

TRUE FICTION

LOGLINE: On the 5th anniversary of the loss of the love of his life, heartbroken Nick begins seeing absurd and fantastical things that are all in some way connected to his former lover, leading him to set out on a journey with his best friend, Lewis, to rediscover his happiness before it is lost forever.

GENRE: Dramedy

WGAE Registration: I264160

INT. RESTAURANT - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

INSERT TITLE CARD: *5 Years Ago*

NICK HARRISON (22), a romantic and passionate recent college graduate, sits in a booth. ANDIE JAMESON (22), Nick's girlfriend, also a recent college graduate full of life and optimism, sits across from him.

NICK

It's true! Red pandas are the life force of this earth, and we must save them. Save the red pandas.

Nick stands up on his seat and pulls at his shirt, which states, "Save the Red Pandas."

NICK (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Save the red pandas!

Andie reaches across the table and pulls at Nick's pant leg.

ANDIE

Sit down! You're embarrassing me.

Nick sits back down in his seat.

NICK

Oh, you're not embarrassed. You do this stuff all the time.

ANDIE

Not with red pandas! They are extremely adorable though. I will admit that much.

NICK

So, what you're really admitting is that I'm right.

ANDIE

Oh, no, Nick. I would never do that. That would be me bequeathing a tiny bit of my power to you, and you men are always trying to drain the power of us females whenever you can, so I must maintain possession of every drop I possibly can.

NICK

Hey, hey, hey. Bad form. You know I've got your back.

ANDIE
Yeah, yeah. I know.

Andie blows Nick a kiss.

NICK
That's right. You get yours, my bad-
ass Señorita. Taking names and
burning flames, baby.

Nick and Andie fist bump each other across the table.

ANDIE AND NICK
(in unison)
Power to the Pussy!

NICK
Goddamn right.

Andie slurps up the last bit of her mojito.

ANDIE
God, I love my mojitos.

NICK
You're drunk, aren't you?

ANDIE
Just drunk in love . . . with my
mojitos! Seriously, though. I wish
that whenever it rains, that
instead of water falling from the
sky, it would rain mojitos.

NICK
You would be drunk 24/7.

ANDIE
Hallelujah.

NICK
Oh, Andie. You're one of kind, you
know that?

ANDIE
The greatest compliment a person
could receive, so I sincerely thank
you, my good sir.

Andie stands up and performs a curtsy.

ANDIE (CONT'D)

Now, I must bid you adieu, for
though the mojito has yet to
raineth from the sky, it shall
imminently raineth down from
between my legs.

Andie bows down, gives Nick a peck on the cheek, and leaps
away to the bathroom.

NICK

(shaking his head with a
smile)
Goddamn.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LAKEWOOD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Nick and Andie walk through a lit up downtown hand-in-hand,
conversing and laughing. MANY PEDESTRIANS roam about the
area.

Nick and Andie stop in front of a giant stone fountain that
runs several meters long. The fountain is made up of several
smooth, black stones, and there is a waterfall that cascades
down in the center from several feet high, running down into
a koi pond.

ANDIE

This is my favorite part of
downtown.

NICK

Oh, I know, but I don't believe you
have ever told me why. Tell me why,
please.

ANDIE

Why it's where your wishes come
true, of course.

NICK

Is that so?

ANDIE

Yes. Quick. Give me a penny.

Nick rummages around in his pocket and pulls out a dime.

NICK

All I have is a dime.

ANDIE

Ah, bastard. A poor man's penny.

Andie snatches the dime from Nick and kisses him on the cheek.

ANDIE (CONT'D)

Just kidding, love. This shall work wonders.

Andie closes her eyes as she holds the dime close to her heart. She opens her eyes and tosses the dime into the fountain with a smile beaming across her face.

Nick walks up to Andie and wraps his arms around her.

NICK

I love you.

Nick leans in and gives Andie a long, passionate kiss.

ANDIE

You see? It's magical. After only a moment's breath, and my wish has already come true. I love you too.

Andie kisses Nick on the cheek.

ANDIE (CONT'D)

Do you ever think about how lucky we are to have found each other?

NICK

Every day.

ANDIE

Seven billion people on this Earth, and we were able to find each other - my beautiful soulmate. That's a hell of a thing. What if you had ended up on the other side of the world?

NICK

I still would have found you. I would have swum across all the oceans, climbed over every mountain, and ventured across lands unknown. There is nothing in this world, nor any other world, that could stop me from getting to you. So, if you ever get lost or disappear, do not fret, for I shall find you once again.

ANDIE
I'll be waiting.

Nick and Andie kiss. They continue about the fountain. They approach a STREET VIOLINIST. Andie stops in front of the Violinist, releasing her hand from Nick's.

ANDIE (CONT'D)
Oh, my god. Listen to this.

Andie starts to sway about to the music.

ANDIE (CONT'D)
(to the Violinist)
You're a lovely musician.

The Violinist nods in gratitude. Andie continues to sway.

ANDIE (CONT'D)
(to Nick)
Come here. Come dance with me.

NICK
At your request, madame.

Nick and Andie start off in a traditional ballet, slowly moving together with the music. But as the music increases its tempo, the dancers intensify their movements, twirling and leaping about, putting on a show for the next few minutes for SEVERAL BYSTANDERS.

NICK (V.O.)
There are things in this world that straddle the line between fiction and reality. A mirage in the desert. A task performed under extreme exhaustion or drunkenness. A dream in the night. The mind is a feeble thing and is often manipulated by outside forces, such as foreign substances or a traumatic event. Time, however, is the greatest manipulator of all with its cunningness, the way that it warps our memories - did the events that occurred in our lives actually ever happen at all?

As the song comes to a close, Nick dips Andie and leans in for a kiss.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

INSERT TITLE CARD: *Present Day*

NICK HARRISON (27), a heartbroken man who has gained a pessimistic view of the world, stands in front of his STUDENTS in his History class.

NICK

(dispiriting)

The past never lets us go. Native American genocide, slavery, war, women's rights, civil rights. All of these events and movements create feelings inside of people, these . . . beliefs, that get passed down from generation to generation. Family. Friends. Partners. Parties. Elections. Graduations. Love. Life. Death. History defines who we are today.

Nick turns around and grabs a dry erase marker sitting on the ledge of the white board.

NICK (CONT'D)

There are some dates that create similar feelings among a group of people.

Nick writes several dates on the board: 09/11/2001, 12/07/1941, 07/04/1776.

NICK (CONT'D)

I can bet that all of you think of the same things when you see these dates. Now, there are also dates that are more personal - dates that could mean everything to one person and nothing to the next. Birthdays. Scoring a game-winning goal. Writing your first song.

Nick turns and writes the current date on the board: 10/03/2019.

NICK (CONT'D)

Does this date mean something to any of you?

CUT TO:

INT. LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - LATER THAT DAY

Nick stands in the front of his classroom, all alone, staring at the date on the board. He walks up to the board and writes 10/03/2014 a few inches to the left of the current date. He circles it several times before drawing an arrow and writing, "Everything."

Nick falls to the floor, leaning back against his desk. He places his face in his hands and cries.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - DOWNTOWN LAKEWOOD - NIGHT

Nick sits at a bar, nursing half a glass of beer. He chugs it and gets off of the stool. He walks over to a piano and sits down. He starts to play and sing an original song called, "Skin & Bone."

NICK

(singing)

*Take another anti-depressant /
Maybe two, maybe three, maybe four
or more / Empty bottles where the
sleeping pills sleep / I can't fall
asleep without you here with me /
The incessant merri-go-round of my
tortuous memory / The grief that
buries itself inside the empty
cavity / Where my soul used to but
no longer resides / It's physical
presence is more than I can bear /
In my blood, in my brain / It's
invading me everywhere / There's no
one here to watch me as I disappear
/ Every night I return to an empty
home / In the saddest world I've
ever known / My heart can't beat
alone / You knew that, so you took
my heart away with you / When you
vanished and left me on my own /
Now I'm nothing but skin and bone.*

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LAKEWOOD - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Nick fumbles with the see-through door from inside of the bar. He manages to get it open, but he stumbles drunkenly backwards out of the bar. He tries to kick the door as it slowly closes, but he misses.

NICK
Stupid, dilapidated door. I'm going
to come back for you, you hear me?
This isn't over.

Nick strolls through downtown. A FEW PEDESTRIANS walk along the sidewalks, but the area is mostly empty.

Nick stops in front of that same fountain that he danced in front of with Andie.

NICK (CONT'D)
(talking to the fountain)
Five years, Andie. Five goddamn
years.

Nick closes his eyes and inhales deeply. Anguishing, he opens his eyes back up.

NICK (CONT'D)
This is the place that I was going
to propose to you. I had the whole
night planned. I even had a ring
picked out.

Nick pulls out an engagement ring from his pocket.

NICK (CONT'D)
And I still carry it around every
day, allowing it to haunt me.

Nick holds the ring up in front of his face.

NICK (CONT'D)
All of my happiness was with you. I
wish . . . I wish I could be happy
once again.

Nick tosses the ring into the fountain. It sinks to the bottom of the fountain, landing on top of a dime.

NICK (CONT'D)
But it's all gone, and it's never
coming back.

ZOOM in on Nick's face.

CUT TO:

INT. NICK'S HOUSE, LAKEWOOD - THE NEXT MORNING

Nick lies asleep in his bed. An old picture of him with Andie sits on the night stand. He opens his eyes and jerks upright. He scans his room, confused.

CUT TO:

BATHROOM

Nick stands in front of the mirror, brushing his teeth. A MALE TODDLER crawls across the doorway behind him. The Toddler CHUCKLES. Nick turns around but sees nothing. He continues brushing.

The Toddler crawls across the doorway and CHUCKLES again. Nick turns around, but once again, he sees nothing.

Nick turns on the faucet and spits. He turns off the faucet and stares into the mirror. The Toddler stands in the doorway behind him, CHUCKLING. Nick spins around.

NICK

Hello?

TODDLER

Hi.

The Toddler continues to CHUCKLE. Nick looks left, then right, and then back at the Toddler.

NICK

Who are you?

TODDLER

Bubba.

NICK

Bubba? Bubba who?

TODDLER

Bubba Da Baby!

BUBBA DA BABY smiles and claps his hands.

NICK

Oh, okay, Bubba Da Baby. How did you get here?

Bubba Da Baby places his index finger against his lips.

BUBBA DA BABY

Sssssssssshhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

NICK

Did you break in? Huh? Did you
crawl in through the doggy door?
Wait, I don't have one of those.

BUBBA DA BABY

Go fly kite!

NICK

Excuse me?

BUBBA DA BABY

Ha! Fuck you.

Bubba Da Baby CHUCKLES and scurries away. Nick looks out into the bedroom, but there isn't anyone there.

Nick walks back to the sink and splashes water on his face, but it's not enough. He slaps himself hard across the face.

CUT TO:

I/E. NICK'S HOUSE - LATER THAT MORNING

Nick walks to the back door and opens it.

A CHIMPANZEE in a white tuxedo and black bowtie stands on the patio, SINGING "Blue Highway" by Neil Diamond.

CHIMPANZEE

(singing)

SO LONG BIG CITY / IT'S TIME TO SAY
GOODBYE / I'M LONGING FOR THOSE
COUNTRY ROADS / I NEED TO SEE THE
SKY / THINK I'LL TAKE A SWING DOWN
SOUTH / VISIT TENNESSEE /SEE IF
THAT GIRL ANDIE / STILL REMEMBERS
ME.

Nick turns around, closes the door, and walks a few feet before stopping. He stares off. Someone KNOCKS on the front door.

Nick walks over to the front door and opens it.

Nick's best friend, LEWIS PARKER (27), a heavy, energetic, and loyal man, stands in the doorway with a grand smile on his face.

LEWIS

Hey, Nick!

Nick
Hey, Lewis.

Nick walks away, leaving the door open for Lewis. Lewis enters and closes the door behind him.

LEWIS
You look a little frazzled.

Nick walks to the KITCHEN and stares at a picture on the fridge of him engaging in a kiss with Andie. Lewis follows.

NICK
I am. That's not the word I would choose, but yes, I'm feeling a bit frazzled this morning.

LEWIS
What's going on?

NICK
There's a singing monkey in my backyard.

LEWIS
Come again.

NICK
There is a monkey - a chimpanzee - singing Neil Diamond in my backyard.

LEWIS
You don't say. Well, I take back the frazzled. I think you might have turned a bit looney.

NICK
I think I've been going a little crazy every day since she passed. Maybe it's just caught up with me.

LEWIS
Perhaps. I guess it was all in due time that you would completely lose your mind.

Nick nods. Lewis glances in the direction of the back door.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
What song is he singing?

NICK
What difference does it make?

LEWIS

I love Neil Diamond, and I might want to join in. Maybe the monkey and I could perform a duet.

NICK

You don't believe me.

LEWIS

Now, you know me, and you know that I often believe in things that a majority of other people don't believe in like red paint being the most dangerous to swallow, or a chameleon moving fastest when's it's orange, or pouring a martini on a wound will heal it. But I mean, it's a singing monkey.

NICK

Follow me.

Nick leads Lewis to the back door and opens it.

Nick motions with his arm for Lewis to view outside. Lewis steps into the doorway.

CUT TO:

BACKYARD

The Chimpanzee sings "Deep Inside of You" by Neil Diamond.

CHIMPANZEE

(singing)

JUST TELL ME YOU LOVE ME /
BECAUSE I NEED TO HEAR IT TOO /
JUST LET ME BE THE ONE / YOU CARRY
DEEP, INSIDE OF YOU.

