elpi.

ELPI nods.

ELPI DIXON  
I see.

Looking to BEASHEARS.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Do you think it's possible for me  
to have some one on one time with  
Delayna before they close the  
casket?

PASTOR MILTON BEASHEARS  
Absolutely dear. I'll go and make  
sure the room is empty for you.

MILTON leaves.

MATT turns HIS attention to the TEEN BOYS.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Guys, can't thank you enough for  
helping Elpi.

BILLY THORNTON  
My pleasure, Mr. Dixon. Elpi's been  
there for all of us one time or  
another.

NICK nods HIS head.

NICK HELLER  
Absolutely. We'd do anything for  
her!

ELPI smiles and touches NICK'S hand.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Well we sure do appreciate it  
fellas.

MATT gets up and begins walking towards the door.

COLONEL MATT DIXON (CONT'D)  
C'mon guys. We'll wait for you  
outside the church honey.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay Dad.

The BOYS begin walking with MATT. NICK looks back at HER,  
afraid to go. Afraid to leave HER. ELPI smiles and nods HER  
head.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
I'll be alright.

NICK HELLER  
Are you sure?

ELPI DIXON

Yea. See you in about ten minutes.

NICK HELLER

Okay.

The door closes behind THEM.

SHE waits a few minutes. Just staring at the door, knowing who was on the other side of it. HER dead friend that SHE didn't know what to say to.

SHE gets up slowly and walks through the door.

CUT TO:

INT. - CHURCH - MORNING

The long walk down the long aisle to the casket. It seems to take forever.

The closer SHE came to the casket, SHE could see DELAYNA'S beautiful brown hair, placed so perfectly by the mortician. A tear jetted down HER cheek as DELAYNA'S pretty face is revealed to HER as ELPI now standing in front of the casket and looking at HER in death. So peaceful. ELPI couldn't help but smile.

ELPI stroked HER head.

ELPI DIXON

No more pain. Isn't that what you wanted? All I know is, I miss you like hell! I've played it over and over in my head and--I don't know Delayna. I don't think this was the right thing to do.

SHE begins crying, trying to control it but ultimately can't.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

There are a lot of people missing you right now. I know you were in pain but--

SHE completely breaks down and sobs over the casket. Finally controlling herself long enough to pull out a heart shaped necklace in HER pocket.

As SHE looks at it SHE smiles.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Remember this? Won it at the  
carnival the same weekend we first  
met.

ELPI cracks open the gold plated heart.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Look. The engraving is still on  
there.

The inscription reads "FRIENDS FOREVER"

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Friends forever. That's us.

SHE closes the heart and balls it up in HER hand and places  
it under DELAYNA'S hands that were placed on HER chest.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
There. You can have it. I kept  
losing it over the years but now  
I'll know where exactly it is now.

ELPI stands back from the casket.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Goodbye--

SHE begins crying again.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
--Delayna. I will always love you!

Can't standing it any longer, SHE rushes out of the church.

CUT TO:

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - AFTERNOON

When ELPI comes to in HER bed at the rehab facility, tears  
still streaming down HER cheeks. The room is empty.

SHE then notices in one of HER restrained hands, that same  
heart shaped necklace. ELPI knows DELAYNA has given it back  
to HER.

ELPI DIXON  
Delayna.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - MAYA WILLIAMS' HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

FADE IN:

MAYA is loading the trunk of HER car with blankets and a cooler when MIKIE arrives driving HIS pick-up truck.

MAYA stops. SHE seems a little shocked to see HIM. MIKIE hops out and approaches HER. SHE can tell something is wrong.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
What's wrong?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Elpi. We went to see her today.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
How is she doing?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Not good.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Really? I've been wanting to go see her but afraid to. She must be going through hell.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Can we talk somewhere?

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Sure, we can go inside.

MIKIE picks up the last bit of items and puts them in HER trunk and then SHE slams the trunk door closed.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)  
Thanks.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Your welcome.

HE then follows HER up the stairs and into the house.

CUT TO:

INT. - MAYA WILLIAMS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

As THEY walk in, THEY see MAYA'S uncle, DEXTER WILLIAMS, 34, rugged and dirty looking, dressed in coveralls. HE is sitting in HIS recliner watching TV and drinking a beer.

DEXTER WILLIAMS

I thought you'd left for the drive-  
in already?

MAYA WILLIAMS

Uncle Dex. This is Elpininki  
Dixon's cousin, Mikie.

DEXTER WILLIAMS

How you doin' boy?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Good sir. Thanks.

DEXTER WILLIAMS

Sorry to hear about Elpi. She's a  
good kid, just a little messed up.  
Aren't most teenagers? I know I  
was.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Dex, you were in jail by the time  
you turned seventeen.

DEXTER WILLIAMS

That's what I'm sayin'. Mind your  
step cuz it can happen real easy  
out in the real world.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Well, thank you Mr. Williams. I  
know Elpi's going to come through  
this just fine.

DEXTER WILLIAMS

Hell yea she is. She'll be fine.  
That girl is spunky. She's got a  
lot of fight in her.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Well Uncle Dex, we're going to go  
catch up before I have to go and  
get Valencia.

DEXTER WILLIAMS

Awright. Have a good time but not  
*that* good of a time, know what I  
mean? No sex!

DEX chuckles at HIMSELF.

MAYA could of died.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Oh my God! Sometimes you are such  
an embarreusement!

DEX laughs again, take a swig of the beer.

DEXTER WILLIAMS

It's the only way to get that  
expression on your face.

MAYA has a look of disgust.

MAYA WILLIAMS

What expression?

DEX grins real big and points to HER.

DEXTER WILLIAMS

That expression!

HE busts out laughing. MIKIE can't help it and starts  
laughing too. MAYA finally chimes in with a forced giggle.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Haa..haa.ha. Funny! C'mon.

MIKIE follows MAYA back to HER room and closes the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MAYA WILLIAMS HOUSE - MAYA'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

MAYA faces MIKIE in the middle of HER bedroom.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Okay. What's going on with her? She  
is going to be okay, isn't she?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

I hope so. She went nuts at my Mom  
and her Dad.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Really? What happened?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Yea. She was throwing shit and  
yelling at them. They had to hold  
her down and strap her in her bed.  
She yelled to me to tell you that  
she wants to see you and Val.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
She wants to see us?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Yea.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
I wonder what about?

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
I don't know.

MIKIE sits on the edge of MAYA'S bed and puts HIS head in his hands and sighs.

MIKIE SULLIVAN (CONT'D)  
I'm really worried about her Maya.  
I've never seen her like that. I  
don't think anyone has ever seen  
her like that. I mean. She looked  
crazed.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
That doesn't make me want to go up  
there to see her any more Mikie.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
You're not going to go see her?

