

[DREAM SEQUENCE]

INT. Bridgette's Bedroom-AFTERNOON

Bridgette is having a nightmare of a tragic real life event she experienced during adolescence. Bridgette is dreaming of herself as a small girl in her bedroom fearing for her life. There is smoke. We see her feet as she runs across the floor. She is crying for help. She grabs a pillow off her bed and makes her way toward another room.

Bridgette

(Crying) Mom! Dad!

A firefighter runs into the girls' room and places his hands on her shoulders.

FIREFIGHTER

Let's get you out of here, kid.

The firefighter picks up Bridgette and covers her face with a wet towel. He makes his way out of the room.

INT. STAIRCASE-AFTERNOON

The firefighter carries Bridgette in his arms.

Bridgette

My parents! My parents!

FIREFIGHTER

Don't worry, I'll save them

EXT. FIER RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON [DREAM]

The firefighter puts Bridgette down and makes his way back into the house to retrieve the parents. Bridgette is crying hysterically. She wipes her eyes then places her hands over her eyes.

[DREAM SEQUENCE END]

INT. BRIDGETTE'S ROOM-AFTERNOON

Bridgette jumps up out of her nightmare with tears running down her face. She is panting and wipes her eyes and places both hands over her eyes.

BRIDGETTE

(Crying) You said you'd save them.

INT. BRIDGETTES KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

Bridgette takes a pot out of the cabinet and places it on the stove. She turns the stove on. She takes out eggs in a plastic bag and places them next to the hot pot. She turns her back and opens the refrigerator. We see smoke coming from the plastic bag touching the hot stove. A small fire has started. Bridgette smells smoke and turns around. She gasps.

BRIDGETTE

Oh my god, oh my god!

Bridgette pulls the eggs away and puts them in the sink. She takes the pot off the stove and fills it with water. She throws the water on the fire. The fire disappears. She sighs and cuts the stove off. She places the pot in the sink. She walks over to the counter and places both hands on the counter and looks down. We hear coffee pouring.

INT. DANIELLES COFFEE SHOP-EVENING

A woman is pouring coffee into a white mug. She takes it off the black tray and places it on the countertop for the customer. She smiles.

CUSTOMER

Thank you!

The waitress warmly smiles.

We see that the coffee shop is crowded. Bridgette walks up to the cashier and smiles.

BRIDGETTE

Can I get a whole grain bagel toasted and a coffee decaf black?

CASHIER

Coming right up! That will be \$3.58

Bridgette pulls out a few bills and some change from her pocket. She pays the cashier, and walks over to take a seat. She looks around at all the people. She turns around. She smells smoke. We notice there is smoke coming from the toaster. The bagels are burning.

BRIDGETTE

Oh my god!

An employee rushes over to the oven and opens it.

EMPLOYEE

Don't worry, I'll save them!

The employee takes the burnt bagels out of the oven. Bridgette places her fingers over her mouth.

BEGINNING OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. STAIRCASE-AFTERNOON

The firefighter carries the young girl in his arms.

GIRL

My parents! My parents!

FIREFIGHTER

Don't worry, I'll save them

ENDING OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. DANIELLE'S COFFEE SHOP-AFTERNOON

EMPLOYEE

Here you are ma'am, your whole grain bagel and decaf coffee
black

Bridgette gets up and walks over to the counter to retrieve her food.

BRIDGETTE

Thank you

EMPLOYEE

You sure are welcome. And I do apologize about earlier, about burning them.

(Chuckles) I used to be a firefighter.

BRIDGETTE

It's fine. Thank you!

EMPLOYEE

See you soon!

We here fire sirens from the next scene.

INT.FIRETRUCK-SUNSET

Bridgette is driving the fire truck and she looks scared.

BRIDGETTE

3321 Ashburn St.

FIREFIGHTER

3321 Ashburn St. It's a family of four.

BRIDGETTE

Oh my god. What if we don't make it in time?

FIREFIGHTER

Don't worry, I'll save them

Bridgette's eyes widen and she looks over at her co worker. He gives her a half smile.

EXT.3321 ASHBURN ST.-SUNSET

Bridgette and her co worker exit the fire truck. Bridgette gathers a wet towel while her co worker gets the hose. Bridgette runs into the fire driven house. All we can make of is fire. Her

face is covered with the wet towel. She looks around and makes her way upstairs and kicks a bedroom door open. She discovered two children crying. Bridgette is overwhelmed. She grabs the kids and makes her way out of the house.