Lewis turns his head toward Nick, then back to the Chimpanzee, and back to Nick again.

LEWIS

Well, I'll be damned. There's a fucking monkey singing Neil Diamond in your backyard.

NICK

I told you.

Nick SIGHS and walks away. Lewis closes the door and follows.

LEWIS

Can you blame me for not believing you? I mean, there's never been a singing monkey before, has there? He sounds pretty good though. "Deep Inside of You." That's a classic.

NICK

Yeah, he was singing "Blue Highway" earlier.

LEWIS

Ah, another flawless diamond.

NICK

Right, but I think he changed some of the words.

LEWIS

Like what?

NICK

Instead of "Annie," it sounded like he said "Andie."

LEWIS

Uh, huh. Sure he did.

NICK

That's what I heard.

LEWIS

Are you sure you didn't just hear that because that's what you wanted to hear?

NICK

No.

LEWIS

(singing)

I'D TRAVEL THE WHOLE WORLD / ACROSS
THE EARTH, AROUND THE SUN / IF I
COULD BE THE ONE / YOU CARRY DEEP
INSIDE OF YOU.

NICK

Lewis! That's enough. It's bad enough when I have to listen to one monkey sing it.

LEWIS

Fine, fine. Hey, wait a second. I thought you hated Neil Diamond.

NICK

I do.

LEWIS

Then, how do you know the words to his songs? Wait, wasn't Andie a big Neil Diamond fan?

NICK

Maybe. Why does it matter?

LEWIS

You just yelled at me for singing his song. I bet you never yelled at *her* when she sang them.

NICK

There wasn't a monkey singing his songs when she was around.

LEWIS

Fair point; nonetheless, I think you should take it a little easier on me . . . and Neil, especially Neil. What did he ever do to you? You better watch out. He's going to write a song about you.

NICK

Oh, my God, are we still talking about Neil fucking Diamond?

Lewis stares innocently at Nick.

LEWIS

Do you not want to?

Nick SIGHS again and heads to the kitchen.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I'm pretty sure his middle name is Leslie by the way, not fucking, although that would be pretty bad-ass.

Lewis, without receiving a response, follows Nick.

CUT TO:

KITCHEN

Nick sits down in a chair at the table. Lewis sits down in a chair across from Nick and grabs a banana from the bowl sitting in the center of the table.

Lewis peels the banana and starts eating it.

LEWIS

So, what in God's name is going on here, Nick? I mean, why is there a monkey singing Neil Diamond in your backyard?

NICK

What did I just say?

LEWIS

Hey, we have to figure out what's going on here, and in order to do that, we have to talk about Neil.

Nick takes a moment to contemplate what Lewis just said before giving in.

NICK

Fine. Let's talk about Neil.

LEWIS

Yes. So, what do you think is happening?

NICK

I don't have a clue.

LEWIS

Good start, Nick. Huh, wait! Maybe the monkey is actually an alien! He was dropped here from another planet, far away from here, to find out about the natural resources that our planet has to offer, and in time will come back on his mother ship and obliterate us all.

NICK

(glaring)

I don't think that's it.

LEWIS

It could happen.

NICK

No.

LEWIS
A robot?

NICK
No.

LEWIS
Did you check to see if it had a
battery pack in its back?

NICK
He's not a robot.

LEWIS
Maybe I should go check.

Lewis looks in the direction of the back door.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
He does happen to be all the way
over there though . . .

NICK
He's not a robot.

LEWIS
All right. Agree to disagree. So,
what's your take then, my friend?
If it's not aliens or robots, then
what is it? Should we take him to
the zoo or something?

NICK
Yes, because zoos always have
singing monkeys in their
exhibitions.

LEWIS
I bet it would make the zoo a lot
of money, which means they would
pay us a lot of money to get it.
Nick, we'll be rich!

NICK
Lewis, no.

LEWIS
Hey, I'm throwing out tons of great
ideas here. If you don't like them,
then tell me your theory. You keep
shooting down my ideas, but fail to
provide any of your own. You know
what that makes you?

NICK
What, Lewis?

LEWIS
A jackass.

NICK
I'll accept that.

LEWIS
You have to persuade me from my
thinking if you believe I'm wrong.

NICK
(shaking his head)
I'm dumbfounded, Lewis. I thought I
was just going crazy because there
was the thing that happened this
morning too. But, if you can see it
too, then I, I just, I don't know.
I don't know.

LEWIS
What happened this morning?

Lewis shoves the second half of the banana in his mouth. He
pauses his chewing.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Do you think I should offer the
monkey a banana?

NICK
No, Lewis. I don't think you should
offer the singing monkey a banana.

LEWIS
But, monkeys love bananas.

NICK
You know, I think I lose one strand
of hair from my head every time you
speak.

Lewis shrugs and then smiles with his mouth still full of
banana. He swallows.

LEWIS
So, where were we? Oh, right.
Something happened to you this
morning. Please, do tell.

NICK
I saw this little kid --

LEWIS
How little?

NICK
Real little. Maybe two or three.

LEWIS
Oh, gotcha.

NICK
Yeah, he was just --

LEWIS
Where did you see him?

NICK
In the bathroom.

LEWIS
Got it.

NICK
Yeah, he was stand --

LEWIS
What did he look like?

NICK
Jesus, Lewis! Will you let me tell
the damn story?

LEWIS
Yeah, sorry. Go on. I'm listening.

Lewis sits back straight in his chair and focuses on Nick.

NICK
Thank you. Anyway, I was in the
bathroom, and this kid just appears
out of nowhere. He was just
standing there, laughing.

LEWIS
At you?

NICK
I don't know. Maybe. I don't think
I was doing anything funny though.

LEWIS
Maybe you were doing something a
kid would think is funny. What were
you doing?

NICK
Brushing my teeth.

LEWIS
Huh. Yeah, I don't get it. Who was he?

NICK
Some kid. He said his name was Bubba Da Baby.

Lewis nods his head and smiles.

LEWIS
Nice. Did he say anything else?

NICK
He just swore at me and disappeared.

LEWIS
Damn kids. Maybe he's your damn kid.

NICK
No.

LEWIS
Are you sure?

NICK
For chrissakes, Lewis! Yes, I'm positive. You have to have sex to have a kid.

LEWIS
Ah, not getting any?

NICK
We're not having this conversation.

LEWIS
Okay, fine. We're not having this conversation. If you say he's not your kid, then I'll take your word for it.

Nick rests his head in his hands.

NICK

I don't know what to do, man. I tried to, you know, to keep my mind focused other things like cooking breakfast and reading, but that obviously didn't work. It just led to something even crazier.

LEWIS

I know what we have to do.

NICK

(skeptically)
You do?

LEWIS

Yes. We must exit this home immediately, for it is infected with some foreign matter that has tainted our brains, and only fresh air can heal our wounded minds.

NICK

You didn't have to be so poetic. A simple, "Let's get out of here" would have sufficed.

LEWIS

Yeah, but that's not my style. You know me.

NICK

You are correct about that, my friend. I do know you. I don't know why I would expect anything else.

Lewis and Nick stand up out of their seats.

LEWIS

All right, let's do it!

Lewis holds up his hand for Nick to give him a high-five. Nick walks past him. Lewis drops his arm and hangs his head.

Nick slips on his shoes and SIGHS. He walks back and raises Lewis' arm. He high-fives him.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

(excitedly)
Yes. There it is.

Nick opens the door.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
 Hey, do you think the chimp is
 pissed that we keep referring to
 him as a monkey?

Nick bites down on his lip and takes a deep breath.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
 What?

Nick and Lewis exit the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUMMERFIELD PARK - DAY

Nick and Lewis walk together along a path through the park. The park is mostly a winding trail of sidewalks with a few large, grassy fields, a couple of playground areas, and a pond about the size of a football field. A VENDOR sells balloons.

LEWIS
 Hey, there. That's what we need.

Lewis points to the balloons.

NICK
 A balloon?

LEWIS
 Of course, a balloon! That'll lift
 our spirits.

NICK
 Lewis, we're 27 years old.

LEWIS
 Yeah, so?

NICK
 Well, a, I think we're a little too
 old to feel the uplifting effect
 that a balloon could have, and b,
 don't you find it a little strange
 for two grown men to be buying
 balloons together?

LEWIS
 What? No! What are you, self-
 conscious or something?
 (MORE)

LEWIS (CONT'D)

You're never too old to enjoy the wonderful, multifaceted simplicity of a balloon.

NICK

Wow.

LEWIS

It's so simple, yet so unique and complex. You can be a 90-year-old senile man, or a little baby girl, or everything in between.

NICK

Sometimes, I do wonder. I truly do.

LEWIS

So, how bout' it?

NICK

What can I say? You're incredibly persuasive.

Lewis smiles and pats Nick on the back.

LEWIS

Thadda' boy.

NICK

You're paying though.

Lewis buys a red balloon for himself and a blue balloon for Nick. They continue walking through the park with their balloons floating above their heads.

LEWIS

See, now doesn't this make you feel better?

NICK

You know what? It kind of does.

LEWIS

I guess that proves it. There are times where I do know what I'm talking about.

Nick and Lewis pass a LITTLE GIRL holding a purple balloon. She vomits. She picks up a diamond ring from her puke and holds it up to Nick.

LITTLE GIRL

Will you marry me?

Nick covers his mouth with his hand, trying to keep from throwing up himself.

NICK

Um, hi. I'm sorry. I'm really sorry, but I can't.

Nick scurries away.

NICK (CONT'D)

(to Lewis)

I can't believe that. I mean, I feel bad because she was just this little girl, but --

LEWIS

Can't believe what?

NICK

The little girl. You didn't see her?

LEWIS

What little girl?

NICK

With the purple balloon. The little girl. She was right over th --

Nick and Lewis turn around to look for the Little Girl. Nick stares at the spot where she was standing. It's empty.

NICK (CONT'D)

Where did she go? She was right there a second ago. The puke is gone too.

LEWIS

Puke? Are you seeing things again, Nick?

NICK

Maybe. Yeah, I think so.

LEWIS

A little girl and puke, huh?

NICK

Yep.

LEWIS

So much for the fresh air.

Nick and Lewis walk together, side-by-side, with their balloons floating in the air above them.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

So, do you want to talk about it?

NICK

No.

LEWIS

C'mon, tell me. You never talk about it. Maybe it'll help. You never know. You've tried not talking about it for such a long time, and that hasn't done a thing for you. So, maybe it's time.

NICK

No, I can't.

LEWIS

Maybe that's why you're going crazy. You've been keeping your feelings bottled up inside all these years. Maybe it's progressed from merely affecting your heart and soul and is now infecting your brain. It can't be good.

NICK

What explains you going crazy, then?

LEWIS

I'm always crazy. This is just a minor development in my life.

NICK

(laughing)
Yeah, perhaps.

LEWIS

So, tell me.

Nick hesitates before giving in.

NICK

It's just . . . I should be over it by now, you know?

LEWIS

It *has* been a long time.

NICK

Five years is more than a long time.

LEWIS

That's true, but that's not something you get over in five years. Hell, you don't get over that in fifty years. That's the sort of thing you never get over, and if that's what you're waiting for, then you're never going to be able to move on.

NICK

I don't think I can.

LEWIS

And you never will if you keep refusing to try. You've been keeping everything hidden away inside of you. You never talk about it with anyone. It's destroying you, Nick. It's not what she would've wanted.

Nick stares at the ground, looking for the words. He looks at Lewis.

NICK

But, what if I don't want to move on. I was always hers.

LEWIS

I know you were, Nick.

NICK

How could I ever belong to someone else?

LEWIS

I don't know, but what I do know is that you'll never know the answer to that question either if you never try.

NICK

How can I try when her presence still lingers everywhere I go? I can still see her face. I can still hear her voice. I can still feel her inside every inch of me.

Nick stares around the park, taking it all in.

NICK (CONT'D)

And this park. This was the place where we went on our first date. I mean, we were together before that, but this was the first time we went out on an actual date, our first real date. We were only 12 years old. We were taking a stroll by the lake. We had just gotten cotton candy from one of the vendors. She got blue, and I got pink. Those were the ones we preferred. We were walking, talking, eating. She slipped her hand in mine, and she smiled. She had this look on her face, and it was the first time I noticed it. She was so happy. Alive. In love. So beautiful. The whole world before her. That's when I knew. That's when I knew that she was the one I wanted to be with always.

LEWIS

You know what I think? I think that you are one lucky guy.

NICK

Why do you say that?

LEWIS

Because that seems like one incredibly special memory to have, and it's all yours. Not everyone gets a memory like that to hold on to. Some people live lifetimes without experiencing a moment like that.

NICK

It is special, but I don't feel so lucky. Everyone keeps telling me that first love is a truly remarkable thing and should always be remembered, but vast love is what's important - that's something that lasts a lifetime. But, what if your first love and your vast love are one in the same? How do you move on when it slips away?

LEWIS

I don't know, Nick.

NICK

We used to have these dreams. We were going to get married, live in a grand house, bring up children who would become better versions of ourselves, retire on an island somewhere in the Pacific. We had our entire lives planned out.

LEWIS

Those are wonderful dreams to have.

NICK

I haven't dreamed in such a long time. All I ever receive are memories - kisses and wounds from days gone by. I still remember everything about her - our life together. I remember it all like it was yesterday. It's been ten years, and these memories reverberate around in my head. It's growing harder and harder to believe that they were ever real at all - merely works of fiction that I created a lifetime ago. I can't let that happen. I can't let her become just another work of fiction. She was real.

Lewis puts his hand on Nick's back. Nick hangs his head. When he lifts it back up, something moves in the pond in front of him. TWO EYES, resting on the surface, stare back at him.

