

subCONSCIENCE CHOICE

written by

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FADE IN

A view of the New Jersey Shore coastline -- Point Pleasant Beach Boardwalk, rides, vendor shops, boardwalk fare, people abuzz -- and, of course, the vast Atlantic Ocean waters.

Swimmers riding waves, beach-goers sunbathing in the hazy, hot and humid east coast summer.

We RISE to see.

SKY

Below the clouds, helicopters and planes advertising banners. The blue sky is cut by a thin, slow moving white line -- the contrail of a jet below.

The CAMERA is frozen in the distant clouds. Foreshadowing preclude the inconceivable.

CLOUDS

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Something so permanent happens in a blink of an eye. It was just wrong it happened to her at 18.

(pause)

I thank the Lord, not for *HIM* having her, but for *HIM* allowing me to have had her.

Slowly we DESCEND to:

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - DAWN

A cluttered mess-- scrubs rolled up in a ball on top of a pile of soiled clothes.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

I dream of her everyday in this rat race of life. I long for that one more time to hold her. But, I have somewhat forgiven God and resigned myself to the fact of the impossible. Well, not really, but life dictates that it's a must to go on.

Slowly, we rise to a picture frame on the night stand next to the alarm. It is of a Doctor in scrubs (male), we have come to know the VOICE as MASON-- looking down at his graduation ring on his finger.

MASON (V.O.)

I went on. I pressed on. Life is short and funny that way sometimes, which I learned from my, almost father-in-law, that I can survive, even this.

(pause)

But, man, do I have a choice I have to make.

(pause)

I'm trying. I really am trying.

Slowly we REVEAL:

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - DAY

MASON BRADY (29) surgeon, beard and surly at the world. This planet had done him wrong and he intends to make everyone around him aware of it. He is in bed and the alarm is RINGING.

SLAMS his hand down to quiet it and shrieks to himself.

MASON

Shit! There's gotta be a better way!

Empty bottles of beer on the night stand.

A Golden Retriever rises out of bed and is happy to start the day. Mason rises, belches loudly and mopes to the bathroom.

MASON (CONT'D)

(to dog)

What are you so happy about?

Mason shrugs his shoulders.

MASON (CONT'D)

Cat got your tongue? That's what I thought.

Mason smirks.

INT. MASON'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Out of the shower with a towel around his waist.

Stares at himself in the mirror-- shapes his beard with trimmers. Annoyed.

INT. MASON'S GARAGE DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Mason clad in hospital scrubs and digging for keys and wallet. Grabs backpack and rushes into the garage.

INT. MASON'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Mounts a Harley Davidson. Starts it up and moves onto the driveway and closes garage door behind him.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sun is shining-- beautiful morning. Speeds off like he's late to a fire.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE - CONTINUOUS

Speeds through town.

Racing through yellow lights and weaving in and out of traffic. Thinks he's a race car driver. Reckless. No regard for traffic laws.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - LATER

Parks in a parking spot which has his name "Dr. Mason Brady, Oncology", which is next to spot "Dr. Shane Brady, Urology". That spot is empty.

He looks up at the building sign, "Garden State General Hospital".

He looks at the ground in a fatigued manner, yawns, yet pushes forward.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Mason races past DOUG (49) Hispanic security guard-- they have their standard good morning banter.

MASON
Morning Doug. Don't say it!

Mason continues to race through the lobby.

DOUG
 (yelling to Mason)
 Sam Darnold!! I told you.

MASON
 (yelling to Doug)
 Devils are where it's at. At least
 they don't stop selling beer by the
 4th quarter!

They chuckle. Mason enters a waiting employee's elevator car.

INT. PRE-OPERATING ROOM HOSPITAL - LATER

Mason sterilizes his hands for the upcoming operation.

AVA (33) Mason's unflappable nurse rolls up his sleeves, masks him and puts latex gloves on.

MASON
 Ava, what's next on the docket?

AVA
 Splenectomy. The Leukemia caused
 Ms. Cohen's spleen to become
 clogged and enlarged with excess
 tissue.

MASON
 (distracted)
 Evans. Oh right, I remember Amanda,
 nice girl.

AVA
 Dr. Brady, you ok with this?

MASON
 Just another surgery. C'mon let's
 get Amanda reunited with her
 family, STAT.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason and Ava enter along with 2 other NURSES.

AMANDA COHEN (18) is the patient on the operating table.
 Monitors BLIPPING and BEEPING, breathing mask on.

AVA
 Your weapons are sterilized doctor.

MASON
Just wait until you need a routine
Splenectomy.

They laugh.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - LATER

Mason is pleased the operation is going well.

MASON (CONT'D)
Everything's looking good Ava.

AVA
How are you on time?

MASON
Have a hot date?

AVA
You have Howard Vaccarello at 2.
Are you on schedule or do we have
to push it back?

MASON
No need.

Phone rings. Ava answers and talks for a second and then hangs up.

AVA
Chief Parks wants an update.

Mason rolls his eyes.

AVA (CONT'D)
He's expecting your call.

Mason playfully ignores her.

AVA (CONT'D)
You're on thin ice with him
already.

MASON
Ava, you worry too much.
(pause)
I'll be right back.

AVA
Doctor?

MASON
Gotta use the facilities.

Ava annoyed.

MASON (CONT'D)
I gotta take a Parks.

They chuckle.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mason peers the monitors-- relaxes everything is routine.

MASON
Looking good, not out of the woods
yet.

Mason glimpses Ava who looks concerned.

MASON (CONT'D)
I don't want to hear it!

AVA
Please call Parks.

Mason whistles "Pop Goes The Weasel". Then, suddenly...

Monitors start BLIPPING faster and BEEPING faster and LOUDER. Mason looks up frantic.

AVA (CONT'D)
(loud)
Pressure is dropping!

Blood begins to spew out of the spleen in pools.

MASON
Dammit, spleen ruptured. GET ME
TOWELS! Get me Dr. Parks now!

A nurse flees.

Mason feverishly tries to stop the bleeding as nurses try to revive Amanda.

Mason pumps her stomach and chest as blood squirts and leaks out in oceans. Mason slows down, wistfully.

MASON (CONT'D)
(while pumping)
C'mon Amanda, Dammit! Shit!

Moment by moment he slows down not wanting to face the inevitable.

Monitors BLIPPING rapidly.

Mason comes to a complete stop just as the flat line BEEPS on the monitor.

Mason and Ava exchange a somber stare.

Mason pulls the sheet halfway over Amanda and stops-- stares sullenly as a tear forms.

INT. OPERATION WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Amanda's FAMILY awaits the update. Mason and Ava hating this part of the job-- explain to the family...

MASON
(inaudible, low)
There were complications. The spleen ruptured during the surgery...

Mason's voice trails off as the family breaks down and hug each other. Mason and Ava meander out.

INT. PRE-OPERATING ROOM HOSPITAL - LATER

Mason and Ava wash their hands-- still devastated.

AVA
You did all you could Dr. Brady.
God had a different plan.

MASON
She was just 18 years old.
(pause)
Cancer is my nemesis. God and I are like oil and water.

Over the SPEAKER.

LOUD SPEAKER
Dr. Brady, Oncology, dial 1,2. Dr. Brady, Oncology dial 1,2 please.

Mason picks up the phone.

Talks a minute.

MASON
Ok, I'll be right up.

Hangs up. Begins to exit.

AVA
That was probably Parks. Hopefully
I'll see you at 2.

Ava concerned.

INT. HOSPITAL ONCOLOGY WING - MOMENTS LATER

PASTOR LOUIS COOPER (68) Mason's almost father-in-law, gray hair, button down dark brown shirt and khaki's stands at the desk holding a bag. He is Mason's guru, wise, well respected and most of all, loved.

PASTOR
Sorry to bother you at work doctor,
I brought you lunch.

Hands him a bag.

MASON
Thank you Pastor.

PASTOR
Tuna sandwich, just the way you
like it.

MASON
With mayo on a roll.

PASTOR
Caught it myself, was fishing all
morning.

They chuckle. Pastor notices Mason is out of sorts.

PASTOR (CONT'D)
Rough morning Mason?

MASON
I lost a Leukemia patient on the
table.

Getting increasingly angry.

MASON (CONT'D)
Had her whole freakin' life ahead
of her.

More angry.

MASON (CONT'D)
She probably had a fiancée.

Escalated anger.

MASON (CONT'D)
Were both in love.

Apex anger.

MASON (CONT'D)
Probably had their entire future
planned out!

Mason stops, then re-groups.

Pastor listens with a caring ear.

MASON (CONT'D)
Sorry. Thank you for the sandwich,
I'm starved. You want to sit with
me?

PASTOR
Oh no Mason, thank you. This
Sunday I'm having a 10 year
Memorial Service for Riley.

Mason forlorn.

INT. MASON'S OFFICE - LATER

Mason eats the sandwich and hears a knock on the door.

MASON
Come in!

SHANE BRADY (58) Mason's father, clad in hospital scrubs and
a mask dangles around his neck.

SHANE
Good morning Doctor.

MASON
Good afternoon Doctor.

SHANE
Benefits of not being a full
fledged surgeon.

They chuckle.

MASON
Sometimes I envy that.

Shane notices something is off with Mason.

SHANE
Bad morning son?

MASON
Let's just say Dad, I've had way better!

SHANE
I'm here till 4 today and then office hours, so if you want to have a late dinner, just stop on by. Enjoy your breakfast.

He turns to leave.

MASON
Thanks, but probably eating with Cassie.

Shane nods.

MASON (CONT'D)
Oh, Sunday is the 10 year Memorial for Riley. Be there.

Shane smiles and shakes Mason's hand.

INT. MASON'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

CASSIE MARKUM (28) Mason's long blonde hair, focused and very loving beneath the tough exterior, longtime "girlfriend", stows groceries in Mason's refrigerator.

Mason enters and they exchange an awkward greeting kiss.

Cassie shrugs it off.

CASSIE
You have nothing in your house. Pretty soon the bugs are going to leave, nothing happening here.

She laughs to herself. Mason still in his pissed off world.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
How was work today?

MASON
You know, the usual.

Cassie looks up-- continues to stow the groceries.

MASON (CONT'D)

Pastor came by this morning and
Sunday we're having a 10 year
Memorial Service for Riley.

Cassie stops and looks at Mason, who is looking down at his
high school graduation ring.

Mason looks up and Cassie turns to continue stowing the
groceries before Mason could see her.

CASSIE

(changing subject)

Please when you get a minute, fix
the gutter and eave on my roof.
The last storm did a number on it.

MASON

(half-heartedly)

Sure.

Cassie continues putting away groceries and, while her back
is turned, Mason starts kissing the back of her neck.

MASON (CONT'D)

Sorry Cass. I know I'm difficult,
but this is who I am.

Cassie gives an ominous look.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE - LATER

Mason speeds through town-- driving reckless.

Runs red lights, playing chicken with cars and no regard for
pedestrians. Careless and dangerous.

He parks the bike.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sign "Court Jester Pub" in b.g-- local seedy, dive bar.

Two people make out and hands all over each other in front of
jukebox in b.g.

Mason pulls out a stool and sits. RINGER (39) bartender,
long hair, hippie type, tie-dye shirt and leather vest, walks
over.

MASON

Hey Ringer. The usual.

RINGER
Beer usual?

MASON
Jack usual!

Ringer sets a glass on the bar. He pours Jack Daniels and begins to walk away.

MASON (CONT'D)
Come back here with that.

Ringer sets the bottle next to Mason-- stares at Mason strangely.

MASON (CONT'D)
How did I get here Ringer?

Ringer confused. Mason swigs the entire glass.

RINGER
Drove maybe?

Mason pours another glass himself.

MASON
No. I mean, how did I get here?

RINGER
Doc, you saved my cousin's life and he swears by you.

MASON
(somberly and quietly)
I don't swear by me.

Mason swigs another full glass.

RINGER
We all got stress and we all got problems.

MASON
(somberly and quietly)
Yeah. We all got problems.

RINGER
I know your circle. I'm friends with your circle. It's time now to put your demons to bed.

Mason pours another glass-- swigs it all down the hatch. Ringer helps another PATRON (27) beard, homely looking, dirt and grease stains on his shirt who stares at Mason.

The mildly drunk man approaches.

PATRON

I know you! You were the Pastor's
almost son-in-law.

MASON

Do I know you?

PATRON

We went to school together. My
sister was in wood shop that day
you punched Nick out. You and the
bible freak then hooked up.

Mason exasperated. Shooting fire out of his eyes.

MASON

Get to steppin'. Not in the mood.

PATRON

(instigating)

She was a freak man, I couldn't
believe you were with her. I heard
she died, is that true?

Mason pours another glass and slugs it down.

RINGER

Mac, sit your ass down. Not
lookin' for trouble.