EXT.3321 Ashburn St.-SUNSET

The kids are out and Bridgette runs back into the house to rescue the parents. She runs upstairs but the flames are blocking her entrance. She uses her arms to shield her and forces her way in. She discovers candles knocked over. She discovers both parents' bodies. One is on the floor and the other is near the bedroom door. The flesh has been burnt off already. Bridgette lets out a cry. She manages to run out of the house.

EXT.3321 ASHBURN ST-SUNSET

BRIDGETTE

Marshall! Marshall!

Bridgette sees Marshall running out the house

MARSHALL

Is everyone out?

Bridgette starts to cry.

BRIDGETTE

I couldn't save them. I couldn't save them.

Both Marshall and Bridgette start to cry and Bridgette places her head on Marshall's shoulder.

EXT.3321 ASHBURN ST-NIGHT

Three firefighter trucks are lined up outside the house. The firemen have the two bodies on the stretchers and are taking them to the truck. Marshall and Bridgette walk side by side with a heavyside man who is their boss.

BOSS

I need to know exactly what took place here

BRIDGETTE

I drove, we got out and Marshall took the hose and I got the kids out as fast as I could. By the time I made it to the parents room they were already burnt alive. I tried. I really did. I feel terrible and I'm grieving.

Bridgette starts to cry. She wipes her face and places her hands over her face. The boss folds his arms. Marshall bows his heads.

BOSS

Two lives are gone because of you. Do you have any idea of what you have done?

The boss lets out a sigh. He scratches his head.

BOSS

Go home, hopefully I will see you boys tomorrow. Try not to burn anything else up.

The boss walks away to his car.

MARSHALL

Bridgette you tried. No grieving, it's not your fault.

BRIDGETTE

It is my fault. Two lives are gone because of me. I wasn't fast enough. I wasn't. I could have but I wasn't.

Marshall places his hand on Bridgette's shoulder.

MARSHALL

Look, go home and get some rest. You'll need it for tomorrow when you're taken to court and fired.

Marshall starts to walk away. Bridgette crosses her arms.

BRIDGETTE

Do you really think all that's going to happen?

Marshall turns back around.

MARSHALL

Well, yeah. You killed two people.

Marshall turns back around and heads for his car. Bridgette stands there with her arms dangling at her sides.

INT. BRIDGETTE'S BATHROOM-NIGHT

We see Bridgette run herself a hot bubble bath. She then lights four candles and puts them on the edge of the bath. She takes off her clothes and we see her firefighter uniform tossed on the floor. She gently steps into the bath and sits. She leans back and closes her eyes. A candle falls into the water and makes a splash. This startles Bridgette; she opens her eyes and covers her mouth with her hands. She lets out a sigh and places her thumb and index finger on the bridge of her nose.

INT. BRIDGETTES ROOM-NIGHT

Bridgette is wearing pajamas and she folds back her blanket and climbs into bed. She positions herself comfortably and cuts off the light.

BRIDGETTE

I thought I would save them

INT.BRIDGETTE'S BATHROOM-MORNING

We see Bridgette in the shower washing her body. She shampoos her hair, and then we see her rise and cut the shower water off. She grabs a towel and dries off. She walks from the bathroom to her bedroom. She then walks back and stops. She eyes a book sitting on a table. She raises her eyebrows.

INT. BRIDGETTES LIVING ROOM-MORNING

We see Bridgette practicing meditation. She is in her uniform. She is sitting cross legged with her eyes closed. The book is opened sitting in front of her. She flips a few pages. She then closes her eyes and breaths slowly.

BRIDGETTE

I forgive myself. I release the past.

Bridgette inhales deeply, and then exhale. She opens one eye and glances around. She lets out a sigh and falls back.

INT. BOSSES OFFICE-MORNING

Bridgette is sitting across from her boss shaking her leg. She looks nervous. Her boss is in his mid 50's, balding in the middle and has brown eyes.

BOSS

Something happened yesterday, something devastating and horrendous. I thought I could trust you, Bridgette. I really did. You do a good job. And to think I didn't even think twice before sending you to the house. Damn. What happened in that house? Ya know you're lucky no one is suing...yet. Anyways, I have to let you go.

Bridgette stares at her boss and shrugs.

BRIDGETTE

Understood sir, thank you for all the wonderful opportunities I have been granted. I did what I could; I did what I knew how. I guess I don't know how to put out a fire.