NICK (CONT'D)

Do you see that?

LEWIS

What?

NICK

In the water. There's something there.

A GIRAFFE raises its head above the water, fully displaying its neck. The Giraffe walks back and forth in the water, bobbing its head.

NICK (CONT'D)

C'mon, now. This is getting ridiculous.

Nick walks to the edge of the pond. Lewis follows quickly behind.

NICK (CONT'D)

How the hell does a giraffe swim in
a five-foot pond?

LEWIS

A giraffe?

NICK

You don't see it? Look!

Nick points to the left side of the pond. A Giraffe swims in
a five-foot pond.

LEWIS

Jesus, Joseph, and Giraffe!

The Giraffe climbs out of the pond and walks until he's a
great distance from it.

The Giraffe gallops at full speed up to the pond and does a
cannonball into the water. It disappears beneath the surface.

NICK

(shaking his head)

I can't take this anymore.

LEWIS

It's okay. We'll figure it out. I
mean, if you think about it, this
isn't any crazier than a singing
monkey, or excuse me - chimp.

NICK

True, but that was a solitary freak
event. I mean, there was the baby,
and the little girl, but those were
believable incidents, albeit quite
strange, but they were things that
could actually happen. That chimp
wasn't. But, now that there's a
second occurrence, it's too much to
ignore.

LEWIS

Were we trying to ignore it?

Nick ignores Lewis' question.

NICK

What is happening to me?

LEWIS

I'm seeing things too, so shouldn't
it be, "What is happening to us?"

Nick walks to a bench without responding and sits down. He holds his balloon between his hands. Lewis follows but remains standing in front of Nick.

NICK

We have to figure this thing out,
Lewis. We have to, we have to, we
have to.

Nick slaps the balloon three times with his hand. On the third slap, the balloon POPS.

LEWIS

Huh! Look what you did.

NICK

Lewis, forget the balloon.

LEWIS

Hey, don't get mad at me. I'm not
the one who wasted a totally
perfect balloon. You just made
someone very upset.

NICK

You?

LEWIS

No.

NICK

Who?

LEWIS

Someone! Think about it; later
today, a nice person is going to be
strolling through the park, wanting
a balloon, but they're not going to
be able to get one because there
won't be any left, and the guy who
was selling the balloons will tell
this nice person that they would've
had one left if a mean man hadn't
had bought one just to let it go to
waste. So, how do you feel? You
just ruined a nice person's day.

NICK

How would the guy selling the
balloons know that it was me?

LEWIS

I'll tell him.

NICK
You're going to tattle on me?

LEWIS
You're damn right I will.

Nick stands up and pops Lewis' balloon. Lewis GASPS.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
You bastard.

NICK
Let's go.

Nick heads off as Lewis stands in shock.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S DINER - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

Nick and Lewis enter Saul's Diner, a 1950's-type diner with a bar and stools, a checkerboard floor, and a jukebox. They sit at the bar.

NICK
This isn't exactly what I had in mind. I really don't think Saul's is going to have the answer we're looking for. I mean, I thought we decided to get some fresh air.

LEWIS
I know, but the fresh air clearly didn't do us any good, and I figured a little food might.

Lewis pats his belly.

NICK
Of course you did.

LEWIS
And besides, Saul is a wise, old man, and wise, old men are often full of wisdom, so maybe he has the answer.

NICK
Uh, huh. Sure, Lewis.

LEWIS
I don't even remember the last time we came here together. When was it?

NICK

A long time ago.

Nick and Lewis sit down at the counter where SAUL (70), the owner of the diner, is working.

LEWIS

Hey, Saul. How's it going?

SAUL

Hey there, Lewis. I'm not doing too bad. These legs of mine still got their engine going full-steam. I tell ya, I might be aging on the outside, but on the inside, I've never felt better.

LEWIS

That's good to hear. You sure look like you could kick my ass.

SAUL

Ya betcha, kid. Maybe if ya start laying off my burgers.

LEWIS

Now, how I could I possibly do that when you make them so damn delicious?

SAUL

I do make a mean cheeseburger. So, how many will it be for ya today?

LEWIS

Three please, with extra mayo.

SAUL

Mayo? I don't put mayo on my burgers.

LEWIS

Oh, right. Well, put a couple containers of it on the side, will you? Throw in a vanilla shake with them too.

SAUL

If that's what ya want kid, I won't stop ya. I won't agree with ya, but I won't stop ya.

LEWIS

I appreciate that, Saul.

Saul nods.

SAUL
(to Nick)
And how about ya, lonely fella? Ya
look like ya have been hurt.

LEWIS
He always looks that way.

Nick slaps Lewis on the arm.

NICK
(Saul)
What do you mean?

SAUL
I've seen enough pain and heartache
in my time to sense when it's near.
Plus, ya can see it in your eyes.

NICK
You can?

Nick looks at Lewis. Lewis points to his head.

LEWIS
Wise.

SAUL
(to Nick)
Yep. Ya don't have to say anything
for me to know. It's written all
over your eyes. A person's eyes say
so much more than their words. Ya
know, a person can lie all they
want with their words; they can't
lie with their eyes, and judging by
the look in yours, she must have
been pretty special.

NICK
She was. We actually use to come
here all the time.

SAUL
That's funny. I don't recognize ya.
I usually remember the regulars.

NICK
That was several years ago.

Nick looks down at the bar. Saul puts his hand on Nick's
wrist.

SAUL
How about a burger on the house?

NICK
Thanks, but I'll just take a club.

SAUL
I can do that too.

Saul heads into the kitchen. Lewis takes a napkin from the dispenser and makes an origami swan.

LEWIS
(to Nick)
Ha. Look at this.

Nick doesn't move. Lewis taps him on the arm.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Hey, Nick. Look.

Lewis places the swan on the counter and moves it slowly across the surface.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
I'm swimming, I'm swimming, I'm swimming.

Lewis runs the swan off the edge of the counter.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Oh, no. I've fallen into a black hole of death, and I can't escape.

Lewis crumbles the swan with his hand.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Yep, I'm dead.

NICK
Wow, you really are a child.

LEWIS
At heart, yes.

NICK
Okay, so can we get back to business?

LEWIS
Sure thing, Nick.

NICK

Good. So, I've been thinking. We both had that wine last night, right?

LEWIS

Yes. One of us more than the other . . . and your use of the term "last night" should be used lightly as it was about one o' clock in the morning when you showed up banging on my door, drunk, yelling at me to crack open a bottle.

NICK

Lewis, I'm being serious here.

LEWIS

Right, right, right.

NICK

And no one else had any?

LEWIS

No, well, I did give the last remaining bit to Chuckie.

NICK

Chuckie? Who's Chu-- Wait, are you talking about your dog?

LEWIS

Yep. Good ol' Chuck-Chucks.

NICK

I'm not talking about animals, Lewis. Did any other people have any?

LEWIS

No.

NICK

Okay. I was thinking maybe it was poisoned or had gone bad or something, and so all of these things we are seeing are just hallucinations - images brought upon us by a foreign substance.

LEWIS

Hmmmmmmmmmm. I never thought about that. That's interesting.

NICK
I know, right?

Lewis taps his chin with his hand, contemplating the idea. He shakes his head.

LEWIS
Although, not really. No, I don't think that's it.

NICK
What? Why not?

LEWIS
I don't know. It's definitely plausible, but I just don't think that's it. I feel like it's something bigger than that. Something huge. Poisoned hallucinations would be a disappointing ending to this adventure. It's too easy. Too boring.

NICK
I don't think so. I think that's exactly what it is. That's my theory, and I'm sticking with it. You always buy all that cheap shit that I can barely get down.

LEWIS
Hey, you told me you liked it, and if you have so much trouble drinking it, then maybe you shouldn't drink it at all.

NICK
I probably won't after today.

LEWIS
Good. Leave it for the man and the dog who actually appreciate it.

NICK
That's perfectly fine with me.

LEWIS
Fine.
(beat)
Do you want me to ask Chuckie if he's seen anything weird today?

NICK
I'm not answering that question.

LEWIS
Fine. Let's ask Saul, then.

NICK
Saul?

Lewis nods his head and turns to Saul.

LEWIS
Hey, Saul.

Saul walks over to Lewis.

SAUL
Ya boys just hang on. Your food
will be out in a minute.

LEWIS
Thanks, Saul, but I got a question
for you.

SAUL
Okay, shoot.

LEWIS
All right. Let's say you're seeing
things, absurd and unbelievable
things - things that make you
question if they're real or not.

SAUL
What kind of absurd and
unbelievable things?

LEWIS
Let's say, something like, a
singing monkey, perhaps.

SAUL
A singing monkey? Like a capuchin?

LEWIS
No, I'm good, thanks. Nick, do you
want one?

NICK
He said capuchin, not cappuccino.

LEWIS
Oh. What's a capuchin?

NICK
It's a little monkey.

LEWIS
(to Saul)
Oh, no. It's a chimpanzee, sorry.
If you saw a *chimpanzee* singing,
oh, let's say a Neil Diamond song
for example, what would you think?

SAUL
I'd say I was crazy.

LEWIS
Crazy?

SAUL
Yep. Right down the line, no doubt
about it, crazy. That, or I was on
drugs.

Lewis looks to Nick as if to ask if it could be drugs. Nick
shakes his head.

LEWIS
Right. Thanks, Saul.

SAUL
No problem. Always glad to help.

NICK
(to Saul)
What if two people saw it?

SAUL
Two people? Seeing the exact same
thing? The same singing chimpanzee?

NICK
Yes.

SAUL
I'd say those two better pack their
bags and hitch a ride to the moon.
They ain't in Wonderland. There's
no waking up for those folks. I'd
tell ya what it be - Armageddon.

LEWIS
Armageddon? You really think so?
Like end of the world Armageddon?

SAUL
Yep. Like one of my burgers here.

A WAITRESS brings Lewis' and Nick's food. Saul points to one of the burgers.

SAUL (CONT'D)

All the people, they're like little germs, little E. Coli on an uncooked burger. But, when the burger gets cooked, when it gets fried to a crisp, all that E. Coli gets killed off.

LEWIS

So, we're all little E. Coli?

SAUL

Yep.

LEWIS

Jesus.

SAUL

Armageddon. Or . . . they're both on drugs.

Saul nods his head and walks back to the kitchen. Nick starts to eat his club sandwich. Lewis' mouth hangs open.

LEWIS

Man, this sucks!

NICK

What?

LEWIS

We're gonna die.

NICK

No, we're not, Lewis. Relax.

LEWIS

But, you heard what Saul said. It's over. My life. Your life. It's over. Done. Spent. Kaput.

Lewis shakes his head.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I was really looking forward to eating these burgers too, but now I can't because my life is going to end, and food is worthless to me now.

NICK

Lewis, it's okay. Saul doesn't know what he's talking about. He's just taking a wild guess. He hasn't experienced what we have.

Lewis hyperventilates. Nick grabs Lewis' face with both of his hands and turns it toward him.

NICK (CONT'D)

There is no Armageddon. You are not going to die. Okay? Do you believe me? Do you trust me?

Lewis nods. Nick gives Lewis a love tap on the cheek and continues eating. Lewis lets out a SIGH and clutches his chest with his hand.

LEWIS

That's a relief.

NICK

I know.

LEWIS

For a minute there I actually thought I wasn't going to be able to eat my burgers.

Lewis picks up a burger and takes an enormous bite.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUL'S DINER - 30 MINUTES LATER

Saul walks up to Nick and Lewis, who are just finishing up their meals.

SAUL

Sorry fellas, but have either of you seen my glasses?

LEWIS

Nope. Not here, Saul.

SAUL

Oh, ya know what? So silly of me.

Saul reaches into his pocket and pulls out his glasses.

SAUL (CONT'D)

I've noticed throughout all my years that whenever I'm searching for something, no matter what it might be, I've come to realize that it usually turns up in a pocket.

Saul walks away. Nick finishes the last of his water.

LEWIS

Well, check your pockets, man.

NICK

Wait, he meant that literally?

LEWIS

You saw his glasses.

Nick reaches into the right pocket of his pants. He pulls out a small piece of paper.

NICK

It's a note.

LEWIS

What's it say?

NICK

You have until midnight to find your happiness; otherwise, it shall vanish forever.

LEWIS

Well, fuck. We gotta get moving.

Lewis rushes to get out of his seat. His foot gets caught on the bar stool. He falls to the floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAUL'S DINER - TWO MINUTES LATER

Nick and Lewis stand outside of the diner.

LEWIS

So, now what, Nick?

NICK

Maybe we should just head back home. Just try to wait it out, you know? Maybe sitting around and doing nothing is our best option.

LEWIS
Like Switzerland.

NICK
Yes, wait, what? No.

LEWIS
Hey, you were joking, right? About going back home? We can't go back home now. We're too far into this thing. You don't have a day like this and just go home and try to pretend it never happened. We just discovered the purpose of all this. We need to find your happiness!

NICK
What fucking happiness, Lewis? How can I lose something that I don't have? Huh? This is all a little too much for me. I lead a simple life. I never asked for this.

LEWIS
You know, you're right. You may have never asked for this, but maybe you need it. You stopped living your life the moment Andie died, and maybe this is all just one grand adventure with really no other purpose than to give you a chance to reignite that fire in your heart. She wants you to get out and start living again. She wants you to move on, to find . . . your happiness.

NICK
Goddamnit, Lewis. I hate when you do this.

(beat)
You know, the little girl I saw earlier proposed to me with a ring that looked exactly like the one I had for Andie.

LEWIS
Huh. Maybe it's a clue.