MAYA WILLIAMS  
I didn't say that.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Yea, you kinda did.

SHE sits on the bed next to HIM.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
I don't know.

MIKIE SULLIVAN  
Don't abandon her.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
I'm not going to abandon her. It's  
just--this whole situation is so  
intense and so heartbreaking.

MAYA now sighs.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)  
We're too young for all this shit  
aren't we?

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Yea. That's the truth. Being an adult isn't going to be all that like we use to think.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I never thought it was. We have always struggled to get by. I see all the stress it does. Why do you think I left and came here to live with my carefree uncle.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Good move.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yea. Real good move. I couldn't be happier. I still see my Mom but in small doses, the only way I can take her anymore. Gawd she's so annoying!

THEY both laugh.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

What about going to see my cousin?

MAYA thinks for a moment.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I don't know. I'll talk to Val about it tonight.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

Oh yea, right. The Drive-In.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Speaking of which, I need to go.

MIKIE SULLIVAN

I'll walk you out.

THEY turn to leave HER bedroom.

EXT. - DRIVE-IN - NIGHT

MAYA and VALENCIA are sharing popcorn and candy as THEY both sit in the front seat of MAYA'S car watching a movie.

Finally, MAYA turns the speaker down.

VALENCIA MILLS

What did you do that for? The big death scene is coming up?

MAYA WILLIAMS

Which one? There have been SO many big death scenes in this thing so far.

VALENCIA MILLS

Like, THE big death scene.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I don't know. Just not into it I guess. How original. I mean, like we haven't seen undead witches coming back from the grave and getting revenge on the people that wronged them before? Been there, see that. And it's not like you haven't seen this thing before.

VALENCIA MILLS

I've only seen it 6 times.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Only!

VALENCIA MILLS

So, we can cut out from here early if you want. What did you want to go do?

MAYA WILLIAMS

I need to talk to you about Elpi.

VALENCIA MILLS

Have you heard something?

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yea, actually I have.

A beat.

MAYA WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

I saw Mikie today and he said he and his family had been to the rehab to see her and she was like going crazy throwing stuff and yelling at everyone.

VALENCIA MILLS

Damn!

MAYA WILLIAMS

And one more thing. She asked to see us.

VALENCIA MILLS

Us?

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yea. She asked for you and me to come see her.

VALENCIA MILLS

We should of gone to see her way before now to be honest.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I know.

From behind in the backseat, THE DEAD GIRL appears.

THE DEAD GIRL

Yea, some friends you turned out to be!

Both GIRLS scream and are startled.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

Don't sweat it. Everyone thinks the screaming is from the horror flick. Oh, and sorry for scaring you. But guys, c'mon. What an entrance, right?

VALENCIA MILLS

Is this a dream?

THE DEAD GIRL

Not this time.

Both GIRLS look like they are in a state of shock.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)

You guys really need to go see Elpi. Something very bad is about to happen.

VALENCIA MILLS

You mean besides a zombie chick that looks like my old dead friend walking around telling teenaged girl what to go do with themselves?

THE DEAD GIRL  
I'm not a zombie. I'm in  
transition.

VALENCIA MILLS  
And seriously gross.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Look, I'm not here to talk about my  
decaying body, okay?

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Then what are you here for besides  
scaring the shit outta us Delayna?

THE DEAD GIRL  
My Mom is up to her old tricks  
again and one of our teachers is  
going to be murdered. Ms. Nichols!

MAYA WILLIAMS  
WHAT?!

THE DEAD GIRL  
Listen to me carefully. This isn't  
a fantasy or a dream or a vision.  
This is true shit guys.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Okay.

THE DEAD GIRL  
My Mom and Ms. Nichols girlfriend  
are both ex-cons that served time  
together and have schemed a plan to  
rip our school off by stealing the  
treasury cash at the school. Ms.  
Nichols has the key to the room and  
the combination to the safe since  
she is the head of that department.  
After they get what they want, they  
will kill her.

VALENCIA MILLS  
The only thing we can do is call  
the police. We're a couple of  
teenage girls. What can we do about  
it?

THE DEAD GIRL  
You can stop it.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
How?

DELAYNA smiles.

THE DEAD GIRL

Elpi knows how. She doesn't know she knows but she does. You girls have to get her there. Tomorrow night at midnight.

MAYA WILLIAMS

She's in rehab!

THE DEAD GIRL

I know where she is. You have to get her out of there and to the school by midnight tomorrow night. I don't care how you get her there.

VALENCIA MILLS

I don't know.

THE DEAD GIRL

You can do this Valencia. You've doubted yourself before, remember.

VALENCIA MILLS

Yes. Of course I remember.

THE DEAD GIRL

And who believed in you?

VALENCIA MILLS

You did.

THE DEAD GIRL

Just like I believe in you now. Like I believe in you too Maya.

MAYA WILLIAMS

You're right. We can do this. We HAVE to do this. Tomorrow night, we grow up and make a difference.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - REHAB - MORNING

FADE IN:

MAYA'S car arrives at the rehab. Both MAYA and VALENCIA get out and walk inside.

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - MORNING

"CHAPTER 19 - A HATCHED PLAN"

Elpi is laying in bed reading a novel when MAYA and VAL enter HER room. ELPI jumps up excited to see HER friends.

ELPI DIXON

Oh my God! You guys came!

Hugs all around as the FRIENDS reunite.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

It's so good to see you guys.

MAYA mouths the word CAMERA to ELPI. ELPI nods and looks at a corner in the room to tip MAYA off of the surveillance camera's location.

MAYA WILLIAMS

It's awesome to see you Elpi.

ELPI gets out of bed and sits at the small circular table. The GIRLS join HER.

VALENCIA MILLS

How are you getting along in here?

ELPI DIXON

I hate it here. It's like a prison. No privacy at all. I swear there is like a micro camera in the shower head, I just know it!

VALENCIA MILLS

You're suppose to stop being paranoid now Elpi. You're off the weed.

ELPI DIXON

Ha, ha. I'm serious. They watch you like a hawk here.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Speaking of off the weed. How are you doing with the addictions?

ELPI DIXON

The withdrawals are super intense.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I bet.

VALENCIA MILLS

I remember mine. Not easy are they?

ELPI DIXON

No. No they're not. They come and go. Have good days and bad. Just trying to ride this shit out, ya know?

MAYA pulls out a piece of paper and slides it to ELPI across the table.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Read this.

ELPI looks confused.

ELPI DIXON

Okay.

SHE reads the paper. The paper explaining about DELAYNA warning THEM about the deadly plan of AIMEE and KAYCEE.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Is this for real?

Both GIRLS nod.

VALENCIA MILLS

Read the back.

ELPI flips the sheet over and reads MAYA & VAL'S plan to sneak HER out.

ELPI DIXON

Tonight?