PATRON

(to Mason)

We have a beef, you and me.

MASON

Is that right? Indulge me. You do
know what that means?

Patron angry and clenching fist.

PATRON

Indulge means you're gonna be
deluged with raining fists.
DOCTOR.

Mason stands nose to nose with the Patron.

MASON

Listen, you're drunk. Sit your ass
down or I'll sit you down.

The Patron blurts out.

PATRON
You killed my sister!

Mason whips around, shocked.

PATRON (CONT'D)
You had to be drama that night and
call Nick and Vicky to your house
when you knew he worked for 24
hours straight.

Patron is upset and enraged.

PATRON (CONT'D)
The hospital said she didn't feel a
thing. Nick, God rest his soul,
still has his car impressions
embedded in that tree.

Mason shocked. Recalling a horrible memory.

PATRON (CONT'D)
You killed my sister!

He PUNCHES Mason to the ground.

Mason jumps on him as they wrestle and roll on the ground.

Mason lands one good punch to the face.

RINGER
(yelling)
Police are on their way.

Mason staggers out of the bar-- bloodied and drunk. He walks home.

INT. MASON'S KITCHEN - LATER

Mason grabs a dish towel and ice from the ice tray
and places over his bloodied eye.

He reaches into the refrigerator for a beer and slugs it
down.

He is drunk and wobbly.

INT. MASON'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stumbles into the living room and slumps on the couch.

He removes the ice rag and angrily throws it across the living room floor and lands under the t.v. stand.

He rises and then slumps to the wall, in fetal position, bawling and sobbing. Dark and grim.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MASON'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

We see under the t.v. stand-- rag is gone.

Mason sweats while doing sit-ups and reflects.

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Mason and Cassie are in a heated argument.

CASSIE

You have to go to therapy. This is not healthy for either one of us. You're still grieving.

MASON

I'm not seeing a shrink. Get over it already. You just hound and nag and hound and nag. Don't you ever run out of batteries.

Cassie upset.

CASSIE

Screw you.

Cassie begins to leave and Mason lunges to grab her. His anger forces him to dig his fingers into her arm.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Ouch, Mason, that hurt. Let go of me!

She screams.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Get off of me!

Mason releases Cassie.

She calls VICKY (17) best friend, always wears skinny jeans, long legs and a Mrs. fix it.

INT. NICK AND VICKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Vicky answers the ringing phone.

INTERCUT:

CASSIE
Vick? It's Cass.

VICKY
Are you crying?

CASSIE
No I'm not, please come to Mason's house.

VICKY
I don't have a car and Nick just worked 24 hours straight. I can't wake him up-- he has to go back in a few hours. What's wrong?

CASSIE
I need you here, Mason is out of control again. My arm is hurting.

VICKY
Dammit, that jerk.

INT. MASON'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (REAL TIME)

Mason continues his sit-ups.

He ramps up the regimen and swiftly switches exercises to crunching his abs.

He then flips over and starts vigorous push-ups while reflecting.

INT. CAR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Vicky and NICK (18) curly balding hair, always drinking a coke. He is driving, while drinking a coke, yawning and half asleep.

NICK
Mason has to stop this shit. I'm exhausted and you have to take care of his abuse? Why didn't he call Liam or Brit? We have to get him into therapy ASAP.

VICKY

Whoa, Babe, you're drifting into the oncoming traffic. We're almost there, hang in another 2 minutes.

NICK

I'm beat Babe. I have to...

Nick begins to nod off. Vicky screams.

VICKY

Nick!!!!!!

INSIDE THE CAR

SILENCE

The SOUND CUTS OUT COMPLETELY.

Vicky looks at Nick. Desperation and fear. A flash of color...A tree trunk pressed up in front of the car.

DARKNESS

The sound and the picture come back in.

ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

Vicky bleeds in the passenger seat motionless. Nick is slumped over the steering wheel with a tree branch sticking through the broken windshield piercing through his brain.

The car is the length of a motorcycle pressed into the tree.

INT. MASON'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (REAL TIME)

Mason finishes his push-ups when the doorbell rings.

LIAM (18) best friend, African American, affable and a jokester and BRITTNEY (18) Liam's wife, Caucasian and Mason's ex-girlfriend from school, enter.

MASON

Hey. C'mon in.

They sit on the couch. Mason has a fading bruise over his eye.

LIAM

What happened?

MASON

I bumped into an IV stand.

Liam not believing him.

LIAM
It's like talking to Brandon.

BRITTNEY
Tess made you this.

She hands Mason a picture of Mason and Cassie kissing.

MASON
Love that girl.

LIAM
Brandon wanted you to have these.
He said the last time you two were
playing Zoo and you loved the
animals.

Liam hands him a handful of toy horses, elephants and other
animals. Mason smiles and places them on his coffee table.

MASON
You have the best kids.

LIAM
You got Cassie spittin' fire again.

MASON
(unsympathetic)
Stand in line.

BRITTNEY
Your nurse called the other night
and guess who answered your phone?
She told her about the patient you
lost.

MASON
What! Am I supposed to tell her
about everything that goes on in my
job and life?

Brittney and Liam look at each other upset.

BRITTNEY
It's called a relationship Mason.
Something you know zero about.

LIAM
What Brit and I are trying to say
is be open and honest with her man.

MASON
(dismissive)
I got it. Thanks for coming over.

BRITTNEY
You're bad ass Mason 2009, except
it's 2019.

LIAM
Some things never change, brooding
boss bullshit.

BRITTNEY
I know what you're capable of
Mason. I've seen it first hand and
then second hand.

MOMENTS LATER

Liam and Brittney exit. Mason sits on the couch, pensive.

He rises and steps on a toy animal with his bare feet.

Mason falls to couch, writhing in pain, and picks up a toy
camel and stares at it.

He smiles and stands it up on his end table.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Sunday's Memorial Service-- Pastor is at the podium.

PASTOR
And Lord, please keep our sweet,
beautiful Riley close in your arms.
Amen.

Pastor pauses.

PASTOR (CONT'D)
The choir will now sing Riley's
favorite song.

CHOIR rises and Pastor sits.

CHOIR
LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY
GATES;
BEHOLD, THE KING OF GLORY WAITS;
THE KING OF KINGS IS DRAWING NEAR;
THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD IS HERE!
A HELPER JUST HE COMES TO THEE,
(MORE)

CHOIR (CONT'D)

HIS CHARIOT IS HUMILITY,
 HIS KINGLY CROWN IS HOLINESS,
 HIS SCEPTER, PITY IN DISTRESS.
 O BLEST THE LAND, THE CITY BLEST,
 WHERE CHRIST THE RULER IS
 CONFESSED!
 O HAPPY HEARTS AND HAPPY HOMES
 TO WHOM THIS KING IN TRIUMPH COMES!
 FLING WIDE THE PORTALS OF YOUR
 HEART;
 MAKE IT A TEMPLE, SET APART
 FROM EARTHLY USE FOR HEAVEN'S
 EMPLOY,
 ADORNED WITH PRAYER AND LOVE AND
 JOY.
 REDEEMER, COME, WITH US ABIDE;
 OUR HEARTS TO THEE WE OPEN WIDE;
 LET US THY INNER PRESENCE FEEL;
 THY GRACE AND LOVE IN US REVEAL.
 THY HOLY SPIRIT LEAD US ON
 UNTIL OUR GLORIOUS GOAL IS WON;
 ETERNAL PRAISE, ETERNAL FAME
 BE OFFERED, SAVIOR, TO THY NAME!

Choir sits and the Pastor returns to the podium.

PASTOR

It is now time for a special
 Memorial given by Mason. Mason,
 come on up.

Pastor sits and Mason walks up to podium from the front row.

MASON

Good afternoon. Thank you all for
 being here.

Mason looks down at his high school graduation ring and flips
 it a few times on his finger.

MASON (CONT'D)

10 years ago I fell in love with a
 girl that I spent our childhood
 teasing every day and embarrassing
 every day. I did not give this
 girl the time or day because I was
 too cool. I was then forced to
 interact with the *nerds* as
 punishment from my court officer
 and principal. In a short time I
 found myself wanting to spend more
 and more time with her.

(MORE)

MASON (CONT'D)

I eventually went to bed thinking of her, woke up thinking of her and every minute in between.

(pause)

This girl never lashed back at my bullying and still kept trying to be friendly. Who does that? Who keeps smiling and forgiving when repeatedly being bullied? I'll tell you who, a great girl. And, that's just what my fiancée, Riley Cooper was, in a nutshell, *GREAT*.

(a beat)

I see some of the faces here today that were right beside me in the berating and it validates her forgiving, your forgiving and her kindness.

He looks down and plays with his ring.

ON CASSIE

she is looking down, in jealousy and slight embarrassment.

MASON (CONT'D)

She believed in me and made me believe in myself. She is responsible for making me the successful man I am today and is responsible for making everybody in this room the kind, New Jersey citizens that you all are.

He looks up in the sky.

MASON (CONT'D)

(whispers)

I Love You baby. Thank You.

EXT. CHURCH STEPS - LATER

Mason and Pastor are at the bottom of the stairs talking.

Cassie, Liam and Brittney are on the top of the steps conversing. Mason's mother KIM (55) ashy brown hair, the years have been kind, enters.

KIM

Hi kids. Nice memorial Mason gave.

CASSIE
(jealous)
Memorable.

KIM
(to Brittney and Liam)
Where are the kids?

LIAM
My parents.

KIM
What's next today?

CASSIE
We're heading to eat and then the
drag races.

KIM
You're going to get Mason out?
Does he know?

CASSIE
(stammering)
Well, he will. I mean, I'll tell
him when he's done with the
Pastor. Yes, he will.

KIM
Good luck. I made his favorite,
Tuna Casserole, so if plans change,
c'mon over.

She exits.

BRITTNEY
Eddie Pratt is racing today.

LIAM
My boy hasn't lost since Atlantic
City. 24 and 1 this year.

CASSIE
Mason promised him he will go see
him the next time.

BRITTNEY
You think he'll come?

CASSIE
Be right back.

BOTTOM OF STEPS

Cassie interrupts Mason and Pastor's deep conversation.

CASSIE
(to Pastor)
Very nice service.

He nods.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
We're going to the diner for lunch
and then the drags. Eddie is
racing.

MASON
That sounds so fun. Pastor and I
are going to the cemetery and then
back to his house for lunch. I'll
call you later and we'll catch up.

Cassie dejected as Mason and Pastor drive off.

INT. PASTOR'S KITCHEN TABLE - LATER

Pastor hands Mason a glass of iced tea-- looks at Mason
dourly as he eats.

PASTOR
What was that with Cassie earlier?

MASON
(changing subject)
Riley's headstone still is looking
like new, the weather sure hasn't
degraded its value.

Pastor peers Mason derisively. Mason notices and lowers his
head and continues to eat.

PASTOR
When my wife died, Riley was a
child so I grieved alone. This
time I would not have gotten
through another tragedy if it had
not been for you. There's one
thing you're forgetting though,
Cassie was there too.

Mason peers at the Pastor.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

She was just as instrumental as you were for our forgiving God for this cruel act and you two found love in each other. You have to stop closing your heart when things get tough and get over that hump.

Mason is embarrassed.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Don't let yesterday ruin your happy tomorrow.

INT. MASON'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Mason sits on the couch, drinking a beer and looks over at his toy camel on the end table and smiles. He then opens a photo album of him and Riley from beneath the end table.

He flips the pages slowly, one by one.

MASON POV

Picture of Riley and Mason in hallway of school kissing.

Picture of Riley and Mason at a party with arms around each other.

Picture of Riley and Mason in the pool hugging and kissing and laughing.

Picture of Mason driving a car and Riley leaning on his shoulder with his arm around her.

Picture of Riley and Mason shoveling snow off the driveway laughing as they throw snowballs at each other.

Picture of Riley and Mason sled riding down a big hill laughing.

Picture of Riley and Mason at the beach, laying on a blanket, laughing as they wrestle.

Picture of Riley and Mason in the ocean kissing as a big wave crashes over them.

Picture of Riley, Mason, Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky at a bowling alley drinking beers and bowling and laughing and having a great time.

BACK TO SCENE

Mason sobs and puts the photo album back under the end table.

On top is a photo album of Mason and Cassie, "Book of Us". Mason slowly flips through all the pictures.

MASON POV

Picture of Mason and Cassie in college dorm room drinking beers and laughing.

Picture of Mason and Cassie on campus wearing Princeton sweatshirts.

Picture of Mason and Cassie laughing and riding a bike with Mason steering and Cassie on the handlebars.

Picture of Cassie on back of motorcycle with Mason driving. She has both hands around his stomach and smiling.

Picture of Mason and Cassie posing next to the Statue of Liberty.

Picture of Mason and Cassie posing next to the Empire State Building.

