

JULIE AND THE LIGHT

Written by

Trevor S Gustafson

Trevorgillustrations@gmail.com  
2304 Mansfield Drive  
Burlington, ON CANADA  
905 815 9745  
www.TrevorGustafson.com  
www.WhiteLightAnimationScreenplays.com

FADE IN:

EXT. REMOTE NORTHERN FOREST RIVER -- NIGHT

*It is winter. A light SNOW falls on the moving river.*

TEEN GIRL'S VOICE  
*(Brazilian Portuguese,  
 subtitled)  
 I remember it all so clearly now...*

A 5 YEAR OLD GIRL lies unconscious on a BROKEN WOODEN RAFT, floating down the cold current.

*She is dressed in thick martial-arts style clothes, her hair shaved short.*

*She is bleeding from a NASTY CUT on her cheek.*

TEEN GIRL'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
*Which is curious, because there was  
 a time when I couldn't remember  
 anything!*

*Around the girl is a strange but beautiful WHITE LIGHT. It dances about, sparkling off the surface of the water.*

*The river lies at the bottom of a deep rocky FOREST CHASM. At the top of the chasm, the forest is ABLAZE.*

TEEN GIRL'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
*And I liked it that way.*

*The STARS are clear in the NIGHT SKY ABOVE.*

FADE OUT.

TEEN GIRL'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
*Or, at least I thought I did.*

EXT. TOWNHOUSE PATIO -- NIGHT

FRANTIC VOICE  
 Fight!

A single DROP OF WATER falls on the cheek of JULIE, 11, who awakens suddenly to a confused state of semi-consciousness, lying flat on her back on the interlocking patio bricks.

*She is dressed in a torn hooded sweater riddled with worn-down punk patches, the seams held together by massive amounts of different sized aluminum safety pins.*

Duct tape on her shoes, crappy headphones around her neck, a ridiculous punk/dread haircut, and a small scar across her cheek.

She is filthy. A skateboard lies next to her.

SUPER: "CANADA - 1993"

FRANTIC VOICE  
Fight! Fight!! Fight!!!

There are COLORED LIGHTS twinkling everywhere. Julie is totally delirious.

She sees some BLURRY FIGURES huddling and standing over her;

- NUALA, a soft brown-skinned woman in her 40's, kneeling compassionately at Julie's side.

- OFFICER FRYE, a terribly huge and unsettling Police Officer with a mustache and a wicked scar across his forehead.

- PARAMEDIC ANNA, a rookie in her 20's, working to revive Julie.

- Another MEDIC, Paramedic Anna's partner.

AMBULANCE and POLICE LIGHTS flash just beyond the fenced back yard.

There are cheap decorations all around - apparently there was a birthday party going on here. Some WOMEN huddle in the doorway, gossiping violently.

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
(Frantic Voice)  
That's it, sweetie, keep fighting!  
Come back to us now, honey! Vital  
signs are returning - she's coming  
around.

NUALA  
(Caribbean accent)  
Oh, thanks God. Thanks God!

OFFICER FRYE  
Do you know this boy?

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
I think its a girl. Are you a  
girl, sweetie? Honey?

NUALA

She was just here for my  
birthday...

OFFICER FRYE

What are you dealing, son? White  
crosses?? -Lucy in the Sky?? You  
got some of that sunshine that's  
going around, don't you??

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Where are this child's parents?

NUALA

She doesn't have parents...

PARAMEDIC ANNA

What? No parents??

Officer Frye peeks over his sunglasses at Julie's face.

OFFICER FRYE

I think I've seen you before...  
What's your name, boy?

PARAMEDIC ANNA

(to Nuala)

Are you her legal guardian? What  
school does she go to? And why is  
she so filthy?

OFFICER FRYE

What gang do you run with? Where's  
your leader?

NUALA

She doesn't go to school, she -  
well-

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Doesn't go to school?? What do you  
mean, 'she doesn't go to school'?  
How old is this child?

OFFICER FRYE

I'm going to need a NAME, son!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

They all continue ARGUING about Julie's condition, but Julie  
isn't paying any attention.

She rubs her head, sitting up, trying to re-gain her focus, but instead sees something VERY STRANGE;

Just a few feet beyond everyone fussing around her, Julie sees a *beautiful White Light, sparkling and floating gently in the air*. No one else seems to notice. Julie rubs her eyes, confused.

OFFICER FRYE

Name!

The White Light FADES AWAY.

JULIE

...Julie.

OFFICER FRYE

Last name? I know you, don't I?

PARAMEDIC ANNA

(to Nuala)

Look, if we find a child to be in a questionable situation, you must understand we have to contact Child Protection Services, Social Workers, we need to get her into a program, where people can -

Nuala INTERRUPTS Paramedic Anna with COMIC DREAD;

NUALA

No! That's not gonna work, trust me.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

OFFICER FRYE

- What gang are you in?

JULIE

Gang?

OFFICER FRYE

OK, I'm gonna have to take this boy into custody.

JULIE

What? Custody??

This wakes her up.

JULIE (CONT'D)

No thank you! I'm fine. I was just here to say happy birthday to my friend!! Is there a law against saying happy birthday to your friend?

OFFICER FRYE

You have the right to remain silent.. Anything you say or do could be -

He begins to APPREHEND her.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Officer? Sir? Are you sure that's really necessary?

JULIE

It's her birthday!! Look at the decorations!!!

Officer Frye SHOVES JULIE'S FACE into the interlocking bricks.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Aaugh! What the hell??

NUALA

Stop it!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

OK! Lets all just calm our vibrations here! No need for violence... Does anyone else here do Yoga?

Paramedic Anna begins some kind of breathing technique, though clearly stressed.

OFFICER FRYE

You're not going anywhere until I get a last name, SON!

But Julie's had enough.

JULIE

-For chrissakes, I'm a GIRL!!

She somehow manages to KICK HERSELF LOOSE, grabs her SKATEBOARD and CRACKS it over Officer Frye's head.

Officer Frye TUMBLES backwards into the patio furniture. Paramedic Anna SCREAMS. The umbrella comes CRASHING down, and the hors d'oeuvres SPILL everywhere.

Suddenly Julie is hit with a *powerful, and completely disorienting FLASH-HALLUCINATION; she instantly sees images right before her eyes of a FOREST, glowing RED, like a waking VISION.*

The images are too fast for Julie to make sense of.

*The Flash-Hallucination is so strong that it actually removes Julie from her reality for a second.* But the sight of Officer Frye getting back to his feet WAKES HER UP AGAIN.

Julie regains her balance and scrambles up on top of the picnic table, skateboard in hand, and grabs a FULL CAN OF SODA from a cooler. The women all try desperately to save what's left of the DISASSEMBLED APPETIZERS.

Officer Frye is coming for her, a nasty GASH ON HIS HEAD swelling up.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You stay away from me or I swear to god I'll huck this Dr. Pepper right through your skull!!!

Officer Frye CHARGES TOWARDS her, full of anger.

OFFICER FRYE

Put your hands on your head, and get down on the ground! You are under arrest for th-

Julie THROWS the can. It PELTS Officer Frye right in the mouth, KNOCKING A TOOTH OUT.

The can BUSTS OPEN, and SPRAYS AROUND MADLY. Officer Frye is sent CRASHING back into the mayhem, his mouth BLEEDING wildly.

The party lights come tearing down, the food table tips over once more, and everyone COLLAPSES in a haphazard tangle of arms and legs.

Julie takes a moment to observe the comedy before her, and lets out a LAUGH.

Then she SEES THE WHITE LIGHT AGAIN, HOVERING towards the OPEN GATE, swinging ajar in the night breeze.

Julie blinks her eyes a few times, still not sure what she is seeing, but recognizes her chance for escape, and scrambles across the pile of people, following the White Light, grabbing her skateboard as she goes.

But as she exits, Julie feels Nuala's HAND on her shoulder. Julie stops. Nuala looks at her, concerned, but says nothing.

Julie SMILES coyly.

JULIE  
Great party!

Nuala sees Officer Frye trying to get back to his feet among the chaos, RAGING with anger. Julie TAKES OFF on her skateboard into the night.

She looks back one last time, WAVING to Nuala.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Happy birthday!!!

Officer Frye points his GUN in the air, and FIRES.

- BANG! -

EXT. CITY BILLBOARD -- NIGHT

Julie is sitting on the narrow shelf of a OLD BILLBOARD, high up overlooking the city, SMOKING a CIGARETTE.

On the billboard is a tattered and faded image of a TROPICAL BEACH, with a few BAD GRAFFITI TAGS scattered about.

The view of her grungy city is spectacular.

She is holding a CASSETTE WALKMAN in her lap, which is in the midst of some street-style surgery, in an attempt to remove a TWISTED UP TAPE from the GEARS of the walkman.

Julie takes another PUFF of her cigarette. She INSERTS the FILTER END of her smoke into the wheel of the cassette tape labelled; 'BEST PUNK MIX #3'

She SPINS the cigarette, causing the ribbon to WIND BACK UP into the cassette. She hits a snag, where the ribbon is TANGLED. She removes a SAFETY PIN holding her sweater together at the side, and uses it to surgically UNTANGLE the ribbon. She PUFFS the cigarette again through the cassette wheel.



Julie replaces the safety pin to her sweater, winds the tape up snug, and slaps it back down into the walkman.

She presses PLAY. A song plays, but it still sounds WARPED. Julie STOPS it, OPENS it, FLIPS the tape over, and PRESSES PLAY again. Her music PLAYS, a favourite UPLIFTING PUNK TUNE.

Julie tucks the walkman into the front pocket of her hoodie, and adjusts her headphones. She takes one last puff of her smoke, and tosses the butt.

She puts her hood on, and starts CLIMBING DOWN.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY -- NIGHT

Julie skateboards comfortably through the streets of the city. She LISTENS to her headphones playing under her hood.

The city is actually quite peaceful at night, and Julie appears right at home, greeting a few BUMS and CANINES she knows along the way.

EXT. JULIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Julie arrives at a graffiti-covered OBSCURE DOOR at the back of some sketchy and unsuspecting buildings.

She digs some KEYS out of her pocket that are attached to her pants with a shoelace. She UNLOCKS the door, and ENTERS.

INT. JULIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

It is a tiny, very messy, one room high-ceiling apartment, filled with skate/punk posters, dirty clothes, garbage, and bad graffiti all over the walls. There are two low-rider couches, a coffee table, a bunk bed built into the wall, and some old mattresses on the floor.

A cheap inflatable palm tree is taped up in the corner, in need of some air. Some KIDS AND TEENAGERS are asleep, all passed out in their street/skate/punk clothing. Julie does her best to navigate through the mess without stepping on anyone.

Lastly, Julie passes by KID, the youngest, maybe only 7 or 8 years old, of ASIAN COMPLEXION. He looks WEAK and SICKLY, curled up on the couch, with a blanket and a stuffed toy.

Next to him is an open sketchbook and some felt pens; Drawings of FOXES, FROGS, SUMO WRESTLERS, and other things.

He is STARING intensely at her.

JULIE  
Kid? ...what is it?

Kid smiles, fascinated by something. He COUGHS, painfully.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
What are you seeing?

KID  
Angels!

He COUGHS again. Julie smiles politely.

JULIE  
Thanks, Kid.

KID  
They're beautiful...

Julie tucks him back in.

JULIE  
Just sleep good, alright?  
Tomorrow's a new day.

Julie touches his forehead, and he goes off to sleep again, still smiling in ecstasy.

She climbs the ladder of her bunk-style bed and flops down on her pillow. She stares off vacantly for a while at the night sky out her window.

*Another Flash-Hallucination hits her; more images of a FOREST, MOSSY ROCKS, WOODEN STEPS.*

But this time, it is somehow not as jarring as the previous ones, not as imposing. Julie blinks it away.

She puts her head on her clumpy pillow, closes her eyes, and goes to sleep.

*EXT. FOREST RIVER -- NIGHT*

*The 5 Year Old Girl is still sleeping on the RAFT, still bleeding, floating with the current.*

*INT. JULIE'S APARTMENT -- DAY*

Julie's sleep is broken by the sound of something small HITTING her window. The daytime light is menacingly bright.

The noise hits again, as if something small and metal had been thrown at the glass. Julie is awake now, but tries to fall back asleep.

Then something flies solidly through the open part of the window, and knocks a GLASS off the counter with a CRASH!

EXT. JULIE'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Julie peers her head out the window. Below is Kid, carrying an OPEN EMPTY SUITCASE. He TOSSES ROCKS up at the pane as their homemade 'doorbell'. One HITS Julie in her forehead.

JULIE

Ow! Stop it! I'm here, I'm here!

KID

I wanna come up.

EXT. WINDOW LEDGE -- DAY

Julie and Kid are sitting on the oversized window ledge outside her apartment. A small cheap ghetto blaster plays some WARM MORNING TUNES.

Inside, all the other kids are still passed out.

JULIE

So what's with the suitcase?

Kid seems DISTANT.

KID

You ever get a feeling like this  
isn't your real life? Like it's all  
a dream or something, and we should  
wake up?

They watch a SCHOOL BUS stop on the far side of the street, CHILDREN no younger than Kid or Julie getting on board.

PARENTS kiss them goodbye as they get on the bus.

KID (CONT'D)

I think I need to go home, Julie.

Julie looks at him. He COUGHS again.

JULIE

Didn't know you had a home.

Julie CONSIDERS as she leans against the wall, when something catches her eye;

JULIE (CONT'D)

Hey!

She finds an UNFINISHED CIGARETTE BUTT among some spider webs and other junk. It looks disgusting.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Who left this here?

She dusts off the larger chunks of dirt.

She reaches comically back inside through the window for a second, and returns with a LIGHTER.

She SPARKS UP the disgusting cigarette butt, excitedly.

Kid watches in astonishment.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry...

She realizes her rudeness, then offers it to Kid.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Did you want a drag?

Suddenly a HORRENDOUS CRASH blasts out from the front door inside the apartment. A SQUAD OF POLICE OFFICERS flood into the room, YELLING, guns out. Officer Frye is among them, clearly missing one of his front teeth.

They immediately begin HANDCUFFING her friends inside.

JULIE (CONT'D)

WHAT-th-FFFF- !!!

Kid and Julie scurry themselves further down the ledge out of view. Officer Frye PEERS out the window, but does not see them. He goes back inside, FURIOUS with rage.

OFFICER FRYE

-Find that little skateboard girl!!!!

EXT. ROOFTOP -- DAY

Julie and Kid are now up on the adjacent building's flat rooftop, peering down at the situation below.

Julie stands defiantly out in plain sight, watching as her APARTMENT is steadily DISMANTLED.

They watch as her FRIENDS are escorted outside, HANDCUFFED. A small CROWD has begun to gather out front to watch.

JULIE  
SKATEBOARDING IS NOT A CRIME!!!

Kid grabs her arm and PULLS her back out of sight.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
What ever happened to the good ol'  
days, when everybody just pretended  
we weren't there?

Kid tries in futility to hold her back out of view.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Why are they still going back in?  
What are those boxes they're  
carrying out? That's my stuff!!!

KID  
Not anymore.

Julie looks at him, still in denial of the situation.

KID (CONT'D)  
Face it Julie, we're homeless  
again.

Julie looks back, incredulous.

JULIE  
But look, they're cleaning  
everything out! They're gonna take  
my walkman, ... my tapes!? Oh my  
god, my they're taking my TAPES!?  
My MUSIC???

She turns to kid, desperate. Kid COUGHS, painfully.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Why would they take my music? How  
can I be homeless again without  
music?

Julie looks back at the scene, astonished. The cops shut the doors of their cruisers and DRIVE their friends AWAY.

KID  
They're old enough now to go to  
real jail, aren't they? I don't  
think you can save them this time.

Kid's eyes begin to TEAR UP.

JULIE  
Aw, geez... Kid.

KID  
I think I need to go home.

He COUGHS AGAIN. He looks SICK.

JULIE  
OK, OK... but listen, if you want,  
you can stay with me too. I'll find  
another way! Queen of the Streets,  
remember?

KID  
...Can I... I mean, can I...

He is having difficulty finding the words.

JULIE  
What?

KID  
Can I have one of your angels?

Kid breaks apart.

Julie frantically tries to calm him down.

JULIE  
Kid, you were just dreaming last  
night. Somebody probably just  
spiked your root beer or  
something...

KID  
Just one, please! Oh please, they  
were so beautiful!!

He starts to cry pretty bad now. Julie scrambles to hold him  
together.

JULIE  
OK, OK...!!

He stops for an instant.

JULIE (CONT'D)

-But just for you, all right?

Kid laughs a little under his emotion.

Julie has no choice but to continue the charade:

-She MIMES the action of taking two imaginary fistfuls of 'angels' from her chest, and placing them into Kid.

Kid is visibly SOOTHED, instantly in ecstasy.

KID

(hugging himself warmly)

Oh, thank you, thank you!

JULIE

No probs.

Back to business.

JULIE (CONT'D)

But now I gotta go get my stuff back. My tapes, my WALKMAN, my skateboard? My SWEATER!? ...My lucky sweater??? -Goddammit, they are NOT getting my lucky sweater.

Kid is clearly relieved, not crying anymore at all, almost ignoring Julie's jabbering.

Julie turns back to him.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Look. If it doesn't work, if you need me... meet me up on the billboard at sundown. You remember, the billboard?

Kid NODS.

KID

-What are you gonna do?

Julie looks back at her apartment with an icy determination.

JULIE

I'm gonna get my stuff back.

EXT. WINDOW LEDGE-- AFTERNOON

Julie has shimmied herself back down onto the ledge she was previously sitting on. It is narrow, just enough to walk along without falling.

*Out of nowhere another Flash Hallucination hits her; images of a forest CLIFF, high and jagged, and a cold remote RIVER.*

The Flash Hallucination vanishes in an instant. Julie gets dizzy for a second, but manages not to fall.

She peeks in the window.

The place is littered with Police, all of her friends cleared out. The remaining contents of the room are being SEARCHED very unprofessionally.

Officer Frye is standing nearest to the window, staring outside blankly. He turns around with his back to Julie, still unaware of her presence.

Julie takes a breath, and makes her move;

She DARTS IN through the window, and in a running glance locates and SNATCHES up her valuables: skateboard, sweater, a zipper backpack, her walkman, and a grocery bag full of cassette tapes.

She hits Officer Frye HARD in the shins with her skateboard.

She pulls a BED SHEET down from the bunk over another Officer's HEAD, and HIP-CHECKS yet another into the not-cleaned-in-4-months BATHROOM.