VALENCIA MILLS

Yea. Ten. Be ready.

ELPI slowly nods.

ELPI DIXON

We're going to get into a lot of trouble.

VALENCIA MILLS

A lot worse could happen if we don't do something.

MAYA WILLIAMS

And Delayna said you are the key to it all.

ELPI DIXON  
I don't see how and I don't know  
what to do to stop them--

NATE opens the door and walks in with a wheelchair.

NATE BELLOWS  
Good morning ladies.

VALENCIA notices the fine MR. BELLOWS struts HIS sexy self in the room. SHE smiles big at ELPI. SHE leans in and whispers in HER ear.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Now I get it. I see why you're in  
no hurry to be cured. Damn, he's  
fine!

ELPI giggles.

ELPI DIXON  
Val!

NATE looks confused.

NATE BELLOWS  
Did I just miss something?

The GIRLS continue to giggle.

ELPI DIXON  
Nate Bellows. Valenica Mills.

VAL hold HER hand out as NATE snatches it and lightly shakes HER hand.

NATE BELLOWS  
Pleasure, Ms. Mills.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Nice to meet you too.

NATE turns HIS attention to HIS patient.

NATE BELLOWS  
Thought it be a good idea if I took  
you for a stroll before your big  
appointment with the good doctor in  
two hours?

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. Sure.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Yea, we have to get back anyway.  
Got a lot of things to do tonight.

MAYA and VAL begin towards the door.

VALENCIA MILLS

We'll be in touch Elpi.

ELPI DIXON

Okay. See you soon.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Oh, you'll see us sooner than  
later.

THEY leave.

NATE helps ELPI in the chair.

ELPI DIXON

I get a chauffeur today, huh?

NATE smiles as HE fixes HER feet rests on the wheelchair.

NATE BELLOWS

Yes ma'am. We only have first class  
here.

ELPI laughs.

ELPI DIXON

Yea, real first class Nate.

NATE BELLOWS

Nothing but the best.

A beat.

NATE BELLOWS (CONT'D)

Well I can tell you. It is a lot  
better then where you were, right?

ELPI DIXON

You're talking emotionally now.

NATE BELLOWS

You're catching on.

ELPI DIXON

I'm learning your game.

NATE BELLOWS  
I see, I see. Good for you. See.  
Told you, you're smart.

ELPI grins.

ELPI DIXON  
I was just being a bitch.

NATE BELLOWS  
I know!

HE pushes HER towards the door.

EXT. - REHAB - BACK COURTYARD - AFTERNOON

NATE wheels ELPI over to a secluded area with a bench. HE places HER at the end of the bench facing towards the bench. HE locks the chair in place as HE slides back over and takes a seat on the end of the bench so HE'S facing HER.

NATE BELLOWS  
Ya know what I think?

ELPI DIXON  
I don't really care what you think.

NATE BELLOWS  
Oh I think you do.

ELPI DIXON  
And why is that?

NATE BELLOWS  
Because. You know my history.

ELPI DIXON  
If it's the truth.

NATE BELLOWS  
It is. Trust me.

ELPI DIXON  
Why should I? Because you say so?

NATE BELLOWS  
No.

ELPI DIXON  
Trust Mr. Bellows, just like respect is earned and from the short time I've known you, you haven't earned shit with me.

NATE BELLOWS

Mainly because you haven't allowed me to do anything for you yet. You're still in this fighting the system mode. gotta let that shit go girl. You're beating the addictions.

ELPI DIXON

I have no choice.

NATE BELLOWS

So, what are you going to use to hide now?

ELPI DIXON

Hide? What are you talking about?

NATE BELLOWS

That's what you were using the drugs and booze for. You're running from something. Something that's inside there.

HE pokes at HER forehead.

ELPI DIXON

What do you know about it?

NATE BELLOWS

More then you've told me.

ELPI DIXON

I'm sure my old man filled you in on the fun times at the Dixon place.

NATE BELLOWS

That's a pretty hard thing for a seventeen year old to deal with, don't you think? Wanna talk about Delayna?

ELPI DIXON

NO! I don't want to talk about Delayna. Everybody is so interested in Delayna Haynes. You. Mr. Dix.

NATE BELLOWS

But That's what this is all about. Delayna and what she did in your house. I'm sure you feel a sense of guilt. Responsibility.

ELPI DIXON

We are NOT talking about this Nate.

NATE BELLOWS

We have to talk about this. This is the issue and you have to get past this issue or you can't move on with your life.

ELPI DIXON

Who says I want to move on.

NATE BELLOWS

Your eyes say so.

ELPI DIXON

My eyes?

NATE BELLOWS

When I look at them. I see sadness but something else to.

ELPI DIXON

What?

NATE BELLOWS

Desperation.

ELPI DIXON

What am I desperate for?

NATE BELLOWS

Resolution. And being at peace with her death.

ELPI DIXON

I will never be at peace with that.

NATE BELLOWS

What happened that day?

ELPI DIXON

I don't know. I don't remember.

NATE BELLOWS

Not according to the police report.

ELPI DIXON

Now, what are you talking about?

NATE BELLOWS

You haven't seen the police report?

ELPI DIXON

No.

NATE BELLOWS

Well in that case, I probably shouldn't talk about it with you. I was under the impression you had seen it, or remember what happened.

ELPI gets excited and a bit frantic.

ELPI DIXON

No, no, no, no. You can't do that to me. You tell me what you know. What did the report say?

NATE is hesitate.

NATE BELLOWS

Okay. I shouldn't tell you since you can't remember it but when your father discovered Delayna, you were in the room too.

ELPI DIXON

WHAT?

NATE BELLOWS

Yea. That's the weird thing about this case. You were in the room. Passed out on the floor.

ELPI realizes what DELAYNA had been saying all along.

ELPI DIXON

I was there.

NATE BELLOWS

Yea. You were there.

ELPI DIXON

Then what did happen that day?

NATE BELLOWS

No one knows for sure. Except you and you can't remember. Like I said before Elpi. You hold the key to the mystery and the key is locked away right inside there.

HE points to HER forehead again.

ELPI DIXON

How can I find it?

NATE smiles.

NATE BELLOWS  
That's what we pay Dr. Dix for.  
He's going to find that key and  
unlock everything.

ELPI smiles back at HIM.

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS AND KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM  
- AFTERNOON

"CHAPTER 20 - "THE BETRAYAL"

KELLY is in the kitchen when the doorbell rings.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
(VO) Can you get that Kelly?

KELLY NICHOLS  
(VO) Yea.

KELLY comes rushing out of the kitchen, drying HER hands on a  
dish towel as SHE races to the door to answer it.

As SHE pulls open the door, the PERSON on the other side  
shoves it in KELLY'S face and knocks HER back.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY charges into the house with a hand gun  
pointed at HER.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Back up Blondie.

