

Riverview

by

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Name  
Address  
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Email

1.

FADE IN:

INT. SAGE'S ROOM IN OHIO - NIGHT

SAGE MCCALLISTER (16) sleeps in her bed. She moves around under the covers.

NIGHTMARE - EXT. MOVIE THEATRE- NIGHT

Sage is twelve years old standing outside the movie theatre. A white pickup truck stops in front of her. She smiles at the driver ADAM BENOIT (16) has a plain white t-shirt with a cap on.

SAGE

Thanks for picking me up, Adam. I'm sorry that Madison got sick with the flu.

ADAM

Your welcome, Sage.

She gets in the front seat and they drive away.

NIGHTMARE - DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

Adam pulls off the road into the bush.

SAGE

(nervous)

What's going on? I don't want to miss dinner.

Adam unbuckles his seatbelt and tosses his hat on the dashboard. He moves forward and grabs her waist.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(strokes her hair)

You're a beautiful girl...

SAGE

What are you doing?!

ADAM

Come on, don't tell me that boys your  
age aren't throwing themselves at you.

He tries to kiss her, but she slaps him. She tries to unbuckle  
but he stops her.

ADAM

You bitch!

There's a struggle and Adam gets up on top of her.

ADAM

Shut up and hold still!

A sixteen year old Sage in pajamas watches her twelve year old  
self getting raped. She frantically BANGS on the window and  
JINGLES the car door.

SAGE

(yelling)

Get off of me! Get off of me!

BACK TO SAGE'S ROOM

Sage thrashes through the covers.

SAGE

(yelling)

Get off of me! Get off of me!

MARISSA MCALLISTER (40) rushes into her empty room in a white  
bathrobe. Marissa shakes Sage up.

MRS.MCALLISTER

It's alright, Sage. Wake up!

Sage pops up and lets out a loud yell.

SAGE

Stop, don't...!

Sage realizes where she is and exhales deeply. She lays down  
with a traumatized look on her face.

MRS.MCALLISTER

You had a nightmare. I woke you up,  
you were screaming.

Sage notices that there is a huge sweat stain on her bed  
sheets.

MRS.MCALLISTER

It'll be alright.

A young child yells from the other room.

HOPE (O.S.)

Mommy!

SAGE

Shit! I woke up Hope.

She gets up from her bed and walks toward the door.

MRS.MCALLISTER

Watch your language!

SAGE (CONT'D)

(looking back)

Sorry.

Sage rushes out of the room.

INT. HOPE'S ROOM - NIGHT

HOPE (3) is sitting up on her bed. Sage sits down on her bed  
and strokes her daughter's hair.

SAGE

Mommy is here. I'm so sorry I woke you  
up I had a bad dream.

HOPE

It's alright.

SAGE

Let me sing you back to sleep.

Sage sings a lullaby and Hope falls asleep. Sage gently stands up and walks out the room.

INT. SAGE'S ROOM - NIGHT

When Sage enters her room her mom is putting clean sheets on her bed. She turns and smiles. She notices Sage's pajamas are soaked through with sweat.

MRS.MCALLISTER

Your pajamas are soaked. You better change them.

Sage takes off her top revealing a vertical c-section scar with stretch marks and a St. Agnes of Rome medal. She goes over to the dresser and changes into new ones. She looks at picture of her in alter server robes pregnant with Hope.

MRS.MCALLISTER

(sighs to herself)

Can you just put your clothes in the hamper?

Marissa picks up the shirt off the floor and puts it in the laundry basket. She comes back to see Sage settling in her bed. Sage sees her standing in the doorway.

SAGE

It's getting worse. I'm actually seeing Adam raping me now in his truck. I'll never forgive him!

Marissa flinches.

SAGE (CONT'D)

He was Parker and mine's best friends and the bastard judge dropped the charges. He's five years older than me! We were never going to be more than friends...