NICK
What sort of clue?

LEWIS

I don't know. That monkey, er, excuse me - that *chimp* - was singing songs by a singer that Andie loved. Did Bubba Da Baby have any sort of connection with her?

NICK

She did have an uncle who went by Bubba, and he did look like a baby.

LEWIS

Maybe that's it.

NICK

What? Andie?

LEWIS

Yes, and there was the park too! We have to find things, go places that meant something to her - to the two of you. Look at all the signs. How many places have we been to, and how many things have we seen that remind you of Andie? Places and things that meant something to you two? Don't you see it? This is her telling you to remember her but to move on. Go out and live your life. Roll the windows down. Bathe in the sunlight. I was right! You must start a new adventure.

Nick SIGHS and grabs Lewis' shoulder in gratitude.

NICK

You're too good to me, Lewis.

LEWIS

I know I am. You just remember that. You remember who stuck by you during all those years when you were a boring, selfish, son-of-a-bitch.

NICK

Always.

Nick and Lewis hug each other.

NICK (CONT'D)

But, in case I happen to forget for some reason, feel free to remind me.

LEWIS

You bet your sweet ass I will.

NICK

Okay, good. Look, I didn't tell you this before, but the note that I found . . . it was in Andie's handwriting.

LEWIS

Good God, man. When was the last time you washed those pants?

NICK

It hasn't been in there since before she died, you numbnuts. It just appeared there as if by magic.

LEWIS

Well, shit. Check your other pocket. Maybe there's some more magic in there.

Nick reaches into the left pocket of his pants and pulls out another note.

NICK

*The destination you seek is near.
Go to the place where the giraffe
has no fear.*

LEWIS

Wow. We didn't have to work very hard for that clue, did we?

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKEWOOD - CONTINUOUS

Nick and Lewis walk down a sidewalk, heading back to the park.

LEWIS

So, I think we should keep talking about it.

NICK

I've told you everything already.

LEWIS

No, you haven't. I mean, yes, I was there in high school when you were together, and then through college, and I saw how you two were, but ever since she passed, you haven't talked about her. I've asked you so many times, and you have always refused.

NICK

It was too difficult.

LEWIS

I think you're capable now. I started to break you this morning, and I think it was helping, so let's hear more.

NICK

No, I can't.

LEWIS

C'mon, you can --

NICK

Lewis, no.

LEWIS

You think I don't see it, Nick? The dull despair in your eyes? I know there used to be a light in there, and that it vanished when Andie died, I know. I love you. You're my best friend, and I miss seeing that light. I keep hoping that it's still in there somewhere buried beneath the pain and ash. I keep hoping that one day I will see that light again, even if it is nothing more than a flicker. This is why I'm here. This is why I have stuck beside you all these years.

NICK

Where the hell did that come from?

LEWIS

I've had five years to think about it. Even I can have a way with words when given that long to contemplate. I've said those words in my head probably thousands of times.

(MORE)

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I was just finally able to get them out. It finally felt like the right time.

NICK

You know you're a great friend, right?

LEWIS

Thanks.

NICK

And you know I love you too.

LEWIS

I know.

Nick and Lewis walk through the entrance of the park.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

You know, I've been in love before.

NICK

(surprised)
Really?

LEWIS

Yep, tis' true.

NICK

I've known you since I was fifteen years old, and I don't recall you ever being in love.

LEWIS

It was always something I kept to myself. I'm not lying to you. It's happened. Lots of times.

NICK

With who?

LEWIS

Let's see, there was Natalie Portman, that hot chick in Biology, Cate Blanchett, that nurse who took care of me when I was in the hospital with pneumonia, Sanaa Lathan, oh and of course, the ultimate love of my life - Dame Judi Dench.

NICK

Judi Dench?

LEWIS

Yep. Now, *there's* a woman.

NICK

(shaking his head)
That's not love, Lewis.

LEWIS

Sure it is.

NICK

No, you don't even know those people. That's infatuation or attraction.

LEWIS

What's the difference?

NICK

For starters, actually knowing the person, along with everything else.

LEWIS

It's all the same to me - love, attraction, sex.

NICK

Okay, Lewis.

LEWIS

Hey, if you disagree with me, then explain your theory. Tell me what love is all about. Tell me about you and Andie and why you still haven't moved on - why you're still in love with her after all these years.

NICK

You sly bastard. Well played, Lewis. What do you want to know?

LEWIS

Why haven't you tried finding someone new? I'm not going to say I know how hard it is because I don't. But, I know people have lost their loved ones before and they've been able to move on. Sure, it takes time. I understand that. But, five years? People can move on with their lives while still maintaining their love for the one they lost. It happens all the time.

NICK

It's not the same. She's been the only girl I've ever liked, let alone loved. We met when we were seven, and that moment right there, that is when I was truly born. That is when my life began. I know that might sound ridiculous because I was only seven years old, but the feelings I felt for her then never disappeared; they only strengthened as time passed on. So, I knew it was real. You know, I think that everyone has multiple people that they can be compatible with and can love. But, each person only has one soulmate. Not everyone finds theirs. People go through life making turns everywhere they go, and not all of them make the right one. They go through their entire lives without ever finding that right path, and so they wonder, maybe if they had gone this way instead of that way, then they would have found that person. Well, I was lucky enough to find mine. I found mine, and she loved me just the same, and now she's gone. There's no point in trying to find someone new. I already found what I was looking for.

LEWIS

Wow.

NICK

And people are always telling me it wasn't real love, that we were too young for that, that no one knows what real love is at seven or twelve or eighteen. But, that's not true. I did. I was with her for fifteen years, and I'd still be with her to this day, another five years on, if she hadn't died. It doesn't matter what age you are. When it happens, it happens.

LEWIS

I guess that does sound a lot better than my theory.

NICK

Thanks.

LEWIS

Although, I still think I was in love, but I'll admit, I don't think I've found love like you have. I hope I can someday. You know, find a nice, beautiful, classy girl who can really cook up a meal, not in a 50's housewife-type way, although there's nothing wrong with that if that's what she desires. I just like my food is all.

NICK

I know. I hope you find someone like that too. You deserve it.

LEWIS

Thanks, Nick.

NICK

No problem. Oh, hey, look. We're here. Are you ready for this Lewis?

LEWIS

If I say no, will it make a difference?

Nick tugs on Lewis' arm, and the two of them run full speed towards the pond. They both do a cannonball into the water.

CUT TO:

EXT. A LAND UNKNOWN - CONTINUOUS

Nick and Lewis lie on their backs in a field of neon pink, orange, yellow, and green flowers. They sit up.

Several rainbows rest in the sky above them.

NICK

Are we dead?

LEWIS

Sure looks like Heaven to me! Have you smelled these flowers?

NICK

There *is* a strong aroma pervading the air.

Lewis picks up a neon green flower and sniffs it. He takes a bite.

LEWIS

Mmmmmmm. Green apple! Here, Nick.
Try this.

Lewis tries handing the flower to Nick, but Nick pushes his hand away.

NICK

Are serious with this right now?
Are you eating the goddamn flowers?

LEWIS

What? They're flavored!

Lewis pulls a neon pink, yellow, and orange flower. He shoves them all into his mouth and starts chewing.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I'm tasting strawberry, lemon, and oh! Oh, my goodness. I think I'm tasting some mango. Yes, definitely mango. This is delicious. They trick you, you see? You think it's going to be orange-flavored because most candies and such that are orange-colored are also orange-flavored, but then they go and do a complete one-eighty and pull out a fucking mango. What a fucking brilliant idea.

NICK

Sure, Lewis. Let's go take a look around. There has to be a clue somewhere around here. Maybe it's at the end of one of these rainbows.

Lewis stands up and starts to follow Nick who has already taken off toward one of the rainbows.

LEWIS

(Irish accent)

Wit' me pot o' gold, perhaps. Or me pot o' marshmallows. I can't remember.

NICK

Or maybe just your pot of pot.

LEWIS

Oh, Nick. I would never keep my pot
in a pot. How cliché is that?

NICK

(rolling his eyes)
Right. How idiotic of me to suggest
that.

LEWIS

Hey, do you think the rainbows are
edible too?

NICK

Damn, Lewis, is everything to you
just food? We're not in a fucking
Skittles commercial.

LEWIS

Or maybe we are . . . Nick, did
Andie like Skittles?

NICK

Yes, she loved them. They were her
favorite candy.

LEWIS

That's it! We have to taste it,
Nick! We have to taste the rainbow!

Lewis jumps up and down, and then runs past Nick. He makes it
about fifty meters before he collapses to the ground. Nick
takes his time catching up.

Nick hovers over Lewis, who stares wide-eyed towards the sky,
breathing heavily.

NICK

Mistake?

LEWIS

You betcha'.

Nick helps Lewis to his feet. They continue towards the
rainbow.

NICK

You're serious about this eating
the rainbow thing, aren't you?

LEWIS

Oh, hell yes. We're supposed to be searching for clues, and all of these clues have to do with Andie, right? So, it's my belief, that if we lick the rainbow enough, then a message will appear, a.k.a the next clue.

NICK

That sounds absolutely ridiculous .
. . but it kind of makes sense.

Lewis nods approvingly.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'll let you do the honors and taste it first.

LEWIS

No, no, no. You know me, and I would absolutely love to go first, and I certainly don't mind helping you out, but you have to be the one to go first. This is for you. It's *your* message.

Nick and Lewis reach the rainbow. Nick stands there staring at it until Lewis nudges him forward.

Nick leans forward and hesitantly starts to stick his tongue out toward the rainbow. He pulls back.

NICK

I feel like an idiot.

LEWIS

Oh, grow a pussy and just do it already.

NICK

Pussy?

LEWIS

Yes, just like my main lady Betty White says: Pussy - strong. Balls - weak. Summarization? Forget your balls. Grow a pussy.

NICK

Copy that.

Nick leans in slowly and starts to lick away at the violet section.

LEWIS
Is it true? Was I right?

NICK
It's fucking grape. I hate grape.

LEWIS
Oh, that's so fucking awesome.

NICK
Hey! I see some letters. I think
you were right.

Nick keeps licking away until half the message is revealed.

LEWIS
(raising his hands)
Yes! You're doing it, Nick! You're
tasting the rainbow! You're tasting
the motherfucking rainbow!

Lewis claps his hands as Nick has gone through the indigo and blue sections and is halfway through the green with almost the entire message revealed.

NICK
(taking a quick breather)
Goddamn. My tongue hasn't gotten a
workout like this in five years.

LEWIS
C'mon, Nick! Lick it! Lick that
shit!

Nick finishes revealing the message. Lewis gives Nick a pat on the back.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Well, done, sir. Well done.

NICK
What the hell, Lewis? I thought you
were supposed to help me.

LEWIS
Oh, right. I just got too caught up
in the moment, I guess. I'll grab
some before we go. Read the
message, Nick.

NICK
Okay, here we go: *Bare in a
reflection of the moon, what is
one, first started as two.*

LEWIS
What the fuck does that mean?

NICK
I think we need to go to the lake.

LEWIS
How the hell did you get that from that?

Nick starts to wander off.

Lewis sticks his tongue out and drags it across all of the colors of the rainbow, making sure to try every flavor.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Sweet baby mama. Fucking genius.

Lewis catches up to Nick.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Are we sure we want to leave this place? I don't know about you, but this is better than any place I've ever been to on Earth, except for maybe Area 51.

NICK
What?

LEWIS
Shit. I wasn't supposed to say anything.

NICK
I'm not even going to ask. We need to leave. This place isn't real.

LEWIS
You're right. This is the place dreams are made of. Ah well, probably for the best. This place would probably kill me - too much sugar. So, how the hell do we get out of here?

NICK
I say we hitch a ride.

LEWIS
Hitch a ride with who? With what?

NICK

I think I saw a giant butterfly on the way here.

LEWIS

A giant butterfly? You want us to ride on a giant fucking butterfly? Way up in the fucking sky? Are you fucking mad?

NICK

We jumped down to get here. It only makes sense that we'd have to fly up to get out.

LEWIS

You know how fucking terrified I am of heights, and you want me to ride on a fucking giant butterfly with no walls, barriers, or even a fucking seat belt? I can handle an airplane because I'm in a confined space there, but a fucking giant butterfly? Have you lost your fucking marbles?

NICK

No, they're in the top shelf of my dresser drawer where they're always at. You know that.

LEWIS

You're telling jokes when I'm in full panic mode? This is why I'm the funny one! Your timing is for shit!

NICK

Relax, relax. We won't take the butterfly. There has to be someone here who can help.

LEWIS

I don't know, Nick. Now you got me all freaked out. I've got a bunch of terrible images invading my mind right now. What if the person who picks us up is some kind of fucking, deranged serial killer, waiting to cut out our fucking guts? Or a fucking cannibal even, waiting to cut out our guts and then fucking eat them. Maybe a rapist.

NICK

C'mon, look at this place. You love this place. You really think something bad is going to happen here?

LEWIS

Appearances can be deceiving.

NICK

Oh, stop being a pair of balls and c'mon.

Nick and Lewis continue onward. They walk down a path of chalky, red stones, crossing a bridge over rushing, black rapids.

NICK (CONT'D)

You know, you sure do say "fuck" an awful lot.

LEWIS

Yeah, so? What's fucking wrong with that? You say it too.

NICK

Yeah, sometimes, but not nearly as much as you do. You use it as a common word, like "it" or "and."

LEWIS

No, I don't. Only when I'm fucking tired. My body and my mind aren't fucking capable of performing properly when I'm fucking tired. I'm not a fucking natural wordsman like you. I have to actually think about what I'm fucking saying. I don't have an extensive enough vocabulary to fucking replace every "fuck" I say with a new fucking word when I'm tired and can't fucking think . . . fuck.