Julie laughs out loud at the sight, and ESCAPES.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAYS -- AFTERNOON

Julie is being CHASED by 3 cops through the maze of the dilapidated building. A few ODD TENANTS are scurrying about, witnessing the chase.

JULIE

(to her neighbor, running  
by)

Hey, how ya doin? Sorry 'bout last  
week, eh?

Julie grabs a FIRE EXTINGUISHER off the wall and tries to use it as a smokescreen.



JULIE (CONT'D)  
FIRE!!!!!! FIRE!!!!!!

But she is having trouble activating it, and the dramatic effect is somewhat diminished.

But then suddenly, Julie *SEES fire - Another Flash Hallucination of FLAMES and FIRE!*

Julie shakes it off, and the Flash Hallucination VANISHES.

But the cops are right on her tail.

She KICKS OPEN the fire exit door, and HURLS the unused fire extinguisher at the nearest cop as he closes in, his skull CLANKING with a resonant ring.

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE STAIRWELL -- AFTERNOON

Julie scrambles down onto the RUSTY STAIRCASE.

The thin metal frame is rickety - a symphony of CREAKS and CLANGS, a few too many bolts missing.

Julie shimmies down them as fast as she can, almost falling. One cop is trying to follow, but is having a really hard time with it.

Officer Frye is there now too, staring down at Julie.

Suddenly Julie's SOCK gets tangled on a loose piece of the iron stairs, and she gets twisted UPSIDE DOWN.

Another Flash Hallucination of the forested CLIFFS invades her consciousness.

Julie FALLS with a SMACK to the filthy pavement below. The Flash Hallucination ends.

Julie looks up and sees Officer Frye, still leaning over the fire escape, staring down at her.

She gets up hastily, gathers her stuff, and TAKES OFF.

EXT. OPEN CITY STREETS -- EARLY EVENING

Julie is still running, frantically. She keeps looking back in fear and panic, her heart rate sky high.

*More Flash Hallucinations are bombarding her; more confusing images of a FOREST, of ROCKS and CLIFFS, and FIRE.*

Julie is handling them bravely, trying to stay awake and alert, but her head is not clear at all. Nothing is visually stable.

The sheer height of the skyscrapers above her brings dizziness and vertigo, and the chaotic order of the city traffic and lights all around is almost too much to keep track of.

JULIE

What's happening?

Suddenly, Julie finds herself in the midst of trying to cross a busy 4 lane street, TRAFFIC whizzing on both sides, taxis competitively changing lanes without signals.

*Another WAVE of Flash Hallucinations jars her mind; images of CABINS in the trees, TRAILS through the dense underbrush, TORCHES lighting the scenes.*

Then, a LIMOUSINE drives slowly past her.

-And in this instant, the noise and craziness of the city just shuts off for a moment, and TIME SEEMS TO SLOW DOWN.

Through the tinted glass, a BEARDED SLENDER OLD MAN is looking at her, curiously. His gaze suddenly intensifies, a glimpse of recognition in his eyes. Julie is transfixed.

*MORE Flash Hallucinations disorient Julie, immersing her completely; TORCHES, MARTIAL ARTS, and CABINS in a forest. She sees flashes of FACES, both kind and frightening.*

One of the faces she sees in the Flash Hallucination MATCHES that of the Bearded Slender Old Man in the Limousine.

The Limousine DRIVES AWAY.

A HONKING HORN snaps Julie out of the hallucinations.

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- EVENING

Julie finds a secluded corner in an alley, and checks with paranoia if anyone has followed her.

She is breathing heavily, but is trying to calm down. Julie has managed to get most of her marbles back together, at least for now.

She puts on her 'lucky' hooded sweater, gathering her courage.

JULIE  
Try to take my lucky sweater...

She begins to stuff her possessions into the BACKPACK.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Lock up my friends... Try to take  
my music...

And for a moment, Julie finds herself breathing more normally. She begins to calm down.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
You can do it, Julie You've been in  
worse situations before. You're OK.

And for that brief moment, we see into Julie's world once again, the city night as seen through her eyes;

It is alive with playful beauty - shapes in the shadows, tracers of lights going every which way - the evening breeze making everything twinkle and dance.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
You're OK.

She takes a deeper breath, and continues organizing her stuff into her backpack.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Stupid pigs.

Then suddenly Officer Frye BURSTS out of nowhere and GRABS hold of Julie's arm.

OFFICER FRYE  
GOTCHA, you little freak!

JULIE  
Aaaaugh!

OFFICER FRYE  
I DO know you!

JULIE  
No shit, Brainiac - you tried to  
arrest me last night!!

OFFICER FRYE  
No, don't play dumb. I know you...

He is becoming very weird, and starts to TREMBLE slightly.

Julie tries to run, but Officer Frye TIGHTENS his grip.

Julie manages to break free, but Officer Frye grabs her GROCERY BAG OF CASSETTE TAPES.

JULIE

What, you gonna arrest me for tapes?

Officer Frye holds firm, staring at her intensely.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(almost crying...)

-They're JUST TAPES!! They're MY MUSIC!!!

Julie YANKS on the bag. The bag SPLITS OPEN, and Julie's tapes go flying out, SCATTERING everywhere.

JULIE (CONT'D)

AAAUGH!!!

Suddenly two new POLICE CRUISERS pull up sharply at the far end of the alleyway.

OFFICER FRYE

I KNOW you.

Several COPS run out and flank the end of the alleyway.

Officer Frye DRAWS HIS GUN.

Julie's mind gets *HIT* again with more *Flash-Hallucinations*, *this time too fast to make sense of*. She shakes it off, trying to ignore them.

She tries to scoop some of her tapes up off the ground, but Officer Frye grabs her and forces his GUN into her NECK.

COPS

We can take it from here, Frye...  
Let her go!!

Officer Frye nervously stands his ground.

OFFICER FRYE

Or what??

JULIE

He's trying to take my tapes away!!

Suddenly an AMBULANCE screeches up at the opposite end of the alleyway.

Paramedic Anna exits.

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
Julie! Oh my God it's her.

COPS  
Put the gun down, Frye!! She's  
just a kid!

OFFICER FRYE  
(crazily)  
No!! She's not!!!

Officer Frye is TWITCHING abnormally now, full of adrenaline.

He holds the GUN tightly into Julie's temple.

OFFICER FRYE (CONT'D)  
She's a devil!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
Julie, sweetie come with me! I can  
offer you legal asylum!

JULIE  
Legal what??

But Officer Frye just GRIPS HER TIGHTER.

*Julie is bombarded again by more Flash Hallucinations; images of FIGHTING and MARTIAL ARTS, confusing and too fast to follow.*

OFFICER FRYE  
No! She's coming with me!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
You're hurting her!! What is wrong  
with you??

COPS  
Let her go, Frye!

Officer Frye LIFTS Julie backwards off her feet, still holding his GUN at her head as a hostage.

He moves away from the Cops and towards Paramedic Anna and the ambulance.

*The Flash Hallucinations continue, and Julie is a mess of conscious distortion.*

JULIE  
Get out of my head!!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh somebody please stop this  
violent man!

For a moment Julie gets her senses back, and in a bold surprise move she YANKS FREE of Officer Frye's grip.

Officer Frye tries to seize her again, but Julie TAKES THE GUN FROM HIS HANDS, to the shock of everyone.

She AIMS it at everybody all at once; Officer Frye, Paramedic Anna, the Cops at the other end of the alley.

The weapon is heavy in her little fingers. Her hands shake uncontrollably.

PARAMEDIC ANNA (CONT'D)

Oh Jesus! Julie put the gun down!  
I'll get you out of here, I  
promise! Oh child please listen to  
me!!

JULIE

No! I ain't gonna listen to ANY of  
you! Just get away!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Julie -

*Another Flash Hallucination hits her; BLOODY FISTS and  
KNUCKLES.*

Officer Frye LUNGES at her, and she FIRES THE GUN, shooting Officer's Frye's hat off, barely missing his head.

- BANG! -

Julie is almost thrown off her feet from the kickback.  
Officer Frye falls, checking his head.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

Julie DISAPPEARS into the city. The Cops do not pursue her, more concerned with Officer Frye.

PARAMEDIC ANNA (CONT'D)

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

EXT. CITY BILLBOARD -- EVENING

The SUN is almost setting. It is RAINING.

Julie is sitting atop the tiny LEDGE at the base of the billboard. She holds her last possessions awkwardly, TREMBLING in the rain.

The SUN finally SETS below the horizon.

Julie WAITS, and begins to ROCK BACK AND FORTH, slightly.

EXT. NUALA'S TOWNHOUSE -- NIGHT

The DOORBELL RINGS.

Nuala OPENS IT, revealing Julie on her doorstep, soaking wet, exhausted. Diluted hair dye and sweat stain her face.

Nuala GASPS.

NUALA

Oh Lord, what happened now?

Julie shows Nuala her WALKMAN, the little light out.

JULIE

...my batteries died.

Nuala takes Julie in, shutting the door.

NUALA

Come in. That's it. Enough is enough.

She shuts the door, LOCKING it tight.

NUALA (CONT'D)

Lord God take care... take care of her. Enough.

Julie experiences the next few moments in a half-daze, foggy images. Nuala takes Julie upstairs, helps her into some dry clothes, cleans her face and wounds, and puts her to BED.

She leaves the door open just a crack, and the warm hallway light seeps into the room. Nuala makes a subtle but nervous silent prayer, and leaves.

Julie lays awake for a moment, head still spinning...

Then closes her eyes, and FALLS ASLEEP.

EXT. DREAMSCAPE -- NIGHT

*In a DREAM, Julie is FLYING over the landscape below.*

A small concentration of the White Light is also FLYING just up ahead, leading the way.

The lakes, prairies and mountains pass beneath her as clear as a map. She sees a HIGHWAY, ribboning through the contours of the earth.

And upon closer inspection, Julie looks down and can see HERSELF, traveling across the land below.

She sees herself laying in the rear open bed of a PICK-UP TRUCK, laughing.

She sees herself riding a BICYCLE, on a long prairie road.

She sees herself ascending a MOUNTAIN TRAIL, about to reach the peak, an AWESOME VIEW awaiting on the other side.

And eventually, on the far West Coast of the country, Julie sees herself on a FERRY, heading towards a large forested ISLAND. Julie flies downwards towards it.

The Island is mostly forest and rock, with jagged mountains, and deep river valleys.

And amidst the highest jagged mountains, a RIVER CHASM slices through the rock.

Julie ENTERS the chasm, descending into its winding CLIFFS.

And there, at the top of a series of narrow plateaus along the cliffs, is a SMALL CLUSTER OF CABINS, secluded in among the trees, a slightly eastern design to them.

Warm light shines from the windows, and SMOKE puffs calmly from the roofs. Julie floats down INSIDE one of the cabins, RIGHT THROUGH THE ROOF and walls.

INT. CABIN -- NIGHT

Still dreaming deeply, Julie settles herself in the wooden rafters of the cabin. It is a small structure; just enough for a bed, a window, a wood stove, and a small adjacent cooking space. It is lit by kerosene lanterns.

Below, a CHILDBIRTH is taking place.

It is beautiful and slightly surreal, feelings of warmth and happiness amidst the natural tensions of giving birth.

There is the woman giving birth, MOM, and a man at her side, DAD, being supportive and loving. Both have shaved hairstyles.



*Standing at the door in the shadows stands a mystical-looking old man, SIFU.*

*Everything goes smoothly, and relatively painless. Everybody is happy. They wrap the BABY in a soft blanket. Dad holds her, looking into her eyes with joy. Some small animals, including a fox, gather near the doorway, curious.*

*Dad gives the newborn back to Mom, who holds her up close to her face in a tender, loving private moment.*

*Dad gestures for Sifu to come closer, and he does. Julie sees Sifu more clearly now; He has a kind but stoic face, both ancient in wisdom and young in strength. He looks like the SAME FACE of the man Julie saw in the limousine.*

*Sifu watches with curiosity and bewilderment, as he witnesses the newborn enter this world.*

*Somehow, Mom looks up right at Julie, who is still floating above. The White Light shines around her.*

MOM'S VOICE

*Julie! Julie?*

INT. NUALA'S TOWNHOUSE BEDROOM -- MORNING

NUALA

*Julie?*

*Julie wakes up gently. The room is filled with morning light, and sounds of birds. Her head is clear. Nuala is standing in the doorway holding some clean towels and Julie's clothes - washed, fluff-dried and folded.*

NUALA (CONT'D)

*You okay?*

*Julie shrugs up to a seated position on the bed, noticing the clean clothes she already has on.*

JULIE

*Yeah.*

*Nuala smiles warmly. She sets the towels down on the dresser.*

NUALA

*Have a shower, come down. The rest of your clothes are clean. I'm making breakfast.*

Nuala leaves softly. Julie just sits, the dream still fresh in her memory.

On the bedside table, Julie notices a PEN and a NOTEPAD. She immediately starts to draft out a CRUDE MAP, the vision from her dream as to the location of her birthplace almost visually projected onto the paper.

But the vision starts to FADE, and Julie only manages a few lines on the page.

INT. NUALA'S TOWNHOUSE -- MORNING

JULIE  
-Give it back!!

Nuala is holding Julie's MAP up in the air defensively. Julie is in her own clothes again, only cleaner.

NUALA  
It's crazy Julie, I can't let you do this!

JULIE  
You don't understand!

Julie charges forward, trying to take her map back.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
It was YOU who told the cops where I live didn't you? Tell the truth! You squealed! You broke our deal!! That cop is a monster! How dare you send him to my place!

NUALA  
I didn't know they would send him! What would you have me do? You're killing yourself!

JULIE  
This is different!!

NUALA  
No it's not!! It's the same thing all over and over again!

Julie is stunned.

NUALA (CONT'D)  
I have watched you since you were a little girl, Julie!  
(MORE)

NUALA (CONT'D)

Every day, I see you getting deeper  
and deeper into your street friends  
and tattoos, all your crazy  
haircuts... God knows what else!  
Sicker and sicker!! Yes I broke  
our deal and yes I told the police  
where you live, because its gone  
too far and I can't take it  
anymore!

She calms herself down, somewhat.

NUALA (CONT'D)

Julie... you can't just make up  
some fantasy, and then go chasing  
across the country for-

JULIE

No, it WAS REAL!!!

Julie SNATCHES the map right out of Nuala's hand.

She collects the rest of her things and makes a beeline for  
the door.

On her way, she grabs Nuala's CAR KEYS off the hook, and  
looks back to Nuala one last time.

JULIE (CONT'D)

-And I know exactly where it is!!!

She yanks a pocket-sized TRAVEL FLASHLIGHT off the key-ring,  
looking back at Nuala, betrayed.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You know, for someone who believes  
in God and all that... you sure  
don't have much faith in things.

Julie POCKETS the flashlight, but THROWS the rest of the keys  
far off into some trees.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Hell, I'm standing right in front  
of you!!

Julie takes off on her skateboard, DISAPPEARING eerily fast.

INT. BUS STATION -- MORNING

Julie is at the TICKET BOOTH, speaking through the tiny hole  
in the bullet-proof window.

JULIE

Whaddya mean you won't sell me a ticket?? I want to buy a bus ticket!

A barely audible reply through the tiny hole.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Look, I have cash!

Julie opens NUALA'S WALLET, her driver's license displayed inside, a stupid smile on Nuala's face. Julie offers the cash, a considerable stack of mostly large bills.

Another barely audible reply.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Take my money!

Then a MAN IN STRAW HAT steps up, mid thirties, of a somewhat eastern complexion, with leathery skin.

MAN IN STRAW HAT

She's with me. Two tickets please.

More barely audible replies. But the Man In Straw Hat does not debate. His demeanor is steady.

The Ticket Lady reluctantly SELLS him two tickets. Julie puts up no resistance, surprised.

The Man In Straw Hat collects his tickets, and walks away from the Ticket booth. Julie FOLLOWS cautiously. He GIVES Julie a BOARDING TICKET.

JULIE

Uh -thanks?

The Man in Straw Hat just nods a bit, grunts, and WALKS AWAY, gathering his pack.

INT. BUS -- MORNING

Julie has boarded the bus, still vigilant that someone might be looking for her.

She passes the Man In Straw Hat, who pays her no attention. Julie keeps going and finds an empty seat near the back.

The bus DRIVES out of the hangar, and STOPS at a light. Julie reaches into her backpack, and retrieves the TRAVEL FLASHLIGHT she stole from Nuala. She twists open the end; inside are 2 AA BATTERIES.

JULIE  
I'll show them...

Julie junks the flashlight, and LOADS the batteries into her walkman, discarding the dead ones.

She presses PLAY. It works. Julie lays back into her seat, and relaxes.

She takes out the MAP that she started to draw at Nuala's townhouse - some more of the details blurrily come into focus, and with a conveniently found pen attached to the seat in front of her, Julie manages to DRAW a few more lines.

Suddenly Julie's perceptions get a slight JOLT:

The sight of the Map taking place in front of her opens up another *Flash Hallucination*, but this time it is CLEARER, more controlled;

*-It is no longer just a flash hallucination, but is now a waking, lucid, VISION-MEMORY, which comes alive right before Julie's waking eyes.*

It is disorienting for a moment, but Julie looks down at her fingertips, and incredibly, she can see TINY SPARKLES of the White Light dancing about.

It soothes her, despite the extremely disorienting sensation.

*The Vision-Memory comes stronger now, but rather than resisting, Julie closes her eyes, boldly ALLOWING it to come.*

JULIE (CONT'D)  
...I'll show them all.

EXT. FOREST RIVER -- AFTERNOON

*It is a bright and sunny day. The RIVER shines beautifully as it winds its way through the FOREST CHASM.*

*At one spot along its high CLIFFS lies a naturally-constructed LOG STRUCTURE, a slightly eastern design to it.*

*It is nestled at the edge of the highest plateau. Inside, an instructional CLASS OF MARTIAL ARTS can be heard.*

INT. DOJO -- AFTERNOON

*It is a beautiful and well-cared for martial arts training dojo with mats for grappling, heavy-bags for boxing, and all sorts of training equipment. The class inside is small, maybe 7 or 8 STUDENTS.*

*BJORN, a large Fighter in his 30's with a large beard, is at the front. He is leading a controlled, slow striking KATA. The Students are all in a Karate-type horse-stance, breathing in pattern, eyes closed, practicing this simple punch technique.*

*But it is no ordinary punch; as they continue the kata, they are also creating a faint mystical-looking RED ENERGY around their arms and fists. Some stronger than others.*

*The only one not paying attention is YOUNG JULIE, 5, who sits at the back. Her hair is long and blonde. There is none of the Red Energy visible about her.*

*She watches outside through the open door, staring down-river, as far as the winding cliffs allow her to see.*

*Suddenly, she squints a bit, and sees something that makes her get up and RUN out the doorway with a LAUGH of excitement.*

*Everyone's state of mind is disturbed, and their Red Energy FADES AWAY. Bjorn RUNS AFTER HER, nervous.*

BJORN

*Julie! ...Julie wait! I'm not supposed to let you go yet!!*

EXT. COMMUNE TRAIL -- AFTERNOON

*Young Julie hurries excitedly down the COMMUNE TRAIL, which descends in levels, hugging the cliff.*

*Young Julie JUMPS and SKIPS off the rocks as she goes.*

*-She passes some CABINS settled among the trees, small and cozy - the same cabins from Julie's dream.*

*-She passes PEOPLE HANGING LAUNDRY on a line, and a budding VEGETABLE GARDEN.*

*-She passes a very formal-looking outdoor SPARRING COURT. It sits along the cliff-edge, a ceremonial FIRE PIT at the front, BENCHES around the perimeter.*

*Young Julie runs on by.*

-Then suddenly she VEERS from the main trail, and heads down a smaller, less visible ROCKY PATH, much closer to the cliff-edge.