MRS.MCALLISTER

(interrupting)

It'll be alright. We're lucky that he has never taken an interest in Hope. We found a rape crisis center near Riverview and talked to a counselor. They have a group meeting on Sunday.

SAGE

And we'll be getting there on Thursday?

MRS.MCALLISTER

Yeah.

SAGE

It'll be great that we're leaving.

MRS.MCALLISTER

What about your old friends?

SAGE

I don't know, I'll tell them the truth if the truth comes. I guess.

MRS.MCALLISTER

You better get back to sleep we have an early start tomorrow.

Marissa walks out of the room.

EXT. MARISSA'S CAR - MOVING- DAY

Marissa drives past a sign that says Welcome to Riverview. Sage reads a teen parenting book with books piled on her lap. Her hair is in a ponytail. She looks tired as she rubs her eyes. She doesn't have any makeup on.

MRS.MCALLISTER

How's your book?

She sighs, puts down the book, and looks back at Hope, who is just waking up.

SAGE

(to Marissa)

It was really good. Thanks for getting it for me.

Sage gets a juice box from a cooler bag at her feet. She puts a straw in it and uses a recliner to lean back to hand her the juice box.

SAGE (CONT'D)

There you go sweetheart.

Hope takes the juice box and takes a sip. Sage takes the chair back up and sits back.

MRS.MCALLISTER

Make sure she doesn't spill that, I don't want flies coming into the car.

SAGE

She's fine mom. Don't worry about your car.

MRS.MCALLISTER

It's not about the car, it's about Hope being careful.

SAGE

She's three mom, leave it alone.

Marissa looks annoyed.

MRS.MCALLISTER

We'll be home in a minute. I know Parker is anxious to see you. You to have been the closest twins I know.

SAGE

I know, he's always been there for me.

They pass a big building. Sage turns around to look behind her.

SAGE (CONT'D)

Mom, was that the community center  
that we bought?

MRS.MCALLISTER

Yes it was. We just finished  
renovating it. You're going to start  
working there on Monday.

SAGE

I'm going to have to thank dad for  
putting a religious and healing center  
in there.

They turn onto the street where they see a big house.

HOPE

Wow!

EXT. MCALLISTER HOUSE - DAY

They pull into a driveway of a big house. PARKER MCCALLISTER  
(16) is mows the front lawn. Parker stops as Sage gets out of  
the car and takes Hope out of the car seat. Hope runs toward  
him.

HOPE (CONT'D)

Parker!

He kneels down to hug her.

PARKER

Hey sweetie. How was your trip?

SAGE

She slept pretty much the whole way  
here.

She hugs Parker.

PARKER

You should see the inside. It's  
amazing.

SAGE

Okay.

They walk toward the front door and open it. They enter the hallway.

INT. MCALLISTER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SAGE

Wow!

PARKER

Wait until you see the kitchen.

Marissa comes from the garage.

MRS.MCALLISTER

You should show Hope her new room  
before Bristol and Ming get here.

Parker smiles when he hears Bristol's name.

SAGE

(to Parker)

They're coming after school is over.

(to Marissa)

Mom, can you get her lunch? I want her  
to eat first.

MRS.MCALLISTER

Okay.

(to Hope)

Let me fix your lunch Hope.

Marissa carries Hope into the kitchen as Parker and Sage go up the stairs. They pass Hope's room. They turn into Sage's room. Christian Rock posters are on the walls with a crucifix over her bed. Sage notices new stuff on the walls.

SAGE

(smiling at Parker)

You know me so well.

PARKER  
(smiling)  
I should be your twin and all.

Sage turns toward the bookshelf where it's full of books ranging from teen parenting to cookbooks to song books. She notices a particular section of books.

SAGE  
And you got me more Brad Meltzer books. I love him!

PARKER  
(soberly)  
Sage?

Sage looks at him and notices the look on his face.

SAGE (CONT'D)  
What?

PARKER  
Mom told me what happened last night.