Picture of Mason and Cassie posing in front of Madison Square Garden.

Picture of Mason and Cassie under a waterfall, as the water crashes on top of both their heads-- they are kissing.

BACK TO SCENE

Mason shuts the photo album with an odd look and chugs down the rest of the beer.

INT. MASON'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mason sleeps on the couch with 6 empty beer bottles on the coffee table.

Cassie walks in from the front door and wakes him up.

CASSIE

Mason, it's almost 10, don't you have rounds soon?

Mason sits up, stretches and rises. Cassie, standoffish and angry. She stomps to the kitchen holding grocery bags.

INT. MASON'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Cassie puts groceries away with her back to Mason.

MASON
I'm sorry Cass.

Cassie ignores him as she continues to put groceries away. He plays real quick with his ring then hugs her from behind.

MASON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I'm trying.

She pushes him off.

CASSIE
Really? Is that what you call it?

Mason shamefully looks down.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
If you had bothered to call, then you would've known that Liam and Brittney invited us to go to Arizona for a few days.

Mason's expression is unchanged.

MASON
That sounds fun, but I have rounds, and patients and --

CASSIE
I spoke to Chief Parks and he gave you the week off. After your rounds this morning, you are officially on vacation. We leave tonight.

Cassie whips back around and continues putting groceries away. Mason is not excited.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
And *PLEASE* fix my gutter and eave before we leave.

Mason smirks and walks into the living room.

INT. MASON'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason notices under the end table that Riley's photo album is on top of Cassie's "Book of Us", so he inconspicuously puts Cassie's album on top.

DISSOLVE TO:

ARIZONA MONTAGE:

- Mason, Cassie, Liam and Brittney on the plane looking out the window and laughing.
- The four of them at the rental car agency signing papers.
- The four of them at the Grand Canyon and taking pictures on the rim.
- The four of them at an Arizona Diamondback baseball game eating peanuts and throwing the shells at each other and laughing.
- The four of them in Liam's Arizona Office as Liam works. Mason, Cassie and Brittney keep pulling his arm away from the desk.
- The four of them in a western bar wearing western hats and riding an automatic bull in the restaurant and laughing and joyous.
- The four of them driving up and down Las Vegas strip and Cassie jumping out of the car and pulling Mason into the Hard Rock Casino with Liam and Brittney yelling at them to get back in the car.
- The four of them playing golf and Brittney taking a swing and missing the ball completely and Liam giving a humorous smile. Cassie tees off and crushes the ball far and Mason and Liam smile in amazement.
- The four of them in Liam's Arizona Office as Liam works again. Mason, Cassie and Brittney keep pulling his arm away from the desk.
- The four of them boating on the Lake with the beautiful mountains on both sides. They stop and Liam playfully pushes Mason overboard and Cassie pushes Liam overboard and then Brittney and Cassie jump in the lake and they jump on each other in fun.
- Mason and Cassie at Havasu Falls waterfall and Cassie takes off her clothes and, just in her underwear and bra, jumps in and swims to the falls. She yells to Mason to come in.

Mason, smiles, takes his clothes off and jumps in and swims to Cassie. She then takes her underwear and bra off, under the water, and throws them on the side. Mason then takes his underwear off, under the water, and throws it to the side and they kiss passionately and make love under the waterfalls.

INT. CAR - DAY

Liam and Brittney are in the front seat and Mason and Cassie are in the back seat. Liam drives up to Cassie's house.

BRITTNEY

The bus has arrived, final stop.
Thank you guys for an amazing trip.

Cassie kisses Liam and Brittney.

CASSIE

(to Mason)

I see you still haven't fixed my
gutter and eave.

Cassie glares at Mason as he rolls his eyes.

LIAM

Ok Doc, let's bang this out now.

BRITTNEY

(to Cassie)

I'll drive you to Mason's to
get your car.

EXT. CASSIE'S BACKYARD - LATER

Mason retrieves an old, rickety, rusted aluminum ladder from Cassie's garage and sets it under the eave.

LIAM

What is that shit? Times are tough
on your hospital salary?

MASON

Just stand on the bottom rung and
I'll be fine.

Mason walks up the ladder and Liam looks towards next door neighbor's backyard-- not paying attention.

LIAM

So, does Heather still sunbathe?

Mason disregards his question.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Yeah, she's out there now. She's a hot piece.

MASON
Liam FOCUS!

Liam steps on the bottom rung and looks away again.

LIAM
There she goes. Damn, her rack is banging.

MASON
C'mon Liam, pay attention and stop looking.

Liam sneers at Mason. The ladder is shaky and he is not paying attention.

LIAM
There you go, lower that strap a little, yeah baby.

MASON
Would you stop. I have to finish this. Keep that foot on the ladder!

Liam had his foot off then puts it back on the ladder. Still looking in that direction and slowly takes foot off bottom rung again.

LIAM
What's the view like from up there?

MASON
I'm more concerned about not being sidewalk pizza. Hey man, keep that foot there!

LIAM
Fall towards the rocks so you don't dirty her sidewalk.

Mason not amused.

MASON
I wouldn't want to ruin the rocks either, those were expensive.

LIAM
Aren't you a rock guy anyway? You still collecting them?

MASON

Keep your foot there. Yes,
hopefully one day I will get to see
a moon rock. That is a bucket list
item. Keep your foot there.

Liam puts his foot back, but steps off the bottom rung to
position himself in a different direction.

LIAM

I can't see, she moved her chair.

MASON

You're a hinder!

Liam still has not returned his foot to the bottom rung and
still has his attention on the neighbor. Ladder sways back
and forth and Mason swings with the ladder.

MASON (CONT'D)

(yells)

LLIIAAMM!

The ladder gives way and Mason falls onto the concrete and
bangs his head. Out cold.

FADE TO BLACK:

DREAM WORLD:

EXT. PIER - DAY

Mason sits on a bench blankly watching PEOPLE walking
and talking and looking into the ocean. Mason, confused,
looks around and sees a WOMAN with her back turned to him,
looking into the ocean.

He curiously walks slowly towards her. She is unaware
someone is approaching.

He slowly touches her shoulder and turns her around to face
him. They examine each other knowing the outcome. Mason,
uncontrollable and outside of his body, looks into RILEY'S
eyes.

She is 18, plain Jane type with bangs. Sweet and old-
fashion.

MASON

Riley?

RILEY
(crying tears of joy)
Mason.

MASON
Am I dreaming?

They hug and kiss passionately.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PIER - LATER

Mason and Riley sit on the bench-- the pier is desolate.

RILEY
How is my Dad?

MASON
He's trying his best to get by. We
do the best we can.

RILEY
I missed you so much Mason. I never
got a chance to thank you for
making my last days of life worth
living.

MASON
What is this place? Am I dead?

RILEY
Not exactly.

Mason awaiting explanation.

RILEY (CONT'D)
You're in Heaven's Waiting Room.

Mason gazes into Riley's eyes. They hug and start dancing
romantically.

RILEY (CONT'D)
You're a professional now I see.

MASON
I used to have a great partner.

RILEY
It's all those years of practice
after me.

They kiss passionately. Riley takes Mason's hand.

RILEY (CONT'D)
C'mon I want you to meet someone.

FADE TO BLACK:

REAL WORLD:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Cassie, Liam, Brittney, Kim, Shane and Pastor anxious for answers.

Mason is in a coma, with oxygen mask on, IV bag and monitors BEEPING and BLIPPING.

Cassie sits alongside Mason, holding his hand and sobbing. Everyone is spread out in the room sitting in chairs, sitting on the window sill, reading the newspaper and sobbing.

Ava enters.

AVA
(to Cassie)
Any change?

Cassie nods no while sobbing.

SHANE
Ava, where are Dr. McGuire and Dr. Amin?

AVA
They'll be here shortly doctor.

KIM
That's not quick enough!

SHANE
Be patient, Kim. They're the best head trauma specialists in the country.

AVA
(to Mason)
Dr. Brady. Can you hear me? Please give us a sign.

Mason stays un-responsive as she changes the IV bag and checks his ports on his arm and fixes his pillow. She kisses Mason on his head and hugs Cassie.

FADE TO BLACK:

DREAM WORLD:

EXT. BARN - DAY

Mason and Riley arrive at a barn with cows, horses, cattle, dogs and cats.

Riley's MOM (55) long brown hair, plain Jane (like daughter - like mother) sits on a big bowl, milking a cow and not aware of Riley and Mason's presence.

RILEY

Hi Mom, I have someone here I want you to meet.

Mom offers a huge smile.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Mom, this is Mason, Mason this is my Mom.

Mason is shocked and they manage to exchange a big hug.

MOM

My word, it's certainly nice to finally meet you. I heard so much about you and you're handsome as Riley described.

Mason, (aww, shucks) smiles.

RILEY

(to Mason)

My mom takes care of all these animals alone. She's great.

MOM

Please stay for dinner.

INT. MOM'S KITCHEN TABLE - LATER

Mom, Riley and Mason converse at the dinner table.

MOM

Mason, how is Louis?

MASON

He's lived on hard times and luckily his faith has gotten him through two tragedies. He's meant the world to me and is my second father.

Riley smiles as a tear drops from her cheek.

MOM

Somehow let him know I love him and miss him.

Mason obliges.

RILEY

Mom, Mason is a doctor.
(looking at Mason)
I told you that you could do anything.

MASON

If it weren't for Riley, this never would've been possible.

Mason gazes lovingly into Riley's eyes.

MASON (CONT'D)

I owe her everything.

MOM

Riley, do you have a show tonight?

RILEY

We're having a Talent Show at the Playhouse. Sing with us!

MASON

Thank you, but no. I don't know your songs and the singer is not going to give it up for me.

RILEY

Nick won't have a problem with it.

MASON

Nick is here too?

RILEY

And Vicky.

Mason is shocked.

RILEY (CONT'D)

C'mon Mason, you have to do it.

MASON

I can't, I'll screw it up and look like a fool.

RILEY
One good thing about this audience
is everyone is very forgiving.

Mason smiles.

INT. PLAYHOUSE BACK STAGE - NIGHT

Riley and Mason are backstage to see Nick and Vicky. They are in costume and preparing for the show.

NICK
Mason, so nice to see you, I've
missed my bud.

MASON
You and Vicky look good and haven't
changed a bit.

NICK
Time stands still here.

MASON
(looking at Vicky)
Appears that way.

RILEY
Mason's singing with us tonight.

VICKY
Don't worry about screwing up your
lyrics, it's a stress free
environment, I promise.

INT. PLAYHOUSE STAGE - LATER

Packed CROWD in b.g. EMCEE (69) dressed in tux, platform shoes, bell bottoms pants is at the microphone on stage.

EMCEE
Our next talent is our very own
Riley, Nick and Vicky, accompanied
on lead by newcomer Mason Brady.
Ladies and Gentlemen, here are The
Jersey Four!

Crowd screams and loud APPLAUSE. Nick is on drums, Vicky is on bass, Mason is on guitar and Riley is at lead on microphone.

The music begins and Mason fixes his microphone and jumps in at correct time as Riley begins.

OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE
 WHATEVER THIS WORLD CAN GIVE TO ME
 IT'S YOU YOU'RE ALL I SEE
 OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE NOW HONEY
 OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE
 OOH YOU'RE THE BEST FRIEND THAT I
 EVER HAD
 I'VE BEEN WITH YOU SUCH A LONG TIME
 YOU'RE MY SUNSHINE AND I WANT YOU
 TO KNOW
 THAT MY FEELINGS ARE TRUE
 I REALLY LOVE YOU
 OH YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND
 OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE
 OOH I'VE BEEN WANDERING ROUND
 BUT I STILL COME BACK TO YOU
 IN RAIN OR SHINE
 YOU'VE STOOD BY ME GIRL
 I'M HAPPY AT HOME
 YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND
 OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE
 WHENEVER THIS WORLD IS CRUEL TO ME
 I GOT YOU TO HELP ME FORGIVE
 OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE NOW HONEY
 OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE
 YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE
 WHEN THINGS TURN OUT BAD
 YOU KNOW I'LL NEVER BE LONELY
 YOU'RE MY ONLY ONE
 AND I LOVE THE THINGS
 I REALLY LOVE THE THINGS THAT YOU
 DO
 OOH YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND
 OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE
 I'M HAPPY AT HOME
 YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND
 OH YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND
 OOH YOU MAKE ME LIVE
 YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.

After the song ends, Mason and Riley kiss passionately as the audience stands and applauds.

INT. BACK STAGE PLAYHOUSE - LATER

Back stage, Nick and Vicky greet Mason and Riley.

VICKY
 Mason, you still got it!

NICK
Great job bud. I love the lip
action at the end.

VICKY
(to Mason)
Riley wouldn't let Nick try that.

They chuckle. Riley holds Mason's hand and pulls him.