KELLY NICHOLS  
What do you want?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
The show's over sista.

KELLY gets back on HER feet and moves back further.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Kaycee run!

Suddenly KAYCEE emerges from their bedroom also brandishing a  
firearm.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Run? From her? Why would I do  
something like that to my partner?

KELLY NICHOLS

Partner?

KAYCEE points HER gun at KELLY now too.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

I suppose it's time for total truth  
between us.

KELLY NICHOLS

That would be nice. I have no idea  
what is going on. I don't even know  
you? Who are you?

KAYCEE giggles.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Who am I? I'm, the hard bitch that  
I've kept from you all this time.

KELLY NICHOLS

Oh. You mean the low life ex-con.

KAYCEE slaps KELLY across the face.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Don't you ever talk to me like that  
again bitch. Got that? I call the  
shots now. ME!

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Tell her.

KELLY NICHOLS

Tell me what?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Oh. Our nifty little plan we have  
in place. A place that will net us  
roughly--

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

By last count. Hundred forty three  
grand.

KELLY NICHOLS

The treasury cash?

KAYCEE points to KELLY.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Bingo!

KELLY NICHOLS

So, that is what this is all about? Us? The move to this town? Getting jobs at the high school? Hell, you practically shoved me into that interview.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

You needed nudging.

KELLY NICHOLS

(to AIMEE) and you. What's your connection?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Number one. I am on the PTA. Who do you think okay'ed both of your hirings? Number two. Me and Kaycee served time together in prison. We've been planning this for a year now.

KELLY folds HER arms.

KELLY NICHOLS

What is the plan?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Just get us to the safe and open it. That's it.

KELLY NICHOLS

What will become of us?

KAYCEE laughs.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

What do you think? We're outta here. After we get the cash, we're hitting the road.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Yea and don't try the cops.

AIMEE cocks the hammer to HER gun and points it at KELLY'S head.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY (CONT'D)

Or--YA-BANG! Got it.

KELLY NICHOLS

Yea. I got it.

KELLY looks at KAYCEE with disgust.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)  
I don't believe you.

KAYCEE smirks at HER.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Shut up Kelly. We've been looking  
for a job just like this to set us  
up financially for the next year  
and this is it. I'm sorry it ruined  
a good relationship but that's the  
brakes.

KELLY chuckles.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Yea. That's the brakes.

INT. - DR. ROBERT DIX'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

NATE wheels ELPI in to DIX'S office. DIX is seated behind HIS  
desk looking over HER file.

NATE BELLOWS  
Got a special delivery for you Dr.  
Dix.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Ahh. Excellent. And how is Ms. Elpi  
Dixon today?

As NATE is leaving, ELPI sighs loudly. ROBERT notices.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
Something the matter Ms. Dixon?

ELPI rubs HER eyes.

ELPI DIXON  
Tired.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Of?

ELPI DIXON  
This prison I'm trapped in. Christ  
Doc!

DR. ROBERT DIX  
I see.

HE put HER file down.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)

So. It appears we have issues today, huh Ms. Dixon?

ELPI DIXON

Yea. Apparently.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Would you like to lay on the--

ELPI DIXON

NO! I wouldn't like to lay on the couch. (laughs) That's SO stupid Doc.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Why would you say that? Some patients prefer to lie on the couch. Gives them a sense of comfort. Helps them to concentrate on their problems.

ELPI jumps up and plops down on the couch. SHE folds HER arms.

ELPI DIXON

Well, then this is the place for me cuz we all know how many problems I have, don't we.

DR. ROBERT DIX

You have issues Elpi but nothing that can't be worked out and resolved. Do you feel you are incapable of resolving your personal issues?

ELPI DIXON

I don't know.

Silence for a moment. DIX continues to prod HER.

DR. ROBERT DIX

So. I will ask you once again Elpi. How are we today? Better then yesterday?

ELPI DIXON

Yea. Better then yesterday. Not one of my shining moments.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Well. We all have bad days, don't we?

ELPI DIXON

I picked the worst time for one of my famous tantrums.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Well, I can tell you Elpi, that if the staff has grown use to them, how do you think your family feels?

ELPI DIXON

I hear ya. Now they'll have nothing to do with me after that, especially my aunt. I know I wouldn't.

ELPI sighs. DIX grins slightly.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Do you seriously expect your family to abandon you?

ELPI DIXON

Haven't they already Doc?

DR. ROBERT DIX

No Elpi, they haven't. They are trying to help you. WE are trying to help you.

ELPI just stares at the good DOCTOR.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)

What did you think you're father was going to do after you tried to OD on heroin? Humm?

ELPI DIXON

Okay, okay Doc. It still feels like abandonment.

DR. ROBERT DIX

I'd call it salvation. The real issue here besides the additions is why you tried to commit suicide.

ELPI is again silent.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)

Let's talk about Delayna Haynes.

ELPI DIXON

No Doctor, let's don't.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Your loss is at the heart of your  
issues Elpi. We HAVE to talk about  
Delayna.

ELPI DIXON  
No, we're not going there.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Did you feel as if you couldn't  
live without her?

ELPI DIXON  
Oh my God. You're going to make me  
talk about this, aren't you?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
I can't force you to do anything  
you don't want to do Elpi. You want  
to talk about Delayna.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. Fine. Let's talk about my  
best friend.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Okay. What would you like to say  
about her?

ELPI DIXON  
One thing that disturbs me.  
Something Nate just told me.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
What did Nate tell you?

ELPI DIXON  
He told me about the police report.  
It said I was in her room when my  
Dad found us together. Her dead, me  
passed out.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Uh huh. I read the report.

ELPI DIXON  
My mind is blank. I don't remember  
even being there. I didn't even  
remember her funeral until  
recently. Like three weeks I can't  
account for.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
That is a problem. I was not made  
aware of your memory block. No  
recollection?

ELPI shakes HER head.

ELPI DIXON  
None.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
You know what us shrink types call  
that?

ELPI giggles.

ELPI DIXON  
No, what?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
A break through.

ELPI DIXON  
That's a break through.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Very much so. Now we have a  
foundation to begin reconstructing  
your memory. Do you want to find  
out the truth about what happened  
in that room that day?

ELPI DIXON  
YES! Doc, more then anything.

DIX smiles big at HER. SHE looks back at HIM like puzzled.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
You look like the cat that just ate  
the canary.

ROBERT laughs.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Perhaps. I am just overjoyed.

ELPI DIXON  
With what?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
With YOU! Two break throughs in one  
day, in our first session. It's too  
much for one quack to ask for! Are  
you ready to do that?

ELPI DIXON

I don't know.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Okay. What do you think about when I ask you to open up and tell me everything?

ELPI DIXON

I feel like I want to clam up and not say anything at all.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Makes you feel like you rather go hide under a rock?