SAGE  
Everything?

PARKER  
Yes, everything.

She starts to cry a little. Parker puts his arm around her and gestures toward the bed and they both sit down.

PARKER (CONT'D)  
(rubs her shoulder)  
It's going to be alright.

SAGE  
(crying)  
I know. It's that I just can't get over that we trusted him.

PARKER

(angrily)

That asshole can never hurt you again.  
He's in another state now, and if he  
ever comes near you again I'll beat  
the living daylights out of him.

SAGE

I know you'll always have my back.

The doorbell rings.

EXT./INT. -MCALLISTER HOUSE - DAY

BRISTOL HARDY (15) and MING AU YEUNG (15) are at the door in  
their school uniforms. TODD MCALLISTER (42) opens the door.

MR. MCALLISTER

Hey guys, dinner is almost here.

They all walk in.

MR. MCALLISTER (CONT'D)

Sage and Parker are upstairs.

Bristol and Ming walk upstairs and reach the hallway.

BRISTOL

Sage, what room are you in?

Sage walks out of her room.

SAGE

(smiling)

Hey guys, it's been along time. Parker  
is in my room.

She waves them in and they follow.

INT. SAGE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They all enter the room where Parker sits on the bed. Bristol  
tackles Parker to the bed. Sage hugs Ming.

BRISTOL  
 (smiling)  
 Enjoy the position your in?

Parker laughs.

PARKER  
 (sarcastically)  
 Yes, actually.

Bristol jokingly punches him in the ribs and they continue to talk. Ming turns to Sage.

MING  
 How are Hope and you doing?

SAGE  
 She's doing well. I just enrolled her in daycare. Before Parker and me start at Riverview Academy.

Bristol gets off of Parker and sits on the bed as Ming goes over to Sage's closet and looks at her clothes and shakes her head disapprovingly.

MING (CONT'D)  
 (to Sage)  
 You really need to update your wardrobe, Sage. Your closet looks like it belongs to a thirty-five year old.

Sage goes to sit at her desk and looks at the mirror.

SAGE (CONT'D)  
 (smiles)  
 I'm not that bad, Ming! I saw on your Facebook post. I'm sorry that you broke up with your partner.

MING  
 It's alright. It wasn't that serious.

Ming looks over and sees that Sage's hair is in a ponytail and goes over to her.

MING

(shakes her head)

Sage, why do you keep your hair up all the time?

Ming unceremoniously takes out the tie in Sage's hair.

MING (CONT'D)

You look much better with your hair down. Are you joining the drama club?

As Ming runs her fingers through Sage's hair she gets turned on my this. Parker and Bristol notices this.

SAGE

(to Ming)

Yeah.

(to Bristol)

Thank's great that we're going to the same school again Bristol. But how can you afford the tuition?

BRISTOL

I forgot to tell you that I was recently diagnosed with Asperger's. My parents got a voucher for me to attend RA.

SAGE

What's the school like?

Sage and Ming go over and sit by Bristol and Parker.

BRISTOL

You'll do fine unless you slack off. Of course, Ming doesn't have to worry about it since her mom is the principal.

MR. MCALLISTER (O.S.)

Dinner is here!

INT. MCALLISTER KITCHEN - NIGHT

Parker and Marissa carry drinks into the kitchen as Bristol and Ming are sitting at the table. As Sage puts Hope in her high chair. The doorbell RINGS.

SAGE

I got it.

She goes to the front door followed by Parker where the delivery guy is waiting. Sage notices the t-shirt the guy is wearing is the same shirt and hat Adam wore when he raped her. She stops as Parker opens the door.

PARKER

Sage, do you have the money for him.

Sage sees Adam standing in front of her. She pauses for a moment and then hands the delivery guy the money. She reaches out with her shaking hand to accept the change.

SAGE (CONT'D)

(taking the money)

Thank you.