RILEY
C'mon, I'm taking you somewhere.

FADE TO BLACK:

REAL WORLD:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mason in a coma, with oxygen mask on and IV bag and
monitors BEEPING and BLIPPING.

Cassie's hair sticks out of the clip, looking disheveled and
exhausted. She lays down next to Mason, kissing the side of
his nose and crying.

CASSIE
Mason, I love you. Please come
back to me!

Kim enters.

KIM
Honey, please go home and get some
rest.

CASSIE
Not leaving until he wakes up.

KIM
I spoke to the doctors and it could
possibly be a long time he's like
this.

Cassie begins to sob. Brittney enters.

KIM (CONT'D)
(to Brittney)
Please take her home.

Brittney leads Cassie out. Kim sits alongside Mason.

KIM (CONT'D)

What's going on in that head of yours son? If you wanted to scare us, you succeeded. Are you thinking about her? Mason, we love you so much and staying where you are is not getting you closer to her. As sad as it was, that part of your life is way over. You need to be here for the people who are here and love you.

INT. MARKUM YARN & THREAD FACTORY - NIGHT

Cassie drifts into the lobby. Big sign "Markum Yarn & Thread Co." in b.g.

Cassie's hair sticks out of clip, bags under eyes and sleep deprived.

The front desk receptionist MONIQUE, late 50's, African American, slender, opens her mouth to say something, but Cassie speaks first while continuing to walk.

CASSIE

Hi Monique. I'll be in my office, no calls please.

INT. CASSIE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Monique enters the office to Cassie staring into space. Concerned.

MONIQUE

Cass?

Cassie snaps back to earth.

CASSIE

Who's out front?

MONIQUE

Jada is covering.

(pause)

Staff really misses you.

CASSIE

It could be weeks and it just doesn't look like it's getting any better.

MONIQUE

Listen girl, I've never really had a boyfriend so I'm the last one to take advice from. But, if I had one and Dr. Brady was mine, I would be at the hospital right now.

CASSIE

He seems so helpless. If he's aware of what's going on, then it must be killing him inside.

MONIQUE

Girl, I bet he knows *and* I bet he knows that you've been there every minute. Well, almost every minute. Get out of here girl.

FADE TO BLACK:

DREAM WORLD:

EXT. PIER - NIGHT

Riley and Mason look into the ocean holding hands. Mason turns Riley to face him and they gaze into each other's eyes and kiss passionately.

MASON

I still can't believe I'm here, it's like a dream.

RILEY

One I never want to wake up from.

MASON

The day you died, I felt such pressure on my body, like, I was separated from that dimension.

RILEY

I wish we found each other sooner in that life.

MASON

Me too. You know me, I was too cool to let that happen.

RILEY

Yeah, you were. But, I saw the good in that bully kid, way before he did.

Mason smiles.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Do you ever think of our journey together?

MASON

Every minute of every day. I try to forget the bad parts though.

They chuckle.

RILEY

There were a lot of bad parts.

Mason is embarrassed.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason, Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky walk in the hallway between classes. Riley and Cassie are walking in the opposite direction.

Mason bumps shoulders with Riley.

MASON

Oh, sorry bible freak.

Riley flies into the lockers. She slams her back and falls and Cassie helps her up to her feet.

CASSIE

Grow up moron.

MASON

Say a prayer for me at church.

The group bust out laughing as they walk away.

INT. ALGEBRA CLASS - LATER (FLASHBACK)

Mason, Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky sit in their desks laughing lowly and not quite disrupting the class yet.

Riley and Cassie sit in the row besides them.

TEACHER

Who can write an exponent for me on the board?

The TEACHER stares at Mason intimating she wants him to do it. But, as usual, Riley raises her hand.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Someone, other than Riley please!

The teacher continues to stare at Mason.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Ok, Riley, show these malcontents
how it's done.

Riley writes on the chalkboard and, while her back is turned, Mason pours a bottle of water into her pocketbook. The group busts out laughing.

Cassie punches Mason's arm.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER (FLASHBACK)

Mason, Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky eat at one table and Riley and Cassie eat the next table.

Mason and Nick spit, spit balls through a straw at Riley. Cassie rips a piece of napkin and puts in her mouth and smears the wet, saliva napkin on Mason's face as they exit.

MASON
I don't think I saw that move in
the bible. Sinners!!

Everyone laughs.

INT. MALL - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Mason, Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky shop in a department store. Liam looks at his watch.

LIAM
Let's roll guys. The game is on in
an hour.

As they exit the store, the alarm begins to RING. SECURITY arrives and search Mason's jacket to find a shirt tucked in it.

A POLICEMAN arrives and arrests Mason for theft.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason is at Defendants table with his ATTORNEY (50) coffee stain on his tie. The JUDGE (65) overweight and nerdy with glasses, speaks.

JUDGE

Mr. Brady, you do not have a record, so explain to this court why you started to steal now?

MASON

Sorry Judge. It will not happen again.

JUDGE

You're dam right it won't happen again. 30 days in Juvie.

ATTORNEY

Excuse me your Honor. He has no priors and is in full cooperation with the store. He is not trying to hide nor is he denying his actions or pawning blame. He accepts his wrongdoing and, in light of this, please can I recommend no Juvie time.

The judge stares, in thought, at the attorney.

JUDGE

Mr. Brady, you can either spend 30 days in Juvie, or I will remand you to the principal's recommendation. I will steer him in the direction of you starting to meet different kinds of people. So called, nerds as you would say.

(pause)

The choice is yours?

MASON

I will see my principal. Thank you judge.

JUDGE

Ok. A court officer will be appointed to you, I don't see the need to waste your attorney's time with this. You're excused.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason, PRINCIPAL (60) gray hair, stern and stoic and COURT OFFICER, sit in the principal's office around a table.

PRINCIPAL

Mason, you are to attend the Drama Club and Science Club after school meetings. You will be a part of these groups until further notice and 100% attendance is mandatory. Is that understood?

Mason angry. He nods and rolls his eyes.

INT. STAGE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason and Riley are on stage practicing their lines for the play.

MASON

(as Fireball)

Betsy, when you walked out. Sorry, when you walked out. Sorry, I'll try it again. When you walked in--

RILEY

(as Betsy)

Let's be clear Fireball, you walked out on me. You're at fault for this broken love.

Mason looks at Riley and rolls his eyes.

MASON

This is stupid.

PRINCIPAL (O.S.)

Mason! You will continue.

The principal was sitting in the audience. Mason nods and slams his hand down in anger.

INT. MASON'S HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason meets Riley on his front porch-- he is annoyed and embarrassed. He looks around the area to make sure no one sees a nerd on his porch. They then go to his backyard with their science books and erect a mountain project.

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER (FLASHBACK)

The mountain explodes and their invention works.

RILEY
 (excited)
 Good job Mason, that works like a
 charm.

Mason is embarrassed.

MASON
 Thank you. We have it working, so
 let's show it to Mrs. Merenick
 tomorrow. Good-bye.

Mason enters his house and shuts the door. Riley is annoyed
 that she was practically kicked out of his yard.

INT. YARN FACTORY CAFETERIA - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason and Riley eat in the cafeteria as they rehearse their
 lines for the play.

MASON
 (as Fireball)
 Listen Betsy, I am at fault, I know
 I am. It is hard to admit fault
 for a guy like me, in my position.

RILEY
 (as Betsy)
 Fireball. That's all I wanted to
 hear you say. You are a changed
 man and yes, I do love you.

Mason and Riley stare at each other and giggle.

MASON
 What a sap he is.

RILEY
 He's romantic Mason. He knows how
 to show his feelings and that goes
 a long way for a woman.

They laugh.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Riley sits on a park bench knitting. Mason walks his dog and
 bumps into Riley.

RILEY
 Mason, that's your dog? He's
 beautiful. What's his name?

MASON

Stevens. Named after a hockey
player on the Devils.

The dog is excited and kisses Riley. She is having a great
time.

MASON (CONT'D)

After school tomorrow, you want to
come over and we'll tackle another
project? It looks like he wants
you to come over.

She nods while continuing to play with the dog.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason, Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky sit at a table reading
books. Riley and Cassie are at the next table.

Riley stares at Mason while he has his head down. Mason,
then looks up and catches Riley staring. They hold a stare
and share a smile.

Cassie looks at Riley stunned.

INT. WOOD SHOP CLASS - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason, Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky cut wood on the table
saw for their class project. Riley finishes and shows her
project to Mason.

MASON

(sincere, to Riley)
Great job, Betsy.

They giggle.

Nick rips the project out of Mason's hand (a bible made of
wood) and runs it through the table saw and cuts it in half.
Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky bust out laughing.

Mason punches Nick in the face. The teacher interjects, but
Nick gets free and Mason side punches him again in the head.
The class finally breaks up the fight.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Mason enters Pastor's office while he looking down at some
papers. He feels someone's presence and looks up.

PASTOR

Hi Mason. Riley told me what happened today at school. Thank you.

MASON

Her project should've gotten 100 if Nick wasn't such a jerk.

PASTOR

What can I do for you?

MASON

I want to ask Riley out for dinner?

Pastor shocked.

PASTOR

She's not allowed to date. Besides, aren't you on court appointed house arrest?

MASON

I made a mistake Pastor. I paid for it and I'm still paying for it. I learned my lesson and I'm a much better person for it. I'm asking you to put your trust in me.

Pastor is undecided.

EXT. WATERSIDE RESTAURANT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Mason and Riley sit at a table. The restaurant is upscale and posh. The WAITER hands them a menu.

RILEY

Mason, there are no prices listed.

MASON

Order whatever you want, you're my date.

They smile.

AFTER DINNER (FLASHBACK)

The waiter removes their dirty dishes. Slow romantic music plays in the b.g.

RILEY

Would you like to dance?

MASON
Dance? I don't think that I ever
danced in my life.

RILEY
C'mon, Fireball, I'll teach you.

They giggle.

Riley leads Mason as they dance slowly holding each other.
Mason is a beginner, but Riley takes the lead as they smile
and laugh.

EXT. BOARDWALK - MOMENTS LATER (FLASHBACK)

Mason and Riley walk along the boardwalk holding hands.

RILEY
You can cross dancing off your
can't do items. You were actually
good for a beginner.

Mason ogles Riley. Riley is un-easy.

RILEY (CONT'D)
It's a beautiful night out.

Deflecting. Nervous.

MASON
The night is not the only thing
that's beautiful here.

RILEY
I'm nervous.

Mason slowly leans in and slowly presses his lips against
Riley's. They slowly kiss passionately.

MASON
You can cross kissing off your
can't do items.

They chuckle.

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Riley hands Mason a wrapped gift.

MASON
What's this?

RILEY
What does it look like? Open it.

Mason removes the wrapper and it is the school's ring.

MASON
Graduation ring?

RILEY
This signifies our strong love and
proof that you can do and achieve
anything that you set your sights
on for the future.

Mason kisses Riley.

MASON
I promise this will never leave my
finger.

EXT. RILEY'S DRIVEWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mason and Riley shovel the driveway during a major snow
storm. Riley pauses for a moment.

RILEY
I'm going inside to see if the hot
chocolate is done yet.

Mason begins to write something in the snow.

Riley returns to "WILL YOU MARRY ME" written in the snow.
She nods yes and they kiss passionately.

EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Mason and Riley walk along the boardwalk. Riley is sad and
Mason notices it.

MASON
What's wrong? Did you not like the
wedding dresses today?

RILEY
No, they were beautiful. I think I
picked one.

MASON
(confused)
You think? What is wrong Baby?

Riley struggles with her comment.

RILEY
I have Leukemia.

Mason is shocked. He begins to sob and they hug each other crying.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Liam, Brittney, Nick and Vicky comfort Mason as the casket is lowered into the ground.

Mason and Pastor cry and hug-- they are then joined by Cassie.

EXT. PIER - NIGHT (REAL TIME)

Mason and Riley are hugging when we return to real time.

MASON
Yeah, there were a lot of bad parts.

RILEY
When I started to fall in love with you, everything turned. Bad parts were gone and I was hopeful you would fall in love with me too.

MASON
How could I not?

RILEY
I knew we were going to make it. I knew after our first date, that was going to be the night that I just knew.

Riley removes a folded piece of paper.

MASON
What's that?

RILEY
I wrote you a poem. It's not on par with Emily Dickinson, but it does signify our love.

Riley looks down as she unfolds the paper to read.

RILEY (CONT'D)
It's called The Night That I Just Knew. By Riley Cooper.

Riley begins reading.

RILEY (CONT'D)

September 29th, 2009, that night I
know as well as back of my hand.
That was the night that I knew
would be grand.

You took the initiative and asked
my father's permission.
He gave in to your advances
although he knew they were a sin.