ELPI DIXON

Exactly. Getting to that other side seems--unattainable. Like I'm standing at the bottom of a mountain and looking up.

DR. ROBERT DIX

It's an overwhelming feeling, isn't it?

ELPI is silent but nods.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)

And it's that same feeling that drove you to try to take your life, isn't that right Elpi?

Again SHE nods.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)

Thought so.

DIX can see the tears forming in HER eyes and offers a tissue.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)

A tissue for your issue?

That makes ELPI laugh.

ELPI DIXON

Quite trying to make me laugh Doc.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Just offering you a bit of Kleenex comfort.

HE smiles. SHE takes some tissues from HIM.

ELPI DIXON

Thanks.

HE nods. SHE dries HER eyes and composes HERSELF.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Well. I think that's enough break  
throughing for one day, don't you?

SHE speaks through HER sniffing.

ELPI DIXON

Yea.

Then tries to smile at HIM.

INT. - KELLY NICHOLS AND KAYCEE MCINTOCH'S HOUSE - FRONT ROOM  
- DUSK

KELLY is seated on the couch. HER hands and feet bound in  
duck tape. AIMEE has a gun on KELLY. KAYCEE is pacing back  
and forth in the front room.

KELLY NICHOLS

Nervous Kaycee?

KAYCEE ignores HER.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Shut up Blondie.

KELLY turns HER attention to AIMEE.

KELLY NICHOLS

She's still my girlfriend. I can  
talk to her if I want, mother of  
the year.

Making AIMEE mad, AIMEE gets up from HER seat and shoves HER  
gun to KELLY'S temple.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

What did you say to me?

KELLY is now visibly frightened. KAYCEE takes notice from all  
of HER pacing.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Leave her alone.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Nawww. She's bad mouthin' me. You  
don't bad mouth me.

KAYCEE pulls HER piece and puts the gun to AIMEE'S head.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
I said. Leave. Her. Alone!

AIMEE backs off. KAYCEE backs off. KELLY looks like SHE just pissed HER pants.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
We kinda need her to pull this job  
off Genius.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Sorry baby. I lost my cool.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Lose it some place else.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Thank you.

KAYCEE looks at KELLY. SHE wants to give in but stays controlled.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Yea. Whatever.

KAYCEE marches into the kitchen.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
We got an hour.

AIMEE eyes KELLY with a look of death.

EXT. - REHAB - BACK COURTYARD - NIGHT

MAYA, VALENCIA, NICK and BILLY emerge from the darkness into the back courtyard.

THEY huddle up.

NICK HELLER  
Look. Billy and I noticed the  
guards rounds.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
What do you mean?

BILLY THORNTON  
Every fifteen minutes. The guards  
make their rounds. That means for  
about five minutes that entrance is  
unguarded.

NICK HELLER

That's our window to get in and get my girlfriend outta there. I think we should go in and you girls stay here and watch for the guards.

VALENCIA MILLS

Sounds good to me.

NICK HELLER

Alright. You got my cell number?

VALENCIA MILLS

No.

MAYA WILLIAMS

I do.

NICK HELLER

Okay. Call me and let it ring twice when you see the guards coming back. C'mon.

THEY silently moves closer and wait for the guards to begin their rounds.

FADE OUT:

EXT. - REHAB - BACK COURTYARD - NIGHT

FADE IN:

Elapsed time as finally the guards leave.

VALENCIA MILLS

Look, look, look. They're leaving.

NICK looks at BILLY. HE gives HIM a nod. Then THEY both take off towards the entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - NIGHT

ELPI is sitting on HER bed, tying HER shoe, finishing getting dressed.

SHE hops down and walks over to the door and slowly and silently open the door and slithers out.

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

As ELPI makes HER way to the elevator. SHE quickly and frantically push the down button. After a few minutes, the elevator appears, doors slide open, ELPI jumps on and hit the lobby button. The doors slowly shut.

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

ELPI crouches down in a corner of the elevator, preparing for the worst as the elevator finally comes to a rest and the doors slowly open up.

SHE is relieved when she sees the faces of NICK and BILLY standing at the elevator.

ELPI races out of the elevator. NICK and ELPI embrace and kiss.

BILLY THORNTON

C'mon. We gotta get outta here!

As THEY turn to head towards the door, NATE comes around the corner, completely shocked.

NATE BELLOWS

What the hell is going on here? (To Nick) Where do you think you are taking Ms. Dixon?

ELPI DIXON

Nate. It's okay.

NATE BELLOWS

No Elpi. It's NOT okay.

ELPI DIXON

This is Nick. My boyfriend.

NATE BELLOWS

You are not allowed off the property. You know that.

BILLY THORNTON

Look dude. It's an emergency. We don't have time to listen to you whine.

NATE BELLOWS

Excuse me son?

ELPI DIXON

Guys. Gimme me a minute with Nate.

A beat.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Look. He's right. I can't tell you what the emergency is only that if I don't show up someone could get hurt or worse.

NATE BELLOWS

Then you need to call the police and let them handle it instead of a couple of kids doing something that might get one of y'all killed or something.

ELPI notices the GUARDS have returned.

ELPI DIXON

Nate please help us.

The GUARDS notice the kids and NATE.

GUARD #1

Mr. Bellows? Are these your patients?

NATE BELLOWS

They're with me. It's okay guys.

GUARD #1

Okay sir. Very good then.

The GUARDS go back to their sitting posts by the entrance.

NATE BELLOWS

You owe me for this. I could lose my job if they find out I let you go and you better come back.

ELPI DIXON

I'll come back.

NATE smiles big.

NATE BELLOWS

You asking me not to worry. You realize I am about to unleach Elpi Dixon on an unsuspecting public, right?

ELPI laughs.

ELPI DIXON

Good God! I'm not THAT bad, am I?

NATE BELLOWS

Look, I don't know what you guys  
are about to go do and to tell you  
the truth, I don't wanna know.  
Just...be careful, awright?

ELPI DIXON

We will. I promise Nate.

SHE gives HIM a quick kiss on the cheek as THEY begin to walk  
out the door.

The GUARDS take notice and turn back around to look at NATE.

NATE BELLOWS

It's okay. Let 'em go.

GUARD #1

Yes sir.

INT. - KELLY'S CAR - NIGHT

KAYCEE is driving, while AIMEE has a gun on KELLY. Both in  
the backseat.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

How much further?

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

We're almost there. Keep your  
panties on.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Well, I'm tired of holding a gun on  
Blondie, here.

KELLY NICHOLS

Then put the gun down.

AIMEE slaps KELLY across the face.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

I told you to Shut your damn mouth!

KAYCEE suddenly pulls over to the shoulder and slams on HER  
brakes. SHE snaps HER head around towards AIMEE.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

What did I tell you about hurting  
her?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

I lost my cool. Sorry.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
You're going to lose a lot more  
then that if you keep getting  
physically violent with my  
girlfriend.