Bristol comes to the door to get Sage. As Parker closes the door he can tell something is wrong. Bristol notices this.

BRISTOL

(concerned)

What's the matter?

Sage snaps out of it.

SAGE

Nothing, lets have some pizza.

As Bristol goes back to the kitchen, Sage and Parker make eye contact with each other. With the look on Parker's face he realizes that Sage had a flashback.

INT. MCALLISTER KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ming, Sage and Bristol eat pizza together. As Parker feeds Hope.

SAGE

I'm so happy we moved back here. I can't wait to start at Riverview Academy tomorrow.

BRISTOL

I don't mean to be a buzzkill, but what happened to Hope's dad?

Sage gets very uncomfortable and looks down at her pizza.

SAGE

(quickly)

Her father is not in the picture.

MING

Bristol! You really need to learn not to butt into people's personal life.

BRISTOL

But, we're best friends.

Ming is about to answer back but Sage stops her.

SAGE

It's alright.

(to Bristol)

Her dad doesn't want to be in her life.

Bristol is about to say something when Parker comes over as Todd cleans Hope.

PARKER

With good riddance! We're better off without that son of a bitch around.

Bristol has a very confused look on her face. Ming thinks quickly on her feet.

MING

Hey guys, do you want to get some ice cream from the Dairy Shack?

(to Sage)

We can get some for Hope if you want to?

SAGE

Sure, let me just tell my mom and dad.

(to Todd)

Hey dad, can Parker and me go to the Dairy Shack to get ice cream? I'll pick something up for Hope.

Hope cheers.

MR. MCALLISTER

Sure, just make sure you get back before it gets dark.

SAGE

We will.

(to Parker)

Parker, can I talk about something upstairs while I get my purse.

INT. SAGE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sage goes to her desk where her purse is sitting. Parker follows her in.

SAGE

(scorns)

Parker, why did you say that?

PARKER

I don't know! It just came out!

Sage picks up her purse and puts it around her shoulder.

SAGE

Please Parker, don't say anything about Adam. I'm finally at a place where I can finally raise my daughter.

PARKER

You're right. I shouldn't have said anything.

She goes over and sits on the edge of the bed.

SAGE

It's not your fault. You didn't know that he was a monster.

She puts her head in her hands and looks up.

SAGE (CONT'D)

I want to tell Bristol and Ming about the rape, but I just can't do it. I'm worried about what they would think about me.

INT. MCALLISTER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bristol is at the foot of the stairs bouncing on the balls of her feet.

BRISTOL

Hurry up you guys!

INT. SAGE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SAGE

We're coming down!

She stands up and Parker and her exit the room.

EXT. DAIRY SHACK - NIGHT

The group is walking from the parking lot laughing and joking around. They go to a small shack where the ice cream is being served.

SAGE

Two root beer floats, one birch, and two cookie dough with peanuts on it.

CASHIER

Right away.

They wait for their orders, ADAM BENOIT (21) walks up to the shack. He notices Sage and walks toward her, and places a hand on her shoulder.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Hi Sage.

An electrical current races through her veins. They all spin around with Sage on the verge of a panic attack.

SAGE

What are you doing here?! You...

Sage's panic attack grabs hold.

PARKER

(angrily)

Hey guys, can you take Sage to the table?

As they do this Adam follows, making Parker livid.

SAGE

Haven't you done enough?

Bristol and Ming react in confusion.

SAGE (CONT'D)

Can't I just raise my daughter in peace?

ADAM

You mean our daughter?

SAGE

(angrily upset)

No! My daughter! You don't deserve to call her your daughter when you forced yourself on me.

ADAM

The state of Ohio says otherwise, it was consensual...

Parker explodes.

PARKER

Bullshit!!!

SAGE

(upset)

Your five years older than me. Why would you think I would do it with you? We were just friends.

BRISTOL

What's going on?

SAGE

This is Hope's biological father. Three years ago, he was driving me to meet Parker and our parents. He raped me.