Bridgette gets up and walks out. She stops and turns around.

BRIDGETTE

I thought I was going to save them.

Bridgette turns back around and exits.

INT.DANIELLE'S COFFEE SHOP-MORNING

Bridgette walks in the shop and waits her turn in line. There is a blonde lady in her mid 30's in front of her with a small child.

BRIDGETTE

Hi, one cappuccino and a blueberry muffin

CASHIER

One cappuccino and a blueberry muffin commin' right up! That will be \$4.25.

Bridgette takes change out of her pockets. She hands it to the cashier.

CASHIER

Hey, don't you usually get the decaf black with the bagel?
Bridgette looks up.

BRIDGETTE

Huh?

CASHIER

Oh, nothing, it's just you always get the decaf black with a bagel

BRIDGETTE

(Chuckles) oh, right

CASHIER

Needed a bit of a change?

BRIDGETTE

Yeah, I guess change is good

The cashier and Bridgette smile at each other.

CASHIER

Thank you

BRIDGETTE

No, thank you.

Bridgette walks over to the seats to wait for her order.

The employee from the last time Bridgette was there approaches Bridgette. He smiles at her and she smiles back.

EMPLOYEE

One cappuccino and a blueberry muffin!

The employee hands Bridgette her food.

BRIDGETTE

Thank you!

EMPLOYEE

No, thank you!

INT. BRIDGETTE'S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

We see Bridgette walking into her home. She shuts the door and puts her keys on the table. She walks to her room.

INT. BRIDGETTES' ROOM-AFTERNOON

Bridgette takes a few sips from her coffee and sets it on her nightstand. She goes back into the living room.

INT. BRDIDGETTE'S LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

She walks over to the house phone and checks for messages.

VOICEMAIL

You have one new message:

Hey it's Marshall. I went to see the kids at the Mary Anne Foster Care. Turns out, they're not too far. Call me.

Bridgette bites her nails. The doorbell rings. Bridgette wipes her hands on her pants. She walks over to the door to answer it.

MARSHALL

Hi-ya Bridgette!

BRIDGETTE

Hey! How is everything?

MARSHALL

Well! Here are two boys I'd like you to meet. This is Matches and this here is Smokey.

BRIDGETTE

Hello! Come in please.

The boys and Marshall come in and sit on the red couch.

MARSHALL

So do you think you can keep them for..well..a while?

BRIDGETTE

What?? What do you mean? You said they stay at the foster home.

MARSHALL

Well, not anymore. I didn't want them staying there. They don't treat the kids' right. You know that. You stayed there.

Bridgette looks down.

MARSHALL

Look I'm sorry.

BRIDGETTE

It's okay. It's just I don't know what to do with kids.

MARSHALL

I know, I know Look-

Marshall looks at his watch.

MARSHALL

Shoot! I gotta go to work. I'll be back around 8:30pm.

Bridgette

Marsh!

MARSHALL

I'm sorry, thank you!

Marshall runs out of the house. Bridgette turns and looks at the kids.

BRIDGETTE

So whos' hungry?

Bridgette smiles.

MATCHES

You killed our parents.

SMOKEY

Yeah.

Bridgettes' face drops. She starts breathing faster.

BRIDGETTE

You have no idea how sorry I am, none. I am so sorry. I tried. I rescued you both first and then I went upstairs. They were already gone, done. I couldn't save them. Even if I was twice as fast I still wouldn't have been able to.

Bridgette catches her breath. The kids look at each other and back at Bridgette.

BRIDGETTE

Their bodies were already burned by the time I got there. I'm so sorry and I apologize for your loss. I truly am. Now I don't know how long you guys can stay. I think the foster care would be a better fit. I'm no parent. I'm a kid if anything. I'm sorry.

The kids stare at Bridgette.

MATCHES

You killed our parents.

Bridgette lets out a huge sigh and drops her arms off her hips. She wipes her nose and walks away.

INT.BRIDGETTES BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Bridgette sits on her bed and places her hands over her face. She shakes her head. She starts to cry. She slowly wipes her face and ties her hair back. We see the clock on her night stand. She climbs into bed and goes to sleep.

INT. BRIDGETTE'S BEDROOM-EVENING

We see her clock reads 8:15PM. Bridgette turns over and slowly starts to wake up. She opens her eyes. She smells smoke. She gasps and jumps up out of bed. She looks at the clock. She runs out of the room into the kitchen. She sees Matches holding a pack of matches and Smokey laughing. They curtains are on fire.