AIMEE is silent.

KELLY NICHOLS  
So you still care?

KAYCEE looks back at KELLY through the rearview mirror.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
It's hard not to still care about  
you Kelly.

KELLY NICHOLS  
It's not too late to stop this  
Kaycee.

KAYCEE smiles slightly and nods HER head.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Yes it is Kelly. It's far too late  
to stop this. Okay. We're here.

KAYCEE pulls the car into the parking lot. SHE looks back at  
KELLY. Then smiles.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
It'll all be over soon Kelly.

KELLY wasn't sure exactly what to make of that and just  
stared back at HER.

AIMEE points HER gun in KELLY'S face.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Time to go get me my money!

EXT. - FOREST - NIGHT

The DEAD GIRL is hiding from the GRIM REAPER as time is  
almost up.

THE DEAD GIRL  
(whispering to herself) C'mon Elpi.  
Time is running out for me.

SHE begins to pray.

EXT. - HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

ELPI, MAYA, VALENCIA, NICK and BILLY finally arrive at the back of the high school.

BILLY THORNTON

Why back here?

MAYA WILLIAMS

Because Elpi knows the combination to the lock.

VALENCIA MILLS

Yea. We figured out on the way here, that's what Delayna was talking about when she said only Elpi can help.

ELPI DIXON

At least we hope that's what she meant.

ELPI whizzes through the combination and unlocks the padlock. BILLY and NICK open the doors which are hard to open from rust build up.

NICK HELLER

Damn! These doors are hard to open.

BILLY THORNTON

I know dude!

NICK HELLER

Okay. Where is the treasury office?

ELPI DIXON

This way.

ELPI takes off. The OTHERS follow close behind.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Elpi! Don't take off like that!

CUT TO:

INT. - HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

In another part of the school, KELLY is leading the way with AIMEE still holding HER gun on HER as THEY make their way to the treasury office.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Don't be taking us on any wild  
goose chases either Kelly. Let's  
not forget I work here too. I know  
the layout.

KELLY NICHOLS

I wouldn't dare try to pull the  
wool over the eyes of the GREAT  
Kaycee McIntoch.

KAYCEE is silent as THEY continue walking.

CUT TO:

INT. - HIGH SCHOOL - TREASURY OFFICE - NIGHT

KELLY unlocks the door. AIMEE shoves HER in the dark room.  
KAYCEE flips the light switch. The safe is located in the  
back corner of the room.

AIMEE shoves a gun in KELLY'S face again.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Get to safe crackin' bitch.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

You heard the lady.

Infuriated KELLY whips around towards the safe.

KELLY NICHOLS

That's your idea of a lady, huh?

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

You God damned--

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Shut up. (To Kelly) Get to work.

KELLY unlocks the safe. AIMEE rushes over to the safe and  
pushes KELLY aside.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Yes! It's all here. All of it.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Are you sure.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Oh yea baby. It's all here. Every  
red cent!

KAYCEE tosses AIMEE a small gym bag.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH  
Fill 'er up.

AIMEE begins giggling as SHE shoves the cash in the bag.  
KAYCEE turns HER attention to HER girlfriend.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH (CONT'D)  
Well honey, it looks like we are  
about to the end.

CUT TO:

INT. - HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

"CHAPTER 21 - "SAVING GRACE"

The TEEN continues to walk down the hallway towards the  
treasury office. THEY see the door swung open and lights on  
inside.

ELPI DIXON  
(whispering) They're in there.

VALENCIA MILLS  
What are we going to do?

Suddenly AIMEE walks out of the office and discovers the KIDS  
in the hallway. SHE points HER gun at THEM and yells back to  
KAYCEE.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY  
Get the hell out here. We got  
company.

KAYCEE with KELLY in tow walk out into the hallway. KELLY is  
stunned to see ELPI.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Elpi! What are you doing here?

ELPI DIXON  
Hi, Ms. Nichols. Trying to save  
you?

KAYCEE lets KELLY go and points HER pistol at ELPI.

KELLY NICHOLS  
Kaycee, don't!

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Who needs you Kelly. Looks like I just found my new girlfriend!

KELLY NICHOLS

Don't you dare, Kaycee. They're just kids. Let them go. You got what you were after. Now, just go. Both of you.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

(To Elpi) Come over here babydoll. I got plenty of money now. I could take real good care of you. You kinda owe me your life anyway, right. I was the one that saved you for your overdose.

ELPI DIXON

No. I heard it was Kelly.

ELPI looks at KELLY, who shakes HER head.

KELLY NICHOLS

I was there Elpi but Kaycee was the one that kicked the door open and saved you.

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Just kill them Kaycee. We got the money, let's go.

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

No. I want her. She's coming with us.

ELPI DIXON

NO I'M NOT!

AIMEE HAYNES-MCCOY

Baby, c'mon. Let's just go!

KAYCEE MCINTOCH

Please honey. Don't make this difficult.

ELPI DIXON

I'm not going with you, your crazy!

Suddenly VALENCIA steps out in front of everyone waving HER hands and holding a necklace of a gold cross.

VALENCIA MILLS

Okay, okay enough of this shit!

The reflection of the cross hits AIMEE in the face and startles HER. AIMEE fires off a round that hits VALENCIA in the shoulder, knocking HER back. MAYA and ELPI scream.

In all the commotion, AIMEE and KAYCEE draw on each other, both firing as they draw. Both hitting the other and both getting knocked back.

MAYA and ELPI are crying. NICK and BILLY are crouched down trying to protect MAYA and VAL. MAYA crouches over VALENCIA who is holding HER shoulder wound.

MAYA WILLIAMS

How do you feel?

VALENCIA MILLS

How do you think I feel dumbass?  
I'm in a lot of pain!

MAYA laughs.

MAYA WILLIAMS

Okay. She might be in a lot of pain  
but she's going to be fine.

NICK slowly walks over and kicks the gun out of AIMEE'S hand and then kneels down and feels HER neck for a pulse.

NICK HELLER

Delayna's Mom is dead. I can't find  
a pulse.

KELLY crawls over to KAYCEE and checks HER pulse. SHE feels a beat.

KELLY NICHOLS

Kaycee's still alive.

SHE then pulls out HER cellphone.

ELPI DIXON

What are you doing?

KELLY NICHOLS

Calling 911.

KELLY puts HER arm around ELPI as SHE dials.

KELLY NICHOLS (CONT'D)

We're going to be alright.

FADE OUT:

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - MORNING

FADE IN:

"A FEW DAYS LATER..."

"CHAPTER 22 - Revelations & Resolutions"

ELPI again is sitting in HER wheelchair, staring out the window when DR. DIX enters.