Her friends are floored.

ADAM

(to Sage's friends)

I didn't rape her. The court said it was consensual. I...

SAGE

What are you doing here?

ADAM

I'm here for my daughter. I followed you from your house. My family told me that you moved back. They're furious that you lied on the stand during my trial.

Sage struggles to breathe.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I've done nothing wrong.

Ming and Bristol notice that something is wrong with Sage. She leans on Bristol for support. Adam ignores this and he's enjoying tormenting Sage.

ADAM

I'm willing to share custody of her with you.

Sage sweats and grabs her stomach. Adam looks at his watch.

CASHIER

(to Parker)

Excuse me, your stuff is ready.

Parker hands Ming the money.

PARKER (CONT'D)

Ming, can you pay for our stuff.

ADAM

I'm going to be late for my job at the steel mill. I guess I'll see you next in court.

He walks away with a smile on his face as Sage leans over and throws up on herself.

INT. MCALLISTER HOUSE - LATER

Sage is walking down the stairs in new clothes. While the rest of them wait for her at the foot of the stairs.

SAGE

Is Hope enjoying her ice cream?

MING

Yeah, she gobbled it up in a hurry.

Parker rubs her back as she clears the landing.

SAGE

Where is she now?

MING

Your dad got her fingerprint set and put it on the patio.

BRISTOL

Are you okay?

(quickly)

Well I know that you're not okay after what happened...

SAGE

I'm fine. I'm filing for sole custody and an order of protection against Adam. My dad got it set for tomorrow.

They walk into the kitchen and Sage begins to breathe easier.

SAGE (CONT'D)

I'm going to need you guys there to tell the court what happened today. So you guys need to call off of school.

BRISTOL

Of course we'll be there.

Ming nods in agreement.

SAGE

(relieved)

Thanks guys, I don't know what I do if I lost her to Adam.

Sage checks her watch and sees Hope finishing her painting. She walks onto the patio.

MING

How can Adam do this?

BRISTOL

Because thirty one states allow rapists to sue for custody including here.

Ming and Parker look at her bewildered.

BRISTOL (CONT'D)

I looked it up on my phone on the drive back.

It starts to rain.

SAGE (O.C.)

Crap!

PARKER

I better help her.

He rushes out to help her as Hope rushes in covered in fingerpaint with her painting.

INT. MCALLISTER KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sage and Parker rush inside. Bristol is walking Hope to the sink to wash her hands. Sage spots the painting on the table and smiles. She puts the supplies on the table.

SAGE

(to Hope)

I know exactly where I'm going to put this, Hope.

She grabs the painting.

SAGE (CONT'D)

(to Bristol)

Bri, don't worry about that. She needs to have a bath anyway.

Ming's cellphone RINGS. She picks up the phone and starts to speak in Chinese. She covers the mouthpiece.

MING (CONT'D)

Sage, my parents are going to pickup my cousins at the airport next morning. Can I get a ride from you?

SAGE

Sure, come around seven. Okay.

MING

Thanks!

She speaks into the phone and then hangs up as Sage leaves the room with Hope.

BRISTOL

She's such a good mother.

PARKER

I know; I just wish she didn't use it to hide how much she's hurting.

BRISTOL

What do you mean?

Parker rubs his head as all three of them go to sit at the table.

PARKER (CONT'D)

Ever since she found out that she was pregnant, she's been absorbed in being a mother to Hope. Her therapist said she uses it to hide all the negative feelings about the rape. She still has nightmares.

BRISTOL

I'm confused.

MING

He's saying that Sage is in denial.

Sage enters the kitchen.

SAGE  
(to Ming)  
What do you mean that I'm denial?

All three of them jump in surprise.

SAGE (CONT'D)  
(to Parker)  
Dad offered to give Hope a bath. What are you talking about?

Parker sighs heavily.

PARKER  
About your rape.