You arrived at my house, promptly
at Seven O' Clock.
Instantly, I knew you & me were a
lock.

We ate dinner at the exclusive
Garden State Waterside.
You learned for the first time to
dance with me, side by side.

You took me to the romantic Jersey
Shore.
It was quite obvious that you
already rocked me to my core.

We then went to the dock and
although I was inexperienced, had
our first kiss.
I wish we didn't wait until senior
year to feel this euphoric and
bliss.

We sat up until 3 and talked and
made out.
I knew this night was The Night
That I Just Knew, without a doubt.

As I wrap up our first date and
this poem from that night.
You had no idea of my internal
strife and now I had a new reason
to fight.

I wish God gave me more time with
you, like a million more night and
days.
But, there never was a doubt that
my life really began on this night,
in so many ways.

(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

Mason, as your new chapter in life began and you left the old one behind & depart.
Always remember, our love will last forever and I will always love you will all my heart.

They kiss passionately.

FADE TO BLACK:

REAL WORLD:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mason still in a coma, with oxygen mask on. Monitors BLIPPING and BEEPING.

Pastor's hair sticks up.

Cassie, hair in bun, disheveled, baggy eyes and runny make-up.

CASSIE

Pastor, it almost looks like he's smiling, look.

PASTOR

Or crying maybe.

CASSIE

Babe, what are you dreaming about? Babe, we miss and love you. Please come back to us.

PASTOR

Son, I know you're there, I see you dreaming. Son, Mason, son!

CASSIE

All this sitting around. When are they going to give us definite answers!

PASTOR

Cassie, the mind is a tricky thing. God has Mason near him, that's what we can hang our hat on.

CASSIE

I need facts! Absolutes. None of this speculation.

(MORE)

CASSIE (CONT'D)
I'm having Dr. McGuire paged, this
is ridiculous.

Cassie storms out.

INT. MASON'S HOSPITAL OFFICE - LATER

Pastor sits at Mason's desk visibly upset.

He continually looks at a folded piece of paper with a phone number and at the phone. Back and forth he peers the phone and the phone number. Hesitant.

PASTOR POV

On Mason's desk, a picture of Riley trying on a wedding dress and Mason smiling.

Another picture of Mason and Cassie kissing under a waterfall.

Another picture of Mason's arm around Kim and Shane.

Another picture of Pastor and Mason laughing.

BACK TO SCENE

Pastor calls the phone number.

PASTOR
Hello. Reverend Tom?

REVEREND TOM (O.S.)
Thank you for returning the call
Louis. Can you please come in
first thing tomorrow morning?

PASTOR
Yes. Is something wrong?

REVEREND TOM (O.S.)
Please be here by 9. Good night.

He tries to hang up phone and is not attentive and misses the base. After a couple of seconds he hears the dial tone and realizes the phone is off the hook and re-attaches. Troubled.

INT. SHANE'S HOSPITAL OFFICE - LATER

Shane sits at the desk with his head in his hands and door is opened. Distressed. He does not hear nor sense Kim's presence in the doorway.

KIM

There seems to be a lot of that going around.

Shane looks up. Smiles.

SHANE

Hey Kim. Come on in.

She sits across the desk.

KIM

Be straight with me for once. What are Mason's chances? No usual b.s. that you're famous for, just straight up.

SHANE

Dr. McGuire and Amin are two of the best head trauma specialists in the country. They tell me no vital organs or bones suffered trauma. They believe it's a waiting game until he pulls out and they do believe he will.

KIM

What's the hold up then?

SHANE

They think it's Mason. They do not see anything medically that's preventing him from regaining consciousness.

Kim peruses Shane's desk. She sees a picture of her, Shane and Mason laughing while posing. Shane notices her staring at the picture.

KIM

Where was that taken?

SHANE

The Urology Convention.

KIM

Oh right. You received the Award for Excellence for your dissertation on Lapo, something or other.

SHANE

Laparoscopy.

KIM

I'm ashamed to admit it, but I was proud of you.

SHANE

I was proud of you for showing up and surprising me. You always were the bigger person.

KIM

Your son is proud of you also. Despite the past, he loves you and you're a good father.

SHANE

I have a lot of making up to do. Life is short.

Kim realizes the seriousness of the conversation.

Old feelings are being drummed up and she quickly changes course. They both rise to face each other.

KIM

Our son has to pull through. You have to see to it that he does.
(pause)
He's all I got.

Shane, hesitantly raises his arm to comfort her, pauses, then puts arms around her.

SHANE

(tenderly)
You got me.

Kim and Shane gaze into each others eyes. Staring and wanting to kiss, but don't.

Kim smiles broadly as she retreats and buries her head in Shane's chest and hugs tightly.

FADE TO BLACK:

DREAM WORLD:

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Riley looks through a telescope while Mason sets up a blanket. ANIMALS are heard in the b.g.

The stars are in full force tonight.

RILEY
I come here a lot to knit and look
at the stars.

MASON
You're my shining star.

They kiss passionately.

MASON (CONT'D)
I'm not going to stop this time.

They smile and continue to kiss as they lay down on a blanket.

Riley is hesitant and is very nervous. Mason stops and looks into her eyes, expecting an explanation.

RILEY
I want my first time to be more
than just, this.

MASON
Let's celebrate the fact that we're
together again and not worry about
the setting.

Mason resumes passionately kissing Riley and, after some coaxing with his lips, she relents.

Like a caged tigress finally let loose, Riley pulls Mason's shirt off over his head and removes his pants, while continuing to passionately kiss.

Mason unbuttons Riley's shirt and removes her pants. They remove the rest of their clothes.

Mason and Riley make love, under the covers, under the stars.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Mason and Riley awaken under the morning sun with Riley's mother milking a cow and smirking in their direction.

RILEY
Mason, my mother sees us.

MASON

We're engaged, it's legal.

Riley is not amused-- embarrassed.

She dresses under the covers and meanders over to her mother. Mason dresses on the blanket and watches Riley talk to her mother.

Riley returns.

RILEY

Let's get out of here.

EXT. DREAM TATTOO SHOP - LATER

Riley and Mason looks through books and books of tattoo pictures.

Mason smiles as he watches Riley focus on her choice. She is almost as giddy as a child in a candy store.

RILEY

Let's get matching tattoos!

MASON

No more tats for me.

RILEY

Ok, maybe not matching, but you could put something along side of your operating table one?

MASON

Ok, you choose.

RILEY

I'm getting a lady bug on my back.

MASON

No lady bug for me. Liam would destroy me.

RILEY

I got it, a picture of two worlds, parallel to each other.

EXT. DREAM TATTOO SHOP - LATER

Riley admires her Lady Bug. Mason rubs his hand on his chest. They lose themselves for a second admiring their tattoos.

RILEY

Every time you look at your chest,
you will think of today. And,
every time you put your hand there
you will always be right beside me.

Mason smiles, deep in thought and does not respond. Riley
grabs Mason's hand.

RILEY (CONT'D)

C'mon I want to show you something.

FADE TO BLACK:

REAL WORLD:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mason still in a coma, with oxygen mask on and monitors
BLIPPING and BEEPING.

Cassie, Liam, Brittney, Kim, Shane and Pastor watch Mason
sleep.

Everyone is exhausted and are over this waiting game already.

KIM

He looks so peaceful. He better
not get too comfortable, we need
him back.

CASSIE

Baby can you hear me? Come back to
us, I love you.

LIAM

Doc, I'm an idiot, you better get
back here and tell me so.

DOCTOR MCGUIRE (60) female, gray hair, average build, and Ava
enter the room.

DR. MCGUIRE

Dr. Brady and Kim, can I see you
out here please.

They exit.

BRITTNEY

(to Cassie)

Eddie left a card on your front
door. I have it in the car.

CASSIE
He's sweet.

BRITTNEY
I'll take care of it for you.

Kim re-enters.

KIM
(to Cassie)
Dr. McGuire wants you in the
hallway.

Cassie and Kim exit.

Ava checks the monitors and looks at his BP. She stops and
stares-- concerned.

BRITTNEY
It's been high since we've been
here.

AVA
I'm not liking that.

Ava exits.

Dr. McGuire enters and peers monitors and checks Mason's
vitals and checks his pulse.

DR. MCGUIRE
(to everyone)
Please go for some dinner, we have
to stabilize his BP and heart rate.

Everyone exits upset and distressed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIAM AND BRITTNEY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Liam, shadow beard and has not shaved in sometime now, opens
the front door while Brittney vacuums.

BRITTNEY
Hi Hon, what are you doing home so
early?

Liam anxious and troubled-- hiding something.

LIAM
 Got off early. Thought you may
 want to go back to the hospital and
 I'll watch the kids.

BRITTNEY
 You sure everything's ok?

LIAM
 Absofrigginlutely!! Except for
 Mason, couldn't be better.

BRITTNEY
 You're acting weird, but, ok.
 Finish the chores and the kids' bus
 arrives at 3:30 at the corner.

Liam watches Brittney retrieve her pocketbook and keys and
 exit.

Liam immediately makes a phone call.

REPRESENTATIVE
 NC Staffing may I help you?

LIAM
 Hi, can I speak to Eddie please?

REPRESENTATIVE
 Sorry, he no longer works here. Is
 there someone else that can help
 you?

LIAM
 What company did he go to? I need
 to speak to him.

REPRESENTATIVE
 I don't have that information sir.
 Sorry, but someone else can help
 you.

Liam frustrated. Slams his cell phone down.

After a couple of minutes he calls back.

REPRESENTATIVE (CONT'D)
 NC Staffing may I help you?

LIAM
 This is Liam, I just called. Sorry
 to be abrupt.

REPRESENTATIVE

Someone else can help you sir.
Would you like to be transferred to
Nixon?

Liam is frustrated.

LIAM

Sure.

Transferred call.

NIXON

(answers phone)
This is Nixon.

LIAM

Hi Nixon, this is Liam. I'm
friends with Eddie, but apparently
he's no longer there.

(pause)

I need a job now!

NIXON

Sir. We have nothing available
immediately, but come in for an
interview the beginning of next
week. Ask for me and I'll see if
any of our clients have something
available, per diem, for you.

Liam hangs up-- fearful and panicked.

He sits on the couch with head down and head in his hands.

He looks up at the clock which reads "3:23" and walks out the
front door.

FADE TO BLACK:

DREAM WORLD:

EXT. MOTHER'S BARN - DAY

Mason and Riley are in the stables-- petting horses.

Riley has two hiking backpacks stuffed with toiletry items,
sleeping bags, and bags of food.

MASON

What did you want to show me?
Sleeping bags?

RILEY
Come, you'll see.

Mason puts one backpack over his shoulder and Riley puts the other one over hers and they set out.

WOODS

They walk through small streams, small brooks, brush and bushes and open meadows until they see the mountains.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

They stop at the base and view the tall peaked mountain. Mason is skeptical and Riley is eager.

MASON
Are we climbing that?

RILEY
It's always been a can't do item since I got here.

MASON
You've become quite the risk taker in your old age.

RILEY
You only live twice!

MASON
Obviously.

RILEY
My mom, Vicky and Nick are all chicken.

MASON
Very smart people.

RILEY
C'mon, it will be romantic.

They find the trail that leads up.

MASON
Are there mountain lions here?

RILEY
Stop sniveling and let's go.

MASON
Tigers or bears either?

RILEY
Strong doctor man like yourself is
supposed to be strong for me, not
the other way around.

Mason picks up two sticks as weapons.

MASON
I'm going first.

Mason leads the way on the trail, hesitant and flinching at every SOUND. Fear and trepidation on his face as he whips both sticks around at every NOISE.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

They stop on flat ground and survey the area.

RILEY
It's starting to get dark, let's
camp out for the night.

Riley sees the fear on Mason's face.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Did you think that we were staying
at a hotel?

MASON
What is this place?

RILEY
I heard about this part. It's
called Gabbro Forest Point.

MASON
I'll pitch the tent.

RILEY
We're hiking Mason, no tent,
roughing it.

MASON
I'll build a fire.
(holds out his hand)
Matches!

Riley stares at Mason amusingly.

MASON (CONT'D)
Right, we're roughing it.

RILEY
With all these unique rocks around,
I'm sure you can find two.

Mason in awe of all the unique rocks with different shapes,
sizes, colors, and surfaces.

MASON
I'm saving a couple of these.
Never seen rocks like these before.

RILEY
Go collect some more.

Mason scours the woods and returns with an arm full of unique
rocks. He places two rocks together to begin rubbing for
fire.

RILEY (CONT'D)
WAIT! Stop.

Mason peers inquisitively.

RILEY (CONT'D)
You don't recognize them?

MASON
They're rocks.

RILEY
Are you sure?

Mason inspects the rocks and is not quite sure of their
nature, but he is aware that they are unique.

MASON
They're inimitable, I'll give you
that, but we need fire right now.