NICK

Hey, it's all right. I was just pointing it out.

LEWIS

(jokingly)

You know what? I probably use it so much because I hang out with you all the time, you boring prick.

(MORE)

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I do it out of necessity. I have to keep things spicy.

NICK

You got me there. Although, I don't think you can argue that this hasn't been the most exciting day of your life.

LEWIS

That's true. I guess I'm finally being rewarded for putting up with you all these years.

NICK

Well, enjoy it, buddy. You've earned it.

Nick and Lewis get to the other side of the bridge where several giant phallic items (bananas, cucumbers, lollipops) stand all around.

NICK (CONT'D)

Um, is it just me, or do all of these things look like a giant penis?

LEWIS

It's the Land of Phalluses! The Land of Phalli! The land of Phallic . . . Symbols. Is it wrong that I want to eat all of these? Except the cucumber. I swear green veggies were created by the Devil.

A vehicle flies down from the sky. Nick looks up and points to it.

NICK

Oh, shit! It's a flying car!

A flying car with helicopter propellers, wings on both sides, and one door on each side that stretches the whole length of the car, lands on the side of the road in front of them.

LEWIS

Whoa.

The car is tie-dye with bubbles coming out of the exhaust pipe. The right side door opens upward.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

That's fucking incredible! Let's go!

NICK

I thought you were scared of
hitchhiking . . . and heights.

LEWIS

Not when we're hitching a ride in a
fucking flying car that shoots out
bubbles! This is totally safe!

Lewis chugs over to the flying car ahead of Nick. He stops
when he reaches the door and glances inside. Nick walks up
next to him.

NICK

Of course the only suitable pilot
for a flying car that shoots out
bubbles would be a giant teddy
bear.

LEWIS

A teddy bear pilot? No fucking way!

JULIO, a giant teddy bear with lime-green rimmed sunglasses
and a purple bowtie on, sits in the driver's seat.

JULIO

(Spanish accent)
Hola, señors.

LEWIS

Um, hello there, giant teddy bear.

JULIO

My name is Julio. You fellas
looking for a ride?

LEWIS

Fuck yeah, we are!

Nick slaps Lewis on the arm.

NICK

Excuse my friend. What he means is,
yes, we'd be very grateful if you
could help us out.

JULIO

Ah, no problem, amigos. Hop in.

Lewis CHEERS as he hops in and slides all the way over. Nick
follows in behind him. It's a tight fit.

LEWIS

This car sure looks a lot bigger
from the outside.

NICK

Yeah, no kidding.

JULIO

That's from the optical illusion.
From the outside, it makes the car
look like it can fit five or six
people in a row, but in reality,
it's only two or three.

LEWIS

So awesome.

NICK

Yeah, I'm glad you at least think
so.

Nick fidgets in his seat, trying to create more room for
himself.

JULIO

So, where are you fellas headed?

Nick and Lewis turn to each other for the answer.

NICK

We need to get to the lake.

JULIO

Which lake?

NICK

Lakewood.

JULIO

The name of the lake is Wood?

NICK

No, no. Lake Lakewood. Sorry, I
should have clarified.

JULIO

Lake Lakewood? That must be a funny
place, man. Oh well, here we go.
You fellas hold on tight.

Nick looks around the car, searching for something to grab a
hold of.

NICK
Hold on to what?

JULIO
Try your buddy sitting next to you.

Nick looks at Lewis. Lewis smiles and waves to him. Nick rolls his eyes.

NICK
God, help me.

Julio starts the engine. The vehicle lifts straight up into the air. He pushes down on the gas pedal.

FADE TO WHITE:

FADE IN:

EXT. LAKE LAKEWOOD - DAY

The lake is surrounded by a rocky perimeter on three quarters of its shores, holding trees that jet out above the water. There are two sandy shores - a larger one that has a dock and boats, and a smaller one that hardly anyone ever goes to.

Nick and Lewis lie on the smaller of the sandy shores, passed out. They slowly regain consciousness.

Nick sits up and shields the sun from his eyes. Lewis sits up and grabs his head.

LEWIS
Oh, what the hell happened? My head is killing me.

NICK
It looks like Julio brought us to the lake.

LEWIS
I don't even remember how we got here. Do you?

NICK
Nope. It's all a blur after that white light blinded us.

LEWIS
Same here.

NICK
C'mon. Let's take a look around.

Nick pushes himself up, then helps Lewis up. They stroll leisurely down the beach.

NICK (CONT'D)

Hey, there's something written in the sand up there.

Nick jogs over to the spot while Lewis takes his time. Nick stands underneath the writing, and Lewis stands above it, trying to read it upside down and backwards.

LEWIS

What's it say?

NICK

Andie.

Lewis tilts his head to the side.

LEWIS

Oh, yes. Now, I see it. Did you write that?

NICK

When could I have written it? I've literally been with you the entire day.

LEWIS

I don't know. Wait a second. Maybe you actually woke up before me and came over here and did it and then went back over to where we arrived and pretended to wake up at the same time as me. Huh! You know how we got here. Tell me!

NICK

That's not what happened, Lewis. I woke up the same time you did. I couldn't have written it.

LEWIS

Yeah, we'll see.

NICK

It's true, Lewis.

LEWIS

Fine, fine. If you say so. Did you write it some other day then, and it just never got washed away?

NICK

No, and there's no way it would still be here if I had written it.

LEWIS

You're probably right.

NICK

I'm sure there is more than one Andie in the city. Someone else probably wrote it.

LEWIS

I don't know, Nick. Seems like a sign to me. This day is too crazy for there to be any coincidences, especially now that you've started to open up about her, and I mean, we did come here looking for clues, did we not?

NICK

Yes, we did, but what kind of a sign would it be exactly?

LEWIS

Beats me! She was your girlfriend, not mine. Did you ever come here with her?

NICK

Of course. We came here all the time. That's why I told Julio to bring us here.

LEWIS

So, maybe you did write it - just a long time ago.

NICK

You're right. We came here one night, junior year I think it was. It was April or May. I'm not sure. I know it was the spring, you know, one of those days where the weather is perfect in the daytime but gets a little chilly after the sun goes down. There was no one else around. We went skinny dipping.

LEWIS

In Lake Lakewood?

NICK

Yes. She was afraid to do it because she thought it would be too cold, and she was right. I went in first to prove that it wasn't too cold. When I came back, my whole body was shivering, but I was persistent. So, she told me that if I could write her name perfectly in the sand, without my trembling screwing it up, she would join me.

LEWIS

And you did.

Nick nods his head and can't help smiling.

NICK

And then she did, and we made love there, in the water, beneath the full moon and an ocean of stars. I had to write her name. I wasn't letting a moment like that pass by.

Lewis smiles and pats Nick on the arm.

LEWIS

Huh! Bare in a reflection of the moon, what is one, first started as two. It's the two of you getting freaking in the lake! I hear ya. You and Andie sexting through time, you dog, you.

NICK

Shut up, Lewis. C'mon, maybe there are some more clues around here somewhere.

Lewis walks ahead. Nick stares at the name in the sand a little longer. As he starts to leave, he trips over something hidden beneath the sand and falls to the ground.

NICK (CONT'D)

Ow! Damnit.

Nick brushes the sand away from the object.

NICK (CONT'D)

Hey, Lewis! I think I found something.

As Lewis walks up behind Nick, Nick draws a BROADSWORD from the sand and holds it in his lap.

LEWIS
What did you find?

NICK
A sword.

LEWIS
That's so unquestionably awesome. I
always wanted a sword. Let me hold
it.

NICK
I don't think I trust you with it.

LEWIS
What? C'mon, it'll be fine. I
promise.

Nick nods. He stands up and hands the sword to Lewis.

NICK
Be careful. I'm pretty sure it's
real, and I don't want to get
decapitated.

Lewis' face lights up as he admires the sword.

LEWIS
My goodness that's heavy.

Lewis waves it back and forth and almost swipes Nick on the
arm.

NICK
Jesus, Lewis! I said be careful,
not careless.

Lewis ignores Nick and continues playing around with the
sword.

Way off in the distance, a figure approaches them. Nick
squints his eyes to get a better look. A RED-ARMORED KNIGHT
on a WHITE HORSE gallops toward them. The Knight wears a
helmet that covers his face.

NICK (CONT'D)
Uh, Lewis.

Lewis is too busy playing with the sword. He doesn't hear
Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)
Lewis, give me the sword.

LEWIS

What? Why? I'm using it.

NICK

Do you see that? Way back over by
the road?

Nick points to the Knight, who remains far off in the distance, charging forward at a rapid pace.

LEWIS

No, but I'm not wearing my glasses.
I can't see that far.

NICK

It looks like a knight in red
armor, riding a white horse, and he
looks like he's heading straight
for us, and he just drew his sword.

LEWIS

(nervously)
What?

Lewis squints again, and a few seconds later, he sees the Knight.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Oh, my God!

Lewis drops the sword and starts running down the beach. Nick picks up the sword and catches up to Lewis.

NICK

This thing is so heavy!

LEWIS

Then toss it!

NICK

How the hell am I supposed to
defend us when he catches up to us?

LEWIS

I don't know! Why the fuck are we
running on sand?

NICK

I don't know! I was following you!

LEWIS

Well, that was a fucking stupid
thing to do!

Nick and Lewis move onto the grass.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

We're going to die. We're going to
fucking die.

Nick glances over his shoulder. The Knight is gaining on them. Nick stops running.

NICK

Keep going!

Lewis turns around to see Nick standing still, waiting for the Knight with his sword drawn, ready to fight.

LEWIS

What? What the fuck are you doing?

NICK

Just go, Lewis.

LEWIS

Are you crazy? He's going to
fucking kill you!

NICK

Probably! But, he's going to catch
up eventually. I might as well be
facing him when he does. That way
at least, I might have a shot.

LEWIS

A shot? A shot? You don't have a
shot! That's a fucking knight!
That's straight up King Arthur
shit, and you're you.

NICK

So?

LEWIS

He's going to fucking kill you!

NICK

I don't have a choice.

LEWIS

Ah, hell.

Lewis jogs back over to Nick. He GASPS for air as he bends over and puts his hands on his knees.

The Knight stops once he reaches Nick and Lewis. He holds his sword out to the side. It lights on fire.

Nick and Lewis both jump backwards as their eyes widen.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Oh, hell no. That's not fair! You can't do that.

NICK

Lewis.

LEWIS

Quick, see if your sword lights on fire too.

Nick holds his sword out to the side. Nothing happens.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Shit.

The Knight charges at Nick and strikes at him with his sword. Nick blocks the attack but drops the sword. Lewis watches from the side.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

That's not a good sign.

Nick picks his sword back up and runs onto the sand. The Knight brings a flurry of attacks, and each time, Nick barely blocks the opposing sword with his own before scrambling to a new spot.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

NICK

I have no idea! I've never been in a battle before. I don't know how to wield a fucking sword!

Nick blocks another attack.

LEWIS

What do you mean? Just stab him with the pointy end!

NICK

It's not that simple!

LEWIS

Yes, it is!

Nick fights off another attack and rolls underneath the Horse to the other side. He swipes at the Horse's front legs. The Horse falls, sending the Knight to the ground as well.

Nick stabs the Knight in the chest. Both the Knight and the Horse burst into a gold liquid.

Lewis runs over to Nick, who is now kneeling and covered in the gold liquid.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

See? I told you. That was much better.

Nick glares at Lewis.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

What?

NICK

Nothing.

LEWIS

I would help you up, but I don't want to get my hands dirty.

Nick flares his nostrils and GRUNTS before getting to his feet.

NICK

I sure as hell hope that never happens again.

LEWIS

You know, when it was happening, I was totally freaked out because I thought you were going to die and all that, but looking back on it now, that was pretty fucking entertaining. Hey, do you think that's real gold?

Nick let's out a burst of air, blowing the gold liquid onto Lewis' face.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I guess I should have seen that coming.

Lewis licks his lips.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Tastes like chocolate.

Nick hands Lewis his cellphone and his wallet.

NICK

I'll be right back.

Nick walks into the water until he is completely submerged. The gold liquid floats to the top of the water.

UNDERWATER (START)

As Nick floats beneath the surface of the water, a MERMAID swims up to him and smiles.

Nick holds his hand up to wave without smiling back. The Mermaid signals Nick to come with her. She spins around and puts her tail in his face. She motions for him to grab on. He does, with both hands.

UNDERWATER (END)

Lewis stands on the beach, sliding his foot from side to side in the sand when Nick shoots up out of the water and goes flying several feet into the air. Nick SCREAMS. He falls straight back down into the water.

Lewis scratches his head. A few seconds later, Nick comes soaring out again from the water, SCREAMING, onto the beach next to Lewis.

Nick lies on the sand, out of breath. Lewis stares down at him.

LEWIS

What the hell was that?

NICK

Mermaid.

LEWIS

Oh, okay.

Lewis helps Nick up on his feet. Nick squeezes the water out of his clothes.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

What do you think that was about?

NICK

Andie's favorite movie was The Little Mermaid.

LEWIS

Oh, that makes sense.

NICK

Yeah, although I never imagined Ariel being that way in real life.

LEWIS
(nodding)
Yeah, what a bitch.

Storm clouds rush in above them. Nick looks up.

NICK
That's awesome. Now there's storm
clouds hovering above us.

LEWIS
(looking up)
Those just came out of nowhere.

Thunder RUMBLES in the sky.

NICK
We just can't catch a break. It's
just one thing after another. I'm
probably going to catch pneumonia.