EXT. MOM'S POTTERY STUDIO -- AFTERNOON

Young Julie follows the path carefully along the cliff edge. There, among the bare rock, is a small and humble POTTERY STUDIO.

It is built almost entirely with the natural rocks, wood and clay from the surroundings. There are many LARGE CLAY DISCS stacked around, some fired, some not, along with some other traditional shaped pottery.

Attending the kiln, is Mom. Her hair is shaved short.

Young Julie bursts into the area, but Bjorn arrives not a moment behind, trying hard to catch his breath. He looks at Mom with a great shyness and respect.

BJORN

Your daughter... she-

But before he can say it, Young Julie blurts out the news:

YOUNG JULIE

-They're back!!!

Mom and Bjorn both jump, instantly looking down-river.

Indeed, a SMALL BOAT is moving its way up the current towards the Commune.

Mom tidies up in a flash, and disregarding whatever Young Julie may or may not have done, her and Bjorn run down towards the Main Hall.

Young Julie is way ahead of them.

EXT. MAIN HALL -- AFTERNOON

YOUNG JULIE, MOM, BJORN and the rest of the students from the dojo all gather at the MAIN HALL at the lowest level of the Commune.

The Main Hall is a proud but simple building of logs and wood, again with a distinctly eastern design to it. A COURTYARD has been cleared in front, the steps swept clean.

Along the edge of the cliff is a LARGE FENCE made of trees cut from the forest, the tips cut sharp at the top.

At the base of the Fence, at the entrance to the courtyard by the Main Hall, stands a HEAVY GATE.

Young Julie, Mom and Bjorn all watch the gate OPEN, bending and creaking with its weight.

Sifu, Dad, and 4 or 5 more FIGHTERS enter the Commune. These Fighters are far more impressive physically than the ones in Bjorn's class.

Walking alongside of Sifu, is ZHAN, a man of Himalayan features. He is clearly the fittest and strongest of all the fighters, even more than Dad.

Everyone in the group is loaded up with supplies, carrying all kinds of food and wrapped goods for the Commune and dojo.

The remaining members of the Commune all gather around, pleased and excited for the return of their teacher and friends. Most of the returning Fighters have SHINY MEDALS around their necks, among the many bruises to go with them.

Dad reaches into one of his side bags, and everyone pauses with nervous anticipation. From inside his pack, Dad humbly raises a huge and beautiful TROPHY for all to see.

Everyone CHEERS. Zhan, however, seems a bit out of sorts.

Sifu stays rather silent as well, a strange look on his face. Yet, he manages a smile, as not to disturb the celebration.

Dad, Mom and Young Julie share a loving reunion. Mom and Dad KISS romantically. Dad PICKS Young Julie up, and spins her around in the air.

He places her on his shoulders, letting her hold the trophy. Everyone CHEERS once more.

Mom sees that Dad's left eye is swollen and red, a small cut above it. Dad gestures to Mom that he is fine, and the celebration takes over. Everyone carries off in cheer, as the party has begun.

INT. BUS -- AFTERNOON

BUS DRIVER

We're stopping for 10 minutes, and 10 minutes only! Be back on the bus at 4:50, or its gone. 4:51, I don't wanna hear no excuses!

The air-locks deflate, and the doors open.



EXT. HIGHWAY GAS BAR -- AFTERNOON

Everyone is getting off the bus.

Julie has settled on the steps outside the store, sitting on her skateboard.

The Man In Straw Hat stands nearby.

JULIE

Hey you don't got a smoke, do ya?

The Man in Straw Hat eyes her curiously, then calmly offers her an open pack. Some of the other PASSENGERS standing around HUFF in disapproval. Julie takes a cigarette. He lights one for himself, then offers her his lighter

MAN IN STRAW HAT

You are brave, traveling so young,  
all alone.

She digs in her pocket for her own LIGHTER.

JULIE

I can take care of myself.

She tries to light it, but cannot get her lighter to spark. The Man In Straw Hat eyes her curiously, a glint in his eye.

The Bus Driver passes by them on his way into the store.

Julie continues trying to get her lighter to work.

MAN IN STRAW HAT

One must follow the flow of their  
own destiny. Who are we, to  
question its current?

A reflective silence. Finally, Julie gets her lighter to SPARK, and the cigarette fires up nice and red.

JULIE

I can take care of myself. Thanks.

Man in Straw Hat looks out to the horizon.

MAN IN STRAW HAT

Looks like we will be riding  
together. Its a long way, perhaps -

JULIE

I said, 'I can take care of  
myself'!!

She COUGHS on the cigarette.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Thanks for the smoke.

The Man in Straw Hat subtly nods to her apologetically, and takes a few steps back.

MAN IN STRAW HAT  
Of course.

Bus Driver exits the store, blinded behind a mountain of packaged snacks for the road. He bumps right into the Man In Straw Hat, but amazingly manages to balance his snacks, not dropping a single one as he climbs aboard his bus.

A puff of exhaust as Bus Driver STARTS THE ENGINE. Julie COUGHS again, and turns to the Man In Straw Hat.

But he is gone.

BUS DRIVER  
-ONE MINUTE!!!!!!

INT. BUS -- AFTERNOON

Julie boards the bus.

JULIE  
There's still that guy comin', eh?

BUS DRIVER  
-Too bad!

The Bus Driver pops open another bag of chips, and sets it conveniently in his massively complex custom cupholder and snack dispenser display.

JULIE  
We can't just leave him there! I can go get him, he just... probably, went to the washroom or somethin'...

BUS DRIVER  
(mouth full of candy)  
Not my problem. I said 10 minutes, it's 10 minutes.

JULIE  
-What, are you serious?

BUS DRIVER

You better sit down... We're gonna get moving now.

He pulls a lever, and the doors CLOSE.

The Bus Driver reloads with a new combination of snacks, releases the parking brake, and begins to DRIVE AWAY.

Julie looks outside for the Man In Straw Hat, but he is nowhere to be seen.

INT. BUS -- AFTERNOON

Julie is in her seat. The bus is well on its way, minus 1 passenger.

Julie stares up the aisle at the Bus Driver, then at the EMPTY SEAT where he was sitting.

Her heart rate speeds up as she BOILS in anger. She starts to TWITCH, her eyesight begins to BLUR.

Another *VISION-MEMORY* is coming.

Julie is unable to do anything, almost paralyzed in her seat as the *Vision-Memory* takes over;

EXT. MAIN HALL STEPS -- NIGHT

The PARTY is in full celebration with wine, dancing, and MUSIC of FLUTES and DRUMS.

Dad and Young Julie are sitting outside on the steps, the doors to the party wide open behind them.

DAD

*...and the ocean went on as far as you could see, until it met the sky!*

YOUNG JULIE

*Wow!*

He looks at Young Julie fondly.

DAD

*I saw people riding on top of the waves... Can you believe it? It was the most beautiful place I've ever seen.*

YOUNG JULIE  
 And how did you win your fight?  
 Did you use the Red Energy? Did  
 you knock him asleep?

Dad looks over his shoulder inside, where Zhan is talking rather seriously with Sifu in a corner.

DAD  
 Nope.

YOUNG JULIE  
 A choke?

Dad shakes his head. Young Julie thinks.

YOUNG JULIE (CONT'D)  
 You made him give up? You made him  
 tap his hand?

Sifu and Zhan are eyeing them closely. Zhan is clearly distressed, a great deal of animosity on his face.

Dad WHISPERS in close to Julie.

DAD  
 None of those worked. Nothing  
 worked!

Young Julie becomes fearful, the idea of her Dad being helpless in a match.

YOUNG JULIE  
 ...so what did you do?

DAD  
 (whispering close)  
 I discovered a new way.

Young Julie is really loving this story.

YOUNG JULIE  
 Where? How?

Dad peeks over his shoulder again. Sifu is going into his PERSONAL QUARTERS, a separate room attached to the side of the Main Hall. Zhan walks TOWARDS THEM.

Dad POINTS to his HEART.

DAD  
 Here.

Zhan stands threateningly above them.

ZHAN  
Enough. Come.

*He tries to grab Dad's arm to pull him up, but Dad gets up on his own, and gives a WINK to Young Julie to let her know it's all right.*

INT. BUS -- EVENING

*Julie SNAPS back into the real world, a little disoriented, then DIPS further again into the Vision-Memory;*

INT. MAIN HALL -- NIGHT

*The doors to Sifu's Quarters close, when a loud THUMP is suddenly heard.*

*Young Julie is the first to react. She BOLTS across the Main Hall towards the door. Mom FOLLOWS.*

MOM  
Julie wait!

INT. BUS -- EVENING

*Julie is walking up sternly towards the Bus Driver.*

JULIE  
You know, what you did there just didn't make any sense at all!

BUS DRIVER  
Listen, I have a schedule to meet, I-

JULIE  
You couldn't wait 5 minutes for him? What's wrong with you?

BUS DRIVER  
Excuse me? I have a job to do, and-

JULIE  
I can't believe you did that! Who do you think you are!!!?

*Julie TWITCHES with aggression.*

*It knocks Julie's consciousness for a split-second, as another Vision-Memory hits her fast and sharp;*

*INT. SIFU'S QUARTERS -- NIGHT*

*Young Julie swings open the doors and sees Dad pushed up against the wall, PINNED by a very angry looking Zhan.*

*Zhan is BLAZING BRIGHTLY with the Red Energy. Sifu reaches and PULLS them apart, HOLDING Zhan back.*

*SIFU  
Zhan! Stop this!!*

*Young Julie LASHES OUT at Zhan, throwing her LITTLE FISTS.*

*INT. BUS -- EVENING*

*Julie leaps forward and GRABS HOLD OF THE WHEEL, fighting the Bus Driver crazily for control of the vehicle. His snacks and drinks go FLYING everywhere.*

*Julie continues to experience more flash Vision-Memories as she struggles half-consciously for control of the bus;*

*INT. SIFU'S QUARTERS -- NIGHT*

*Sifu tries to calm her down, but Young Julie is too upset.*

*YOUNG JULIE  
NO!! He was telling me a story!!!  
And you just interrupted it!!*

*INT. BUS -- EVENING*

*Julie does not have a good angle on the wheel, so she lets it go and SWIPES the DRIVER'S MICROPHONE instead.*

*She holds it just past the Bus Driver's reach, and fights him off with her free arm as he tries to get it back and drive the bus at the same time.*

*The Passengers are terrified.*

*Julie figures out how to ACTIVATE the mic;*

*JULIE  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS YOUR  
CAPTAIN SPEAKING... WE'RE GOING TO  
BE TURNING AROUND NOW FOR A BIT,  
CUZ THIS GUY'S AN ASSHOLE,  
AND.....*

The Bus Driver manages to GRAB the microphone back, and RIPS it from her hands. More SNACKS go FLYING.

But in a fit of rage, Julie GRABS the WHEEL again, this time with all her might. The bus SWERVES around wildly, the passengers frozen in their seats.

2 MALE PASSENGERS assist the Driver in APPREHENDING Julie.

At this point, Julie's state of mind-reality-switching has gone completely out of control. Her body JOLTS and TWITCHES INVOLUNTARILY as she switches from Vision-Memory, to reality, and back to more Vision-Memories;

*INT. SIFU'S QUARTERS -- NIGHT*

*Young Julie is landing PUNCHES on Zhan quite furiously now, screaming and crying.*

*SIFU watches in amazement, as Young Julie's LITTLE FISTS are buzzing with TINY SPARKS and FLASHES of the RED ENERGY. One of them actually HURTS Zhan, though he tries not to show it.*

*Sifu is TOTALLY ASTONISHED to see this. His eyes become wide, and he takes a step back, a huge wave of emotion and EPIPHANY coming over him.*

*INT. BUS -- EVENING*

Julie is now going totally nuts, unable to handle these reality-crossing experiences.

The Bus Driver and the 2 Male Passengers forcibly GRAB her as the vehicle comes to a SKIDDING STOP. Julie RESISTS wildly, as more Vision-Memories come;

*INT. SIFU'S QUARTERS -- NIGHT*

*Dad kneels down and HOLDS Young Julie's little arms.*

*DAD*

*Don't fight, little one. Go with Mom, I won't be long.*

*Julie tries to listen, but is still clearly upset.*

*DAD (CONT'D)*

*...Don't fight. Please, little one.*

*He looks deep into her eyes, secretly PASSING some of the White Light into his daughter. He does his best to make it SECRETIVE. No one else seems to notice.*

DAD (CONT'D)  
 ...Don't fight.

EXT. HIGHWAY SHOULDER-- EVENING

The bus SCREECHES over to a narrow gravel shoulder.

Julie is physically THROWN outside, her elbows and face impacting on the rocks and dirt.

BUS DRIVER  
 Get the hell off my bus!

Julie tries to get to her feet, but they throw her BACKPACK and SKATEBOARD at her, CRACKING her on the head.

JULIE  
 What, you can't just leave me here!

The doors begin to close.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
 I'm just a kid!!

Some APPLAUSE can be heard on board, as the bus begins to DRIVE AWAY, leaving Julie coughing in a cloud of exhaust.

Then, a few hundred meters away, the bus STOPS.

Julie waits for a moment. The doors OPEN. The Bus Driver STEPS OUT.

BUS DRIVER  
 OK, listen, I-

JULIE  
 You sonofabitch!!!

Julie starts THROWING ROCKS at the Bus Driver. One HITS him in the head.

BUS DRIVER  
 OW! What the hell?

He gets back on the bus. It begins to drive away.

JULIE  
 Wait!! I didn't mean it!



The bus stops again. Julie pauses to see what happens. She starts to run towards it, but it DRIVES AWAY again, this time for good.

There is nothing around but trees, sky, and a road to nowhere in either direction. It is getting dark.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Shit!

Julie fumbles into her baggy pockets, looking for something. She cannot find it.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Shit!!

Then she finds it; her WALKMAN. With hands still SHAKING, she tries to untangle the wires, but DROPS it on the ground. The walkman SMASHES on the pavement, BREAKING into several pieces, little gears and springs flying out.

JULIE (CONT'D)

SHIIIIIIITTTTTT!

And then, she VOMITS all over her shoes.

JULIE (CONT'D)

...Shit.

EXT. ROADSIDE DINER -- MORNING

Julie's duct-taped puke-stained shoes scruff across the gravel shoulder as she approaches the remote diner.

Eyes sunken, she trudges along automatically; she has been walking all night just to get here.

The neon 'OPEN' light flickers on in the window. The lights turn on - someone is opening up.

INT. ROADSIDE DINER -- MORNING

The place is filling up quickly.

Sounds of CUTLERY CLINKING and BREAKFAST CHATTER begin to fill the air. Julie is sitting on the FAR STOOL at the counter, waiting for her order. She looks exhausted.

She is trying to draw more on her MAP, but she is unable to recall any more details. Her 'map' is looking increasingly ridiculous and childish.

Then Julie notices the paper PLACE MAT underneath; Featured on it is an advertisement for some low-cal sugar substitute, featuring a cliché IMAGE OF A TROPICAL BEACH.

The WAITRESS begins scribbling out a bill nearby. Julie is struck with the image, very similar to the image on the old billboard near Nuala's place.

JULIE

This stuff isn't really real, is it?

The waitress looks over.

JULIE (CONT'D)

The beach, I mean, its fake, right? There's not really places like this.

The Waitress tears off the invoice.

WAITRESS

No kid.

She scoops up two new plates from the short-order window.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

It's just a sugar ad.

At first Julie is disappointed, almost hurt.

But then she looks up again, and the Waitress gives Julie a little WINK.

For a moment, Julie's spirits ELATE, but then Julie sees something that MAKES HER HEART STOP:

Officer Frye has ENTERED the Diner, the door dinging politely as it swings shut. His eyes are still bruised, a fresh strip of medical tape across his nose.

He does not see her. He takes a menu.

Julie ducks down behind hers. The Waitress puts a plate of eggs, toast, and juice in front of her.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Here you go, darlin'.

JULIE

Uh.. Where's the bathroom?

WAITRESS

It's right there, dear.

Julie swallows the lump in her throat, and SLIDES off the stool. She inconspicuously nabs her backpack and skateboard and heads for the washroom, her pace increasingly quickening.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Girl.. Hey Girl!!

The Waitress is holding up the KEY for the ladies' washroom, with some GIANT TACKY PLASTIC SOUVENIR dangling off the end.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

You need the key!

CUSTOMERS sporadically look up to see what's the fuss.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

You need the key, girl!!

But just as Julie nears the door, a WOMAN PATRON exits the restroom, BUMPING into Julie.

The Woman Patron gives a COMIC SCREAM, and everyone's attention zooms towards her. -Including Officer Frye's.

He immediately BOLTS towards her across the Diner;

OFFICER FRYE

STOP THAT KID!!!!

INT. LADIES' WASHROOM -- MORNING

Julie is squeezing through a TINY WINDOW, as Officer Frye CHARGES into the ladies' room.

Officer Frye GRABS Julie's LEGS and HOLDS HER UPSIDE DOWN, her upper-torso already dangling halfway out.

His eyes flood with prejudice and hatred, his hands TREMBLING ferociously around her ankles.

OFFICER FRYE

Look you little freak! ...I know who you are...

Julie twists around and looks upside-down at him.

OFFICER FRYE (CONT'D)

And I knew your crazy old man, too!  
He was a criminal, we busted him  
good!

But Julie just ignores him, discovering the RELEASE MECHANISM for the open window.

Julie YANKS it, and the pane comes SLAMMING down painfully over Officer Frye's knuckles. He YELLS.