SAGE  
No, I'm not. I've completely come to terms with it. How do you think Hope got her?

PARKER  
Sage, when you found out that you were pregnant, who came obsessed with the baby.

Sage looks disgusted at him.

PARKER (CONT'D)  
You told me all the dreams you had about playing with her, dressing her, washing her, caring for her...

SAGE  
I'm not going to argue with you when they are here.

Ming and Bristol feel the tension in the air.

BRISTOL  
I think we better go.

They all get up to leave.

SAGE

I'll see you tomorrow guys.

PARKER

I'll walk you guys out.

As they leave the kitchen, Sage begins to cry.

NIGHTMARE - INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Todd and Sage are at sitting at the desk waiting for the judges decision. Bristol, Ming and Parker are sitting behind them. Adam and his lawyer are sitting at a table beside them. The judge enters the room and sits down in the judge's bench.

JUDGE

After careful deliberation I've decided that the plaintiff Sage McAllister hasn't proven...

Sage has a look of horror on her face.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

That the defendant Adam Benoit is a threat to her and her daughters safety.

Ming, Bristol and Parker react in disgust.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

So I'm granted Adam's request for 50/50 custody.

SAGE

No. No. No.

INT. SAGE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sage wakes up in a jolt breathing heavily. She wipes the sweat off of her head and looks on the alarm clock. She silently gets out of the bed and goes out of the room.

INT. HOPE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sage walks in and gently gets in bed with Hope. She embraces her daughter and let's out a big exhale.

INT. MCALLISTER KITCHEN - LATER

Todd McAllister is dressed in a suit as Ming, Bristol, Sage and Parker are sitting at the table eating breakfast.

SAGE

Thank you guys for doing this.

BRISTOL

We're your friends, Sage. We'd do anything to help you out.

Todd goes over and places a hand on Sage's shoulder.

MR. MCALLISTER (CONT'D)

Don't worry about it, Sage. No judge in his right mind will give Adam shared custody.

SAGE

You said that they would never find Adam not guilty of raping me. But here we are.

MING

How did he get acquitted?

PARKER

Ming, I don't think...

SAGE

No, it's fine Parker. There going to find out anyway.

(to Ming)

I waited three months to report Adam to the cops because I was to traumatized by what happened. So there wasn't a rape kit.

Ming gestures at Sage.

MING

(shocked)

But look at you're a mess. It's clear that you're not faking it.

SAGE

I didn't have any signs of PTSD before the trial. It only started after the trial.

PARKER

Which Adam's lawyer will point out.

Todd looks at the clock on the wall as Sage takes a pill.

MR. MCALLISTER

It'll be best if we get early. So you guys better finish up.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Sage, Ming, Bristol, Parker and Marissa are waiting behind Todd and Adam's lawyer. Sage's therapist is testifying on the stand. Sage is looking scared as Marissa has a one arm hug on her.

SAGE

Thanks for coming here, mom.

MRS. MCALLISTER

I'm here to support you sweetheart. I wouldn't be anywhere else.

Todd finishes questioning the therapist. Adam's lawyer starts to question the therapist. Bristol points to people on Adam's side of the courtroom.

BRISTOL (CONT'D)

Who are those people?

SAGE

Ayiana Jaeger, Antonio Barrett and  
Curtis Springer.

PARKER

(whispering)

I can't believe he's still dating that  
slut!

SAGE (CONT'D)

There Adam's friends. When Adam's  
trial was happening those three kept  
on spray painting our house calling me  
a whore. But we could never prove it.

Ming and Bristol look horrified.

MING

Why would people do that?

PARKER

Henderson was a small town. Adam was a  
big football star. If you don't go to  
college you're staying there. It was  
really us versus them.

The therapist gets off the stand.

SAGE

I'm next.

Sage does the sign of the cross and walks up the stand.

JUDGE

Do swear to tell the truth.

SAGE

I do.

She sits down.