BRIDGETTE

Oh my god! Oh my god!

Bridgette scurries over into the kitchen and fills a pot with water. She throws it at the fire, practically missing.

The boys laugh and point.

MATCHES

Don't you know how to put a fire out?

Bridgette stops and turns to the boys.

BRIDGETTE

What?

Matches clears his throat.

Smokey

He asked, don't you know how to put a fire out?

Bridgette looks down.

MATCHES

Since, ya know, you're a fire fighter

BRIDGETTE

I'm no longer a firefighter

SMOKEY

And why is that?

Smokey crosses his arms. Bridgette sighs and looks down.

BRIDGETTE

Because apparently I don't know how to put out a fire

The boys look at her and she stares back. She turns around and goes into the kitchen. She places the pot in the sink. She heads to her room.

INT. BRIDGETTE'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Bridgette sits on her bed and glances over at her coffee cup on her nightstand. She picks it up. She sips off of it and tilts her head all the way back to get the last drop. She closes her eyes. She sits back up and opens her eyes. She stares at the coffee cup. It reads "Danielle's Coffee Shop". She notices something at the bottom of the cup. She tilts the cup down and looks at the bottom. She sees that there is a phone number written. It reads: 212-555-3289 Aden. She smiles. She reaches for the phone and stares at the number on the cup. She picks up the phone and dials the number.

ADEN

Hello?

BRIDGETTE

Hey, it's Bridgette, the girl from the coffee shop. What are you doing tonight?

INT. ADEN'S LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

We see red wine being poured into a wine glass. We see Aden and Bridgette sitting on a red couch. There are two candles on the table. He pours red wine into a second glass then sets the bottle down. He hands her the glass and takes the other one. He takes a sip.

ADEN

I'm really glad you called tonight.

Bridgette smiles and takes a sip.

BRIDGETTE

Me too, I almost didn't realize you gave me your number. What's with the secret hiding spot?

ADEN

Well you found it, so it's not a secret now is it?

Aden smiles and takes another sip. Bridgette chuckles.

BRIDGETTE

I guess not. But I noticed there were numbers at the bottom when I was studying the cup. I was just wondering why you would write your phone number on the bottom of a coffee cup.

Aden looks over at Bridgette. She looks away.

ADEN

Sometimes you have to tilt your mindset to see the whole picture. Sometimes you have to change your perspective for things to add up.

BRIDGETTE

Wow, you're right.

Bridgette looks at her glass and back at Aden. He smiles.

BRIDGETTE

Tell me about your scariest moment?

Aden shuffles a bit in his seat and takes another sip.

ADEN

I was a firefighter.

Bridgettes' eyes widen and she points with her index finger.

BRIDGETTE

Mhmm, you told me.

ADEN

Mhmm, yes I did.

Aden chuckles.

ADEN

Well, it was pretty early in my career actually. I got a call to this house. I was terrified, like shaking in my boots.

Aden demonstrates how he was shaking. Bridgette nods her head.

ADEN

It was a family of three. I went in. I felt like I was in hell, but there were no devils. Anyways, I go in this room and I see a crying little girl. I froze. How could something so innocent and fragile be in a burning house? I gently picked her up, covered her face and got her out the house. She was screaming for her parents and I told her I would save them, but I didn't. I couldn't. It was too late. I was too late. I never forgave myself.

Aden glances over at Bridgette. She has tears in her eyes.

BRIDGETTE

You killed my parents! You killed my parents!

Aden jumps up from the couch and looks at Bridgette. He covers his mouth with both his hands.

ADEN

You? Is it you? I never thought I would see you again. I am so sorry! I really am. I tried. I swear on my life. By the time I got to your parents room they were already dead. I couldn't save them. I wanted to and I still wish I could.

Bridgette is crying harder and she shakes her head. She gets up.

BRIDGETTE

Why don't you put this fire out?

Bridgette knocks over one of the candles onto the carpet and it catches fire. She storms out.

ADEN

Oh my god!

Aden runs over to the kitchen to retrieve water.

EXT. STEPS OF ADENS' HOUSE-DUSK

Bridgette makes her way to her car. She gets in and shuts the door. She covers her face with her hands and cries. She wipes her face. Her cell phone rings. Bridgette wipes her nose.