LEWIS
Aren't you already wet, though?

Nick doesn't hear Lewis.

NICK
Can't really outrun the rain. I
might as well just stand here and
take it.

Glitter pours down on them.

NICK (CONT'D)
(shouting)
No, no, no. Why is glitter raining
from the sky?

LEWIS
Glitter?

Lewis looks at himself. He's covered in glitter.

NICK
Goddamnit! I hate glitter!

LEWIS
I think it feels kind of nice. Kind
of what I'd imagine pixie dust to
feel like. Hey, Nick, am I flying?

Nick SCOFFS and sprints back to the lake. Lewis twirls his
body in a half circle as more and more glitter falls down on
him.

A few seconds later, the glitter stops, and the clouds vanish.

Lewis sets down Nick's phone and wallet onto the sand, along with his own, and casually walks into the water by Nick, who remains submerged beneath the surface. Lewis pulls him up.

Nick COUGHS and spits up water.

NICK

Is it over?

LEWIS

Unfortunately, yes.

Lewis dips beneath the surface and pops back up.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Damn. No mermaids.

NICK

Thank God. I'm still trembling just from the thought of it.

LEWIS

I'm guessing this isn't the happiness that you're supposed to discover . . .

NICK

There's not much in this world worse than glitter.

LEWIS

Why? What's wrong with glitter?

NICK

Seriously? What isn't wrong with glitter? It always sticks to you even if you don't think you have touched it, and you can't get it off, and it's just a big, fat mess. I hope whoever invented glitter is burning in Hell right now.

LEWIS

And when his skin burns it doesn't turn to smoke or ash, but into sparkly, wonderful glitter, spreading its beauty all across the flames.

NICK

Yep, sounds like Hell to me.

Nick starts walking out of the water.

NICK (CONT'D)
C'mon, let's get the hell out of
this place before we get attacked
by anything else.

Lewis follows Nick out of the water.

LEWIS
So, what was with the glitter?

NICK
Andie always knew I hated glitter.
Anytime she was doing homework or a
project, and glitter was an option,
she would use it, specifically
because she knew I hated it, and
then she would always get it on me.

LEWIS
Ha. Glitter boy.

NICK
You're so immature.

LEWIS
Thank you.

NICK
Hey, something just occurred to me.

Nick runs over to where Andie's name is written in the sand.
He rubs away at the sand above her name to uncover a message.

NICK (CONT'D)
Lewis! It's another message.

Lewis hustles over as quickly as he can.

NICK (CONT'D)
It says, "*Look upward toward the
sky. Does it float? Or does it
fly?*"

Nick takes a moment to scan the sky before pointing to a spot
several miles away from where they stand.

NICK (CONT'D)
Hey, do you see that?

LEWIS

Let's just assume from now on that if something is far away that I can't see it.

NICK

It looks like a hot air balloon.

LEWIS

(excitedly)

A hot air balloon? I've always wanted to ride in one. Of course, my deathly fear of heights has always prevented me from doing so.

NICK

Andie?

Nick starts a brisk walk in the direction of the hot air balloon. Lewis follows. They start running to try to catch up with it.

Nick climbs to the top of a hill where the balloon floats into an ocean of other hot air balloons.

Lewis catches up with Nick shortly after.

LEWIS

(breathing heavily)

Whoa. That is one incredible view.

NICK

Yeah.

The hot air balloons move closer and closer to each other, blotting out the sun.

LEWIS

What the fuck?

The balloon that floats opposite the end where Nick and Lewis stand, pops, spilling lava towards the ground. The others follow with a domino effect.

Nick and Lewis SCREAM and take off running in the opposite direction.

Lewis glances behind him as the lava flows closer.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Oh, no. We're gonna die. We're gonna fucking die!

NICK
Just shut up and keep running!

LEWIS
(pointing backwards)
You see this? This is your fault!

NICK
What? How is this my fault?

LEWIS
The balloons! They're avenging what
you did earlier.

NICK
That's ridiculous.

LEWIS
No! They know, Nick. They know what
you did!

Nick and Lewis scatter into the woods. Right as the lava is about to wash over them, they leap into a river.

As they tread near the bottom of the river, the lava rushes above them, not even grazing the water's surface.

Once the lava passes, Nick and Lewis swim to the surface and GASP for air. They crawl out and fall to the ground, trying to catch their breath.

NICK
Are you okay, Lewis?

LEWIS
No!

Nick sits up and looks at Lewis to make sure he's okay.

NICK
You're okay.

Nick gets to his feet and then helps Lewis to his. They wring the water out of their clothes.

LEWIS
I just want five minutes of fucking
peace. Just five minutes. Is that
too much to ask for?

NICK
It just might be, but I'll do my
best to make that happen.

LEWIS

Thank you.

NICK

No promises though. I don't exactly have any control over this.

LEWIS

You don't think you do, but I think you might. Those balloons definitely seemed vengeful.

NICK

They weren't getting revenge.

LEWIS

If you say so.

NICK

I am sorry though.

LEWIS

For what?

NICK

I thought I saw her - riding up in the balloon. I miss her face. People say faces disappear from their memory over time as the absence of those faces increases. They forget what those faces look like, but that's not the case with me - not with her face. I see it all the time. An unbearable heavenly tease - how it haunts me so. I can see it as clear as day - so beautiful. But, I can't touch it. I can't kiss it. It just drifts along before me like time.

LEWIS

It's okay, Nick. I forgive you.

NICK

Thanks. You know, she always had this fantasy that for our honeymoon, we would drift across the country in a hot air balloon, then float across the Pacific to Hawaii. I asked her which island, and she said any of them - all of them. I've thought about taking the trip on my own, but I just haven't been able to get myself to do it.

LEWIS

I think you should do it.

NICK

No, it wasn't for me. It wouldn't feel right.

Nick starts walking away. Lewis follows behind him.

LEWIS

So, now what?

Nick reaches into his left back pocket and pulls out a note that somehow is completely dry.

NICK

Wow. Not even the faintest hint of a smudge.

LEWIS

What's it say this time? Step into this dark pit of poison-tipped spikes? Count the teeth of a great white shark? See if you survive? This has all made me quite concerned about what your happiness is, Nick.

NICK

Oh, hush. It says, *Cozy up beside me, and enjoy the show.*

LEWIS

Seems simple enough.

NICK

It is. Let's go.

Nick takes off with Lewis following right behind.

Lewis pulls out his cellphone, which isn't working, and his wallet, which is soaking wet.

LEWIS

Son-of-a-bitch!

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVE-IN MOVIE THEATER, LAKEWOOD - DAY

Nick and Lewis walk through an empty drive-in movie theater. They sit down in the middle of the field and watch the blank screen.

LEWIS

I love this place.

NICK

Me too. Andie and I used to come here all the time.

LEWIS

You sly devil, you.

NICK

(shaking his head)

It wasn't like that. We never did any of that stuff here. For us, it was a place where we could cuddle and enjoy each other's company. We'd bring our own candy - for me, Reese's Pieces, and for her, gummy bears. We'd buy a large popcorn and lemonade at the stand and just curl up in the backseat together under a blanket and enjoy the show and just the presence of each other.

Lewis looks at Nick as he smiles and gazes into the past.

LEWIS

Sounds nice, Nick.

Nick snaps out of it. His smile fades away.

NICK

It was.

The two of them sit in silence for a moment.

LEWIS

I always loved coming here because I thought it was incredible how something so magical could be inside of something so big. I've always been a large guy, even when I was little, and coming here and seeing that magic really helped me to become comfortable with myself. It made me believe that there was something magical inside of me too.

NICK

I never knew that.

LEWIS

Now you do. Plus, the screen was so big that I always felt like I was actually in the movie. It was awesome. My parents always reenacted the scenes with me on the way back home.

NICK

Well, Lewis, you're pretty much in a movie now. Might as well be one.

LEWIS

That's true. Maybe we should make it a movie. We could write the script together after it's all over.

NICK

That's all you, buddy. Experiencing all of this one time is more than enough for me.

LEWIS

All right. I'll make sure you get a special thanks in the credits.

NICK

That, I can handle.

LEWIS

Good. It's a deal.

Nick and Lewis both sit back in silence, lost in thought. Lewis plays with the grass. A movie comes on.

NICK

Whoa. Is someone here?

Nick turns his head every which way, looking for others. Lewis doesn't bother to look up.

LEWIS

I don't think so. Why?

NICK

There's a film playing.

Lewis looks at the screen. An ANCHORMAN sits at his desk, reporting a breaking news story.

ANCHORMAN

Ladies and gentlemen, I have just been informed that a hideous, blood-hungry monster named Gorgon is on the loose. I'm sorry to report that we have yet to obtain any photographs of the beast, but we have been given a description by a witness. Apparently, this beast stands several feet tall and can shoot fire from its mouth, but it is not a dragon - I repeat, it is not a dragon. The witness reportedly saw the beast tear his friend in half and then eat his insides.

NICK

What the hell is this movie?

LEWIS

I don't know, but it seems pretty awful. I want to see what happens next.

Nick and Lewis wait eagerly to see what is going to happen next, but the only image on the screen is of the Anchorman staring at the camera, occasionally blinking.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Well, fuck.

NICK

I guess that's it. Let's go.

LEWIS

But, we haven't found a clue yet.

NICK

No, we have not, or maybe we have but we just haven't realized it yet. Hey, wait a second.

Nick reaches into his right back pocket and pulls out another note.

LEWIS

Jesus, how many pockets do you have?

NICK

It says, *Go to the place where we last danced, the place you felt your last breath of romance.*

LEWIS
So, where do we need to go?

NICK
Downtown. C'mon.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LAKEWOOD - SUNSET

A festival is in progress. Several of the roads are blocked off to allow the ATTENDEES to walk in the street. Tents are lined up all along the sides of the road. Nick and Lewis walk down the middle of the street.

LEWIS
So much walking - walking and running. I'm so fucking tired. My body's not built for this. Now I remember why I never try to fucking lose weight.

NICK
I thought you were excited about going on an adventure.

LEWIS
I wouldn't have been if I had known that it was going to include so much fucking exercise. I feel like my fucking legs are going to fall off.

NICK
I mean, it *is* an adventure, Lewis. Adventures usually entail physical exertion of some sort.

LEWIS
Not my adventures.

NICK
No matter. I'm still proud of you.

Nick pats Lewis on the back.

LEWIS
We could've taken my car, been sitting down, with fucking air conditioning. Oh, what were we thinking?

NICK
We did take your car.

LEWIS
Did we?

NICK
Yes. We drove to Summerfield Park
this morning.

LEWIS
Oh, that's right. Damn. I'm going
to have to remember to go back and
get that.

NICK
And we hitched a ride in that
flying car.

Lewis gives Nick a blank stare.

NICK (CONT'D)
Look, I know you're suffering, but
I believe that you will eventually
think that this has all been worth
it because you'll be remembering
this day for the rest of your life,
and I'm pretty confident when I say
that no other day will be able to
top it.

LEWIS
(shaking his head)
Damn it, Nick. You always gotta say
shit like that. Just when I'm ready
to give up, you pull me back in.

NICK
It's one thing I'm still good for
these days.

Nick puts his arm around Lewis' shoulders.

LEWIS
You think that maybe we could take
a break for a few minutes though?
Find a bench and sit down
somewhere?

NICK
Sure, Lewis, but not for too long
though. We're starting to run out
of time. We only have until
midnight, remember?

LEWIS

Worry not, my fair Cinderella. We shall find your happiness before the stroke of twelve.

Nick and Lewis find an empty bench a little ways down the sidewalk. Lewis plops down. The bench CREAKS.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

(to the bench)

I don't even care if you break. As long as I'm on my ass, I don't fucking care.

Nick sits down next to Lewis. The bench CREAKS again.

NICK

I care.

LEWIS

Maybe you should have thought about that before you sat down.

NICK

(laughing)

Maybe.

LEWIS

You know, I never really put that much thought into benches before. I mean, I've always liked them, but I don't think I ever respected them, you know? I never truly appreciated them like I should have.

Lewis rubs the bench with his hand.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

(to the bench)

Never again, my sweet friend. Never again.

A few minutes pass by before Nick stands back up.

NICK

Okay, Lewis. It's time to get going. We need to get to the fountain.

LEWIS

Damn, okay. Help me up.

Nick helps Lewis to his feet.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN LAKEWOOD - 10 MINUTES LATER

Nick and Lewis stand before the fountain where Nick tossed the engagement ring.

NICK

Well, this is where the note told us to go.

LEWIS

Great. So, now what?

NICK

I don't know. It's crazy though. I avoided this fountain for five years, and now this is the second night in a row that I'm here.

LEWIS

Wait, you were here last night?

NICK

Yeah. Before I went to your house last night, I came here, and I tossed the engagement ring that I had for Andie into the fountain.

LEWIS

Did you say anything when you threw the ring in?

NICK

I wished to be happy again.

LEWIS

Oh, my God, Nick! Are you fucking kidding me?

NICK

What?

LEWIS

That's the answer! Everyone knows this fountain has magical powers! We need to get that ring back!

Lewis rushes up to the fountain and dips his head into the water. He slides to the left and slides to the right. After a moment of searching, he sees it. He grabs the ring.

Lewis jolts up out of the water, hoisting the ring high up into the air.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I got it! Here take it.

Lewis hands the ring to Nick. Nick stares at it in his hands.

NICK

Now what?

LEWIS

I don't know. Do you feel anything? Any jolt or goose bumps?

NICK

No.

LEWIS

Tickling perhaps? Or a resuscitation feeling, like you were dead, but now you're alive?

NICK

No.