RILEY
I brought you to Gabbro Forest
Point. Gabbro, Mason.

It hits him. Elated.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Look at your Moon Rock!

Mason is jubilant. Leans over and they kiss passionately.

MASON

Very cool. Thanks baby.

RILEY

We had a meteor shower a while back. I thought of you.

Mason rubs two moon rocks together and no spark. Mason continues to rub and still nothing.

MASON

My hands are killing me. It's not working.

RILEY

I put my life in your hands to operate on me, but to survive, no way.

She laughs.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Give me that.

Riley rubs the two rocks together, and rubs and rubs and finally gets a spark.

She puts some brush and twigs on top of the sparks and gently blows until it ignites.

She looks over at Mason, who is too attentive examining the moon rock.

RILEY (CONT'D)

I'm marrying me a survivor next time around.

Mason jumps on her.

MASON

Wise guy.

They continue playfully wrestling on the ground, rolling around and laughing and having fun.

They stop with Mason holding Riley tight on top of her and they begin to kiss passionately.

FADE TO BLACK:

REAL WORLD:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Cassie, Shane and Kim watch Mason sleep.

Mason is still in the coma, with oxygen mask on and monitors BLIPPING and BEEPING.

Shane has a shadow beard growing.

Cassie, hair in bun, disheveled.

Kim's hair tied up and messy.

SHANE

(looking at monitor)

I don't like how his pressure is again.

KIM

Tell Ava or Dr. McGuire.

He exits.

KIM (CONT'D)

Did you see Pastor today?

CASSIE

No. He's not been here.

KIM

That's odd.

CASSIE

I need a break. Be right back.

KIM

Go home and get some sleep honey, I'll call you if there's any change.

CASSIE

I'm not leaving this hospital.

Ava enters room and checks his blood pressure. Concerned.

AVA

How long has his pressure been like this?

KIM

As soon as you left the room after you last checked it.

AVA
 He's probably dreaming. I'll get
 Dr. McGuire.

Ava exits.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. McGuire and Ava converse in the hallway-- inaudible.

Ava looks distressed and concerned.

Dr. McGuire walks away. Shane returns to see Ava in the hallway.

SHANE
 I couldn't find McGuire.

AVA
 I just spoke to her. Not good.

SHANE
 What?

AVA
 It's been a while since he's
 breathed on his own and everyday
 gets closer to a decision that has
 to be made. You know that doctor.

SHANE
 My son is walking out of this
 hospital and end of this
 discussion!

AVA
 I hate that I have to talk like
 this, but, what is, is and if it
 comes to that, I hope y' all make
 the right one.

Ava storms off.

INT. DIOCESE OF GOD OFFICE - SAME TIME

Pastor enters REVEREND TOM (50) graying hair and clean cut,
 Diocese of God Elder's Office Head. He sits behind his
 intimidating desk.

REVEREND TOM
 Thank you for coming on such short
 notice. Have a seat.

Pastor sits across the desk.

PASTOR
How are the kids Tom? They must be
so big.

REVEREND TOM
Thank you.

Pastor cuts to the chase.

PASTOR
What is it?

REVEREND TOM
Louis, The Diocese of God Committee
convenes every first Saturday of
the month. The past two months you
have been the topic.

PASTOR
Did I do something wrong?

REVEREND TOM
The committee has voted,
unanimously, that your tenure
at the Ministry should cease.

PASTOR
What is this about Tom? What is
going on here?

REVEREND TOM
The committee voted that they will
accept your Letter of Retirement,
effective the end of this month.

PASTOR
I'm not ready to retire. You can't
do this. This is my town, my
congregation and my life.

REVEREND TOM
We're sorry Louis. We are offering
you a generous package and you will
not need for anything the remainder
of your life.

PASTOR
I'm not ready.

REVEREND TOM

We disagree. Pastor Jay will
be taking over services beginning
the first Sunday of next month.

(pause)(sincere)

Louis, we will miss you. Enjoy
your retirement. It's a long time
coming and you deserve it.

Pastor reluctantly shakes his hand, shocked and exits.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIAM AND BRITTNEY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Liam is dressed in a suit and Brittney cleans the living
room.

BRITTNEY

The kids will be down in a minute.
Are you leaving for work now?

LIAM

Yeah, give them a kiss for me.

BRITTNEY

I'll meet you at the hospital
tonight.

Liam and Brittney exchange a quick kiss. Brittney, sensing
something, watches as he pulls out of the driveway speeding
down the street.

INT. LIAM'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Liam pulls over on a side street and parks. He looks at his
watch and looks away. He is anxious and distressed.

He looks out the window and is almost sobbing. He gathers
his composure and notices Brittney drive past the side
street.

He drives back to the house. Parks in the driveway and his
cell phone rings.

LIAM

(answers phone)

Yes Pete.

PETE (O.S.)

Sorry about what happened. It got heated and we both said things we didn't mean. We need you back.

LIAM

Same position?

PETE (O.S.)

You know we can't do that. The Phoenix office needs you and if you don't agree to the transfer, then we do have to let you go.

LIAM

I've been here for over 10 years and I should have a say in who gets transferred and who doesn't. I have my family, friends, kid's school, in-laws, all here. My best friend is dying and I need to be here.

PETE (O.S.)

I'll talk to management and see if we could delay this, just until your friend problem is resolved.

Liam slams his phone down.

FADE TO BLACK:

DREAM WORLD:

EXT. CAMP SITE - DAWN

Mason and Riley wake up in the sleeping bags that they zipped together to make one.

Mason and Riley kiss good morning.

RILEY

Good morning. We survived the mountain lions, tigers and bears.

MASON

Very funny. Let's try to survive this trek first.

RILEY

After breakfast, it's upward and onward. Don't forget your two weapons doctor.

MASON

These sticks are going to save our lives, I just know it.

RILEY

If you say so. Nothing is standing in my way of getting to the top.

MASON

I'm pretty good at helping you achieve your to-do items.

RILEY

We both are. As soon as we're finished with this hike, I'm getting a mountain tattoo on my back.

MASON

Let's do this!

Mason packs up the campsite as Riley takes out canned breakfast and water bottles.

RILEY

Breakfast is served.

MASON

Canned eggs? Is there any tuna?

RILEY

We'll stop at the next ShopRite.

Mason gazes at Riley eating a canned eggs breakfast. He reaches for it and she playfully moves it out of his way.

MASON

What am I supposed to eat?

RILEY

Mountain lion or bear.

Mason makes a mocking face as he pulls the can from her hand. He takes a few bites.

MASON

Let's go wise guy.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - LATER

They are a few hundred feet from the top.

MASON
Baby, look we're almost there.

Riley ecstatic and euphoric.

RILEY
(exalted)
MMAASSOOONN, WOW. Exciting.

Suddenly, Mason stops. RUSTLING in the bushes and NOISE.

MASON
(whispering)
Riley stop! The bushes are
moving. It could be dangerous.

Riley aloof. Mason on edge, both sticks in his hand in, en-
garde, position, ready to fight.

MASON (CONT'D)
Riley, stay back.

RILEY
It's probably nothing.

MASON
It's not nothing! How can rustling
and noise like that be nothing?
It's something, and a big
something!

Riley is not convinced. Peers at Mason in amusement.

RILEY
It's probably a rat. There are
no predator animals in this land.

Mason dismissive-- apprehensive and terrified. Ready to
strike.

Bushes rustle LOUDER and Mason is fearful.

MASON
Oh no, he's coming out. We're
going to die.

Riley looks at Mason amusingly. Suspense is building and he
is downright scared.

Mason closes his eyes and takes a step forward and swings
both sticks hard wildly in front of him. He hears Riley
laughing and opens his eyes and a rabbit comes hopping out
and hops right by them.

Riley stares at Mason, speechless, who takes both sticks and breaks them in half over his knee, throws them in the woods.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - MOMENTS LATER

They are on top of the mountain ridge.

The view is amazing and magnificent. The universe seems so small.

They find a spot and lay down a blanket on an embankment overlooking the universe from atop in an eclectic sight and feel.

RILEY

Thanks for saving my life back there. I always wanted to die fulfilling something on my can't do items.

Mason smirks.

MASON

So peaceful up here. I could see why you wanted this.

RILEY

Mom, Vicky and Nick lose out.

MASON

They're s. o. l.

RILEY

Whatever world we're in, it's beautiful all the same.

MASON

(holding cell phone)
If I had service, I could take great pictures.

RILEY

A cell phone? I haven't seen one of those in forever.

Mason looks at Riley confused. Then realizes.

MASON

This little device has been the cause of many divorce.

RILEY

My screen was never that big.

MASON
I forgot, you missed a lot.

RILEY
I told you it would be romantic.

Mason and Riley kiss passionately.

FADE TO BLACK:

REAL WORLD:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Cassie, Shane and Liam watch Mason sleep.

Mason still in a coma, with oxygen mask on and monitors
BLIPPING and BEEPING.

Shane's beard is full grown.

Cassie, hair in a bun, disheveled and run down.

Liam has a beard growing and hasn't shaved in weeks. Liam
hands Cassie a kids drawing of her and Mason holding hands in
a park.

LIAM
Tess made this for you.

Cassie is appreciative. Smiles and hangs it next to Mason's
bed.

Kim enters.

KIM
(to Shane)
Any new developments?

Shane nods no. Kim surveys the room and is puzzled.

KIM (CONT'D)
Has Pastor been here today?

Everyone nods no. She is worried.

INT. MASON'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Kim makes a phone call. On loud speaker in b.g.

LOUD SPEAKER
 Dr. Brady, Urology, dial 1,2. Dr.
 Brady, Urology, dial 1,2 please.

INT. PASTOR'S KITCHEN TABLE - SAME TIME

Pastor answers his ringing phone.

INTERCUT:

KIM
 Louis, how are you?

PASTOR
 (panicked)
 Is everything all right! Mason, is
 anything wrong?

KIM
 No. Still same, no change. We
 wanted to check on you.

PASTOR
 Oh, I'm fine. Thank you. Just
 taking care of chores I've been
 neglecting.

Kim is not believing.

KIM
 I can't help but get the feeling
 you're hiding something.

PASTOR
 Nothing to worry about. I'll be
 there soon.

Kim hangs up-- now very concerned.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kim returns to the room. Shane is gone.

Cassie lays in bed with Mason and Liam sits in a chair by
 Mason's head.

KIM
 Kids, I'll be back.

EXT. PASTOR'S HOUSE - LATER

Pastor answers his knocking door. Kim stands there ready to give him a piece of her mind.

PASTOR
Kim, Mason ok?

Kim invites herself inside the house.

INT. PASTOR'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kim sits on the living room couch. Pastor sits on his chair in the corner and they stare at each other.

Kim raises her eyebrow, giving him the death stare.

PASTOR
Ok. The Diocese of God Committee pushed me out.

KIM
Why? That is your congregation and your home.

PASTOR
They want younger. New movement and all.

KIM
You could now get on with the next phase of your life.

PASTOR
I've never been good at gardening or crossword puzzles.

KIM
Life doles out curveballs so generously, doesn't it?

PASTOR
I'm going to use that one in my next sermon.

They smile and laugh.

KIM
How long do you have?

PASTOR
The last Sunday of this month is my last.

(MORE)

PASTOR (CONT'D)

(a beat)

I can't end my last service and not have Mason there.

KIM

He will be there, one way or another. You can count on it.

They hug.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Liam, Brittney and Cassie watch Mason sleep. Mason makes a sudden movement and the room freezes. They watch with a hopeful eye until they realize it was nothing.

CASSIE

I'm taking a little break.

Cassie departs.

LIAM

Brittney, I have to talk to you.

BRITTNEY

Finally going to tell me why you're weirding out on me?

LIAM

We're being forced to transfer to Phoenix. They need me to head up the Sales Department out west.

BRITTNEY

For how long?

LIAM

3 years, minimum.

BRITTNEY

Is this what you were afraid to tell me?

Liam peers at Brittney who does not seem upset.

BRITTNEY (CONT'D)

Hon, I've been wanting to leave New Jersey since we went on the vacation. The school system is better there and I know the kids will love it.

LIAM
You're not upset?

BRITTNEY
Oh contraire my dear.

LIAM
So, we're doing this?

BRITTNEY
The sooner the better, as far as I'm concerned.

LIAM
They're giving me until Mason's situation is resolved. I'm not leaving him.

BRITTNEY
Of course. I'm not leaving either until he walks out of here on his own.

LIAM
I guess we're onto the land of scorpions!

They hug and kiss passionately.

FADE TO BLACK:

DREAM WORLD:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Mason and Riley walk on the beach holding hands. Riley leads Mason to a sign, "N&V Jet Ski Rentals".

MASON
Are we going Jet skiing?

Riley smirks.

MASON (CONT'D)
Ohhh noo! There could be sharks in the water.