BRIDGETTE

Hello?

MARSHALL

Where are you? What have you done?

BRIDGETTE

What are you talking about?

MARSHALL

Where are you? Your house was on fire.

Bridgette gasps and puts her hand over her mouth.

Bridgette

What? How?

MARSHALL

Did you leave any candles burning or anything?

BRIDGETTE

Oh my god! Matches!

MARSHALL

You left matches burning?!

BRIDGETTE

NO! Matches! Smokey!

MARSHALL

I thought you were smart.

BRIDGETTE

You said you'd be back by 8:30?!

MARSHALL

By that time we got a call there was a fire so I came rushing.
Bridgette c'mon, what's gotten into you?

BRIDGETTE

I don't know, I don't know

MARSHALL

Well you better know, because you have two more bodies on your
clean hands

BRIDGETTE

What do you mean bodies?

Marshall lets out a cry.

MARSHALL

Matches and Smokey, they're dead.

Bridgette throws her head forward and lets out a loud cry.

INT. BRIDGETTES' ROOM-NIGHT

We see Bridgette on her stomach with her face buried into a pillow. She is crying and screaming. She turns around. Her eyes are wide and all her makeup is smeared all over her face. Her pillowcase has makeup on it. Her red hair is loose and wild. She doesn't blink.

Bridgette wipes her face and sits up.

EXT. BACKYARD-DUSK

Bridgette carries wood under her right arm and places it in the middle of the yard. She lights a match and places it on one of the logs. A fire has started. She blows out the match.

Tears start to form in Bridgette's eyes. She closes her eyes and inhales. She slowly exhales.

BRIDGETTE

I forgive you, Bridgette. I forgive you for not being fast enough. I forgive you for all the bad decisions you've made. I forgive you for not saving the parents. I forgive you for not being fast enough. I forgive you for being angry your parents are gone and never coming back to save you. I forgive you for punishing yourself. I forgive you for feeling guilty. I forgive you for everything. You are free. You are free. Go.

Bridgette turns her face toward the sky and deeply inhales. She exhales. A raindrop falls on Bridgette's face. She opens her eyes. It's raining. The rain comes down harder and harder. Bridgette gets up and holds her arms out wide and spins around. She laughs. She sees that the rain has put her fire out.

BRIDGETTE

Thank you

EXT. GRAVEYARD-MORNING

Bridgette is on bended knee on the side of the graves. There are two lit candles on her side. She is crying. She gently places both hands on the two graves. One tombstone reads "Smokey Firewood: Smoke is the absence of fire". The other reads: "Matches Firewood: You can light a match just as quickly as it takes for one to burn out, all fires burn out". Bridgette hears footsteps behind her. She turns around.

ADEN

Hey

BRIDGETTE

Hey, how did you know I was here?

ADEN

I got lost. And look who I found.

Bridgette smiles. She looks down at the graves.

ADEN

Did you forgive yourself?

Bridgette sniffles.

Bridgette

How do you know when you've forgiven yourself?

Aden looks down.

ADEN

When your heart no longer feels like there is a boulder sitting on top of it. When you no longer feel bad, guilty, and you are no longer angry and sad over the past. That's when.

Bridgette smiles.

BRIDGETTE

Then yes, I have forgiven myself.

Bridgette turns to look at Aden. He smiles at her.

BRIDGETTE

Have you forgiven yourself?

Aden lets out a sigh and shakes his head.

ADEN

No, I haven't. I forgive myself, then I have the bad memories and I take the forgiveness back and dangle it over my head. I jump up and down trying to reach it but I can't. Sometimes I can touch it but it always manages to slip out of my hands.

Bridgette nods.

BRIDGETTE

(Whispers) forgive Aden

ADEN

Aden, I forgive you for not being able to rescue the parents. I forgive you for causing Bridgette great deals of heartache, pain, and suffering. I never meant to do that. I forgive you for not being a savior. I forgive you for not being at the house at the right time. I forgive you for being just you, Aden.

Aden turns to Bridgette.

BRIDGETTE

I apologize for last night. I shouldn't have done that. I shouldn't have gotten angry and knocked over the candle.

ADEN

It's okay. I forgive you.

BRIDGETTE

Good, I'm glad.

ADEN

Me too.

Bridgette takes the two lit candles into both hands. She passes one over to Aden. He takes it. They look at each other. They look at the graves. They blow out the candles.

END