ELPI swings around. SHE smiles at HIM. HE returns the smile.

DR. ROBERT DIX

It's still good to have you with us  
Ms. Dixon. With us as in still  
breathing.

ELPI DIXON

Thank you Dr. Dix. It's good to  
still be breathing.

DR. ROBERT DIX

May I?

Referring to a chair close to HER bed.

ELPI DIXON

Why not.

AS DIX sits in the chair, ELPI hops in bed.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Are we going to have a session  
here? Now?

DR. ROBERT DIX

I thought we could Elpi and if you  
are willing, I thought we try  
something completely different  
today.

ELPI looks concerned.

ELPI DIXON

Different how Doc?

DR. ROBERT DIX

Look. I know the last thing you  
want to do after flying to coop was  
to come back to the coop.

ELPI DIXON

All I know is, I'm tired of being here. Aren't you just sick of my face Dr. Dix?

DIX giggles.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Actually Elpi, I've kinda grown fond of that face and that person.

ELPI DIXON

Why? I've been nothing but a complete douche to you since you started seeing me.

DR. ROBERT DIX

I know. It's expected. I don't take it personally. And even sometimes by the time one of my patients makes it back out into the real world, they consider me a good friend.

ELPI DIXON

Do you think we'll be good friends after this is over?

DR. ROBERT DIX

I don't know Elpi. When is this going to be over?

ELPI DIXON

How should I know? You're the shrink. Can't you tell me?

DR. ROBERT DIX

No.

ELPI DIXON

Don't you know?

DR. ROBERT DIX

No, Elpi. Only you can know that for sure. Only you are the one that can make that happen for you. Do you understand?

ELPI DIXON

I'm holding up the show?

DIX nods.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
 You're holding up the show.  
 Open up to me Elpi, that's your  
 ticket outta here. You've conquered  
 the drugs, the alcohol. Now it's  
 time you open up about Delayna's  
 suicide.

ELPI stares out the window and thinks.

ELPI DIXON  
 Maybe you're right.

ROBERT gets up from behind HIS desk and walks over to the  
 chair by the head of the couch and sits with a pad of paper  
 and a pen.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
 Are you ready to begin?

ELPI DIXON  
 Yes.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
 Good. Would you be willing to  
 undergo hypnotic therapy?

ELPI DIXON  
 Are you talking about, *you're*  
*getting sleeping, close your eyes*  
*and count backwards from ten?*

ROBERT giggles and claps HIS hands.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
 That's good. Yes. That way I can  
 move in your mind to places you're  
 subconscious is unwilling to go  
 without interference.

ELPI DIXON  
 And I will remember what happened?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
 Yes. You should.

ELPI DIXON  
 Then will I remember it?

ROBERT is hesitate to say but then finally speaks.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Yes Elpi. You will remember every  
detail about what happened. Are you  
prepared for that?

ELPI thinks long and hard.

ELPI DIXON  
Yes. I have to be.

DIX brought a bag with HIM and pulls out a leather box.  
Inside the box HE pulls out an old gold watch on a chain.

ELPI laughs.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
You may laugh Ms. Dixon and I know  
it looks cliché but this gem works  
like a charm.

ELPI DIXON  
Who am I to doubt you Doc?

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Okay. Now sit up in bed and just  
follow the watch with your eyes  
only. Don't move your head at all.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. Got it.

DIX dangles the watch in front of HER for a moment. HE looks  
at HER and SHE looks at HIM and nods.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
I'm ready.

DIX begins swaying the watch in front of HER. SHE watches it  
intently. HER eyes moving in perfect rhythm with the speed of  
the swaying watch.

DIX begins softly talking to ELPI as SHE watches the watch.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Keep your eyes on the watch Elpi.  
Keep tracing the watch with your  
eyes. Do you feel your eye lids  
getting heavier?

ELPI DIXON  
Yes.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Good. That is normal. It's okay for you would like to close your eyes now Elpi. Your eye lids are now heavy and it's become difficult to keep them open, wouldn't you say?

ELPI DIXON

Yes.

ELPI closes HER eyes.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Now, just listen to the sound of my voice Elpi. Are you feeling as if you could drift off?

ELPI DIXON

Yes Dr. Dix.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Good Elpi. You can let yourself go and drift off. Once you hear me count down from ten you will be in rem sleep. Deep sleep. Are you ready?

ELPI DIXON

Yes.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six. Five. Four. Three. Two...one.

DIX snaps HIS fingers and ELPI doesn't budge or move. DIX silently creeps back to HIS door and slowly opens it. MATT DIXON and ANNE SULLIVAN quietly enter and sit in a love seat away from ELPI and DIX.

DIX walks back over to ELPI'S bed.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)

Can you hear me okay Elpi?

ELPI DIXON

Yes Doc I hear you fine.

DR. ROBERT DIX

Can you take us back to the day Delayna killed herself, Elpi?

ELPI DIXON

Yes I can, Doc. It was a hot day.  
 Delayna was already home when I got  
 there. She was in her room so I  
 went in there to see what she was  
 doing. She looked depressed so I  
 sat with her and we talked what  
 seemed like hours--

As ELPI spins the tale, the scene goes out of focus as we transition into a flashback.

INT. - DIXON HOME - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

As the camera comes into focus it is a moving shot of the hallway as we inch closer to DELAYNA'S doorway. We can hear the GIRLS talking as the camera moves into the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - DELAYNA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

DELAYNA is sitting in a wooden desk chair. ELPI is crouched down in front of HER. ELPI is holding DELAYNA'S hands.

Both ELPI and DELAYNA have tears running down their cheeks and voices quivering.

DELAYNA HAYNES

It's the only way Elpi. Please help me!

ELPI is crying.

ELPI DIXON

I don't want to lose you Delayna!  
 Your my best friend!

DELAYNA HAYNES.

You--you have to help me.

THEY hug each other and sob on each other's shoulders.

CUT TO:

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - MORNING

ELPI is in bed crying and talking to DELAYNA in HER sleep as DR. DIX moderates and MATT and ANNE watch in shock at the events ELPI is telling THEM of that fateful day.

ELPI DIXON  
Delayna, you said we would always  
be there to get each other through  
life!

DR. ROBERT DIX  
What is happening Elpi. Explain  
what you are seeing, feeling.

ELPI begins to calm down. HER eyes still shut and flowing  
with tears.

ELPI DIXON  
We are sitting together. We make a  
pact.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
What sort of a pact, Elpi?

ELPI DIXON  
A suicide pact.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
You made a promise to Delayna that  
both of you would commit suicide?

ELPI DIXON  
No Doc. We made a pact that I would  
help Delayna kill herself.

ANNE gasps. MATT puts a hand over HIS mouth and shuts HIS  
eyes tight.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
Dear Lord. No Elpi.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
What happened next Elpi?