Riley smirks and laughs. Shakes her head as they continue to walk.

RILEY
C'mon, it will be romantic.

They reach the rental shed and Nick is behind the counter.

NICK
My two favorite people. Jet skiing
today?

Mason is taken aback.

MASON
N&V huh? Where's Vicky?

NICK
She's in the shop fixing one of the
Jet skis.

MASON
She's fixing it?

NICK
Yeah. She comes from a family
of mechanics. Her brother taught
her while growing up.

RILEY
Mason, let's go out for three
hours.

NICK
Riley, you missed the last five
Talent Club meetings.

RILEY
What is the consensus?

NICK
We're singing Side A of the
Beatles' White Album.

RILEY
Great choice. I'll be back real
soon.

NICK
Riley, take Mason to Coral Reef
Island and I'll meet you there in
two hours. We'll have lunch.

MASON
Nick, are there sharks in the
water?

Nick and Riley smirk.

EXT. OCEAN JET SKI'S - LATER

Mason and Riley are Jet Skiing and having a blast.

They are racing and taking sharp turns and spraying each other. Mason smiles at Riley while cruising and Riley looks at Mason and then looks away sadly. Riley not paying attention and her mind is elsewhere.

She is putting a damper on her fun-- playing it off well though.

EXT. CORAL REEF ISLAND - LATER

Mason and Riley park the Jet ski's and walk the island. They notice Nick barbecuing and Vicky cutting vegetables.

VICKY

Right on time. Lunch will be a minute.

NICK

Glad to see you survived Jaws.

Everyone laughs.

RILEY

(to Vicky)
You need help?

VICKY

Sure. Help me cut these up.

Riley strolls to Vicky. Mason walks to Nick barbecuing.

NICK

Have fun today Bud?

MASON

Yeah. She's crazy. Totally changed in 10 years.

Nick hands Mason a beer.

NICK

Here's to the four of us. Back together again.

Mason takes a sip, stares at Nick in disbelief. Everything is still so surreal.

MASON

N&V Jet Ski Rentals, huh? Never would've thought of that one.

NICK

It beats the Coke Plant, for sure. They didn't care how hard they worked you. 24 hours straight, then four hour nap and then they wanted you back. Communism at its best.

They chuckle.

EXT. BEACH BENCH TABLE - LATER

Mason, Riley, Nick and Vicky sit at a bench, drinking beers, eating and laughing.

Riley laughs at something Vicky said and looks away disconcerted. The others continue laughing and having a good time but Riley is hiding something and no one notices.

She promptly returns to the conversation.

VICKY

How was conquering the mountain?

MASON

The summit was breathtaking, but getting there was challenging.

Mason smirks at Riley.

RILEY

Mason saved my life from a killer bunny. I owe him everything.

Mason makes a mocking face.

NICK

(to Riley)

Did you take him to Gabbro Forest Point?

MASON

That was awesome. Those rocks were exquisite.

RILEY

Speaking of the mountain, Mason, let's get going. I want to hit the tattoo shop.

EXT. MOTHER'S BARN - LATER

Mason admires Riley's new mountain tattoo on her back.

MASON
Sweet and innocent Riley Cooper
with two tattoo's.

RILEY
It's when I'm around you this
sinful person erupts.

MASON
So, it's my fault you're a rebel?

RILEY
If the stethoscope fits.

MASON
I'm the innocent doctor.

They laugh and kiss.

Riley sees her mother sitting on a bowl, milking a cow.
Riley grabs Mason's hand and approach her.

MOM
What are you two love birds up to?

RILEY
We're going riding, you want to
join us?

MOM
No, I can't. Have to bale the hay
and then keep an eye on Bertha.
She's going to bust any minute now.

RILEY
Just what you need, another baby
cattle.

MOM
(to Mason)
I'll go out ridin' and you deliver
Bertha's baby.

MASON
(flustered)
Do you have forceps?

MOM
Forceps? Ha, what kind of doctor
did Riley make you?

Everyone laughs.

MOM (CONT'D)
Riley, take Bobby and Debbie.

EXT. HORSEBACK RIDING - LATER

Horses trot the beautiful landscape. Mountains are breathtakingly picturesque. Multi-colored animals, bugs and birds flood the scenery. Riley and Mason absorb the landscape smiling and laughing in amazement.

Horses trot through a small brook and then through a small stream and back into the woods.

POUNDING WATER can be heard in the distance. Mason's horse is following Riley's horse and she is drawn to the LOUD, water POUNDING.

EXT. WATERFALL - DAY

The horses walk along the stream and pass through a small patch of woods and on the other side is a large, waterfall. The WATERFALL is falling over the side of a mountain dropping into a spring with mist at the bottom of the falls.

RILEY
Wow, Mason, look how beautiful.

MASON
(aloof)
Yeah, really nice. Let's explore further.

RILEY
No, let's go in. I'll race you.

MASON
We're not going in!
(kicks horse)
Let's go Bobby, pick it up.

RILEY
You're acting weird. What's wrong? This is romantic.

MASON
Just wanna move this adventure along.

Riley stares at Mason-- perturbed and confused.

She watches as Mason kicks Bobby and trots off. Riley, reluctantly, directs Debbie to follow into the woods.

EXT. BARN - LATER

They arrive at the barn and dismount their horses. Riley is still concerned and confused at Mason's behavior.

RILEY
Talk to me Mason!

MASON
Wow, Riles that was awesome! I had a great time.

RILEY
MMMAAASSSSOOONNN?

MASON
It was beautiful, but I don't like waterfalls. Drop it.

RILEY
What is it?

Mason is evasive and walks away. Riley is confused.

EXT. BARN BACKYARD - NIGHT

Riley lays on a blanket looking up at the stars, gloomy and sad. Mason slowly sits down facing her.

MASON
Baby, waterfalls are Cassie and my thing. Somehow, it just didn't feel right.

RILEY
(changing subject)
Look at the stars they're so bright tonight.

MASON
Riley, look at me. You're my fiancée and I love you. I found you again and am the happiest that I've been in 10 years.

RILEY
Everything comes to an end at some point.

MASON

I don't know how this works here,
but I'm giving it a shot anyway.

Riley stares at Mason confused.

Mason kneels on one knee. Grabs Riley's left ring finger
which has her ring on it.

MASON (CONT'D)

Riley, will you finally marry me?

Riley glares into Mason's eyes, and puts her head down in
reproach. Mason stares at Riley, awaiting an answer, and she
lifts her head and stares into his eyes.

Riley smacks her lips and then, in abashment.

RILEY

C'mon, I want to show you
something.

FADE TO BLACK:

REAL WORLD:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mason still in a coma, with oxygen mask on and monitors
BLIPPING and BEEPING.

Cassie, Pastor and Shane watch Mason sleep.

Pastor has a shadow beard and yawns.

Cassie, hair in bun, and nodding off.

Shane is clad in scrubs and also nodding off.

Kim enters.

KIM

I made dinner. Everyone needs a
break.

CASSIE

Thank you Ms. Brady, but I'm
staying here.

Pastor grabs Cassie's hand.

PASTOR

Let's go Cassie. Ava will call us
if there's any change.

INT. KIM'S DINING ROOM TABLE - LATER

Cassie, Pastor, and Shane sit at the table and no one is
talking and the mood is somber.

Kim enters from the kitchen holding a plate of fried chicken
and places it down on the table. She then retrieves from the
kitchen a bowl of mashed potatoes and a bowl of green beans
and sits down. She peers around the table as everyone's mood
is clearly grim. She looks to Pastor, who is looking back at
her.

PASTOR

Let us bow our heads.

Everyone folds their hands on their laps and bow their
heads.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Bless us thy Lord for these gifts
which we are about to receive, from
thy bounty through God our Lord,
Amen.

(pause)

Lord, bless this table, this food
and this family. I know you have a
plan for Mason and far be it for me
to stand in your way. I only ask
to please give everyone at this
table the strength to accept
whatever your plan is. We just
hope that your plan is to
bring Mason home to us safely.
Amen.

SHANE

Thank you Louis.

(praying)

All of our lives are missing a
piece of something. Missing
Mason. I hope it is in the Lord's
plan to bring our boy home soon
healthy and back to normal. This
world needs my son in it. Amen.
Let's eat.

There's a KNOCK at the door.

KIM
I'll get it. It's probably Liam
and Brittney.

Liam and Brittney enter and sit in two empty chairs at the
table.

Cassie rises.

CASSIE
Thank you Ms. Brady, but I'm going
back.

SHANE
You haven't finished eating.

Cassie rushing.

CASSIE
Good night everyone.

Cassie exits as everyone looks on in pity. Kim serves Liam
and Brittney and they begin to eat.

Shane receives a TEXT.

SHANE
(looking at phone)
It's the hospital. Be back in a
sec.

Shane walks into the kitchen.

KIM
So, what's your time frame?

LIAM
We're not going anywhere
until Mason comes home. They know
that.

KIM
Are the kids ok with this?

BRITTNEY
Tess is not, but Brandon couldn't
care.

They chuckle.

KIM
Boys deal with crisis better.
She'll be fine.

Shane re-enters.

SHANE

Kim, I have to get to the hospital. Thank you for dinner.

Shane and Kim hug and give each other a quick kiss.

Liam and Brittney were eating and not paying attention, but Pastor noticed and smirked.

LIAM

We have to get going also. We have to save our kids from Grandma. She probably has 2 lbs. of chocolate in them.

BRITTNEY

Thank you for dinner. See you at the hospital.

Liam and Brittney exit. Pastor stares at Kim who sees him looking, but looks away.

Kim knows he wants to talk.

KIM

Do you want tea Louis?

Pastor is peering. Eyeballing.

KIM (CONT'D)

Something on your mind?

Pastor smirks.

PASTOR

How long has it been?

KIM

How long has what been?

PASTOR

You know what I'm asking.

KIM

No Pastor. I don't.

PASTOR

How long have you and Shane been back together?

KIM

I can't think about that. My son has to return to us and that is the main focus here.

PASTOR

Mason found himself in a similar situation years ago. Funny what tragedy brings to unsuspecting people.

Kim is floored. Mouth agape. But then, smiles broadly.

KIM

Good night Pastor.

Kim walks to the kitchen.

FADE TO BLACK:

DREAM WORLD:

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Riley leads Mason to the cemetery. They stand alongside Riley's grave.

MASON

Why did you take me here?

RILEY

Mason, you have to realize that I'm dead and you have to go back.

MASON

I'm staying here! You're my fiancée and I lost you once and I'm not losing you again!

RILEY

Let's talk about the elephant in the room, shall we?

Mason looks at Riley confused.

RILEY (CONT'D)

You fell in love with my best friend. I know Cassie and if she is anything like in high school, then I know she's giving 100% of herself to you.

(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

But, somehow I have a sneaky suspicion that you hold back and do not open your heart fully to her.

MASON

We were there for each other. We went to the same college, not on purpose, and we were still grieving. We just wanted to be close to you.

RILEY

Sounds like you two were meant to be, and Mason, that is perfectly okay.

MASON

It started off as comfort and trying to cope, but then there was attraction.

RILEY

I listened to her every day in school obsess over Eddie Pratt, so I know how she can love deeply.

Mason flips his ring.

MASON

Baby, I belong here with you.

RILEY

I have a gift for you.

She hands him the toy camel.

MASON

What is this?

RILEY

Every time you feel like you're not opening your heart to Cassie and you're keeping that door shut, just hold this in your hand. It will remind you to love fully again and get over the hump.

Mason is shocked.

RILEY (CONT'D)

I love you so much and you were my life, in the living. But, now, I have to let you go. You belong there and I belong here.

MASON

Don't leave me Baby, not again!
Just when I found you.

RILEY

We were just lucky to have this
love twice, it's really unheard of.
But, we were the lucky chosen
ones. God has to take me back and
has to give you back.

MASON

NOOOOOO!!!

RILEY

I promise you baby, when it's your
time, I will be here waiting for
you, my love.

Riley starts fading away.

MASON

(screaming)

NOOO, RILEY, COME BACK, RILES,
NOOOOO, BABY!!

FADE TO BLACK:

REAL WORLD:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Cassie, alone in the room, sits alongside Mason's
head. Mason wakes up shaking head back and forth violently.

MASON

NOOO, RILEY, COME BACK, RILES,
NOOOOO, BABY!!

Mason opens his eyes. She is conflicted at happy that her
boyfriend is back-- and despondent that her boyfriend is not
thinking of her.

CASSIE

(kisses awkwardly)

Welcome back. You had us all
scared.

MASON

How long?

CASSIE

Almost a month.

MASON
What happened?

CASSIE
You fell off the ladder and hit
your head on the concrete.

Cassie is melancholy and shaken.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
You almost hemorrhaged to death.

MASON
I'm going to hemorrhage Liam's head
when I see him.