Julie FALLS to the ground with a THUMP.

Officer Frye CURSES and runs back through the Diner towards the front entrance.

EXT. REAR OF DINER -- MORNING

Julie is holding her SKATEBOARD up with both hands AS A WEAPON. She breathes hard, readying herself for the fight.

Her vision begins to BLUR.

JULIE  
Aw, no, not now...

She tries to fight it, but she is unsuccessful.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
...Please not now...

But she fades out, another Vision-Memory coming over her;

INT. SIFU'S QUARTERS -- DAY

*Julie is REMEMBERING;*

*In Sifu's Quarters, Dad kneeling down to Young Julie, holding her little shoulders, PASSING the White Light into her angry little body through his hands...*

DAD  
...Don't fight. Please, little one.

EXT. ROADSIDE DINER PARKING LOT -- MORNING

Julie is nowhere to be found. OFFICER FRYE is looking around frantically, dumbfounded and enraged.

The WAITRESS and a crowd of PATRONS watch, gossiping from the doorway.

OFFICER FRYE  
How could you just LOSE her like that!? Goddammit!!

EXT. BACK OF PICKUP TRUCK -- MORNING

Julie is huddled in the bed of a pick up truck with some other junk underneath a TARP. She peeks through a small crack, watching Officer Frye LOOKING for her frantically.

Julie closes her eyes and holds her hands together tight.

*Dad's WORDS repeat in her head;*

DAD'S WORDS  
*Don't fight...*

Julie's attention returns to the back of the pickup truck. A small bit of the White Light begins to APPEAR within her tiny 11-year-old hands.

Officer Frye checks inside the cab of the truck, then moves toward the rear box. He grabs a corner of the blue tarp, and LIFTS it to reveal the contents underneath.

Julie is RIGHT THERE in plain sight, and looks DIRECTLY into Officer Frye's terrifying face.

Yet next to Julie, there just happens to be some HIGHLY REFLECTIVE JUNK that catches the sunlight so brilliantly that Officer Frye is nearly blinded by the INTENSE REFLECTION.

They dazzle in his sunglass lenses, creating a tiny blindspot in his view precisely where Julie is laying. He DOES NOT SEE her.

Officer Frye SLAMS the tarp back down.

OFFICER FRYE  
DAMMIT all!!!!

Officer Frye POUNDS his fists on the roof of his OWN CRUISER.

The RADIO can be heard inside;

RADIO  
... Police Department are still investigating the missing Officer, who apparently disappeared sometime Sunday evening. Constable Dan Frye was on duty, when he failed to report in for...

OFFICER FRYE  
ARRRRRGGGGGHHHHHHH!!!!

He grabs hold of the radio and TEARS it from the dash, wires SPARKING and SHORT-CIRCUITING wildly.

EXT. BACK OF PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

The truck is moving now, exiting the parking lot.

Julie is peeking out from under the tarp, watching Officer Frye having a fit as he recedes in the distance.

She lets out a long breath as he disappears out of sight, pulls the tarp off her and smiles freely up above at the passing clouds, laughing.

-- HITCHHIKING MONTAGE --

Several scenes of Julie getting rides from a variety of FRIENDLY MOTORISTS;

- A FAMILY in a minivan
- A WOMAN in a farm truck
- A FAT GUY in a little car
- An ELDERLY COUPLE in a motorhome

EXT. REMOTE ROADSIDE MOTEL -- EVENING

Julie is dropped off from her last ride at a reasonable, low-priced MOTEL on the highway.

JULIE

Thanks for the ride!

The vehicle DRIVES AWAY.

Julie looks at the electric sign, FLICKERING on-and-off annoyingly in the dark.

She digs out the rest of her CASH. Not much left.

Julie sees a PRISTINE LAKE just beyond the Motel. The moonlight SHIMMERS off the shoreline, that sort of resemble the White Light.

Julie looks again at the buzzing fly-covered sign, the greasy light coming from the check in window.

EXT. LITTLE FOREST COVE -- EVENING

Julie has made a small CAMPFIRE with sticks and paper found by the rocky shore of the lake. It is dark, but quiet.

More Vision-Memories begin to surface as she stares into the fire, but Julie does little to try to stop them;

*EXT. RIVERSIDE -- AFTERNOON*

*Young Julie is at the River's edge, collecting a few small pots of water. As she lets them fill, she sees Dad sitting far atop one of the cliffs. At second glance, Young Julie sees that Mom is with him.*

*They are both SLIGHTLY ILLUMINATED with the White Light.*

*Young Julie stares in awe, the pots overflowing as she holds them in the current.*

*Then she sees Zhan APPROACH Mom and Dad from the trees. Their White Light quickly FADES AWAY.*

*Young Julie scurries back up the Trail with the pots.*

*INT. YOUNG JULIE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT*

*Young Julie is now in bed. Mom enters the cabin, removes her footwear, and comes to tuck Julie in.*

*She is clearly troubled about something, but tries to hide it in front of Young Julie, forcing her best motherly demeanor. But Young Julie doesn't buy it.*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*Where is Dad? When is he going to finish telling me about the fights? Why isn't he here?*

*MOM*

*(soothingly)*

*Your Dad had some... some things he had to take care of. He'll be back a little later.*

*She strokes Young Julie's brow.*

*MOM (CONT'D)*

*I'll tell him to come in and give you a kiss, all right?*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*But why is he-*

*MOM*

*(interrupting)*

*Not tonight, OK, little one?*

*(MORE)*

MOM (CONT'D)

Just sleep now. Let the morning  
come. Tomorrow, I promise you...  
tomorrow will be a new day.

Mom glances out the window for just a second, then back to  
Young Julie, smiling.

MOM (CONT'D)

A brand new day.

Mom LEAVES. The lantern is out. The door is open just a  
crack. Young Julie gets up and looks out the WINDOW by her  
bedside.

She sees nothing but trees and darkness. She tries to fall  
asleep again, but cannot.

Then suddenly Young Julie throws off the blankets, puts on  
her shoes and RUNS out of the cabin.

EXT. SIFU'S COMMUNE -- NIGHT

Young Julie is RUNNING down towards the Main Hall.

MOM

Julie! Stop, come back here!

Mom catches up and GRABS HER.

YOUNG JULIE

NO!

Young Julie PULLS FREE, creating distance between them.

YOUNG JULIE (CONT'D)

Something is going on, I know it!

Mom regains a hold of Young Julie, but Julie SWATS her away.

YOUNG JULIE (CONT'D)

...AND YOU NEVER SAY ANYTHING! WHY  
WON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING  
ON???

Suddenly, HORRIBLE SCREAMING is heard from down below.

Both Young Julie and Mom are distracted, and run down the  
Trail to see what has happened.

The GATE has been opened, and there is YELLING coming from  
across the river. Bjorn and some other Students come running  
to help.



Mom heads through the gate and starts to scramble down the rocky path towards the River's SHORE. The Fighters are crossing the river towards them.

A BODY is slung across one of their shoulders.

It doesn't take long for Young Julie to recognize the face;

It is Dad.

He looks dead. The Fighters lay him down on the rocks as they reach the near shore of the river. Mom rushes to his side. He is beaten badly, and is not breathing. Young Julie looks from afar, numb.

Sifu attends to the scene. He crouches, and PASSES some Red Energy into Dad, attempting to revive him. But it is not enough.

Dad is DEAD.

Mom lets out a horrible CRY OF GRIEF. She tries to fight it, but the pain is too deep. She keels over, holding her husband with desperate hands. Her breath becomes SHORT.

MOM

He's okay.. He's okay...

Her body goes into SHOCK, collapsing into CONVULSIONS.

Young Julie watches everything, frozen. She sees Zhan emerge from the trees, the last to appear from the far side of the river.

Young Julie looks back at Mom, whose EYES are now completely VACANT. A group of friends CARRY HER AWAY in haste.

Bjorn and some of the other Fighters cover DAD'S BODY with a gi top. They carry him away as well.

Only Zhan, Sifu and Young Julie are left standing at the shore. Zhan and Sifu stare at each other for a moment, Zhan's eyes stiff, Sifu's scoldingly cold.

Sifu LEAVES to go help with Mom. Young Julie looks to Zhan. But he can not face her.

He TURNS, and walks away.

EXT. LITTLE FOREST COVE -- NIGHT

Julie snaps back to reality, and feels the horror of this latest Vision-Memory surging within her.

Julie scrambles up frantically to the highway, grasping her belongings sloppily as she goes. Her eyes TWITCH involuntarily, the flashes of this latest Vision-Memory still playing in her eyes.

A set of HEADLIGHTS is approaching. It is an AMBULANCE. Julie catches a glimpse of Paramedic Anna behind the wheel.

Julie DIVES for COVER at the roadside. The Ambulance slows down, the driver's side window OPENING. Paramedic Anna CALLS out into the darkness;

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Julie?? Julie, honey, is that you?? Are you there?? Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

Julie stays hidden. Paramedic Anna DRIVES AWAY. Julie HOBBLER back up to the pavement, TREMBLING terribly as the ambulance lights DISAPPEAR.

And then, after a brief pause, Julie COLLAPSES on the road.

*EXT. RIVER -- MORNING*

*It is overcast. Young Julie is sitting on a rock, throwing pebbles quietly into the river.*

*Sifu appears, and walks softly across the stones. He hangs his head, grieving in silence. Finally, he speaks;*

*SIFU*

*Julie, I want to tell you a story.*

*Young Julie doesn't say a word.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*I want to tell you a story about when I was younger. Not much older than you.*

*Sifu sits down on an adjacent rock next to Young Julie's. Young Julie continues to throw pebbles.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*You see- when I was a child, I lost my father, and my mother.*

*This catches Young Julie's attention. She stops throwing. Sifu lowers his STAFF down towards the water.*

When it *TOUCHES* the surface, the *RIPPLES* disturb the reflection, and *HIS STORY COMES ALIVE* in front of them, animated in the water's gleam;

They see a *YOUNG BOY* and his *PARENTS*, caucasian, dressed in well-tailored expedition clothing of the late 1920's.

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*They killed my mother and father, without compassion. I saw it right before my eyes.*

Young Julie is shocked, and for a brief moment forgets her own situation, the look of fear on the young boy's face.

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*I know. It is a terrible feeling.*

Young Julie returns to grief. Sifu gets up to his feet.

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*But then, you see, my destiny appeared before me. Not all things, young Julie are what they seem.*

He begins walking, stepping from stone to stone. Young Julie reluctantly *FOLLOWS*, still watching his story following them in the river's reflection;

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*I was taken in by a great traveling warrior.*

Young Julie thinks she can an image in the ripples of the water; an ancient figure of immense insight and wonder, hooded, almost etheric, not entirely physical. The figure *TRANSFORMS INTO A BIRD*.

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*That was my Master, my Sifu, just like you call me Sifu now.*

He continues his walk.

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*My Master continued to raise me like a son, and taught me ancient things. Soon, I understood that before my Master would pass to the next life, I would need to learn it completely so it would never be forgotten.*

*Sifu creates a GLOW of Red Energy in his OPEN PALMS, and shows it righteously to Young Julie.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*It is very old, and very important  
that it is passed on, never lost.*

*He looks off, remembering his Master fondly.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*This is why we are here... why I'm  
teaching it now! Your Mother, your  
Father, -all orphans I found like  
you and me! Candidates for next  
Sifu!*

*He looks at Young Julie, then away in deep reflection.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*What happened to your father... is  
a true tragedy.*

*Young Julie is suddenly reminded, and the gloom returns over  
her like a dark cloud. She looks downward again into the  
cold water.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*I never would have guessed in a  
thousand years he would be taken  
like this. He was my greatest  
pupil, my brightest hope for the  
apprentice for which I search.*

*He looks to Young Julie, a heavy weight in his voice. He  
looks at her with deep, open eyes.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*When you were born... I did not  
know exactly what to think. I  
could feel there was... something,  
but I was blind. I can not believe  
it is only now that I understand  
why you were born.*

*Young Julie listens. Sifu's eyes WIDEN, a new look of  
excitement.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*YOU must continue his training!  
You are the one for whom I have  
been searching!*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*...Me?*

SIFU

*I saw it in you, last night at the celebration. It was incredible... so bright. So young!*

*He looks off into the distance.*

SIFU (CONT'D)

*I too, was chosen by my Master because of the same potential in me.*

*They watch in the water's reflection again, as the Young Sifu ATTEMPTS TO AVENGE his parents, despite only being a child. Some FLASHES of the Red Energy can be seen in his LITTLE FISTS.*

SIFU (CONT'D)

*I've kept you in the primary classes far too long. They can teach you nothing in that group. It is time you began taking your training more seriously.*

*Sifu turns to Young Julie.*

SIFU (CONT'D)

*Tell me young Julie, how did it feel, your body illuminated with my Master's power?*

*Young Julie thinks back, the memory a little blurry already.*

YOUNG JULIE

*...I felt a little sick.*

*Sifu smiles.*

SIFU

*I would teach you Julie. I would show you to master it. I would take you from your classes, and let you train with the elders and I. You can learn to compete, and test your development afar, like your father. What do you think?*

*Julie considers heavily.*

*Sifu takes it as an acceptance. He is deeply pleased.*

SIFU (CONT'D)

*Then it is so. From this day on,  
you will become a full-time  
apprentice. We will learn  
together.*

*Young Julie looks up, and reluctantly gives him her HAND.*

SIFU (CONT'D)

*We will grow together.*

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM -- LATE AFTERNOON

Julie wakes up dizzily, sitting up on a partially reclined GURNEY. She is terribly weak.

DOCTOR SIMS sits next to her, a tall and interesting man in his late 40's.

A NURSE finishes her routine protocols.

NURSE

That be all, doctor?

DOCTOR SIMS

Yes, Nurse. Thank you.

The Nurse exits. Doctor Sims turns his attention to Julie.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

They tell me you're going to be fine. We just need some nutrition in you. You gave us all quite a scare! Finding you on the road like that...

Suddenly Julie realizes that she is STRAPPED DOWN.

Julie freaks out, but then she realizes that Doctor Sims is already UNSTRAPPING her. He continues speaking, his tone calming - a quiet assurance in his voice.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

These were only here for your safety. You were having a mild seizure.

Julie doesn't like the sound of that.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

My name is Doctor Sims, Charles Sims. And I would like very much to help you.

He finishes unstrapping her. Julie looks around, still a bit drowsy. Her arm is sore - she touches it and finds a small round band-aid; she's had an injection.

JULIE

Am I under arrest?

Doctor Sims smiles humorously. He likes her already.

DOCTOR SIMS

No.

He pulls out a MISSING POSTER from his carry-case, with an old and HALF BLURRY PHOTO of Julie in the city.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

You have some friends back home who seem to care a great deal about you. But I need to know a little more, if I am to help you get home.

Julie watches beyond the door into the hospital admitting lobby where some ORDERLIES forcibly restrain a MENTALLY UNSTABLE LOOKING PATIENT, trying to escape.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

And I'm guessing you don't really want to have to spend the night locked up in here.

Doctor Sims smiles.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

So. What are we going to do?

Julie looks closer at him, cynically.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

Look - I know you've got the street smarts, so I'm not going to try to fool you. I want to offer you a deal.

Julie looks at him squarely.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

Are you ready? Here's the deal then; One night of sanctuary. Just one night. A full meal at my favorite restaurant, best burger you'll find north of Aspen.

(MORE)

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

Dessert, and your very own room for the night at the nicest hotel in town. I'll even let you order room service.

He pauses, letting the offer sink in.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

There's only one string: We tell the truth. One night. For just one night, you and I - as perfect strangers, and civil human beings - will just tell the truth to each other, and see what it brings.

Julie squints, trying to find the sincerity in his eyes.

Doctor Sims finishes his pitch:

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

Do we have a deal?

INT. RESTAURANT -- LATER

Julie and Doctor Sims are playing 8-BALL in the sports/gaming section of this lively pub and restaurant. Julie is finishing off a HUGE BACON BURGER and FRIES between shots. She goes to shoot again, chalking up her CUE.

Doctor Sims isn't watching however - he is quite preoccupied, as he examines the MAP that Julie has been working on.

Indeed now it has a few further lines and details on it - it looks like a child's treasure map, with curvy dotted-lines and badly drawn icons of landmarks along the way.

JULIE

Look - you asked me to tell the truth, right? So that's it! That's where I'm going.

Julie SINKS another ball.

DOCTOR SIMS

Yes. Yes, I did ask you to tell me the truth. And I thank you for doing that. Sincerely.

He changes his posture, trying to ease any tension.



DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)  
But now you have to let ME tell the truth. It's my turn, right? That was the deal.

Julie takes another BITE out of her super-deluxe bacon burger, and lines up her next SHOT.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)  
These dreams, this map...

JULIE  
-They're not dreams, I told you.

She SINKS the ball, cleanly.

DOCTOR SIMS  
I see to you that it is important.

JULIE  
I know - That's why I gotta get there.

Julie sinks ANOTHER SHOT.

DOCTOR SIMS  
Can I tell you something?

She is down to the 8-ball. She LINES IT UP.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)  
Something embarrassing?

Julie SINKS the 8-Ball with authority, and turns to him, curious.

INT. RESTAURANT -- LATER

A WAITER brings Julie a SCRUMPTIOUS DESSERT.

SIFU  
OK so what's this big embarrassing confession?

Doctor Sims smiles.

DOCTOR SIMS  
Well, if you must know, I was quite a different person before I became a doctor. I know you may not believe it, but I was a total nerd.

JULIE

Yeah that really does sound hard to believe.

Doctor Sims LAUGHS, humbly. Julie takes a BITE of her dessert.

DOCTOR SIMS

But not just any typical nerd - I mean I was really far out. I was obsessed with stories of the paranormal. Like X-Files!

Julie keeps eating.

JULIE

X-what?

DOCTOR SIMS

X-Files. Fox Mulder? Scully? Don't you watch TV?

JULIE

Does it look like I watch TV?

DOCTOR SIMS

OK, well X-Files is this great show about hunting for evidence of the paranormal. Magic, spirits, telekinesis, aliens, afterlife, reincarnation... you get the idea. Well, that was me. I was obsessed to find direct evidence of it. I read every book I could get my hands on! I had a huge library, and my own laboratory in my garage of video cameras and tracking devices and equipment to try to hunt them down and capture it. And you know what I found?

Julie is actually interested.

JULIE

What?

DOCTOR SIMS

Nothing. Nothing at all. All that energy and years of looking, wasted.

A pause.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

So, I gave it all up and went to medical school. Became a doctor, then earned my second degree in psychology. Child psychology. I learned about the sciences of the physical world, and the way our own brains can play tricks on us. I learned why people believe in things that aren't real, and how to help them.