MR. MCALLISTER

So tell us what happened, Sage.

She takes a deep breath gives Adam a look of contempt.

SAGE

It started when Adam offered to bring me back from the movie complex. It during the trip home when he pulled into a dirt road and stopped in a wooded area.

Sage shudders.

SAGE (CONT'D)

He started to try and kiss me, but I pushed him off. He got angry he stopped me from unbuckling so I was pinned down when he got on top of me.

She takes a couple of deep breaths.

SAGE (CONT'D)

When he overpowered me he told me to hold still and I froze.

(pauses)

It took six minutes. The watch I was wearing glowed in the dark and I stared at the whole time when he did it.

MR. MCALLISTER

The result of this attack caused you to be pregnant with your daughter?

SAGE

Yes.

MR. MCALLISTER

No further questions.

Todd goes to sit down as Adam's lawyer gets up.

LAWYER

So when he got on top of you, did you try to shout out or fight.

SAGE

I didn't shout out...

LAWYER

So all for we know it could have been consensual?

SAGE

(upset)

It wasn't consensual! Adam is twice as big as me. You try push off somebody who is twice as big and heavy as you! He could have killed me if he wanted to.

LAWYER

No further questions.

JUDGE

You can step down.

COURTHOUSE MONTAGE - DAY

-We see Todd and Adam's lawyer question Bristol, Ming and Parker about what they saw at the Dairy Shack.

-Bristol's testimony is energetic when she explains what happens.

-Ming is cool and collective.

-Parker is in a controlled anger.

INT. OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM - LATER

Marissa, Bristol, Sage, Parker and Sage are waiting outside the courtroom. Ayiana, Antonio and Curtis leave the courtroom. Sage gives them the death stare as they pass by.

SAGE

(to Bristol and Ming)

I want to thank you guys for this.

MING

You don't have to thank us.

Todd looks out the doorway.

MR. MCALLISTER

The judge is ready.

INT. COURTROOM - CONTINUOUS

Todd takes his seat as Sage and the rest sit behind him. The judge comes and sits down. Sage starts to get nervous.

JUDGE

I took the time to review the case and  
I have to say I find the evidence  
provided by the plaintiff Sage  
McAllister very compelling.

Sage smiles.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

So I'm awarding full custody with the  
protective order. The defendant Adam  
Benoit is not allowed within 500 feet  
from Sage or her daughter.

Sage's smile gets bigger as Adam remains stone-faced.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I am also ordering the defendant to  
pay restitution until the child is  
eighteen.

Sage looks like she's going to leap for joy as the judge gets up and walks out of the courtroom.

EXT. MCALLISTER BACKYARD - DAY

Sage, Bristol, and Ming are by the pool wearing swimsuits. Sage is in a modest bikini. While Parker and Hope in the pool, Hope is in a life jacket. Parker is throwing Hope into the air. Sage is watching Hope.

SAGE

I'm so glad it's over! I was terrified that I was going to lose her.

BRISTOL

Why? There was no chance that he could get custody. Adam just did this to torture you one last time.

Ming comes over and hands them drinks.

SAGE (CONT'D)

I don't know. It destroyed me when Adam got off.

Ming puts a comforting hand on Sage's shoulder.

MING

Well we made sure that he can't you ever again. Sage gives them a grateful smile.

BRISTOL

So your first day of school is tomorrow. Are you excited?

SAGE

Yeah, when does drama club start?

MING

Tuesday, You'll like Mrs. Abito. Do you want hangout tomorrow after school?

SAGE

Can't I have to work at the community center. You should come to the grand opening tomorrow.

Hope swims over to the edge of the pool.

HOPE

Jump in, Mommy!

She throws a wet water ball at her. Sage laughs as she catches it and throws it at Parker.

SAGE

(laughs)

Don't encourage her, Parker!

They put their drinks down and all three of them jump into the pool.

FADE OUT

END OF SCRIPT