CASSIE
I'll go get the doctor.

Cassie flees the room sobbing.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Mason is sitting up.

Liam, Brittney, Pastor, Kim, Shane and Ava laugh and joke--
the mood is jubilant. Balloons and greeting cards overtake
the room setting.

LIAM
Well, Doc, you give a new meaning
to the phrase hard headed.

MASON
Where's Cassie?

Pastor gives Mason a sneering look.

Brittney shoots fire out of her eyes at Mason.

Mason looks to everyone else in room and no one
answers.

MASON (CONT'D)
Is anyone going to answer me?

As he awaits an answer, he feels something under the sheet
alongside his hip. He reaches under and pulls out a toy
camel.

LIAM
Brandon brought that for you.

Mason has a tear roll down cheek and looks down at his ring and clutches the toy camel.

SHANE
(to Kim)
Let's go find Dr. McGuire.

Kim and Shane kiss Mason goodbye.

KIM
I love you son. Thank God you're back.

MASON
Love you and Dad too.

Pastor and Kim smirk at each other as Kim and Shane exit.

BRITTNEY
Well, Mason, thank God you're okay. You had us all scared.

She kisses Mason.

LIAM
Sorry again Doc. I'm glad you're functioning again.

They fist bump.

MASON
When are you leaving?

BRITTNEY
Monday.

MASON
Eddie's racing the Bronx Raceway Sunday. After the service we'll go to the drags.

Liam and Mason hug as Liam and Brittney exit.

AVA
Dr. Brady, you will be happy to know that you're no longer on Parks' shit list.

MASON
(sarcastic)
Phew. I was nervous there for a second.

AVA
 He covered your shifts and
 patients. He does nothing but
 complain.

MASON
 Micromanager and complainer. He'll
 have my ear for 6 hours now.

They chuckle. She hugs Mason.

AVA
 Nice to have you back, boss.

She exits.

MASON
 (to Pastor)
 I've had a lot of time to think and
 reflect.
 (clutching camel)
 I know I hurt Cassie, but I'm
 opening the door to my heart and
 getting over the hump.

Pastor is delighted.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE - DAY

Mason drives warily. Respecting other drivers and
 pedestrians, unlike his usual driving ways. He stops at
 yellow lights and is being honked at for riding too
 cautiously.

INT. MASON'S INSIDE HOUSE DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Mason sets down the motorcycle keys on the table. Brodeur
 jumps on him and kissing him. He missed Mason something
 terrible.

Mason kneels down and hugs and kisses the dog.

MASON
 Hi Brody. I missed you too. Good
 boy.

He strolls to the kitchen.

INT. MASON'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He opens the kitchen cabinets and smirks. They are stocked and stacked neatly. Soup, jar fruit, canned vegetables, canned tuna, flour, sugar, coffee can etc. and Mason smiles while deep in thought.

He opens the refrigerator and it is stocked and stacked neatly. Milk, orange juice, eggs, mayonnaise, lettuce, tomatoes, bottle water, beer, etc. and he smiles.

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason walks upstairs and his bed is made-- room is spotless.

INT. MASON'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Strolls back downstairs to the kitchen and removes a beer from the refrigerator. He struts to the living room.

INT. MASON'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He sits on the couch. Takes a sip of beer and looks over at the end table and sees his and Riley's photo album along with his and Cassie's "Book of Us" photo album underneath.

He takes the toy camel from his pocket and sets it back down on his end table.

He looks at both photo albums, hesitates, and then reaches for his and Cassie's "Book of Us" album and opens it up and flips through each page, slowly, smiling and laughing.

Mason shuts the album and leaves it on top of the coffee table and reaches for his beer. He puts the bottle to his lips, pauses, looks at the bottle and immediately places it back on the coffee table.

He glances at his and Riley's photo album and glances at the toy camel. He picks up the full bottle of beer and rushes to the kitchen.

INT. MASON'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mason dumps the bottle of beer in the kitchen sink and then proceeds to the refrigerator and dumps out all the remaining beer, smiling and laughing.

INT. MARKUM YARN & THREAD CO. - DAY

Mason passes by a MAN (58) dressed in factory scrubs, booties and mask dangling around chin, talking to a FEMALE (40) dressed business. They are having an impromptu hallway meeting.

Monique is at the front desk.

MASON

Hey Mo.

MONIQUE

How you feeling Doctor?

MASON

Could be better.

MONIQUE

I'm sure it could! I'll phone the girl.

Mason sits and watches Monique call Cassie. After a quick exchange that is inaudible.

MONIQUE (CONT'D)

She'll be down in a minute.

Mason watches the two employees have their meeting. He then gives his ring a twirl and clutches the toy camel.

Cassie arrives standoffish.

CASSIE

What are you doing here?

MASON

Sorry to bother you at work, but you don't answer my calls and I didn't see you when I was discharged.

CASSIE

Been busy with the business.

MASON

I miss you.

CASSIE

If that's all, I have to get back to work.

She starts walking away.

MASON

Cass, I want to celebrate tonight,
just you and I.

She walks back to Mason.

CASSIE

I don't feel much like celebrating
anything and I'm working late.

MASON

Please don't do that.

CASSIE

Do what Mason? Love you? Don't do
that? You're right, I shouldn't.

MASON

I'm going to make this up to you.
So, put on your little show and
when you're done, I'm going to
prove to you exactly how I feel.

CASSIE

You don't have to, honestly. I sat
at that hospital for almost every
minute of 27 straight days hoping
and praying for your return. I saw
and heard who you had on your mind
when you awoke. You can't help it
Mason, it's in your DNA. I will
have no choice, but to accept
that.

Cassie kisses him on the cheek.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Good-bye Mason.

She exits as Mason is left heartbroken.

INT. CASSIE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Cassie sits in her chair staring out the window-- sad.

Cassie reflects on the exact moment Mason awoke from the
coma.

INT. MASON'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

MASON
NOOO, RILEY, COME BACK, RILES,
NOOOOO, BABY!!

FLASHBACK ENDS

Quickly her mood changes to anger, grabs her sweatshirt and keys and storms out of the office.

INT. FRONT DESK - MOMENTS LATER

Cassie storms past the front desk.

CASSIE
(to Monique)
I'll be back later.

INT. MASON'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Cassie enters Mason's living room. Mason is not home. The dog jumps on Cassie.

CASSIE
(petting)
Hi Brodeur. Good boy.

Cassie kisses and plays with the dog quickly.

Cassie walks to the kitchen but the end table catches her eye. There is something amiss. She stares at it confused and then peers at the photo albums underneath.

She shuffles through but does not see what she is looking for. She sees her and Mason's "Book of Us" along with a couple of other "Cassie and Mason" photo albums. She slowly looks at each photo album and stares for a second, and then immediately places them back down.

She notices two boxes in the corner of the living room and opens the top of one to see all of Mason and Riley's photo albums packed away. In the other box, Cassie notices Riley's wedding dress packed away along with a stack of wedding invitations and a candle.

Boxes are marked "Storage". Cassie smiles.

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cassie trudges upstairs and opens his dresser drawer to remove one of her sweaters.

She opens another dresser drawer and removes a couple of her underwear.

She begins to open another dresser drawer but notices Mason's high school graduation ring on top of the vanity. Cassie inspects it and smiles.

INT. MASON'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Cassie removes a bottled water from the refrigerator and closes it. She pauses, then reopens it and does a double take. She notices the spot that always has beer is empty. She stares in disbelief.

She notices the sink is messy and smelly. She lowers her head to smell the sink and realizes it is beer smell. She looks inside the garbage and it is filled with empty beer bottles.

Cassie smiles broadly.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Mason stands at Vicky's headstone which reads, "God Bless our beautiful daughter Vicky Almonte, December 9, 1991 - September 13, 2012". Mason stares and reflects.

MASON

Vick, It's taken me 6 years to face you and Nick. Not a day goes by that I'm not haunted about that night. It got heated between Cassie and I because I'm an ass. If I knew Cassie was going to call you then I would've put a stop to that entire night.

(pause)

Your brother paid me a visit and showed me just how much of an ass I was. He's right. I'm so sorry and I pray that you both could forgive me. I miss you both.

Mason sobs.

EXT. CEMETARY - MOMENTS LATER

Mason stands at Riley's headstone which reads, "God, Keep our beautiful and sweet daughter and fiancée close in your arms, ALWAYS. Riley Cooper October 10, 1990 - July 20, 2008".

MASON

Hi Baby. Tomorrow is the day.
This town will never be the same on
Sunday's and I know how hard this
is for your father. I promise you
that I will be with him every step
of the way to see him through this.

(pause)

Baby, you saved my life again.
You're not even here and you keep
doing that somehow.

(a beat)

You have never seen Cassie and I
together, but if I tell you that I
love her just as much as I loved
you, then you will know the full
story. There's no one man luckier
in any world than I and you are
half the reason for that. I miss
you and I will always love you and
thank you. Good-bye forever baby.

Mason looks at, then clutches, the toy camel.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Pastor speaks at the podium. Mason sits in the front row
next to Cassie, Kim and Shane.

PASTOR

I want to thank all of you for
coming to my last service. As I
look out and see you, my family, I
think back and remember when half
of you were born. Most of you I
baptized and here you are, adults.
Where did all the years go?

ON LIAM AND BRITTNEY

their eyes well up.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

I love each and everyone of you and
appreciate you letting me teach you
the word of God for so many years.

(MORE)

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Pastor Jay is a terrific messenger of God and he will continue my legacy at this ministry. I am not going far and you will see me here next week, just in a different situation for me.

(pause)

There are so many memories here, good and bad.

He looks at the choir and then up in the sky.

ON MASON

looks at his graduation ring.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

The good ones were easy, but the bad ones were tragic. Because of our love for God and in each other, we comforted, persevered, and made terrible situations bearable.

(pause)

I hope my words comforted all of you in your times of need just as you all were there for me in mine.

(looking at Mason)

I'm in a good place today. I have my son here who puts an end to my tenure with happiness. It was close that I would have to do this today without him, but the Lord answered my prayers and allowed me to go out my way.

(pause)

I love you Mason.

ON MASON

tear forms.

ON CASSIE

hugging Kim and Shane.

ON PASTOR

he steps back from the podium, wipes tears from his cheek-- returns to the podium.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Finally, we have come to an end of an era. With that said, the final announcement will be made by Mason.

Mason strolls to the podium as Pastor sits and wipes tears from his cheek.

MASON

(looking at Pastor)

Thank you sir. We will miss you and I know I speak for not only myself, but everyone else here, we love you too.

(pause)

Before I begin the last words, I want to wish my best friends good luck in their next phase in life.

Mason looks at Liam.

MASON (CONT'D)

Liam, Brittney, Tess and Brandon are moving to Phoenix. I love you and miss you already.

(pause)

The last time I was up here I was still a broken man. It didn't matter that 10 years went by, I still was broken, closed up and living day by day without any real reason. I recently had a near death experience for which I had almost a month to think and reflect on my life on how I lived them and how I hurt people.

ON CASSIE

looks down...

MASON (CONT'D)

And how I want to now live my next 100 years.

(2 beats)

I've had the privilege of loving two females in my life, one a girl and one a woman. Although, the girl I will ALWAYS love and be with me and in my heart, but the woman, is the woman of my dreams and my future.

Mason stares at Cassie as she is fully attentive.

MASON (CONT'D)

I have learned to love fully again, as you are a great teacher, and I have learned to heal and forgive.

(MORE)

MASON (CONT'D)

(looks at Pastor)

My father once told me, don't let
yesterday ruin your happy
tomorrow.

Mason removes his high school ring from his pocket and strolls to Pastor and hands it to him, who is sobbing with joy. They hug each other.

Mason returns to the podium, clutching the toy camel and looks at Cassie.

MASON (CONT'D)

Cassie, I'm so sorry and just need
our life back together and I will
prove to you that you are my one
and only. Please come here.

Cassie rises from her seat and Mason walks to her aisle. Cassie steps in the aisle and Mason gets down on one knee and pulls out a ring from his pocket.

MASON (CONT'D)

I love you and want nothing more
than the rest of our lives to prove
it. Will you marry me?

Cassie nods as she is crying and unable to speak. They hug and kiss as everyone stands and APPLAUDS.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WATERFALL - DAY

Mason walks alongside a waterfall.

MASON (V.O.)

Cassie gave me a new meaning to
life. A new reason to go on, to
have purpose and to live. She
taught me how to open my heart
again, how to forgive, how to heal
and most of all, how to love
again. She made my choice an easy
one, after all.

(pause)

I am the luckiest man in two
worlds. I have a love that's like
God, you can't see it, but you can
feel it.

(MORE)

MASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
AND, I have a love that's like a
waterfall, you can feel it and you
can see it.

FADE OUT:

THE END