Julie starts to see where he is going with this.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

It can happen to people like you who may have experienced trauma at early ages of development. It's quite common, actually.

But Julie doesn't want to hear this. She goes to get up, but Doctor Sims HOLDS her wrist.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

Julie - Our minds are built to protect us! Dreams and fantasies may often be created to protect us from true events that we don't want to deal with -

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

JULIE

They're NOT FANTASIES!!

Doctor Sims runs to catch up with a very upset Julie, who is storming away from the building.

DOCTOR SIMS

Julie, you have to at least consider it!

Julie stops, clearly upset now and terribly confused.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

Think about it; with all the planes, and logging trucks surveying those forests night and day... and satellite photographs and Native Reserves - Don't you think by now someone would have noticed a place like that? You have to think RATIONALLY about it!

Suddenly a new VISION-MEMORY hits her, and hits her hard, almost knocking her over;

*INT. MAIN HALL -- NIGHT*

*Sifu is SHAVING Young Julie's HAIR, right down to the scalp.*

*EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT -- NIGHT*

Julie snaps back to reality.

DOCTOR SIMS  
Julie - I understand!

He touches her warmly. But Julie pulls away.

JULIE  
You understand?? No you don't understand! If you understood... you'd help me save my Mom!!

DOCTOR SIMS  
From the magical wizard who lives in the secret forest island, right?

JULIE  
I'm not crazy!!

Julie swings a WILD PUNCH at him. It MISSES. Julie runs away, a boiling mix of emotion, but Doctor Sims GRABS the hood of her sweater. Her skateboard comes LOOSE, and BOUNCES AWAY down into some reeds. Julie SCREAMS violently.

She tries her best to fight free of Doctor Sims, but he is too much. He is suddenly somehow quite agile considering his frail demeanor.

He manages her into a SHOULDER/ARM LOCK, incapacitating her against a his 1992 SUV with wood paneling.

DOCTOR SIMS  
Julie of course I don't want to hurt you... but if I believe you're a danger to yourself and others then I am obligated as a doctor to-

JULIE  
Let me GO!!!

Julie RESISTS with all her might. But it's in futility, as she can not escape his hold without breaking her own arm.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
I need to find my Mom!

Another Vision-Memory HITS her;

*EXT. FOREST -- EARLY MORNING*

*A newly shaved YOUNG JULIE is by a LARGE TREE with Sifu.*

SIFU  
*Do you know why you felt sick when  
my Master's power went through you?  
It was because you were with your  
emotions, and not with your mind.*

*EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT -- NIGHT*

An AMBULANCE shows up, and Paramedic Anna RUSHES OUT, along with some other MEDICS.

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
That's her! You DID find her!! So  
synchronistic!

DOCTOR SIMS  
This girl is level 5, we've got to  
sedate her to a hospital  
immediately!

JULIE  
What? You're with HER??

Julie is HIT with another Vision-Memory;

*EXT. FOREST -- EARLY MORNING*

*Young Julie mimics Sifu's movements. The SUN is coming up.*

SIFU  
*It's about imposing your will.  
Your sentience alone becomes the  
axis of your surroundings, the  
pinpoint of consciousness through  
which all forces must flow.*

*He looks at Young Julie, simply.*

SIFU (CONT'D)  
*Our WILL is our greatest strength.  
Focused consciousness;  
(MORE)*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*the entire cosmos expressing itself here, now - through you. If you command it, your surroundings will bow to you.*

*And with a yell, Sifu throws a HUGE punch at the tree, lightning fast and horrendously powerful.*

*The Red Energy SURGES down his arm, and the tree BLASTS APART.*

*Young Julie watches as it FALLS OVER, CRASHING into the undergrowth of the forest. Sifu makes sure they are not in its way.*

*Sifu points to his HEAD.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*...it comes from here.*

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Julie flexes into a tight ball, SHAKING. Doctor Sims and some of the Medics continue to PIN Julie against his SUV.

## DOCTOR SIMS

In my carry-on bag! A little clear vile!

Paramedic Anna rushes to follow his orders.

## PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

## DOCTOR SIMS

I'm sorry Julie, but you'll thank me for this one day when you understand.

Paramedic Anna returns with a little clear vile of liquid, and a SYRINGE.

The sight of it suddenly causes Julie to burst out with a HUGE EXPLOSION of the Red Energy, BREAKING FREE.

Everyone is shocked at the sight of it. Doctor Sims is especially surprised, BLINKING his eyes, not fully understanding what just happened.

## DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)

Get her!

The Medics move in to apprehend her again, but Julie unleashes a vicious combination of PUNCHES and KNEES, all connecting sharply.

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
Oh, why can't we all just talk this through??

*EXT. SPARRING COURT -- EVENING*

*Young Julie is practicing her Red Energy strikes on the LARGE CLAY DISCS that Mom made in her kilns.*

*Sifu smiles, as Young Julie is SMASHING them all easily despite her tiny size.*

*EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT -- NIGHT*

Julie advances, unleashing more combos of KNEES and ELBOWS, her training now flooding back to her.

The Red Energy is becoming BRIGHTER, and more visible.

Doctor Sims rubs his eyes, still not believing what he's seeing.

*EXT. SPARRING COURT -- EVENING*

*Young Julie is sparring with a TOP FEMALE STUDENT, at an aggressive pace. Young Julie is kicking her ass.*

SIFU  
*Yes! Yes!! You are invincible!!!*

*EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT -- NIGHT*

Julie DISPATCHES with the Medics, and turns to Doctor Sims, the Red Energy now clearly LIT all around her now.

Doctor Sims SHAKES in disbelief.

DOCTOR SIMS  
What th - ?

Julie starts moving towards Doctor Sims, but one of the Medics has gotten up and TACKLES Julie to the ground hard.

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
Somebody please HELP her!!!

FOUR LARGE MEN exiting the restaurant answer the plea. Attracted to the fight, they APPROACH in various drunken states.

LARGE MAN

Well! Whadd'er we got here??

DOCTOR SIMS

Thank God... This girl is sick!!  
I'm a doctor, help me get her down!

The 4 Large Men try to GRAB her.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Don't hurt her!

Julie LIGHTS UP again with the Red Energy.

DOCTOR SIMS

Oh, wow! Oh WOW!!

Doctor Sims, a new look in his eye, rushes to his SUV, looking frantically for something inside. Julie is a like a hurricane of adrenaline and rage, now FIGHTING the Four Large Men at once.

Another Vision-Memory hits her;

*EXT. FOREST -- EVENING*

*Young Julie charges up all her Red Energy, and STRIKES at a thick TREE in the forest with he strongest punch.*

*The tree BLASTS APART, and begins to TOPPLE.*

*Young Julie is amazed, but does not realize that the tree is about to FALL ON HER.*

*Sifu casually pulls her out of the way, just in time as the heavy trunk comes SMASHING down on the mossy rocks.*

*Sifu SMILES. Young Julie is PUMPED.*

*EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT -- NIGHT*

A small STRAY DOG appears, curious of the action. Julie does not see it, and accidentally KICKS the dog as she fights off her attackers.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh, puppy!! Puppy!!!



Paramedic Anna attends the Stray Dog. It BITES HER.

Doctor Sims rushes back from his SUV, holding a bulky VIDEO CAMERA of the era. Hands still trembling, he waits for it to load...

DOCTOR SIMS  
C'mon C'mon C'mon!

More BAR PATRONS circle around Julie, TAUNTING her and daring themselves to CHALLENGE her as a game. But they soon realize that it is a dangerous game to play - within only a few seconds, several of them are already BLEEDING or on the ground.

Doctor Sims finally gets the camera to activate, and he presses 'RECORD'. Julie continues to cause damage to anyone who gets near her, the Red Energy now obviously visible.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)  
Holy shit! Holy SHIT!

The Stray Dog JUMPS from Paramedic Anna's arms.

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
Puppy!!

The crowd DISPERSES in fear, the injured hobbling away. Julie is left RAGING in the center, her heart rate sky-high, still GLOWING BRIGHTLY with the Red Energy.

She looks right into Doctor Sims' VIDEO CAMERA as he FILMS.

JULIE  
How's that for your stupid X-Files?? Its all fake, right? Still don't believe me??

Julie ATTACKS him, sending his video camera FLYING and SMASHING on the parking lot pavement.

DOCTOR SIMS  
No!!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
(calling the Stray Dog)  
Here, boy! Here, boy! Oh dear, Oh dear, Oh dear...

MEDIC  
Somebody call the police!

DOCTOR SIMS

No! No cops! It'll only make her crazier! We'll regroup - come back for her later!

Doctor Sims scrambles to retrieve the pieces of his SMASHED VIDEO CAMERA. Paramedic Anna GRABS the Stray Dog, and they all pile in Doctor Sims' 1992 SUV with wood paneling and PEEL AWAY.

Within moments Julie is left all alone, still TREMBLING and PULSING uncontrollably with the Red Energy.

She COLLAPSES to her knees, the Red Energy draining painfully from her limbs. She VOMITS on the pavement.

Then in the SHADOWS she thinks she sees a FIGURE;

Is it the Man In Straw Hat? The SILHOUETTE is unclear.

JULIE

Is that you?? Show yourself!

Suddenly there is a massive strike of LIGHTNING. It begins to RAIN.

Julie looks again, but the silhouette is gone. She is left SHAKING, her heart-rate sky-high.

The Vision-Memories continue;

*INT. MAIN HALL -- NIGHT*

*Young Julie, Sifu, Zhan, Bjorn, and a handful of other fighters are all inside, arranged in ceremony. There is a mixture of emotions in the room, some clearly uncomfortable.*

*SIFU*

*Young Julie, I present to you full status as a Red Wind Warrior.*

*He gives her a head-band.*

*SIFU (CONT'D)*

*You have crossed the first stage into a world of enlightenment.*

*EXT. SMALL TOWN STREET -- NIGHT*

It is really raining hard now.

Julie is cold, and completely lost.

JULIE

Oh, Mom...

A tear escapes her eye. Her hands and lips begin to tremble.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I can't do this anymore...

She spots a CULVERT nearby with a dry spot inside, despite the increasing rain.

INT. CULVERT -- NIGHT

Julie is crouched up in the culvert, trying to stay warm and dry. The STORM outside intensifies. She SHIVERS, sick and cold, as more Vision-Memories start to come;

EXT. SIFU'S COMMUNE -- NIGHT

*It is WINTER now, and the Commune is covered in a light dusting of SNOW. Young Julie is carrying some pots of water up the trail.*

*A familiar STUDENT meets Young Julie on the way, frantically - there is some commotion happening up at Mom's cabin.*

STUDENT

Julie! Come, quick!! Now!!

Young Julie DROPS the pots of water.

INT. YOUNG JULIE AND MOM'S CABIN -- NIGHT

*Mom is lying on her BED. Bjorn and a small congregation of friends are gathered inside.*

*Young Julie is hesitant to enter, terrified of what she might see. But the Students convince her to come closer.*

*Young Julie stares at Mom for a moment, and then, she sees Mom's eyes begin to OPEN. Young Julie rushes in and HOLDS Mom's HANDS, nervously.*

*Soon, Young Julie feels Mom's fingers give a SQUEEZE. Slowly, Mom opens her eyes, and the first thing she sees is Young Julie, her daughter.*

*Everyone in the room is overwhelmed with emotion. Mom grabs hold of Young Julie and begins to cry, HUGGING her tightly.*

*Sifu is WATCHING from the doorway.*

*He does not come in.*

*EXT. MOM'S POTTERY STUDIO -- AFTERNOON*

*Mom's KILN makes the area warm amidst the winter forest. Mom and Young Julie are setting some CLAY away into some shelving. Young Julie helps.*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*I have a testing in 4 days..*

*MOM*

*...a testing?*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*Yeah. It's this technique Sifu has me working on. I gotta fight with Zhan, and break this certain style. Sifu says if I pass, I can start to learn the next phase.*

*MOM*

*What's the next phase?*

*Young Julie shrugs her shoulders and turns away. The topic obviously doesn't really bring her much joy.*

*JULIE*

*...I don't even know.*

*Mom looks deeply concerned.*

*INT. YOUNG JULIE AND MOM'S CABIN -- NIGHT*

*Mom is preparing some TEA for her and Young Julie. She brings the mugs to the tiny table.*

*MOM*

*Here. Its warm.*

*Young Julie takes it softly, playing a bit with the spoon. Mom suddenly becomes teary, remembering the past few months.*

*MOM (CONT'D)*

*Oh, Julie, you were so good to me!*

*Young Julie runs to her and they fall back on the bed in a passionate EMBRACE.*

MOM (CONT'D)

*I was there, Julie, I was! I remember, you made me tea, you gave me clean blankets...*

*She starts to CRY.*

MOM (CONT'D)

*You would kiss my forehead every night before you went to sleep. Oh Julie, I was there!*

*They calm down, and catch their breath.*

YOUNG JULIE

*Mom?*

MOM

*Yes, honey?*

*Young Julie pauses, a bit embarrassed to ask.*

JULIE

*Can I sleep with you tonight?*

*Mom is touched, and smiles warmly.*

MOM

*Of course you can.*

INT. MOM'S BEDROOM -- LATER

*The lantern is out.*

*Only the moon and stars give light, and Mom and Young Julie are laying peacefully in the bed. Mom is awake, concerned, Young Julie's eyes closed.*

*Then Mom speaks into the calm.*

MOM

*Julie?*

*Young Julie wakes up.*

YOUNG JULIE

*Hm?*

MOM

*Julie, I want to tell you something.*

*Young Julie rubs her eyes a bit and sits up.*

MOM (CONT'D)

Your father... he gave me something. Before he died. He told me about when he went with Sifu. To the last fighting competition.

YOUNG JULIE

What was it?

MOM

He said where Sifu took him was not just a place for fighters. He said it was a whole world! He said there were people there! A beautiful warm world, where the water goes forever until it meets the sky!

Mom fights back some tears.

YOUNG JULIE

Yes he told me! He said he saw people who could ride on top of the waves!

MOM

He said he was going to take us there. He said we should leave.

YOUNG JULIE

Let's go!

MOM

There's something else I have to tell you. Your Father... he had a... We had a secret. He gave me something. He was going to show you too, but he...

YOUNG JULIE

-Is it the Light?

MOM

What Light?

YOUNG JULIE

The Light! The White Light.

MOM

You've seen it?

Young Julie nods.

MOM (CONT'D)

Would you like to make it with me?

YOUNG JULIE

Yes.

MOM

Well, it was your father who could make it move the best. But he taught me a bit. He was teaching me. Oh, Julie, it made your father so happy!

YOUNG JULIE

Show me!

MOM

Okay.

She leans in closer to Young Julie and whispers.

MOM (CONT'D)

But don't tell Sifu, okay? Not yet.

YOUNG JULIE

Why?

MOM

(extra secretive)

Because I don't think he can do it!

They giggle quietly for a few seconds, and start the lesson.

They sit up, cross legged on the bed, facing each other.

Together they have created in the center of themselves a *SMALL CONCENTRATION* of the White Light. It slowly expands, *ENVELOPING* them both in an *ANGELIC GLOW*.

Young Julie and Mom look up at each other and share a wonderful *LAUGH*.

Young Julie begins to do some simple *TRICKS* with the Light, moving it up and along her arms and body. Soon it expands and fades out into the air, leaving a faint white glow around everything. They look at each other with intense clarity, and unbreakable love.

But suddenly, Mom becomes full of sorrow and grief.

MOM (CONT'D)  
 (breaking into a cry)  
 Oh, Julie, I'm so sorry for leaving  
 you alone!

They embrace again, and Mom takes Young Julie's head against  
 her chest. Mom is CRYING OPENLY.

MOM (CONT'D)  
 I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I  
 won't ever leave you again, Julie,  
 not ever, not ever.

Mom holds Young Julie's face in her hands, and looks deep  
 into her daughter's eyes.

MOM (CONT'D)  
 I will NEVER leave you again, okay?

YOUNG JULIE  
 Okay.

They HUG.

MOM  
 Okay. Now sleep, my little love.  
 Tomorrow's a new day.

They lay down again for sleep.

YOUNG JULIE  
 Mom?

MOM  
 Yes?

JULIE  
 I dream about that place that Dad  
 said sometimes... where the water  
 meets the sky? And people ride on  
 top of the waves?

Young Julie closes her eyes again.

YOUNG JULIE  
 ...and Mom?

Mom looks at Young Julie's eyes, still closed.

YOUNG JULIE (CONT'D)  
 ...I'll never leave you either.



INT. CULVERT -- MORNING

Julie opens her eyes. The MORNING SUN comes through far end of the culvert.

Julie looks at her hands, some SPARKLES of the White Light right there in front of her.

EXT. SMALL TOWN SASKATCHEWAN -- MORNING

It is a beautiful morning. Julie is approaching the HIGHWAY at the end of the town. A large truck ZOOMS past her.

When the dust clears, Julie sees something in the ditch that SHINES and REFLECTS the sunlight similar to the White Light.

Julie looks closer;

It is an OLD BICYCLE.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

Julie is riding down the highway on her new bike through the flat prairies. There is no traffic, and the leveled landscape goes on for miles.

As she rides, Julie finds herself abnormally calm. She is more relaxed than she can ever remember, and it is overwhelming.

The WIND picks up in a GUST, and Julie enjoys it as it blows past her face and through her hair.

She begins to GLOW with the White Light.

The bike somehow PICKS UP SPEED, and soon Julie is being CARRIED ALONG, weightlessly with the blowing wind.

Soon however Julie senses SOMETHING COMING FROM BEHIND HER:

It is OFFICER FRYE'S POLICE CRUISER. Julie becomes nervous. And the White Light DIMS, the bike becoming WOBBLY.

The Cruiser drops back, then speeds up again, GUNNING it straight for Julie's bicycle.

In fear, Julie sees some FLASHES of the Red Energy surging through her hands and fingers. But Julie closes her eyes, and EXHALES. The Red Energy FADES, and the White Light RESUMES.

Officer Frye's Cruiser RAMS into the bike.

But at this moment, time seems to slow down for Julie. She remembers her Mom, her Dad; the White Light. She feels the White Light inside her chest, and allows it to SPREAD out through her limbs, relaxedly.

The bike is SUCKED under the bumper into a TWISTED MESS.

But somehow, amazingly, the White Light guides Julie off the bike, and turns her over in a gentle circle, setting her down on her feet again light as a feather.

The Police Cruiser is re-directed, and HURLS off sideways off the road.

Time returns to normal, and Julie watches the Police Cruiser CRASH off into the ditch, ROLLING OVER several times before stopping.