LEWIS

Well, fuck. We just did a complete three-sixty. We've come full circle, and we found nothing. I thought for sure this had to be it. I'm sorry, Nick. We failed.

Nick holds the ring in front of his face, still staring.

NICK

You know, I used to be passionate about things. I loved sports, observing and participating. I loved to read. I loved the sunrise and sunset. I loved being out in nature and just breathing in all of that beauty. I loved my friends and family and being true and helpful. I loved being there for my loved ones. I loved listening to people. You know what though? Even though I loved all these things, Andie was always there, so it's as if she's forever entwined with everything that exists within my world, and so without her, my happiness is unobtainable. Our love was magical - the only magic I ever believed in.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

Andie believed that this fountain was magical, and though I don't believe in magic, I believe in her - I believe in our love. I'm not ready to give up yet. If this is truly my last chance at happiness, my last chance at being with Andie . . . then by God, I'm going to fight for it. We have until midnight.

LEWIS

Hell yes. That's the Nick I know. I knew he was still buried in there somewhere.

NICK

Let's go.

Nick and Lewis walk back through downtown. Nick looks out into the street, where a CROWD has gathered around to watch something, but Nick can't see what.

NICK (CONT'D)

I wonder what those people are watching.

When there is an opening in the Crowd, Nick peeks in.

Nick sees a WOMAN from behind in a red dress with brown, shoulder-length hair. She disappears behind the Crowd. Nick walks over to join the Crowd. He pushes his way to the front.

A MIDDLE-AGED JAMAICAN WOMAN dances around beautifully, care-free, as the Crowd admires her in a surrounding circle. THREE YOUNG JAMAICAN BAND PLAYERS sit behind her - one with a guitar, one with a set of bongo drums, and one with a tambourine.

Lewis walks over behind Nick, who focuses on the Jamaican Woman.

NICK (CONT'D)

I think I've seen her before.

LEWIS

Who?

NICK

The lady dancing in the middle.

(beat)

I know her. I've seen this before. I've been here before.

LEWIS

Maybe this is a weekly event they have here.

NICK

No, no, that's not it.

Nick closes his eyes and inhales deeply. He exhales. He opens his eyes.

NICK (CONT'D)

I remember.

LEWIS

What?

NICK

I remember. This dance. Her. All of it. I dreamt this.

LEWIS

I thought you said you don't dream anymore.

NICK

I didn't think I did.

LEWIS

When did you dream this?

NICK

Last night.

LEWIS

You dreamt of this specific woman, dancing this specific dance?

NICK

(nodding)

Yes. Andie performed a dance like this before. She bought me a set of bongo drums for Christmas one year because I had wanted a set ever since I can remember. So, I played and she danced, almost exactly like this woman here, and last night, I definitely dreamt of this moment.

LEWIS

That's some crazy shit.

NICK

The singing chimp. The girl with the diamond ring. The Red Knight.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

All of them. I remember them too. These occurrences, everything we've seen today - they're all my dreams.

LEWIS

Wait, wait. That doesn't make any sense. If they're all *your* dreams, then how come I've been able to see them too?

Nick contemplates the answer as he watches the Jamaican Woman twirling about as if she doesn't have a care in the world.

NICK

You can only see them when I tell you that they are there.

LEWIS

What?

NICK

Think back on everything that happened today. All of the stuff you saw. You only noticed them after I told you they were there. That's why you didn't see the little girl with the purple balloon and the diamond ring. I didn't tell you she was there until after she was gone. Even with this lady dancing, with this crowd. You didn't notice any of them until I told you they were here.

LEWIS

No, no. I just wasn't observing very well is all.

NICK

Lewis.

LEWIS

Holy shit.

Nick and Lewis both stand frozen in bewilderment.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

What does it all mean?

NICK

I don't know.

LEWIS

Is this your happiness? Do all these things make you happy?

NICK

I feel like we would know when I found it - that there would be some kind of signal or something, so that we know when I've found it. Maybe it's just a way to bring me closer to Andie for one day - to feel her presence again. She is what made me happy, so maybe it's just her reminding me that there was happiness inside of me at one point in time. Or maybe it's the same as if I was sleeping, and all these dreams were in my head. I wake up, and they're all gone, as if none of it ever happened.

LEWIS

Yeah, but how do you wake up when you're already awake?

Nick gazes at the sky as the sun sinks farther beneath the horizon and the moon grows clearer.

CUT TO:

EXT. A FREEWAY SOMEWHERE IN LAKEWOOD - NIGHT

Nick and Lewis ride bicycles on the shoulder of a freeway. They ride side by side with Lewis on the inside and Nick on the outside.

LEWIS

Where are we headed?

NICK

The forest behind Glenview Park.

LEWIS

Oh. Why are we going to the forest?

NICK

It's where Andie died.

LEWIS

(bewildered)

And you think you're going to find your happiness there?

NICK

We've been through my dreams, my good memories of Andie, and it hasn't worked. The only thing left is my worst nightmare - her death - for it's still a part of my life with her. It's a test.

LEWIS

If you say so.

Nick and Lewis keep riding. A car zooms past Lewis.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

You know, I don't think it's safe to be riding bikes on the side of the freeway in the dark.

NICK

This is the best option we have.

LEWIS

I know, but I don't feel safe.

NICK

Hey, you're the one who wanted to rent the bikes.

LEWIS

Yeah, but I didn't know we were going to be riding on the fucking freeway!

NICK

Well, we are, so you just have to push through it now.

LEWIS

Can you switch spots with me?

NICK

Why?

LEWIS

Because I don't feel safe. I don't want to get smashed into by a car that's zooming by at seventy to eighty miles per hour.

NICK

I don't want that either.

LEWIS

But, you're less likely to get hit by a car. You're thin. My body pops out onto the road.

NICK

There's hardly any cars out here.

LEWIS

Please, Nick?

NICK

(sighing)

Sure, Lewis. I'll switch with you.

Nick and Lewis switch spots. Lewis hits his bike on a piece of a car tire and flips off his bike.

LEWIS

Ow.

Nick brakes hard and jumps off his bike. He runs over to Lewis who is lying on his back.

NICK

Lewis! Are you okay?

LEWIS

(shouting)

Why me? Why am I the one always falling?

Nick helps Lewis to an upright position. He clutches his elbow and winces. He has a scrape on his elbow.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I told you it was dangerous.

NICK

You said it was dangerous because of the cars.

LEWIS

It's all dangerous! The cars are just at the top of the fucking danger pyramid. It doesn't mean that there aren't other fucking dangers we can encounter while we're out here.

NICK

I'm sorry, but look, all you suffered was a little scrape, right?

LEWIS
Does this look little to you?

Lewis holds his elbow up to Nick. Blood runs down his arm.

NICK
Okay, so a medium-sized scrape.

LEWIS
Quick, reach into my pocket.

NICK
What? Why? No.

LEWIS
I have some napkins in there.

NICK
Why do you have napkins in your pocket?

LEWIS
I grabbed some extra ones earlier from Saul's. I thought we might need them.

NICK
Why would we need napkins?

LEWIS
Apparently to wipe off the blood that's gushing down my fucking arm.

NICK
That's just pure luck.

LEWIS
Just grab the fucking napkins!

NICK
All right. All right. Which pocket are they in?

LEWIS
My right one.

Nick carefully reaches into Lewis' right front pocket.

NICK
Lewis, there's nothing in here.

LEWIS
What?

Nick pulls his hand out.

NICK
There aren't any napkins in here.

LEWIS
Oh, they're in my left pocket.

NICK
Lewis!

LEWIS
My bad.

Nick reaches into Lewis' left front pocket and pulls out a couple of napkins. He hands them to Lewis.

Lewis wipes off the blood and puts pressure on the wound until it stops bleeding.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
You wouldn't happen to have a large Band-Aid would you?

NICK
(shaking his head)
C'mon, we need to keep moving.

Nick and Lewis hop back on their bikes and continue riding for a little while longer before they come to a stop.

LEWIS
Why are we stopping?

NICK
We're here.

LEWIS
What? How? We're still on the side of the road.

NICK
Look down.

Lewis stretches to look over the concrete barrier to the right of him.

LEWIS
Are you crazy? How are we going to get down there?

NICK
We jump.

LEWIS
What? Are you mad?

Nick gets off his bike and wheels it in front of Lewis'.

NICK
Sorry, but you're going to have to ditch the bike.

LEWIS
Aw, man.

Lewis gets off his bike. He walks up next to Nick who is peering down over the barrier.

NICK
It's simple. There's a hill right on the other side we can walk down.

LEWIS
Looks pretty steep to me.

NICK
Just take your time, and you'll be fine.

LEWIS
Sure I will.

Nick hops over the barrier and heads down the hill. Lewis puts one leg over the barrier but struggles to get his other leg over.

Lewis loses his balance as he swings his leg over and falls down the hill, rolling past Nick.

When Nick reaches the bottom of the hill, he finds Lewis lying on his back with leaves and twigs all over him.

NICK
I thought I told you to take your time.

LEWIS
I did.

NICK
It looked like you were rolling pretty fast to me.

LEWIS
I hate you.

NICK

I know. C'mon, there's no time to play around.

Nick walks past Lewis, leaving him lying there.

LEWIS

You're not going to help me up?

Nick returns to Lewis.

NICK

No, I am. I just wanted to see your reaction when I made you think that I wasn't.

Nick reaches his hands out and helps Lewis to his feet.

LEWIS

I really hate you.

NICK

I know. I know.

Lewis brushes himself off.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST, LAKEWOOD - CONTINUOUS

Nick and Lewis take their time walking through the forest, avoiding any branches or other objects they could possibly trip over.

LEWIS

This seems a little dangerous as well, especially for me. You don't always realize that I am a fat man, and that I can't necessarily do the same things as you.

NICK

Yes, it is dangerous. Practically everything we have done today has been dangerous. That's just the kind of day it's been, but we've made it through everything so far.

LEWIS

Yeah, so far. That's what I'm afraid of. I'm the fat, slow one. I'm not going to make it. I know it.

(MORE)

LEWIS (CONT'D)

You're going to be able to run away while I fall flat on my face or something and get eaten alive or cut up into tiny pieces.

NICK

That's not going to happen. You're doing fine, Lewis, and you can do anything I can do.

LEWIS

Bullshit. It's more difficult for me to lift my feet up over and around things. I'm going to slip and crack my head open like I almost did getting down here. I just know it. It's physics.

NICK

Stop being so paranoid, Lewis. You'll be fine. Just take your time, and besides, does it really matter if it's a little dangerous? Our minds are forever damaged goods after the day we've had today.

LEWIS

That I agree with. It still doesn't make me feel any better though.

Nick and Lewis walk deeper into the forest with Lewis coming close to falling on his face several times.

Two trees in front of Nick and Lewis light on fire. Nick jumps back.

NICK

Whoa. Two trees on fire.

LEWIS

Bloody hell.

A GIANT, RAGING BEAST, thirty feet tall with red eyes, black fiery fur, and razor-sharp claws, jumps between the two trees.

NICK

And a giant, fiery beast who I'm pretty sure is going to try to kill us in a second.

LEWIS

Fuck.

The Beast ROARS. Flames shoot out of its mouth. Nick and Lewis cover their ears and duck as the fire soars over their heads.

NICK

And he apparently shoots fire too.

LEWIS

Again with the fire. C'mon, give us a chance! Oh, God, what do we do? What do we do?

Lewis bounces around in a panic.

NICK

Uh . . .

Nick looks around the forest for anything that would help.

NICK (CONT'D)

Hide?

LEWIS

Hide? Where the fuck are we going to hide? He's bigger than the whole fucking forest!

NICK

It's too late for that now anyway. He's coming.

LEWIS

Hey, wait a second. Isn't that Gorgon?

NICK

Oh, shit. I think you're right.

LEWIS

What a crazy, motherfucking day.

GORGON runs at Nick and Lewis. Lewis SCREAMS.

NICK

Run. Run, Lewis!

Lewis runs away. Nick waits a second to keep Gorgon focused on him. He takes off running in another direction.

Nick jumps behind the bushes as a ball of fire soars past him, igniting another tree.

Nick runs behind the trees in a circle around Gorgon. Balls of fire fly everywhere, creating a barrier of flames surrounding them.

Nick hides behind a boulder. Lewis runs up next to him.

NICK (CONT'D)

Jesus, Lewis. What are you doing back here?

LEWIS

I couldn't get out. A wall of fire lit up right in front of me. Nearly burned my face off.

NICK

Damn. We're trapped now.

LEWIS

How the hell are we going to get out? We have to get out.

NICK

I don't know.

Nick and Lewis look around for an opening in the fire. They start to cough as smoke fills the air. Gorgon looks for them.

NICK (CONT'D)

Hey, look.

Nick points to a samurai sword inserted into the ground.

NICK (CONT'D)

There's a sword over there.

LEWIS

That's awfully far.

NICK

I'm going to make a run for it.

LEWIS

No. It's too far away. You'll never make it.

NICK

I have to, Lewis.

LEWIS

No, just stay here. We'll find an opening and --

NICK

Lewis! There aren't any. There is no other option. The only way is through him, and we're running out of time. Midnight, remember?

Nick COUGHS. Lewis shakes his head and SIGHS.

LEWIS

You move your ass.

Nick nods. He waits for Gorgon to turn his back and then sprints toward the sword. He rolls underneath a falling tree, and then leaps over Gorgon's swinging tail.

Gorgon spins around and swipes his claws at Nick. Nick dodges most of the claws, but one of them cuts his abdomen. He falls to the ground and SCREAMS.