CUT TO:

INT. - DIXON HOME - DELAYNA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

ELPI narrates the scene. As SHE explains what happens next,  
the events unfold on scene.

ELPI DIXON  
(VO) I helped Delayna move HER  
chair into the walk-in closet.

ELPI moves the chair and also takes a long piece of rope and  
attaches it to one of the chair legs.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

(VO) She gave me a huge belt of my Dad's that she had fashioned into a hanging noose. She was so weak from the MS, she had trouble getting up onto the chair. I had to help her.

ELPI lifts DELAYNA on the chair and helps steady HER. ELPI stands back as DELAYNA puts the belt around HER neck.

DELAYNA looks at ELPI with sad eyes. ELPI looks back at HER and tries to smile.

DELAYNA HAYNES.

Don't be sad for me Elpi. I want this. I want to stop the pain more than anything. Be happy for me.

ELPI DIXON

I will try Delayna.

ELPI begins to cry again.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

All I know is. I will forever miss you and I will always love you!

DELAYNA crying.

DELAYNA HAYNES.

I love you too.

DELAYNA stiffens up. ELPI kneels down and picks up the rope around the chair legs and turns around.

DELAYNA closes HER eyes.

DELAYNA HAYNES. (CONT'D)

I'm ready Elpi.

ELPI hesitates for a moment, then closes HER eyes and pulls the rope as hard as SHE can and rips the chair from underneath DELAYNA, hanging HER in the closet.

ELPI is crouched down with HER eyes still closed shut. SHE can hear DELAYNA'S body swaying back and forth. All SHE can do is cry.

Cry for HER friend that is now gone from this world and hopefully SHE thought, in a better place.

CUT TO:

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - MORNING

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Elpi. It's over now. In time and  
with my help, you will overcome  
this tragedy.

DIX signals MATT and ANNE to come closer.

DR. ROBERT DIX (CONT'D)  
I'm going to bring her out of it  
and when she does she will  
instantly remember everything that  
she just recalled. She's going to  
need a lot of love and support for  
her family.

COLONEL MATT DIXON  
And she will have it and more,  
Doctor.

DIX turns HIS attention back to ELPI.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Elpi when I count back from three,  
you will awake. Are you ready?

ELPI DIXON  
Yes.

DIX looks at ANNE and MATT one last time and nods HIS head.

DR. ROBERT DIX  
Three. Two. One.

ELPI opens HER eyes and sees HER DAD. For a moment SHE  
forgets about the suicide killing and is just happy to see  
the OLD MAN.

ELPI DIXON  
DAD!

SHE has a big smile on HER face until the memory comes back.  
In a matter of seconds ELPI recalls the entire incident and  
as SHE recalls SHE begins to cry.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Oh my God! What have I done?

MATT grabs HIS daughter and holds on to HER tight and rocks  
HER.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
WHAT HAVE I DONE? NOOOOOOO!  
NOOOOOOOO! Delayna! Delayna!

As the COLONEL comforts HIS daughter the camera pulls back.

EXT. - FOREST - MORNING

The camera pushes in.

DELAYNA is crouched by a big tree and sighs a sign of relief.  
SHE shuts HER eyes and smiles.

THE DEAD GIRL  
Thank you Elpi. Thank you for  
remembering.

THE DEAD GIRL then glows a bright white and vanishes.

THE DEAD GIRL (CONT'D)  
Ahhhh.

FADE OUT:

INT. - REHAB FACILITY - ROOM 334 - NIGHT

FADE IN:

"EPILOGUE - RAISE YOUR HANDS TO HEAVEN"

ELPI is sitting up in bed eating a cup of chocolate pudding  
while MAYA and VALENCIA stand near HER bed.

ELPI swirls the pudding around with HER spoon and takes a  
bite. As SHE tastes the delicious chocolate SHE examines  
VALENCIA wearing a arm sling.

ELPI DIXON  
Does it hurt.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Only when I talk. Oww.

ELPI giggles.

ELPI DIXON  
Okay. Don't talk then.

MAYA and ELPI laugh.

Suddenly the lights flicker and dim. The window slams shut  
and locks. The door locks.

The GIRLS look frightened.

VALENCIA MILLS  
Here we go again.

Behind THEM a bright light forms. The GIRLS hold their hands over their eyes to shield themselves.

The light subsides and standing before them is DELAYNA. Just like THEY remembered HER.

THEY take their hands down and look surprised.

MAYA WILLIAMS  
Delayna?

DELAYNA HAYNES.  
I came back to say goodbye and to thank you Elpi. You delivered me. I'm free now.

ELPI smiles.

ELPI DIXON  
You look happy Delayna.

DELAYNA HAYNES.  
I am happy Elpi. You remembered and you released me from your suffocating grief.

ELPI DIXON  
I'm sorry it didn't go as planned.

DELAYNA HAYNES.  
It's all good.

DELAYNA turns HER attention to the other GIRLS. SHE holds out HER hands to THEM. THEY each grab a hand and hold on tight to HER.

DELAYNA HAYNES. (CONT'D)  
I want to thank both of you for the friendship I shared with the both of you. Thank you. I love you guys.

Both VAL and MAYA embrace DELAYNA.

VALENCIA MILLS  
We love you too!

MAYA WILLIAMS  
We love you Delayna!

DELAYNA smiles as SHE hugs THEM back.

DELAYNA HAYNES.

I know you guys do! I love you too!

THEY stop hugging as DELAYNA turns HER attention to ELPI who has tears in HER eyes.

ELPI DIXON

Gimme your hand.

ELPI holds HER hand and DELAYNA takes it and moves it and rests it over ELPI'S heart.

DELAYNA HAYNES.

Right there Elpi. That's where I live now. Right there in your heart.

THEY embrace one last time and ELPI holds HER best friend like SHE never wanted to let go but finally does.

ELPI wipes HER tears as DELAYNA steps away from all of THEM.

ELPI DIXON

Where to now Delayna?

DELAYNA points upward with HER eyes and smiles.

DELAYNA HAYNES.

Home.

SHE glows a bright light again and again vanishes into a thin mist.

ELPI, MAYA and VALENCIA all rest on ELPI'S bed.

MAYA WILLIAMS

She is in a better place isn't she Elpi?

ELPININKI DIXON smiles and closes HER eyes for a moment then opens them once again.

ELPI DIXON

Yes Maya. She most defiantly is in a better place.

ELPI snuffles as SHE dries HER eyes with the palm of HER hand.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)

Soon. We will all be.

Being in the middle of the three GIRLS, ELPI quickly kisses the heads of both girls.

ELPI DIXON (CONT'D)  
Soon, we'll all be in a better  
place.

As The TEENS hold each other in the bed the camera pulls back as we fade to black.

FADE OUT:

THE END