Julie stands lightly on the road without a scratch, her MANGLED BIKE at the side of the pavement. She continues to glow with the White Light.

For a long while, Julie just stares at the wreckage. There is no movement whatsoever, and Julie wonders fearfully if Officer Frye might be dead.

Yet after a few moments, she sees Officer Frye CRAWL weakly from the over-turned vehicle. His uniform is torn, his face smeared with dirt and blood. He STANDS, barely.

He looks straight at Julie, a dazed look in his eye. All hate and fear seem to be gone from his eyes. He tries to say something, but is unable to speak.

At the same instant, both Julie and Officer Frye see a VEHICLE coming from far off on the horizon.

As it nears, they recognize it as a rented U-HAUL TRUCK.

It approaches the scene, and comes to a stop. It takes only a few seconds for Julie to recognize the driver;

It's the Man In Straw Hat.

JULIE

You!!

The Man In Straw Hat LAUGHS out loud. Julie gets on board.

The Man in Straw hat looks back at Officer Frye.

Officer Frye has made it out onto the pavement, walking on his own, but barely.

JULIE (CONT'D)

He'll live.

They both give a smile and drive away.

And then, Officer Frye's Cruiser EXPLODES.

EXT. TRAIN STATION -- AFTERNOON

The Man In Straw Hat has returned from the TICKET WINDOW at the station. He is holding a shiny TRAIN TICKET.

MAN IN STRAW HAT

You won't let me take you?

JULIE

No. I gotta do this myself. You understand...

MAN IN STRAW HAT

I do.

He gives her the ticket gracefully. He also slips her a SMALL BUNDLE OF CASH with the ticket.

Julie starts to open it, but he stops her.

MAN IN STRAW HAT (CONT'D)

No. It is my pleasure to help you. And I know you will find what you seek. It is, after all, where we are loved, that we truly belong.

He looks at her, a sentimental look in his eye.

JULIE

Hey, was that you I saw last night?

Man In Straw Hat doesn't answer. The TRAIN begins to PULL AWAY. Julie HOPS on board.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I tried to stop that bus for you, eh?

The Man In Straw Hat smiles, laughing as Julie CRUISES AWAY.

MAN IN STRAW HAT

I have no doubt that you did!!!

EXT. MOUNTAIN VALLEY -- EVENING

Julie's train is at cruising speed. A SUNSET is beginning to form over the horizon.

Julie rests her head against the window, and dreams away.

INT. TRAIN -- NIGHT

It is very early morning, maybe an hour before sunrise. Most everyone is ASLEEP, including Julie.

After a few moments she opens her eyes, and squints out the window into the darkness. The view is strange, and she can't quite figure it out. But after a few moments of focusing, she realizes what she is seeing;

The ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

They are awesome, even in the dark. Julie is amazed, STARING in disbelief at their size and beauty.

JULIE

Oh, wow...

She looks around at her fellow PASSENGERS, but they are all fast asleep.

INT. TRAIN STATION -- DAY

The train stops. PASSENGERS begin casually getting off. Julie speaks to the TRAIN CREWMAN as she disembarks.

JULIE

What's going on? Why are we stopping?

TRAIN CREWMAN

Layover. 4 hours. You can't stay on the train. Everybody off!!

Julie sees BACKPACKERS this way and that.

JULIE

Where are those people coming from?

The Train Crewman points to a nearby mountain LOOKOUT.

TRAIN CREWMAN

Probably that peak there. Tourists like that one, its not too long, easy trail, nice view.

(MORE)

## TRAIN CREWMAN (CONT'D)

Might make it back in time if you start now. Just be back before the sun goes down, you'll be fine. Keep your ticket though! You'll need it to re-board the train.

Julie is incredulous, looking again at the lookout.

## TRAIN CREWMAN (CONT'D)

Everybody off!!

## EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL -- AFTERNOON

Julie is ASCENDING the mountain trail, signs clearly marked, a few more HIKERS on their way down.

Juliana moves effortlessly up the path, accompanied by the White Light.

A Vision-Memory comes, but Julie does not resist, and is able to keep moving;

## EXT. RIVERBANK -- EARLY MORNING

Young Julie and Mom are having an early discreet practice session by the River, under the guise of washing some clothes.

They are practicing the White Light.

## MOM

'Don't fight', he used to say...

Mom controls the White Light, MOVING it softly around, GLIDING and SWOOPING it in beautiful ARCS and CURVES, dipping it off the water's surface.

It is beautiful.

## MOM (CONT'D)

'It's all one... its all growing together - we're like nerve endings on the same finger... fingers on the same hand, or hands on the same form.'

Young Julie follows, the movements coming naturally.

## MOM (CONT'D)

'If we realize this, that all is connected, and you are only looking out at yourself...

*Young Julie's rhythms begin to harmonize with Mom's.*

*MOM (CONT'D)*

*...Then how can there be fight at all?'*

*EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT -- LATE AFTERNOON*

*Julie is reaching the LOOKOUT spot, the VIEW starting to come into sight. No one else is around.*

*She climbs atop a large rock, filled with adrenaline and strength, and pours herself into the sight.*

*The Vision-Memory continues;*

*INT. YOUNG JULIE'S BEDROOM -- EVENING*

*Young Julie is with Mom. Mom is helping Young Julie WRAP her HANDS, protecting the knuckles but still allowing use of the fingers and thumb.*

*MOM*

*You don't have to do this. We can wait longer. Until I'm better.*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*I want to. I want to do it for Dad. They'll see.*

*EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT -- LATE AFTERNOON*

*Julie settles herself down at a good spot and relaxes.*

*The Vision-Memory continues;*

*EXT. SPARRING COURT -- EVENING*

*Everyone has gathered for Young Julie's testing. It is a formal event, and everyone gives it the proper respect. The court is swept clean of any snow or dirt. The AIR is CRISP and COLD.*

*Young Julie is STRETCHING in her gi at one end of the fighting area. Zhan is at the other end, wearing modern fighting shorts.*

*Sifu is judge and referee.*

SIFU

Well, little one. Your next testing has arrived. You have done well, and have learned my Master's ways much faster than I had ever guessed. You should be proud. You are truly on the road for great things. Are you ready for your testing?

YOUNG JULIE

Yes.

SIFU

Then begin!

Sifu somehow creates a FLASH of Red Energy in the air, accompanied by a loud BOOM.

Zhan gets in a fighting stance, and APPROACHES Young Julie. He takes the testing seriously, with full intention of pushing Young Julie's abilities to the limits.

Yet Young Julie just stands there, PASSIVE. Zhan doesn't understand, stops, and looks to Sifu.

A BUZZ begins amongst the other Fighters, half of them shocked, and the other half concealing excitement.

SIFU (CONT'D)

Are you not ready?

YOUNG JULIE

I am.

SIFU

Then engage!

Zhan ATTACKS ferociously, SURGING with the Red Energy.

But to his surprise, Young Julie just continues to stand still. She inhales deeply, and becomes illuminated with the White Light. As Zhan's AXE KICK comes down, Young Julie just BLENDS with the force of the attack, the White Light ABSORBING the energy, bringing Zhan down gentle as a feather.

Young Julie looks up at Sifu in confidence. Everyone is stunned. Mom is trying to keep her pride under control.

It takes a moment for Sifu to understand and accept the reality of what she has done. But for the sake of his Students, Sifu manages to keep his composure, and maintain his elegance.

He gestures to Zhan to continue.

Zhan comes in with a NEW ATTACK. This time it is with greater power, the Red Energy BRIGHTER.

Young Julie reacts the same way, calmly, passively. The White Light ABSORBS the attack, REDIRECTS it, and SETTLES Zhan to the ground once more.

SIFU (CONT'D)

That is not the technique I taught you!

Young Julie stands defiant. She looks menacingly at Zhan.

YOUNG JULIE

This one's better.

MOM

Julie...

Sifu looks at Zhan.

SIFU

Twin side attack! STRIKE!!

Zhan LUNGES in. Again, Young Julie REDIRECTS him without incident. Zhan is thrown off his feet, and is HURLED out of the ring, almost over the edge. He looks to Sifu, frightened, and ATTACKS AGAIN.

He unleashes a STRING OF ATTACKS; combinations and strikes. Young Julie must work very hard to defend, but the White Light style seems just enough to counter the Red Energy style. Zhan is THROWN once more to the ground, opening a CUT on his face. Zhan is exhausted and GASPS for breath, defeated.

Young Julie looks defiantly at Sifu. Mom stands up.

MOM

She has defeated your attacks. She has passed the test.

SIFU

Why do you defy me? Why do you throw away the gift that I have been trying to give to you?

There is a pause. The Students are all holding their breath, frozen. The differences in LOYALTIES are beginning to heat.



MOM

We don't wish it any longer. We wish to follow what my husband wanted for us.

Zhan stands, embarrassed by his defeat.

MOM (CONT'D)

We wish to leave.

Sifu sees her determination. He looks to Young Julie.

Young Julie sides with Mom, and they GRIP EACH OTHER tightly.

MOM (CONT'D)

Master Sifu, we thank you for all you have done. We thank you for raising us like a father, for teaching us and for making us strong. We thank you for your friendship, and for your wisdom.

(beat)

But my husband had a wish for us, and my daughter has a dream to follow. It is what she needs. It is who we are inside, and we must follow our own path, as you are following yours.

Sifu is taken with the speech, and holds a silence.

Bjorn and a few of their friends hesitantly JOIN with Young Julie and Mom, SPLITTING the Commune into LOYALISTS and DEFECTING FIGHTERS.

MOM (CONT'D)

We offer our best to you all, and invite anyone else who wishes to join us.

Mom looks to the other students invitingly, but no one else moves.

Mom puts Young Julie's hand in hers.

MOM (CONT'D)

We leave at daybreak tomorrow.

They turn, and begin the walk back towards the cabins.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT -- AFTERNOON

Julie is stunned by this memory, and feels a deep sense of pride and dignity.

She allows the Vision-Memory to continue;

EXT. COMMUNE TRAIL-- NIGHT

Mom, Young Julie, Bjorn and the other Defecting Fighters are hiking back up the torch-lit trail to the cabins.

Then suddenly, Sifu's voice BOOMS from right behind them, as if he was standing only a few feet away.

SIFU

You want to leave??

Everyone SPINS back to see him, but he is not there. They spin back, and he is magically right there in front of them, IMMERSED in Red Energy. He looks more ancient, wise and terrifying than ever.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT -- AFTERNOON

Julie is deep in the Vision-Memory, filled with sudden FEAR.

EXT. COMMUNE TRAIL -- NIGHT

Sifu executes an ATTACK, sharp and powerful. It goes right past Young Julie, and HITS Mom, KNOCKING her to the ground.

SIFU

Then LEAVE!! The whole lot of you,  
useless from the beginning!

The Defecting Fighters back up nervously.

SIFU (CONT'D)

But she stays!

He GRABS Young Julie. Mom is terrified.

SIFU (CONT'D)

She is the one I have been  
searching for, and she is the one  
who will continue the line when I  
am gone!

Mom RUSHES towards her daughter, but Sifu launches another Red Energy ATTACK, KNOCKING Mom back down, hurt.

YOUNG JULIE  
Leave her alone!!

Young Julie *FIGHTS* him with a wicked Red Energy style. Young Julie is indeed a good student.

SIFU  
Yes! See? This is where your true  
potential comes out! Look! It  
flows from you so well!

MOM  
Julie!

Young Julie *STOPS*, listening to her Mom.

She *LETS GO* of the Red Energy.

SIFU  
Why do you defy me? Must I prove  
to you your own misguidedness?

Sifu *STRIKES* like a cobra, *HITTING* Young Julie on the side of her head.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT -- AFTERNOON

Julie is physically experiencing this memory. Her head is *SNAPPED* to the side as if she felt the blow for real.

EXT. COMMUNE TRAIL -- EVENING

SIFU  
Could you defend that? Did you  
even feel it coming?

He strikes *TWICE MORE*, but to the *BODY*. Young Julie *DROPS* to her knees, clutching her stomach.

MOM  
Leave her alone!!!

SIFU  
Your father's style was useless!

BJORN  
Didn't you hear? She said, leave  
her alone!

Sifu just looks at him with an *ICY STARE*. Bjorn knows he is not his match.

SIFU

Your Father trusted his own foolish heart, and he wasted his potential. I will not let the same thing happen to you! It has taken me a lifetime to find you. I will not allow y-

YOUNG JULIE

You told Zhan to kill him!!

SIFU

Zhan? Defeat your father?

Sifu laughs.

SIFU (CONT'D)

Zhan can't even beat you! How could he have killed your father? Zhan doesn't have a prayer at achieving that level.

He looks back to the remaining Defecting Fighters.

SIFU (CONT'D)

None of you do.

He looks once again to Young Julie, deeply.

SIFU (CONT'D)

She is the one I've been searching for, that's all that matters now.

MOM

You can't have her!!

Mom ATTACKS again, but Sifu STRIKES EVEN HARDER this time, sending her FLYING into the rocks.

Young Julie SCREAMS with hatred and rage, engaging Sifu in a vicious combat. She comes on full tilt, this time using a combination of both the Red, AND the White style.

But Sifu contains her attacks, and humors her rage.

SIFU

He was a threat to you! He was going to lead you astray! Can't you see, we are family, you and I the same! We belong together!

YOUNG JULIE

WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR OWN FAMILY!!!!

*Sifu then suddenly becomes filled with deep pain and soulful suffering. Young Julie has obviously hit a nerve.*

*Sifu lets the pain flow out of him, and fights HARDER with Young Julie, STRIKING her all over, the Red Energy BLAZING with horror-intensity.*

*BJORN*

*Enough!*

*This time Bjorn manages the courage to FIGHT Sifu, but he is no match, for Sifu makes short work of him.*

*EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT -- AFTERNOON*

*Julie is feeling all of this as if were real. She lies broken on the ground, as if being KICKED and PUNCHED for real. She can barely keep her eyes open.*

*EXT. COMMUNE TRAIL -- EVENING*

*Sifu gets one FINAL BLOW, sending both Young Julie and Bjorn crashing to the ground.*

*EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT -- AFTERNOON*

*Julie is finished, and VOMITS on the ground.*

*MOM'S VOICE*

*Stop!*

*EXT. COMMUNE TRAIL -- EVENING*

*MOM*

*Stop! You win. OK. Just stop.  
Don't hurt her.*

*Young Julie is stunned to hear these words, despite her state.*

*MOM (CONT'D)*

*I will stay with you. We will  
stay. Please, just stop hurting  
her.*

*SIFU*

*This is nothing. She will need to  
be much tougher than this someday.*

MOM

*Then let's wait for that day.*

*Sifu looks across to the other Defecting Fighters. No one moves a muscle. Bjorn is getting back to his feet, holding his wounds.*

SIFU

*Then go to your quarters. Rest. We have much training to do. You will see. Her wounds are minor. I would not seriously hurt my prized student.*

*They all head back towards the cabins, bleeding and sore.*

EXT. MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT -- EVENING

Julie begins to wake up. It seems she has been ASLEEP for some time. She is intensely weak, and can barely stand. Her mind and emotions have taken a great beating as well, having re-experienced this event for the first time since it happened. She is completely and utterly wasted.

The SUN is GOING DOWN.

In the distance, she sees the town at the base of the lookout trail, and a TRAIN chugging off in the distance.

JULIE

My train!! No!

But it is gone. Julie gathers her strength, and painfully begins to HOBBLE back down the mountain.

INT. GAS STATION STORE-- EVENING

The sun has set. Julie's turn in the LINEUP at the register has come. She holds a BOTTLED WATER in her hands.

The CLERK waits for her to put some money down, but Julie just stands there stupidly, bottle in hand. She TWITCHES gently, a vacant look in her eyes.

A CUSTOMER behind her HUFFS with impatience.

CLERK

Miss? Hello? Are you gonna buy it or what?

Then a young SKATER DUDE, maybe 16 or 17, steps forward from the line.

He PAYS for the water, and LEADS Julie out.

EXT. GAS STATION -- EVENING

SKATER DUDE  
(laughing a bit)  
You OK there? Back to earth yet!??

Julie looks at him, opening the water.

SKATER DUDE (CONT'D)  
That was trippy. -PUNKFEST, right?

Julie GULPS the water, but WINCES at the taste, putting the cap back on.

JULIE  
What?

SKATER DUDE  
(gesturing to her hair  
and clothes)  
Punkfest! You're going to  
Punkfest, right? You need a lift  
or somethin? We can move some stuff  
in the back...

She tries the water again, the taste somehow revolting to her. She TOSSES it in the TRASH, wiping her mouth.

JULIE  
Listen, you don't want to talk to  
me. I'm crazy.

SKATER DUDE  
Everybody's crazy! I'm crazy,  
you're crazy...

He goes off on a philosophical rant;

SKATER DUDE (CONT'D)  
Like, how do we know what's crazy,  
and what's not?

JULIE  
No, I mean actually crazy, OK??  
For real, I'm a goddamn nut job.

Skater Dude shuts up.

SKATER DUDE  
OK. That's cool. Just offerin'.  
Maybe we'll see you at Punkfest!

Julie looks terrible, a deep and vacant look in her eyes.

Skater Dude heads off towards his CAR, a beat up Honda Civic with skate/snowboard stickers plastered all over the back window.

A comical STONER GUY and SNOWBOARD CHICK are also at the vehicle, joking around.

Julie looks back at Skater Dude as he leaves. TEARS well in her eyes.

Some TEARS squeeze out. *Nightmarish Vision-Memories of SIFU FLASH in her mind.* She holds her head painfully, and crouches out of sight around the corner.

She recalls the Doctor Sims' WORDS in her mind:

DOCTOR SIMS' WORDS

Our minds are built to protect us!  
 Dreams and fantasies may often be  
 created to protect us from true  
 events that we don't want to deal  
 with!

*More horror-flashes of the last Vision-Memory FLASH; Young Julie getting HIT, Mom getting HIT.*

JULIE

It's not real!!!

The SOUND of a Skater Dude's CAR BACKFIRING breaks Julie's attention;

She looks up and sees Skater Dude's CIVIC getting ready to leave, PUNK MUSIC blaring from the open windows and a ridiculous cloud of BLACK SMOKE coming from the back.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Punkfest?

Julie CHASES after them. Skater Dude catches her glance, and SMILES WIDELY.

INT. SKATER DUDE'S CAR -- NIGHT

Snowboard Chick, riding shotgun, is lighting a SMOKE.

She passes it back to Julie. Julie hesitates for a moment, but takes a DRAG.

Another Vision-Memory comes.