Nick tries to crawl away, but Gorgon kicks him, sending him crashing into the side of a tree. Nick props himself up against it.

Gorgon creeps up to Nick. He raises his claws and thrashes them down. Before they reach Nick, Lewis jumps in the air with the samurai sword and cuts off Gorgon's paw. Gorgon WAILS.

NICK

Lewis?

LEWIS

Holy shit! Did you see that?

Nick nods his head in disbelief.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I bet you weren't expecting that, were you?

Nick smiles and shakes his head.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Goddamn, I'm awesome! I felt like a motherfucking superhero. Oh, that's going to do wonders for my self-esteem. Are you okay?

NICK

Yeah, yeah, I'm fine. We need to finish him though.

LEWIS

What?

Gorgon swats Lewis several feet in the air. The sword flies into the flames. Lewis lands hard on the ground, falling unconscious.

Gorgon ROARS, sending a ball of flames barely above Lewis' head. He walks toward Lewis.

NICK

Lewis!

Lewis lies still.

NICK (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Lewis. Get up. Get up, Lewis.

Nick spots a golden spear perched in the ground several feet away from him. He crawls toward it in an extravagant amount of pain as Gorgon inches closer to Lewis.

Nick reaches the spear and has to pull on it three times before he can remove it from the ground. Gorgon hovers over Lewis who regains consciousness.

Lewis SCREAMS.

As Gorgon takes a deep breath, preparing to burn Lewis to a crisp, Nick heaves the spear at Gorgon, falling forward onto his stomach. The golden spear pierces through Gorgon's head.

Gorgon crashes to the ground, and the fire vanishes. Lewis looks over at Nick who remains on his stomach, looking back.

LEWIS

Oh, thank you, thank you. Thanks, Nick!

Lewis drops his head to the ground.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Oh, Lord. Oh, thank you. I'm not cut out for this sort of life. I never would have made it in medieval times, or several other periods of history for that matter.

Lewis takes several deep breaths before rolling off the ground. Nick lies flat with his face pressed against the ground. Lewis walks gingerly toward him.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

I'm coming, Nick. Hold on.

Lewis lifts Nick off the ground and holds him up with his arm. Nick winces.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Are you all right? How bad is it?

NICK
I don't know.

Lewis lifts up Nick's bloodied shirt. A deep gash stretches across his abdomen.

LEWIS
Doesn't look too good, buddy.

Nick nods his head.

NICK
You wouldn't happen to have a very large Band-Aid, would you?

Nick smiles, and Lewis tries to do the same, but the fear for Nick's life makes it difficult.

LEWIS
Now you decide to be the funny one.
C'mon, let's get you to a hospital.

As the two of them start to move, a car shoots out from behind the trees straight at them.

NICK
Car!

Nick and Lewis jump out of the way just before the car flies by between them. It crashes into a tree.

Nick and Lewis both lie on their stomachs as they turn their heads and stare at the car.

NICK (CONT'D)
(whispering)
No.

Lewis looks over at Nick who forces himself up off the ground and staggers toward the car.

LEWIS
(shouting)
No, Nick. It's not real.

Lewis scurries to his feet and goes after Nick.

NICK

Andie? Andie? That's her car.
That's Andie's car.

Nick places his hands on the car and feels his way to the driver-side window. It's shattered.

NICK (CONT'D)

Andie?

Nick looks in the car. There is blood all over the driver's seat and the inside of the windshield, but no one is sitting there. He searches the rest of the car.

NICK (CONT'D)

(frantically)

Andie? Andie?

Lewis walks up behind Nick and grabs him. He tries to pull him away, but he struggles.

LEWIS

C'mon, Nick. It's not real. She's not in there.

NICK

Andie! Andie!

Tears pour down Nick's face. Lewis finally pulls him away.

NICK (CONT'D)

No! No! She's supposed to be here!
I'm supposed to save her!

Lewis sets Nick down beside the tree.

NICK (CONT'D)

That's her car. That's her fucking car.

LEWIS

(soothing)

Ssh. I know it is. I know it is.
But, she's not in there. This already happened. She's gone.
There's nothing you can do.

Lewis holds Nick in his arms as he WEEPS.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST, LAKEWOOD - HALF HOUR LATER

Nick and Lewis sit next to each other against a tree, staring upward into space.

NICK

Do you remember her funeral?

LEWIS

Bits and pieces. I remember seeing you for the first time. I remember her coffin. I remember her getting lowered into the ground.

NICK

I was there for the entire viewing - the first night and the second. I stood next to the casket, staring at her, hoping that there was a mistake, waiting for her to start breathing again. She looked so alive. Then came the funeral. I watched as they closed the casket, and I saw her face for the very last time, but I did not cry. I gave the eulogy, spoke words of love and regret, and though I came right to the edge, I did not cry. I helped lift her up and carry her away. I watched as they lowered her down and covered her with dirt, and yet, I did not cry. Then came the wake at her parents' house.

FLASHBACK

INT. ANDIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - DAY

Nick (22) stands against a wall by himself, staring at the floor.

NICK (V.O.)

At the funeral, I was trying to be strong, for myself, for her family. I was trying to hold back the tears as I had been doing. I, I wasn't used to being vulnerable in front of anyone except for her, but I could feel the tears in my eyes, and I knew people could see that. I'm sure you could.

ANDIE'S FATHER, a middle-aged man with brown hair that is starting to turn gray, walks up to Nick.

NICK (V.O.)

Her father, he came up to me when I was alone, and he placed his hand on my shoulder and said to me, "Son? Can I call you son?"

Nick nods his head.

NICK (V.O.)

I gave him a slight nod for I couldn't produce even a single word. He said, "You might as well be my son; it sure feels that way. I know one day you would have been, if life hadn't taken a wrong turn. Anyway, I just wanted to tell you that, I see you. I see you, and there is no shame in it. Do you know what it means when we cry at funerals? It means that we have love inside of us - that we were able to share that love with another person, and that . . . and that, my son . . . that is the greatest gift that we as human beings could possibly be blessed with. No one can take that away from you. That love is still inside of you and always will be. So, son, if you need to cry, then by God, you cry."

Nick bursts into tears as Andie's father takes him in his arms.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. FOREST, LAKEWOOD - CONTINUOUS

Lewis slides over so that he is facing Nick.

LEWIS

I know, Nick. I see you too. I've always seen you. That's why I've stuck by you all these years. That's why I went through everything with you today. That's why I'm with you right now.

NICK
Thanks, Lewis.

Lewis nods.

NICK (CONT'D)
You know, I feel like the past five years have been a dream - an incessant nightmare, and I'm merely waiting around for that moment that I wake up and am finally free.

LEWIS
Maybe that's what today was all about - waking you up. Do you feel free?

NICK
No, Lewis. No, I don't.

Lewis lowers his head, gives a slight nod.

NICK (CONT'D)
(singing softly)
Every night I return to an empty home / In the saddest world I've ever known / My heart can't beat alone / You knew that, so you took my heart away with you / When you vanished and left me on my own / Now I'm nothing but skin and bone / Nothing but skin and bone.

Lewis pats Nick twice on the knee and glances at his wound.

LEWIS
I think we should get moving.

NICK
I'm tired, Lewis. I'm so damn tired.

LEWIS
I know, Nick. I know you are.

Lewis pats Nick on the thigh and takes a deep breath.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
But, I don't think we should stay here. It's getting late. It's getting cold. We don't have to continue any further, but we need to get you to a hospital.

Nick nods. Lewis stands up. He helps Nick up and puts his arm around his neck to help him walk.

A few minutes later, they come upon a pond with a gentle waterfall rushing down into it.

NICK
I don't remember this being here.

LEWIS
What?

NICK
The pond and the waterfall.

LEWIS
I don't think it's supposed to be.

A WOMAN stands in the moonlight, on top of some smooth black rocks rising up beside the pond. Her back is facing Nick and Lewis. The waterfall glows a fluorescent sea green color behind her.

NICK
(whispering)
Who is that?

LEWIS
Who's who?

NICK
That woman standing over there.

The Woman turns around. Lewis GASPS. Nick's jaw drops. He struggles to catch his breath. His eyes swell up with tears.

NICK (CONT'D)
Oh, my God.

ANDIE, now grown with long, wavy, brown hair and wearing a flowing, red silk dress, smiles at Nick and waves him over. He can't move.

LEWIS
She's waiting for you, Nick.

Nick snaps out of his trance and looks at Lewis.

NICK
What time is it?

LEWIS
It's almost midnight.

Nick smiles and hugs Lewis.

NICK

Thank you, Lewis. I never would've made it this far without you, and I'm not just talking about today. You are a tree - a great Redwood that I've been leaning on for the past five years.

LEWIS

(choking up)

No problem, buddy. That's what I'm here for. Maybe, just maybe, this will finally bring you some peace. I sure hope it does.

NICK

Thank you. That means a lot.

LEWIS

Of course. You know you're my best friend.

NICK

I know.

Nick turns to look at Andie who remains smiling while she waits.

NICK (CONT'D)

(to Lewis)

I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

LEWIS

It's okay. Go to her. This is a love story. It always has been.

Nick pats Lewis' shoulder, then starts to head towards Andie.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Nick, wait!

Lewis hustles over to Nick, who turns around to face Lewis.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Wait, wait. Maybe this isn't such a great idea, you know? I've thought about this a lot over the past two seconds, and you don't know what's going to happen if you go over there. She's gone. She's been gone for five years.

(MORE)

LEWIS (CONT'D)

There's no bringing her back, we know this, but we don't know what will happen to you if you go over there.

NICK

It's okay, Lewis.

LEWIS

No, it's not. You're my best friend, Nick. I don't want to lose you.

NICK

Lewis, let's be honest. You lost your best friend, the Nick you still imagine me to be, the Nick that you deserve . . . you lost him ten years ago. You've been such an amazing friend, and I am eternally grateful, but I haven't been able to reciprocate, nor do I think I'll ever be able to. You deserve someone who can put the same amount of love and energy into a friendship as you do.

LEWIS

(teary-eyed)

You're a son-of-a-bitch, you know that?

NICK

I know.

Lewis grabs Nick and pulls him in for a bear hug.

NICK (CONT'D)

I love you, Lewis.

LEWIS

I love you too, Nick. Now, get the hell out of here.

Lewis shoves Nick away from him. Nick inches his way toward Andie. He stops a couple of feet in front of her.

NICK

Hey.

ANDIE

Hi, Nick.

Nick starts to breakdown but manages to keep it together.

NICK
I've missed you so much.

ANDIE
I missed you too. I've been waiting
for you.

NICK
You have?

ANDIE
Yes.

NICK
I'm sorry it took me so long to
find you.

ANDIE
You're here now. That's the
important thing.

Andie looks down at Nick's wound.

ANDIE (CONT'D)
You're hurt.

NICK
I've been worse.

Nick steps forward and reaches his hand toward Andie's arm,
but he hesitates.

ANDIE
It's okay.

Nick grazes Andie's arm with his fingers. A tear falls down
his cheek.

Nick moves his arm around Andie's waist and pulls her close
to him. He squeezes her. More tears stream down his face. She
squeezes him back.

ANDIE (CONT'D)
It's okay, sweetie. It's okay.

NICK
I should have been there with you.
I should have protected you.

ANDIE
There was nothing you could have
done about it. If you were there,
you would have died too.

Nick pulls back a little and stares into her eyes. He caresses her face.

NICK

I did die - not physically, but everything inside of me left me the same moment you did. My life isn't a life at all without you in it.

ANDIE

You never even tried to move on.

NICK

How could I? There's no moving on from that, from you. There never was. I was always yours.

Andie wipes away the tears from his face.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm broken. I've been broken ever since you left.

ANDIE

I know, I know. But, I'm here now, with you, in your arms. We're together again.

NICK

For a moment, a fleeting moment. Every single night for the past five years, I've prayed to God to take me away - to go to sleep one night and not wake up the next morning so that I could be with you again. I've longed to be able to touch your face just one more time. To kiss your lips. To feel your body against mine. Now that I have, I realize just how cruel of a wish that was. To let you go once was nearly impossible. There's no way I can do it again. I have no more pieces left to break.

Andie leans in close to Nick.

ANDIE

Sssshhhh.

NICK

Please, don't leave me.

Andie kisses Nick gently on the cheek.

ANDIE
I'm right here.

Andie rests her head on Nick's shoulder. They just stand there for a moment, holding each other.

NICK
I have something that belongs to you.

ANDIE
You do?

NICK
Yes, I've been wanting to give it to you for a long time.

Nick pulls the engagement ring from out of his pocket and holds it up in front of Andie. He gets down on one knee.

NICK (CONT'D)
I had this for you before the accident, but I never got the chance to give it to you. Andie Jameson, you have my heart - in the past, in the present, and in the future. I am yours for all eternity. Will you be mine?

ANDIE
You know I am.

Nick slides the ring on Andie's finger. He stands up and hugs her. He steps back, holding her hands in his.

ANDIE (CONT'D)
Will you dance with me?

NICK
What?

ANDIE
Dance with me, please.

Nick smiles and nods his head.

Nick and Andie sway from side to side as they hold each other close. GENTLE MUSIC plays in the sky around them. They slowly rise up off the ground and into the air, but they do not notice. They keep dancing.

Lewis gazes on from the ground.

NICK

I love you. I have always loved
you.

ANDIE

I love you too.

NICK

You are my happiness.

ANDIE

Yes.

NICK

I'm never letting you go again.

ANDIE

I know.

Nick and Andie keep dancing among the stars, in the light of
the moon. They kiss, long and passionate. In a sudden
explosion of color and light, they disappear.

FADE OUT.

THE END