Julie tries to ignore it, but it is futile;

*INT. YOUNG JULIE AND MOM'S CABIN -- NIGHT*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*Why did I have to be born here?  
Why did I have to have this life?*

*MOM*

*Don't say that...*

*YOUNG JULIE*

*Why couldn't we have been born  
somewhere else? Like where Dad  
was... where the water meets the  
sky?*

*Mom searches desperately for an answer.*

*MOM*

*I don't know little one...*

*Mom looks out through the window, the sky dark and  
unsettling. She holds Young Julie, afraid.*

*MOM (CONT'D)*

*Maybe in our next life.*

*EXT. VANCOUVER HARBORFRONT-- NEXT DAY/LATE AFTERNOON*

*Julie is walking with her new friends.*

*JULIE*

*What? Sorry, did you say  
something?*

*Skater Dude smiles, slightly amused.*

*SKATER DUDE*

*Crazy, right?*

*Julie says nothing, the possibility becoming more apparent.*

*Then Snowboard Chick suddenly notices SOMEONE STARING at them  
from one of the docks. She NUDGES Skater Dude.*

*SNOWBOARD CHICK*

*Hey. Check it out...*

*They all stop, and see a HOMELESS MAN dressed in a dirty hood  
and filthy clothes. His face is shadowed, but it's clear he  
is staring at them.*

SNOWBOARD CHICK (CONT'D)  
Well? What are you looking at??

The man tries to speak, but it seems difficult for him. He seems crazy.

HOMELESS MAN  
The light!

SNOWBOARD CHICK  
A light? You need a light?

She digs for her lighter.

HOMELESS MAN  
No! Her! On her! A light!

STONER GUY  
Bud Light?

Then Julie steps forward, an angry tone in her voice.

JULIE  
There IS NO LIGHT, OK!??

Julie yells again with hate;

JULIE (CONT'D)  
It's all in your stupid head, don't  
you know that??

The Homeless Man RETREATS. They continue walking.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Lunatic.

SKATER DUDE  
No doubt. They're everywhere.

STONER GUY  
Come on, we're almost there!!

They head towards the ARENA. PUNK MUSIC can already be heard.

INT. PUNKFEST CHECK-IN LOBBY -- EVENING

SECURITY GUARD  
Sweater and backpack!!

There is a huge MOB OF PUNKS all squashed together trying to get inside.

They are all being SEARCHED and FRISKED before entering, and it is holding up the line considerably. Julie is NEXT.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

You're gonna poke someone's eye out with all those safety-pins!

JULIE

Ain't gonna poke nothing, this's my Lucky Sweater!

SECURITY GUARD

You can't go in there with all these safety-pins in it! Backpack too. C'mon, your holding up the line!

JULIE

You can't just take my sweater!

SECURITY GUARD

Get a ticket, nobody's taking anything!

JULIE

It's all I got left!!!!!!

The CROWD behind her is getting aggravated. More SECURITY step in.

JULIE (CONT'D)

No!!!

She SCRAMBLES her way past the coat-checkers, and DISAPPEARS into the arena.

INT. PUNKFEST -- EVENING

It is a huge arena filled with anarchy, energy, loud music, and a huge, sweaty MOSH PIT.

Julie yells out with forced happiness, LAUGHING at her apparent escape. She sees the Security follow her in, looking frantically for her.

Julie ducks into the mosh-pit for cover, as the BAND on stage starts to play a familiar song. She YELLS with excitement, and starts to MOSH and SING ALONG with unrealistic energy and aggressiveness.

JULIE

Yeeeeaaaaahhhhhhhhh!!!!

Julie pushes the sorrow and events of the whole last week deep down, trying hard to re-live her 'good old' years.

JULIE (CONT'D)

This is all I need... This is all I need!!!!

She spins around, accidentally ELBOWING a young PUNK CHICK in the head.

PUNK CHICK

Watch it, bitch!!

JULIE

What?

PUNK CHICK

You elbowed me in the face, you skank!

Julie reacts with equal immaturity.

JULIE

ITS A MOSH PIT!!! YOU DON'T WANNA GET 'ELBOWED', STAY THE HELL OUT!!!!!! And who you callin' a skank, skank?

Julie SHOVES the Punk Chick backwards like she was picking a schoolyard fight. The Punk Chick SHOVES BACK. They start TUSSLING with each other.

The crowd HOOTS at the sight of the two girls fighting.

It is enough however for 4 SECURITY GUARDS to finally APPREHEND Julie and fiercely DRAG her away towards the doors. Julie STRUGGLES wildly, putting up an uncoordinated, yet somewhat effective fight.

The Punk Chick TAUNTS her as she is pulled away. Julie BREAKS FREE, her Lucky Sweater RIPPING, safety pins JABBING her skin.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Ow!

Julie STUMBLES off-balance, and ends up right in front of the Punk Chick, who PUNCHES JULIE SQUARE IN THE MOUTH.

Julie drops to the ground, KNOCKED OUT.

EXT. DREAMSCAPE -- CONTINUOUS

*In the dreamscape of her unconsciousness, Julie witnesses a POWERFUL VISION of Mom and Dad.*

*The White Light around them is almost blinding.*

MOM'S VOICE

*Julie!*

INT. PUNKFEST -- NIGHT

Julie WAKES UP from her knockout on the floor of the Arena. But surprisingly, she has NOT been apprehended by Security;

Instead, everyone seems to be distracted; for at the front entrance to the Arena, a huge CHAOS has arisen. A large number of POLICE have arrived, all quite militant. FLASHING POLICE LIGHTS are seen outside.

The band has stopped playing, and the ticket-holders are RUNNING haphazardly in all directions like freed zoo animals.

But amidst the chaos, Julie sees an intensely warm concentration of White Light floating in front of her.

Julie feels connected to it, like a TETHER of light.

It floats over to the back corner of the building, illuminating the area, revealing the OPEN REAR LOADING DOCKS.

Julie realizes her opportunity for escape, and FOLLOWS the White Light out the back.

EXT. ARENA LOADING DOCKS -- NIGHT

Julie is escaping out the rear loading dock platforms of the Arena. She HOPS down to the ground.

Suddenly someone GRABS HER from behind. It's OFFICER FRYE.

He is sweating, trembling, his eyes filled with emotion, his skin bruised and battered.

OFFICER FRYE

They've found me Julie, they've found me!

Julie doesn't understand.

OFFICER FRYE (CONT'D)  
I'm not going to jail, Julie, I  
won't!

He PULLS her arm, TIGHT in his grip.

OFFICER FRYE (CONT'D)  
You think these cops are here for  
you? No way. They want me.

Julie looks at him deeper. He is on the edge of paranoia.

OFFICER FRYE (CONT'D)  
The Light! I need it!

A familiar VOICE calls out from the end of the alleyway;

NUALA  
Let her go!!

Julie recognizes Nuala, and YANKS out of Officer Frye's grip.

NUALA (CONT'D)  
This has gone far enough, Julie!  
You're coming with me.

JULIE  
How did you find me??

NUALA  
The Lord God helped me find you,  
and you're coming back with me  
right now. You're going back to  
school, and straightened up for  
good! No more of this.

JULIE  
So you STILL don't believe me?? You  
followed me all this way to tell me  
that you still don't believe me??

Julie turns to Officer Frye.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
And you want me to help you?  
You're scarier than all of 'em!

Police can be seen and heard YELLING from inside. Officer Frye gets spooked and RUNS AWAY, leaving Julie alone for a tense moment with Nuala.

NUALA  
Julie you ARE from the west coast,  
I know that!

Julie is shocked.

NUALA (CONT'D)

It's where I found you. Your father, he was in trouble with the law or something... and he said you had no mother, either!

Nuala is starting to cry now, reliving the memory.

NUALA (CONT'D)

It was a dark time for me Julie. I had tried something, and it failed. And in my desperation, I asked God to give me a sign - some direction - some MEANING for my life...!

She looks at Julie with wonder.

NUALA (CONT'D)

And then, there you were. Not 5 seconds after my prayer. Don't you see? YOU were the SIGN that I prayed for!

Julie looks back to Nuala, deeply hurt. She generates the White Light in her hands.

JULIE

Then why won't you trust it?

Suddenly Doctor Sims' 1992 SUV with wood paneling PULLS UP sharply, now with a mess of HOMEMADE ANTENNAE and RADAR EQUIPMENT mounted on roof-rack.

Doctor Sims and Paramedic Anna RUSH out of the SUV. Paramedic Anna is holding the Stray Dog from their last encounter, now COLLARED and LEASHED.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Sweetie! Oh thank the Buddha, we found you!

Doctor Sims is sporting some nasty bruises, and is wearing a classic X-Files 'I WANT TO BELIEVE' T-SHIRT.

He carries more VIDEO EQUIPMENT and other GADGETS strapped awkwardly around him, ACTIVATING several of them nervously.

DOCTOR SIMS

Julie!!! Julie, Oh my god. We need to record more video footage! Your E7 readings are off the charts!

Doctor Sims comes closer, his heart racing as he impatiently waits for his video camera to LOAD UP.

DOCTOR SIMS (CONT'D)  
 X-Files, Julie! X-FILES! The world needs to see you! We need to document your abilities! The scientific ramifications are endless!

Suddenly a HORDE OF POLICE AND SECURITY flood into the area. Doctor Sims' video camera finally flashes GREEN/READY, but Julie is already GONE.

NUALA  
 Oh, God...

A tear falls from her eye.

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
 Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

NUALA  
 What have we done?

EXT. CITY STREETS -- NIGHT

Julie has escaped the scene at the Arena.

She runs a little further, looking for cover. But there is a strange familiarity to her surroundings. She sees an ALLEYWAY that triggers another Vision-Memory.

She's been here before;

EXT. ALLEYWAY -- NIGHT

*Zhan is carrying YOUNG JULIE in his arms, wearing oversized blue work clothes. Young Julie appears CATATONIC, her body almost LIMP. Zhan is BLEEDING from his leg.*

*They duck into the alleyway, but it is a dead-end.*

*In rushes a YOUNG OFFICER FRYE, looking 7 years younger, a fearful look in his eye.*

*Zhan unleashes a MASSIVE SURGE of the Red Energy, STRIKING Officer Frye across his forehead, opening a DEEP CUT.*

*Officer Frye, seeing the Red Energy, is TERRIFIED BEYOND COMPREHENSION.*



*Zhan and Young Julie ESCAPE.*

EXT. CITY STREETS -- NIGHT

It is indeed in the same place. Julie is recognizing everything now, recalling the ordeal 7 years ago as if it was today.

Julie turns to face the BUS STATION. The Vision-Memory continues;

INT. BUS STATION -- NIGHT

*Zhan carries Young Julie over to NUALA, also 7 years younger.*

*She is boarding a BUS marked 'Hamilton'. She is ALONE.*

*Zhan GIVES Nuala Young Julie's limp HAND.*

*Nuala doesn't understand.*

*Zhan becomes upset, INSISTING fiercely.*

*More POLICEMEN are arriving outside.*

*Zhan FORCES Nuala to take Young Julie's hand, and RUNS AWAY.*

*The Policemen CHASE Zhan, leaving Young Julie behind with Nuala.*

*Nuala is overwhelmed with emotion.*

EXT. CITY STREETS -- NIGHT

And in a single moment, it all becomes clear.

Julie pieces it together, and inhales a moment of epiphany.

She looks down towards the harborfront, where she was earlier.

EXT. HARBORFRONT -- NIGHT

Julie has found the HOMELESS MAN that she had yelled at earlier that night. He is terribly distraught, almost near tears.

It is ZHAN. His face looks sick, pale and withered - nothing like the warrior of Julie's memory.

ZHAN  
The Light!!!

Zhan begins to crumble in sorrow and pain.

JULIE  
No, no, no...

Julie tries to support him in her arms.

ZHAN  
I have none!

JULIE  
No, look... You can have it too!  
See? We'll share.

Zhan looks up. Julie concentrates some of the White Light into her hands, and PASSES it to Zhan.

Zhan ACCEPTS it wholeheartedly.

Julie kneels down alongside him. Zhan is in ecstasy, his eyes suddenly wide with intense joy.

ZHAN  
Oh, thank you, thank you!

Zhan is crying tears of pure happiness and redemption. He holds the White Light in wonder.

Then, his expression changes suddenly, and he looks up at Juliana in desperation.

ZHAN (CONT'D)  
I did not kill him. Your father, I did not kill him.

Julie pauses.

ZHAN (CONT'D)  
They said it was me, but it was not me.

JULIE  
I believe you.

Zhan tries to say something more, but is unable to speak. He merely looks up at Julie, TEARS streaming down his face.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
It's okay, you did it right. You saved me. I remember now.

She WIPES A TEAR from his face.

Julie looks back, a vehicle coming towards her; a POLICE TRUCK with a smashed grill, BULLET HOLES in the windshield.

-Driving is Officer Frye.

Officer Frye's newly acquired vehicle comes to a SKIDDING HALT right at Julie, just as Skater Dude, Stoner Guy and Snowboard Chick arrive on foot.

SKATER DUDE

Yo, you are one trippy chick, ya know?

Officer Frye opens the passenger door for Julie.

OFFICER FRYE

I'm so screwed! I don't have anywhere to go!

JULIE

I do.

Julie looks to Skater Dude and his pals.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You guys feel like going for a ride?

STONER GUY

Yo, you want us to ride with a cop??

But Julie sees a new look in Officer Frye's eyes, as he stares in wonder at the withered Zhan.

JULIE

He's not a cop.

Nuala, Doctor Sims, and Paramedic Anna ARRIVE ON FOOT, just as Julie and her new friends pile into Officer Frye's new bullet-ridden stolen truck.

NUALA

Julie! Wait!!!

Paramedic Anna still holds the Stray Dog on a leash. Doctor Sims fumbles with his annoying 90's video tech.

DOCTOR SIMS

Work, dammit!!

PARAMEDIC ANNA  
Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear...

But Julie and her friends peel away.

They watch Julie ESCAPE, and then notice Zhan, still entranced with the White Light on his fingertips.

NUALA  
Where is she going??

Doctor Sims messes with some other home-made electronic GADGETS strapped to his gear.

DOCTOR SIMS  
I hooked a tracking device on her.  
Its working!

Doctor Sims reaches into another pocket and pulls out the MAP that Julie drew. And in a moment of inspiration, Doctor Sims turns the map around;

Instantly the map makes sense to him, and the little drawings along the dotted line suddenly are not so badly drawn at all - he recognizes the restaurant where they had a fight - the Rocky Mountains and train tracks - even the very harbor which he is standing right now, all perfectly clear.

The map begins to SPARKLE with some TRACES of the White Light. Doctor Sims sees it, and is astonished. It FLOATS in front of him, almost INVITING him to follow.

The Stray Dog SNAPS at Paramedic Anna.

*INT. YOUNG JULIE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT*

*It is the middle of the night. Mom is waking Young Julie up from a deep sleep.*

MOM  
(whispering)  
Julie! Julie, wake up.

*Young Julie wakes up, and sees the adrenaline in Mom's face.*

YOUNG JULIE  
...what's going on?

*Mom puts a finger to Young Julie's lips.*

*BJORN and the rest of the few DEFECTING FIGHTERS stand nervously at the cabin door.*

*A STRANGE FOG is seen out the window, slightly illuminated.*

*Mom grabs Young Julie's hand, and holds it tightly.*

*MOM*  
*We're leaving.*

INT. OFFICER FRYE'S NEW STOLEN TRUCK -- NIGHT

Julie, Officer Frye and friends have disembarked the FERRY, and CRUISE down a REMOTE LOGGING ROUTE, deep within the rocks and forests of the island.

Stoner Guy puts a CASSETTE TAPE in the dash, and a FAMILIAR PUNK SONG begins to play. Officer Frye immediately moves to shut it off, but Julie holds him back;

*JULIE*  
*Wait.. I know that song!*

Its the song she had in her walkman the night of Nuala's birthday party.

*JULIE (CONT'D)*  
*Turn that up!!*

Skater Dude CRANKS it.

Not a hundred feet in front of them, the White Light can be seen speeding swiftly, GUIDING their way.

Julie looks to Officer Frye.

*JULIE (CONT'D)*  
*You see it, don't you?*

Officer Frye looks at her, a tear in his eye. He NODS.

Ahead, there is a FORK IN THE ROAD. Officer Frye looks to Julie for guidance, but Julie doesn't say a word.

The White Light takes the RIGHT FORK, the left instantly drowned in darkness.

*OFFICER FRYE*  
*That way...?*

Julie smiles.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE RIVER -- NIGHT

They have reached the farthest point accessible by road; a remote rocky ocean shore on the far coast of the island.

A small LIGHTHOUSE stands unmanned and inoperative on the largest of the coastal rocks.

She recognizes the area immediately;

EXT. MOUTH OF THE RIVER -- NIGHT

*Young Julie, still asleep and bleeding on the RAFT, has finally reached the ocean. She drifts towards the same remote snowy pebble beach...*

*The raft begins to SINK into the current, and Young Julie's body begins to unconsciously SUBMERGE into the COLD WATER.*

*But just before she is under for too long, someone swims from underneath her, and LIFTS her back up to breathe.*

*It is Zhan, badly bruised and cut.*

*He CARRIES her to shore, and LAYS her on some rocks. Some FORESTRY WORKERS are fixing the lighthouse a few hundred feet away, dressed in blue work clothes.*

*Young Julie still bleeds from her cheek, unconscious.*

*Zhan looks deeply afraid.*

EXT. MOUTH OF THE RIVER -- NIGHT

Julie, Officer Frye, Skater Dude, Stoner Guy and Snowboard Chick approach the VERY SAME RIVER.

Officer Frye goes back to the truck for a brief moment, when he hears some SPLASHES in the water.

He looks back and sees that Julie has amazingly skipped across the river, and is already on the other side, making her way up a TRAIL that follows the river upstream into the winding river chasm.

Officer Frye attempts to run after her, but STUMBLES on the rocks and gets his boots WET - how did she get across so quickly?

EXT. SIFU'S COMMUNE -- NIGHT

Mom, Young Julie, and the defecting Fighters are making their way down through the Commune, RUNNING over the newly-fallen SNOW as stealthily as they can.

Suddenly they run into one of Sifu's LOYALISTS, carrying some supplies back to the cabins. The Loyalist freezes, surprised at this unorthodox gathering in the night.

He takes a moment to figure out what's happening, drops his gear, and RUNS off YELLING for someone to go wake Sifu.

The Defectors, Mom and Young Julie all run frantically, now sacrificing stealth for speed.

They continue down the trail. But before they get far, more Loyalists LEAP OUT from the fog, and RAISE THEIR FISTS threateningly to Mom, Young Julie, and the other Defectors, all ABLAZE with the Red Energy.

There is a momentary standoff, then the FIGHTING ERUPTS.

Then ZHAN APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE, striking 3 of the Loyalist Fighters in a single motion. The Loyalist Fighters are all taken aback, shocked at Zhan's apparent defection. Zhan stares at them, a new hint of honor in his emotionally scarred eyes.

Young Julie, Mom and the Defectors are equally surprised, but it is true; Zhan has chosen to PROTECT THEM.

ZHAN

Run!!!

EXT. COMMUNE CLIFFS -- NIGHT

Julie is running up the Trail, which hugs the side of the river chasm up towards the Commune.

She looks back - Officer Frye and the mouth of the river are well out of sight around the bend.

EXT. SIFU'S COMMUNE -- NIGHT

Young Julie and Mom continue running through the Commune downhill towards the Main Hall and the GATE.

It seems that they are going to make it.

*But all of a sudden, the doors of the Main Hall BURST OPEN, and the rest of the Loyalist Fighters EMERGE. TORCHES flare up, and the courtyard is LIT in an instant.*

*Bjorn and the other Defecting Fighters form a perimeter in front of Young Julie and Mom.*

*The FIGHTING begins.*

EXT. COMMUNE CLIFFS -- NIGHT

*Julie has reached the top of a ridge, where she can now look down into the Commune.*

*And amazingly, when she looks inside, she sees it is filled with the same ILLUMINATED FOG as in her memory.*

*And at second glance, she sees something even stranger:*

*The Commune has a thin layer of SNOW on the ground, just as she remembered.*

*And, at third glance, Julie sees something TOTALLY ALARMING:*

*-She sees the VERY SAME BATTLE happening in front of her; Zhan fighting with the Loyalists, HERSELF as Young Julie, Mom and the other Defecting Fighters attempting to escape.*

JULIE

Mom?

EXT. SIFU'S COMMUNE -- NIGHT

*Suddenly SIFU DROPS OUT OF NOWHERE, completely ILLUMINATED with his Red Energy. His presence is monstrous. He appears to be a mess of emotions.*

SIFU

*Come here, Young Julie!*

MOM

*No!!!*

*Mom FIGHTS with Sifu right away to draw him away from Young Julie, using the White Light style.*

*Sifu continually tries to advance on Young Julie, but Mom INTERCEPTS each time, drawing him away. She is fighting beautifully.*

MOM (CONT'D)

*JULIE, RUN!!*



Mom and Sifu continue to fight, the 2 styles juxtaposed together in war. Sifu throws VICIOUS STRIKES at MOM, but Mom's White Light style REDIRECTS them with grace and fluidity.

Finally Sifu unleashes a DREADFUL BLOW, sending Mom SMASHING into the log FENCE at the edge of the cliff, WEAKENING it.

MOM (CONT'D)  
 (harshly, to Young Julie)  
 Run!! Go!! Now!!!

Sifu approaches them.

Mom is FURIOUS, an anger in her eyes.

MOM (CONT'D)  
 You leave us ALONE!!!

Sifu ATTACKS, but Mom then suddenly unleashes a HUGE BURST of the WHITE LIGHT, and uses it to THROW Sifu viciously into a very large TREE, DAMAGING IT.

This catches everyone's attention, as it appears that Sifu is hurt. But he RECOVERS, and looks at Mom with vengeful eyes.

Sifu CHARGES AT MOM, illuminated with the Red Energy, but out of nowhere he is TACKLED by Bjorn, who uses ALL HIS MIGHT to run himself and Sifu OVER THE CLIFF'S EDGE. They both FALL out of sight.

For a moment, Mom and Young Julie appear to be free, but then the TREE that was damaged begins to TOPPLE.

YOUNG JULIE  
 Mom, look out!

The huge tree FALLS. Mom is too weak or aware to move out of the way in time.

The tree FALLS ON TOP of Mom, CRUSHING HER.

YOUNG JULIE (CONT'D)  
 Mom!

Young Julie loses all mental capacity at the sight of it, utterly TRAUMATIZED just like Mom was at Dad's death.

Julie, watching from afar, is re-experiencing this right before her eyes, re-living the horror as if it were for the first time.

She watches the climax of her long forgotten memory;

*In grief, Young Julie cries out, releasing a CATASTROPHIC BURST of the RED ENERGY.*

*It explodes from her uncontrollably, completely leveling the front of the Main Hall, setting it ABLAZE. The forest CATCHES FIRE. Everyone is shocked.*

*Julie stumbles against BROKEN SECTION OF THE FENCE, and FALLS OVER THE CLIFF along with it, LANDING ATOP of it on the cold RIVER below.*

*She is KNOCKED OUT. A DEEP CUT has opened on her cheek, bleeding steadily. The broken section of the fence carries her downstream LIKE A RAFT.*

EXT. SIFU'S COMMUNE -- NIGHT

Julie stares painfully at the clear and lucid IMAGE OF HER DEAD MOM, lying horrifically before her on the ground, broken underneath the weight of the massive fallen tree.

Suddenly everything around the Vision begins to fade away;

The FOG disappears, and the sounds of battle FADE into silence.

Julie looks up and sees Officer Frye, Skater Dude, Stoner Guy and Snowboard Chick, all standing awkwardly on the crest of the plateau.

Not a moment later, Nuala, Doctor Sims, and Paramedic Anna ARRIVE. Nuala is holding the MAP, with traces of the White Light all around it. Paramedic Anna holds the Stray Dog's LEASH. Doctor Sims is FILMING.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

There she is!

The image of Mom's Body VANISHES before Julie's eyes. Only the overgrown remains of the fallen tree remain.

JULIE

Noooooooooo!!!!

Julie crumbles down in tears, and this time there is no holding them back. 7 years of bottled emotions and repressed trauma come flooding out, as she SOBS openly for the first time. She COLLAPSES to the ground, still not fully accepting the magnitude of this revelation, and CRAWLS towards the spot where Mom died.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Oh Mom, oh Mom, oh Mom...

A faint GHOST-IMAGE of Mom can be seen, but it soon FADES AWAY. Julie looks around, processing everything she now understands, and CRIES again like a broken child.

Nuala, Doctor Sims, Paramedic Anna, and Officer Frye just watch helplessly.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I'm sorry..... I'm sorry...

She drops her head, all strength leaving her body.

There is a moment of silence.

A HUMAN FIGURE approaches from the trees.

It is Sifu.

He has visibly aged.

SIFU

I knew you would come. Eventually, in this life or the next. But when I saw you that day amongst the sun-rays...

Julie thinks back - the LIMOUSINE she saw in the city - the old man inside looking eerily familiar -

SIFU (CONT'D)

Then I knew our fate was near. You came back to me, Young Julie. I just made sure you arrived safely.

JULIE

Made sure?

Then ANOTHER FIGURE steps out of the shadows beside him. Julie recognizes him instantly; It is the Man in Straw Hat.

However he looks different now, stronger than Julie had seen before, full of pride, vibrant with power.

He is SIFU'S NEW APPRENTICE.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You..!

Julie is overcome with betrayal and rage. She looks at them both for a moment, piecing it together.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Then you DID follow me the whole way. You pretended to be my friend?

SIFU

He did only as he was instructed by me. I sent him only to watch over you, to help if needed. But I gave strict orders: You were to come on your own conviction.

Sifu stares at Julie again, amazed.

SIFU (CONT'D)

And you did. For we can never find true peace and belonging until we accept our true nature, and return to it, whatever the cost.

JULIE

My parents are dead because of you...

She tries to soak in the magnitude of those words.

Sifu is starting to lose emotional control, the sight of Julie's hatred for him too painful to bear.

SIFU

Whatever I did, I did for you!

JULIE

That's not true!!

Julie CHARGES TOWARDS HIM with murderous intent.

But Sifu's New Apprentice INTERCEPTS JULIE, engaging her in battle.

Sifu's New Apprentice brings a fierce game, but it does not take long before it clear he is NO MATCH for Julie.

Julie finishes with him swiftly with the Red Energy, sending him HURLING OFF into the trees.

Julie continues towards Sifu, now raging even stronger.

NUALA

Julie NO!!!

Julie FRONT KICKS Sifu to the ground, now raging viciously with the Red Energy.

Sifu goes down hard on the rocks, but offers no resistance. Julie stands over him, ready for the kill.

But rather than use the Red Energy, Julie reaches into her backpack, and TAKES OUT THE GUN SHE STOLE from Officer Frye 6 days ago in the alleyway.

She has been carrying it the entire journey.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

Oh, honey, no!

Julie is a hurricane of emotion, pain and hatred. Her heart rate is off the charts, her breathing tight and forceful.

She POINTS THE GUN at Sifu with all of her love and her hate.

NUALA

Julie don't do it!!!

Julie looks at Sifu's wretched face. Yet somewhere she begins to cry at the same time.

JULIE

I should kill you...

Her anger intensifies even further. She looks at the gun in her hands, confused.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I don't even need this...

She THROWS AWAY THE GUN. Officer Frye WATCHES where it LANDS.

Julie's hands become more ILLUMINATED with the Red Energy.

JULIE (CONT'D)

I'll kill you with your own power.

Sifu is astounded at the intensity of the Red Energy around Julie's fists.

SIFU

You truly are the Apprentice I've been seeking...

But then, the White Light APPEARS from within Julie's body, spontaneously. It surprises Julie, and snaps her slightly out of her rage.

The White Light INTENSIFIES, and starts moving down Julie's arms towards her fists, still glowing powerfully with the Red Energy. It begins to calm her down.

Everyone watches as the White Light COMBATS the Red Energy, and soon causes it to DISAPPEAR, leaving ONLY the White Light.

Doctor Sims continues to FILM.

The White Light soon takes over Julie's body completely, and starts to SHINE BRIGHTER THAN EVER BEFORE, so bright that Julie can SEE INTO IT as if it was a window to another world;

JULIE

Oh, I can see them!! I can see my parents!

Her anger dilutes completely, and Julie is filled with a sudden calm and resolve.

JULIE (CONT'D)

They're waiting for me! Where the water meets the sky...

She LAUGHS, her teary eyes dazzling in wonder.

She looks again at Sifu, repeating his own words:

JULIE (CONT'D)

...for we can never find true peace and belonging until we accept our true nature, and return to it, whatever the cost.

But the moment does not last;

NUALA

Julie! WATCH OUT!!!

Sifu's New Apprentice has RECOVERED, and POUNCES out from the trees towards Julie, RAGING with the Red Energy.

Paramedic Anna SCREAMS.

Sifu's New Apprentice winds up for a MASSIVE strike of the Red Energy, but Julie does not react. She sees him coming, but simply breathes in deeply, ILLUMINATING with the White Light.

Sifu's New Apprentice STRIKES Julie with all his POWER, KNOCKING her away from Sifu, and sending her FLYING into the trees. A brutal strike.

Everyone is shocked. Sifu's New Apprentice lets out a YELL of adrenaline.

- BANG! -

Officer Frye SHOTS HIM DOWN with one bullet.

Sifu's New Apprentice DROPS to the ground. SMOKE rises from Officer Frye's gun, still aimed accurately at Sifu's New Apprentice.

Officer Frye is horrified, and DROPS the gun, his hands shaking.

SIFU

Julie!!

Sifu rushes to her, CRADLING her head, WEEPING. Everyone else rushes to her side as well, desperately.

SIFU (CONT'D)

Julie NO!!

Nuala crouches over her, holding Julie's hand. Paramedic Anna begins her routine training protocols. Officer Frye does not move, his face ghost white with tears of guilt.

PARAMEDIC ANNA

That's it, sweetie, keep fighting!  
Come back to us now!

But Julie gives little response.

Sifu PUSHES Paramedic Anna out of the way, and tries to apply some Red Energy HEALING.

SIFU

Julie, you've got to fight it!!

He POURS his Red Energy into her, TRYING TO REVIVE her. But Julie's body is not taking it, and it is of no use.

Sifu begins to cry openly.

SIFU (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry, Julie, I didn't see!

Sifu holds her HANDS in his.

SIFU (CONT'D)

You should hate me...

But Julie just smiles at him, and begins to FADE OFF.

SIFU (CONT'D)

No, you can't leave me again! You  
have to fight it!

But Julie does not, a calm enlightened look in her eye.

SIFU (CONT'D)  
FIGHT!!!!!!!!!!

JULIE  
No...

She closes her eyes, her muscles finally giving in. She SQUEEZES Sifu's hands one last time.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
...Don't fight.

Julie DIES right there in his arms. Sifu breaks down in tears. Everyone watching is overcome with grief.

The sun is beginning to rise, and the first hints of MORNING LIGHT are beginning to peek through.

They can see the RUINED REMAINS of the Main Hall, now BURNT and OVERGROWN. Only the DOJO remains intact, still visible in the distance at the cliff's highest point.

Everyone is astonished; Julie's story was true.

Then, softly, suddenly, and to everyone's utter amazement, Julie's limp body BEGINS TO GLOW with the WHITE LIGHT.

They watch the White Light concentrate and EXIT FROM HER CHEST like a soul lifting from its body.

The concentration of White Light begins to give off SPARKLING TRAILS of itself out towards everyone;

Sifu receives some first, and trembles with the sensation.

More of the White Light floats down into Nuala's hands, then some to Paramedic Anna, weeping.

Some moves to Officer Frye, still stunned and overcome with emotion. He ACCEPTS it, also weeping.

The White Light moves to Skater Dude, Stoner Guy, and Snowboard Chick, who are all speechless, but likewise accept the White Light openly.

The White Light continues over to Doctor Sims, who is still FILMING at the edge of the CLIFF. Doctor Sims takes his eye off the video camera for a moment, as the White Light flutters down to him too.



Doctor Sims TRIES TO CATCH IT in his hands, but it makes him STUMBLE, and he DROPS HIS CAMERA equipment over the rocky cliff edge. The many WIRES pull all his other equipment along with it OVER THE EDGE.

DOCTOR SIMS  
No-no-no-no-no-no!!!!

It all plummets and SMASHES to the rocks and river below. For a moment he is devastated, but quickly returns his focus to the bits of White Light left behind before him.

Everyone follows the White Light out over to the CLIFF EDGE, a strikingly calm aura about them all as they watch JULIE'S SOUL fly away as the sun begins to come up over the horizon.

Paramedic Anna puts the Stray Dog on the ground, and hesitantly TAKES OFF THE LEASH. The dog SITS.

Doctor Sims and Nuala look to each other, a SUDDEN ATTRACTION in their eyes.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE RIVER -- MORNING

The White Light SOARS down the chasm, picking up speed and gliding over the surface of the water.

It passes the mouth of the river, where Zhan had saved her.

It lifts up over the ocean, and flies out towards the horizon with MAGNIFICENT SPEED.

EXT. OCEAN -- MORNING

*Julie's SPIRIT is FLYING high above the ocean. She is moving FAST, laughing. She can barely control it, unable to fly left or right, but can DIP and CLIMB in HUGE FAST ARCS.*

*She starts to get more control, and flies EVEN FASTER, a huge smile on her face. She LAUGHS again.*

EXT. DREAMSCAPE -- CONTINUOUS

*TIME passes RAPIDLY. Seasons change, weather patterns zoom in and out of each other, night and day MORPH back and forth, like breathing.*

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER -- DAY

Paramedic Anna, no longer wearing a paramedic uniform, is completing the adoption of a sheltered DOG to a happy FAMILY.

INT. NUALA'S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Nuala and Doctor Sims are sitting on her couch, gathering some snacks by the TV. They are about to watch X-FILES.

INT. BARBERSHOP -- DAY

Officer Frye, out of uniform, is getting his MUSTACHE professionally REMOVED.

INT. PUNKER'S DWELLING -- EVENING

Skater Dude, Stoner guy, and Snowboard Chick are all hanging out laughing, sharing stories of Julie.

Everyone CHEERS.

EXT. MOUNTAINS IN BHUTAN -- DAY

Zhan is hiking up a MOUNTAIN.

RUINS of a decimated BUDDHIST MONASTERY lies up ahead.

INT. MOM'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

*A memory from the Commune, the night Mom told Young Julie about the White Light;*

YOUNG JULIE

Mom?

MOM

Yes?

JULIE

*I dream about that place that Dad said sometimes... where the water meets the sky? And people ride on top of the waves?*

*Young Julie closes her eyes again.*

YOUNG JULIE

*...and Mom?*

*Mom looks at Young Julie's eyes, still closed.*

YOUNG JULIE (CONT'D)  
*...I'll never leave you either.*

EXT. OCEAN -- DAY

Julie's spirit is still flying, looking down at all these scenes.

Eventually, the White Light comes back to a more earthly realm, and DESCENDS on the South American continent.

-SOUNDS OF VOICES can be heard. Many voices.

A CROWD, chanting joyfully in unison, all SINGING on a BEACH.

EXT. TROPICAL BEACH -- DAY

The voices are louder now, a JUBILANT CROWD all SINGING TOGETHER, gathered on the beach for a live concert, on a beautiful day.

SURFERS play in the waves not far from shore.

Walking on the sand is a YOUNG COUPLE with a newborn BABY.

TEEN GIRL'S VOICE  
 (Brazilian Portuguese,  
 subtitled)  
 I remember it all so clearly now.  
 Everything.

The MOM and DAD are happy and in love, holding their child.

The BAND on stage begins a NEW SONG, and the lively Brazilian crowd explodes into a CHEER of pure joy, as they begin to all SING LOUDLY TOGETHER and dance vibrantly with the music. The Mom and Dad begin DANCING too with their baby.

The White Light slows down, and HOVERS high above.

TEEN GIRL'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
 Which is curious, because now...

The White Light TRANSFORMS into a single DROP OF WATER, glistening in the sun. It FALLS like a raindrop on the cheek of the Baby. The Dad LIFTS the baby high into the air, and the three of them DANCE TOGETHER in warm embrace.

TEEN GIRL'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
...I think I might just want to  
forget. All over again.

The CROWD erupts jubilantly once again with the music, on  
this beautiful day where the water meets the sky.

A SURFER catches a nice wave.

EXT. SAO PAULO AIRPORT -- MORNING

An international PASSENGER PLANE lands on the runway.

INT. SAO PAULO AIRPORT CUSTOMS CHECK -- MORNING

A CUSTOMS OFFICER stamps a PASSPORT.

CUSTOMS OFFICER  
(Brazilian Portuguese, subtitled)  
And there you are, sir.

She hands it to SIFU, who is dressed in some simple but well-  
tailored warm climate clothes. Sifu tucks the stamped  
passport into his POCKETS.

CUSTOMS OFFICER (CONT'D)  
Welcome to Brazil!

FADE OUT: