

Cheek To Cheek

Screenplay by

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***"The Devil doesn't come dressed in a red cape and pointy horns. He comes as everything you've ever wished for."
-Tucker Max***

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH-DAY

NICK (V.O.)
The things that we do in the dark,
they really do come to the light.

A bright day on the beach, a young man lies back on a **lounge chair, sunglasses** on. FRANKIE, 19. High school dropout. An arrogant, deranged and violent young man.

A young woman sits to his left, drying herself off. ALEXA, 18. Dropout. Naive, violent and deranged.

ALEXA
The water is cold.

FRANKIE
Can you like, shh! I'm trying to
get a good tan here!

ALEXA
Hey, Alexa, so happy you're
enjoying the water! Can I trouble
you to rub some suntan lotion on
your back. No, because I'm too busy
being an asshole!

Alexa stands up and steps away.

Frankie takes the sunglasses off. He sits up.

FRANKIE
Babe!!

A young girl steps towards Frankie. SIERRA, 20. A crafty and dangerous young woman.

SIERRA
Hey, mister!

Frankie looks at Sierra. He smiles as he sees how attractive she is.

FRANKIE
Yeah?

She turns her back to him, handing him a tube of suntan lotion.

SIERRA
Can you please put some of this on
my back for me?

Sierra pulls the strap to her **bikini top**, untying it.

Frankie squeezes it into the palm of his hand.

FRANKIE
Don't mind if I do!

He gently rubs it across her back.

SIERRA
Ooh! You got such firm hands. Do
you work out?

FRANKIE
I do.

SIERRA
Good.

Sierra turns around. She pushes him.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Pull yourself out of this!

Frankie falls backwards.

A deep hole forms in the sand.

He grips onto the edge of the hole.

The hole goes deeper.

Frankie looks at Sierra.

FRANKIE
Who are you!

SIERRA
Let me show you!

Frankie falls.

FRANKIE
Noo!!

His face frightened as he comes close to the light.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

In a *red painted bedroom*, a *red sheeted heart shaped bed* and a *red sheet* over a *lap*.

Frankie opens his eyes. He looks around the bedroom.

FRANKIE

Where am I?

Movement from underneath the sheet, crawling towards his groin.

His eyes grow scared, believing it to be a large snake.

Sierra peeks her head up, looking him in the eyes.

SIERRA

Peek a boo!!

Frankie smiles.

She leans her face towards his, moving her mouth towards his ear.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

(whisper)

Do you want more?

FRANKIE

Yes!

She kisses him on the cheek.

SIERRA

Do you want me to say hello to your little friend down there?

FRANKIE

Yes.

Sierra lowers herself down.

SIERRA

Okay.

Her head goes up and down.

FRANKIE

(moan)

(pant)

He looks down at her.

Blood dripping down her chin.

SIERRA
(laugh)

Frankie pushes her off of him.

Sierra drops to the floor.

Frankie jumps off the bed and rushes out of the bedroom.

Sierra stands to her feet. She wipes her mouth.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

Frankie runs through the hallway. He looks back.

Sierra stands behind him.

SIERRA
Where do you think you're going!

The doorway to the hallway gets smaller. Eyes appear over him. The doorway turns into a mouth. Sierra steps out of the shadows.

He backs up into Sierra.

FRANKIE
(scream)

His eyes frightened.

SIERRA
Frankie, Frankie, Frankie!! I'm so
disappointed in you!

A big hand appears in front of her.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
(wave)
Now, now!

FRANKIE
Who are you?

SIERRA
The real question you should be
asking is where are you?

FRANKIE
Where am I?

She touches her chin, thinking to herself.

SIERRA
Why don't you take a ride through
memory lane.

A light grows wide, blinding him. The light grows and grows.
Nothing is seen.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY-DAY

SUPER: THREE DAYS EARLIER

A **Red SUV** drives on EAST-10.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

A woman sits, looking at her **cell phone**, tapping on the screen. MARCY VALENTINE, 20. College student. Naive, kind and trusting.

A man in the driver seat, a **paper cup** in his hand. STU VALENTINE, 21. College student. Driven and courageous.

MARCY
Mom says she's looking forward to
having us there.

STU
So, she's not mad that we eloped?

MARCY
No, she is.

He looks at the **fuel gauge**.

STU
We better get off at the next exit.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION-DAY

Rolls of **donuts** in her hands and **canned soda drinks**.

ALEXA (O.C.)
Can you call a towing company?
Please!

Marcy looks at her, hearing everything that she is saying.
She steps closer to the counter.

ALEXA (CONT'D)
Call someone, please!!

MARCY
Do you need help with something?

Alexa looks at Marcy.

ALEXA
Yeah! What's it to you?

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION-DAY

Two flat tires on his *mustang*, Frankie looks at the tires,
feeling angry.

FRANKIE
Son of a bitch!

STU (O.C.)
Is everything alright?

FRANKIE
No!

He looks at Stu.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
I got two flat tires.

Frankie runs his hand through his hair.

Alexa rushes towards Frankie.

ALEXA
Baby! Good news!

FRANKIE
What!

ALEXA
(point)
This kind lady offered to give us a
ride.

Marcy steps around Stu.

STU
She did?

MARCY
Yeah. We'll take you to the next
town nearby.

Stu and Marcy look at each other.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

Stu looks in the rear-view mirror.

STU
So, where are you headed?

FRANKIE
Florida.

ALEXA
What about you?

STU
We're actually headed to Florida
too.

ALEXA
What a coincidence!

Stu looks in Marcy's direction.

Marcy shrugs her shoulders.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #122-MOTEL-NIGHT

Stu sits back against the headboard.

Marcy stands in front of the mirror, brushing her teeth.

STU
They're a strange couple.

Marcy spits.

MARCY
And we're not!

STU
We have an excuse.

She rinses her mouth out and rushes to the bed.

He looks at her and touches her cheek.

Marcy gets on the bed and leans her lips towards his.

ALEXA (O.S.)
(moan)

STU
(breath)

Marcy gets off of him and rolls to the other side of the bed.

Stu switches off the light.

STU (CONT'D)
Good night.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #123-MOTEL-NIGHT

ALEXA
(pant)

Alexa goes up and down on his lap.

Frankie grabs a hold of her hips. He pushes himself into her.

FRANKIE
(grunt)

She leans herself against him, kissing him on the cheek.

ALEXA
Do you want to go to bed now?

FRANKIE
We have to get up early.

ALEXA
Okay.

FRANKIE
Okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. FREEWAY-DAY

SUPER: DAY TWO

The Red SUV travels through the EAST I-10.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

Stu's hand grabs a hold of Marcy's.

Marcy looks at him and smiles.

Alexa looks at Stu and then at Frankie.

Frankie looks at Alexa.

Alexa eyes Stu.

Frankie eyes Stu.

Alexa nods her head "Yes."

FRANKIE
Can we make a quick stop?

STU
What do you need?

FRANKIE
I got to take a piss.

STU
Okay.

Stu looks at the next rest stop sign.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION-DAY

Frankie steps into the gas station. He holds the door open for Alexa.

She looks around the gas station.

GIRL CUSTOMERS #1 and #2, early teens.

Alexa looks at Girl Customers #1 and #2 faces. A frightened look on Girl Customer #1.

ALEXA

Boo!

Girl Customers #1 and #2 look away from Alexa.

ALEXA'S POV:

Music plays. "Sunshine Day" by The Brady Bunch plays.

Girl Customer #1 smiles and walks away.

Girl Customer #2 steps away with Girl Customer #1.

BACK TO SCENE

Alexa rushes to the bathroom. Her eyes filled with fear.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-GAS STATION-DAY

Alexa leans down and splashes her face with water. She closes her eyes.

ALEXA

Get a hold of yourself, Alexa!

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION-DAY

In the line to the checkout stand. Frankie stands, taking a look at a young woman standing behind a register. MARLEY, 20. Gas station attendant. Naive, down to earth and caring.

FRANKIE'S POV:

SIERRA (V.O.)

Go to her!

BACK TO SCENE

MARLEY

Next!

Frankie steps towards the counter. He drops a pack of **sunflower seeds** and a couple of **cans** of **coca cola** down.

MARLEY (CONT'D)
How's your day going?

FRANKIE
I can't complain. I'm here, talking
to you.

He looks at her name tag.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Marley!

She smiles.

MARLEY
That's my name, don't ware it out.

Frankie leans towards her ear.

FRANKIE
(whisper)
There's an itch deep down that I
like to scratch.

Marley looks at him.

MARLEY
Mark! I'm going on break!!

CUT TO:

INT. STORAGE ROOM-GAS STATION-DAY

Marley grips her fingers around the shelf in front of her.

Frankie stands behind her, going back and forth.

MARLEY
(moan)

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION-DAY

Stu looks at his watch.

STU
Where the hell are they!

MARCY (O.C.)
Stu, don't be impatient!

CUT TO:

INT. STORAGE ROOM-GAS STATION-CONTINUOUS

Frankie fastens his belt.

MARLEY
That was amazing.

He smiles.

Marley turns to him and kisses him on the cheek. She pulls the door open and steps out.

Frankie runs his hands through his hair.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

The back passenger door opens.

Alexa sits and shuts the door.

ALEXA
Are we ready?

She looks at the empty seat next to her.

ALEXA (CONT'D)
Where's Frankie?

STU
I was hoping he would come back
with you.

The door opens.

FRANKIE
Hey!

Frankie sits.

STU
Buckle up! We got a schedule to
keep to.

Alexa looks at him while she fastens her seatbelt.

FRANKIE

What!

She looks outside the window, ignoring him.

CUT TO:

EXT. FREEWAY-DAY

The Red SUV crosses over the state line of Arizona and passes into New Mexico.

Frankie sits back, asleep.

Alexa looks at him and back at the window.

Day turns into night.

The Red SUV has passed through three states so far in a day.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-MOTEL-NIGHT

Frankie and Alexa stand five feet away from each other, no eye contact.

Stu steps towards Frankie, tosses him their own *room key*.

STU

Your room's on the second floor.

Marcy grabs a hold of Stu's hand.

MARCY

(wave)

Good night.

ALEXA

(wave)

See you in the morning!

Alexa looks at Frankie. She steps towards the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-MOTEL ROOM #201-NIGHT

Her head soaking underneath the showerhead.

The curtain opens.

Frankie steps in. He gets close to her, kissing her neck.

ALEXA

What?

Frankie pushes himself closer. He brushes his hands through her hair, kissing her lips.

He looks at Alexa again but sees Sierra's face instead.

FRANKIE'S POV:

Sierra stares.

SIERRA

Are you going to take me back to
the bed and fuck me or what!

BACK TO SCENE

FRANKIE

Yes!

ALEXA

Yes what?

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #201-MOTEL-NIGHT

Alexa lies flat on her stomach, pressing her face into the pillow.

Frankie goes back and forth, pressing himself hard into her.

ALEXA

(moan)

She looks back at Frankie.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

Faster!!

Frankie goes at a faster pace. His eyes on Alexa's face.

SIERRA

(moan)

Fuck me harder daddy!

He gets on top of her, driving his entire body onto her.

ALEXA
(scream)

Frankie thrust himself deeper.

ALEXA (CONT'D)
Stop!!

Alexa pushes him off. She leans herself back against the wall.

ALEXA (CONT'D)
(breath)

Frankie looks at her, confused on what he was doing wrong.

FRANKIE
(breath)
What! I thought you told me to do
it harder!

Alexa jumps off the bed, and rushes to the bathroom.

The door slams shut.

He looks at the bathroom door as if he can see through it.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-MOTEL ROOM #201-CONTINUOUS

Alexa looks at herself in the mirror. She leans herself closer.

ALEXA
I actually liked it. The way it
felt.

SIERRA (V.O.)
Of course you did. It felt amazing,
didn't it?

ALEXA
Yes.

SIERRA (V.O.)
Go for more. Go!

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #201-MOTEL-CONTINUOUS

The bathroom creaks open.

Frankie looks at Alexa's naked body, then her face.

ALEXA

Are you ready for round two!

FRANKIE

Really?

She runs towards him and the bed.

He lays her down on the bed and presses himself into her.

ALEXA

(moan)

Go fast!

FRANKIE

Okay.

(grunt)

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #101-MOTEL-NIGHT

Stu looks up at the ceiling, hearing the noises from above.
He looks at Marcy.

MARCY

Come to bed, please?

Stu steps around to the empty spot next to Marcy. He sits back.

STU

Be ready in the morning.

He touches the **light switch** on the **lamp**.

The light goes out.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-MOTEL-DAY

SUPER: DAY THREE

Alexa stands alongside of Frankie. She looks around.

ALEXA
Where's the SUV?

Frankie looks at his watch.

FRANKIE
Checkout time was five minutes ago.

Alexa steps to the right and looks further down the parking lot.

ALEXA
Do you think --

FRANKIE
-- They fucking left us!

Frankie steps away from Alexa.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Let's go!!

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY-DAY

His thumb up in the sky.

ALEXA
Step aside pretty boy!

Alexa steps to the side of the road with her thumb up. She lowers her top to expose cleavage for the upcoming traffic.

A **beat-up station wagon** pulls over to the side of the road.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. STATION WAGON-DAY

An older man sits in the driver seat. MAN TRAVELER, late 50s.

Alexa leans down, her breast in front of him.

MAN TRAVELER
Do you need a ride miss?

Frankie pulls the passenger door open.

ALEXA
Yes!

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY-CONTINUOUS

The Man Traveler lies DEAD on the side of the road.
The Station Wagon drives away.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON-DAY

ALEXA
Woohoo!!!

Alexa sticks her head out of the window.

FRANKIE
Yeah baby!!!

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

Marcy sits in the passenger seat, feeling guilty.
Stu looks at her.

STU
What's bothering you?

MARCY
Was it right, us leaving like that?

STU
We don't know them.

MARCY
But --

STU
-- Don't worry so much, okay?

MARCY
Okay.

She looks outside the window.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-DAY

Marcy takes a sip from a glass of iced tea.

MARCY
I'll be right back. I got to use
the restroom.

She stands up and steps away.

Stu looks outside the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-RESTAURANT-DAY

The Station Wagon pulls into the parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-CONTINUOUS

Stu looks closer at the person getting out of the driver side.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-RESTAURANT-CONTINUOUS

Frankie shuts the door and looks around the parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-CONTINUOUS

STU
Shit!!

Stu reaches into his pocket and pulls out his wallet. He pulls out two twenty-dollar bills and lays them flat on the table. He goes to stand up.

A woman's hand touches his shoulder, pushing him down.

ALEXA

Hello.
(laugh)

Alexa walks around to the seat in front of him. She sits.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

How are you doing, Stuart!

Stu looks down, scared to look her in the eyes.

Frankie walks Marcy towards the table.

A look of concern on Marcy's face.

Frankie looks at Stu.

FRANKIE

Road trip!

CUT TO:

EXT. FREEWAY-DAY

The Station Wagon tails the Red SUV.

The radio plays. "Sunshine Day" by The Brady Bunch plays.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

Alexa sits in the middle of the back seat. Her hands over her ears.

ALEXA

Make it stop please!

Stu looks at Marcy and then at the radio.

Marcy turns the knob, silencing the radio.

MARCY

It's off.

Alexa lowers her hands.

STU

What now?

ALEXA

Now, you just drive and shut up.

Stu looks at Marcy.

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON-DAY

Frankie switches on the right turn signal.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-CONTINUOUS

ALEXA
Take the exit!

Stu turns the steering wheel to the right.

He looks at Alexa.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT-DAY

Stu walks around the Red SUV.

Alexa pushes him.

STU
I'm going okay!

ALEXA
Shut up!

Alexa pushes Marcy into Stu.

Stu wraps his arm around her.

STU
I got you.

Alexa points the gun in his direction.

ALEXA
Keep going!

Stu holds Marcy close, walking with her slowly towards a three-foot hole.

STU
What the fuck!

He pushes Marcy back.

Frankie drops the last of the dirt to the side of the hole.
He gets up out of the hole and steps towards Stu.

FRANKIE

(point)

Which one of you is it going to be!
Huh!

He reaches out for Marcy.

Stu pushes her back, away from his grasp.

Alexa steps behind Stu. She smacks the gun against the back
of his head.

Stu falls to the ground, unconscious.

MARCY

What did you do!

Marcy crouches down, touches Stu's face.

MARCY (CONT'D)

(sob)

Frankie grabs a hold of her, yanks her up and pushes her
back. Her hand in Frankie's grasp.

FRANKIE

Can you handle him baby?

ALEXA

Why?

FRANKIE

The misses and I are going to take
a ride, get some cash. Get him in
the hole.

ALEXA

That's what I said!

FRANKIE

(laugh)

Frankie pushes Marcy to the Station Wagon.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. STATION WAGON-DAY

FRANKIE

Get in!

Marcy opens the passenger door.

Frankie sits in the driver seat and slams the door shut. He leans towards her and shuts the passenger door.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)

Try running and it will not end
well for you. Got it!

MARCY

Yes!

He turns the key in the ignition.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT-DAY

Alexa kicks him in the side.

ALEXA

(laugh)
Did that hurt!

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-GAS STATION-DAY

The Station Wagon parks.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. STATION WAGON-CONTINUOUS

Frankie gets out of the driver seat.

The door shuts.

He steps towards the passenger door and pulls it open.

FRANKIE

Come on!

Frankie pulls her out by her arm. He slams the door shut.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION-DAY

Frankie walks Marcy to the ATM. He stands behind her.

FRANKIE
Hurry up!

She jumps from his outburst.

MARCY
Okay.

Her hand reaches into her pants pocket, and pulls out a **Debit Card**. She types in the pin number.

ATM SCREEN

Five-hundred dollars is selected.

BACK TO SCENE

She hits WITHDRAW.

The cash dispenser opens.

Frankie grabs the cash.

FRANKIE
Let's go!

He pushes her towards the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-GAS STATION-DAY

Frankie lowers his arm.

Marcy turns fast and runs.

FRANKIE
Bitch!!

Marcy runs into the gas station.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION-DAY

She rushes past a man. CLERK, 30s.

CLERK
What's wrong miss?

Marcy rushes into the women's bathroom.

Frankie steps in. He looks at the Clerk.

FRANKIE
What!

Frankie raises the gun up, pointing it at the Clerk.

The Clerk ducks behind the counter.

A shot is fired.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Bitch!

He rushes towards the women's bathroom, kicking the door open.

CUT TO:

INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM-GAS STATION-DAY

Frankie looks around.

FRANKIE
Come on out!

He steps in front of the first stall.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
You can't hide forever!

A kick to the door.

Nothing there but a toilet.

Frankie steps to the next door and kicks it open.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
If you come out, I promise I will
kill you slowly!

He kicks the door open.

Still, no Marcy in sight.

FRANKIE (CONT'D)
Let's make a deal. You can come
with me and Alexa. All you have to
do is say "Yes."

He kicks the door open.

Marcy stands in front of him.

MARCY
No!

She swings a hammer to his groin.

FRANKIE
(yell)

Frankie drops to his knees.

MARCY
Say yes to this!

She swings the hammer across his head.

He drops to the floor.

A puddle of blood forms around him.

Marcy drops the hammer.

MARCY (CONT'D)
So long you prick!

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION-CONTINUOUS

Marcy steps into the gas station.

The Clerk stands behind the counter. He looks at Marcy.

MARCY
Which way to the desert?

CLERK
Northwest that way!
(point)

MARCY
Thanks.

Marcy steps out of the gas station.

The Clerk watches her walk out and looks around.

CLERK
What the hell was that!

CUT TO:

INT. STATION WAGON-DAY

Her hands on the steering wheels.

The radio plays. "Sunshine Day" by The Brady Bunch plays.

MARCY
(sing)
SUNSHINE DAY!

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT-DAY

Buried to his neck, Stu is unconscious.

Alexa steps around him.

ALEXA
(sing)
RING AROUND THE ROSIE, POCKET FULL
OF POISES, ASHES, ASHES, WE ALL
FALL DOWN --

Alexa looks at Marcy.

A **tire iron** swings into her face.

Alexa drops to the ground.

Marcy looks back at her.

MARCY
Down!

Blood pouring from her nose, Alexa slowly stands to her feet.

ALEXA
Where's Frankie!

MARCY
Dead!

Alexa raises the gun up.

ALEXA
You can join him!

The sound of a rattle sounds.

MARCY
(point)

Alexa looks down at the three **rattlesnakes** at her feet.

ALEXA
Shit!

She attempts to run.

A rattlesnake strikes, biting her on her leg.

The second rattlesnake bites her on her buttocks.

The third bites her on the neck.

Alexa drops to her knees.

A fourth rattlesnake strikes, biting onto her face.

She drops face down. Her eyes open.

Marcy looks at the carnage left behind and nature acting on its own defense.

MARCY
Stu!

She steps towards him and starts to dig her hands through the dirt. Marcy looks back at the rattlesnakes and moves as quickly as possible.

MARCY (CONT'D)
Come on!!

Marcy pulls him up and drags him away towards the Station Wagon.

MARCY (CONT'D)
(breath)
I got you babe!

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

The radio plays. "I Got You Babe" by Sonny & Cher plays.

Marcy drives. She looks at him.

Stu rest his head against the back of the seat.

STU
(groan)

MARCY
We're going home sweetie. We're
going home.

She smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

SUPER: PRESENT

Frankie's face drops down. Now knowing he is someplace that nobody wants to be in.

Sierra wraps her arm around his back.

SIERRA
Welcome to hell!

She pushes him.

He falls down a hole.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
(laugh)
(wave)
Nice knowing you!

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-GAS STATION-DAY

Marcy steps towards the Red SUV, carrying two cups of coffee in her hands.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. RED SUV-DAY

The driver door opens.

Stu opens his eyes. He looks at Marcy.

STU
Are we there yet?

MARCY
(laugh)
Almost.

Marcy sits and hands him a coffee.

He takes it.

She shuts the door and takes a sip.

STU
Where are we?

MARCY
Little Rock, Arkansas.

STU
How long was I asleep?

MARCY
Two days.

Stu looks out the window.

STU
We got to get some rest somewhere.
I need to shower.

He looks at her.

She looks at him.

STU (CONT'D)
We need to shower.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #5-MOTEL-NIGHT

Nothing but the sound of water running from the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-MOTEL ROOM #5-MOTEL-NIGHT

His body pressed up against Marcy's. He goes back and forth.

MARCY
(moan)

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #5-MOTEL-NIGHT

Laid underneath the covers, Marcy lies on top of Stu.

MARCY
(breath)

STU
That was amazing.

MARCY
(breath)
Yes.

She looks him in the eyes.

MARCY (CONT'D)
Do you want to go again?

STU
We did it like five times already.

MARCY
There's nobody here to stop us.

STU
Good point.

He pushes her to the bed and gets on top of her.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

Hand in hand, Marcy looks at her hand in the grip of Stu's.
Music plays. "South Side" by Moby feat. Gwen Stefani plays.

CUT TO:

EXT. FREEWAY-DAY

The Red SUV drives past a sign. It read: Welcome to Florida.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-CONTINUOUS

The window rolls down.

Marcy sits up out of the open window.

MARCY
(wave)
Woohoo!!!

She looks back at Stu.

MARCY (CONT'D)
(laugh)

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

The Red SUV pulls into the driveway.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. RED SUV-DAY

Stu turns the key in the ignition. He leans back.

STU
Home sweet home! Isn't it great!

MARCY
Be nice.

STU
Okay but if he brings up one more
word about my major, he's going to
have some major pain.

An older woman approaches the Red SUV. KELLI, 40. A homemaker. Dedicated, loyal and caring.

Marcy opens the passenger door. She gets out and rushes to hug her mother.

KELLI
Oh! I miss those hugs!

MARCY
(sob)
(cry)

KELLI
Baby, what's wrong?

MARCY
I just missed you is all.

She looks at Marcy and wipes the tears from her eyes.

Stu gets out of the Red SUV and shuts the door.

KELLI
I got lunch started for you two.
Come on Stuart!

STU
It's Stu!

He follows them to the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Bite after bite, Stu barely has anything left of his
barbequed burger.

STU
Mmhmm --

Kelli steps past him, looking at Stu with concern.

KELLI
I'm glad you like it.

Marcy looks at him.

MARCY
(shake head)

Kelli sits.

KELLI
Are you going to have anymore?

Marcy covers her mouth.

MARCY
No. I'm feeling a little nauseous.

She stands up from the table and rushes out of the dining room.

Kelli looks at Stu.

KELLI
Do you want more?

STU
No thanks.

KELLI
Can you take the plates to the
kitchen. I'm going to go check on
Marcy.

Kelly stands up and walks towards the hallway.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Stu steps into the kitchen and sets the plates down on the
counter.

A man sits to his left at a dinner table. PAT, 42.
Contractor. Strict, persistent and stubborn. He lights a
cigarette.

PAT
Hello Stu?

STU
Patrick? You smoke now?

PAT
You sound like my wife.

Pat stands up.

PAT (CONT'D)
Have you ever considered being a
contractor? You would make enough
money to afford your own house
instead of that rundown apartment.

STU
Nope, never considered it.

PAT
Will you?

STU
Maybe.

Stu eyes the **knife rack** in front of him.

Pat walks past him and pats him on the shoulder.

PAT
Think it over.

His eyes follow him as he walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Stu looks at himself in the vanity mirror.

STU
I told you he was going to do it.

MARCY
My father's just trying to help
you.

STU
When is he going to let us make our
own decisions?

MARCY
When you do something financially
stable.

He steps towards the bed.

STU
I wish he would just mind his own
business and let us do things our
way.

Stu lies down next to her.

Marcy looks at him with a smile on her face.

He looks at her.

MARCY
(laugh)

STU
(laugh)
Come here you silly girl!

She leans towards him and kisses him.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE-DAY

A *fishing pole* in Stu's and Marcy's hands.

Stu looks at Marcy.

Marcy looks at Stu.

STU
(shake head)
Silly girl!

A sudden urge comes to her. Marcy drops to her knees.

STU (CONT'D)
Babe!

Marcy throws up into the lake.

Stu turns away.

STU (CONT'D)
Ugh!

He looks away, feeling sick to his stomach.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

SUPER: ONE WEEK LATER

Kelli stands in front of Marcy.

KELLI
I wish you could stay longer.

MARCY
Yeah, but classes start next week.

She wraps her arms around Marcy, hugging her.

KELLI
You take care of yourself. You take
care of my daughter, Stuart.

STU
(wave)
I will.

Marcy backs away and steps towards the Red SUV.

Kelli steps towards Stu and hugs him.

STU (CONT'D)
You been working out.

KELLI
Yeap.

She lets go of him.

Stu turns to the driver side door.

PAT
Stu?

Stu looks back at Pat.

Pat steps towards him. He reaches his hand out for his.

Stu shakes his hand.

CUT TO:

INT. RED SUV-DAY

Stu buckles up.

Marcy looks at Stu.

MARCY
Are we ready?

He turns the key in the ignition.

He puts the Automatic in Drive and turns out of the driveway.

CUT TO:

EXT. FREEWAY-DAY

The Red SUV drives down the road of the freeway.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENTINE APARTMENT-DAY

SUPER: SEVEN DAYS LATER

Laid asleep in their own *queen-sized bed*.

An alarm sounds.

Stu opens his eyes. He sits up and turns off the alarm.

STU

Babe, come on, let's get up?

Marcy presses her face deep into her pillow, hiding her face.

MARCY

Mmhmm --

Stu stands up.

STU

Are you going to get up?

MARCY

I'm not feeling good. Tell them that.

Stu steps towards the bathroom.

STU

Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. HUMANITIES CLASSROOM-DAY

Stu sits. He looks down at a man standing in front of the entire CLASS. ROBERT, 50. Professor. Confident, smug and conceited.

ROBERT

What makes a person do bad things.
His conscience, knowing right and wrong.

A bare foot sits on top of an empty chair.

Stu looks at the nice smoothed skinned foot. His mind wonders who the mystery woman could look like.

Robert looks at Stu.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Things go through a person's mind.
A good-looking woman, her body and that thing she does with her hair. That's called lust. Ladies, you better grab him before he turns in his card.

CLASS

(laugh)

Stu keeps his eyes on the foot.

The foot lowers down to the floor.

Sierra leans forward. She looks at Stu and smiles.

ROBERT
(clap)
Class dismissed.

The Class stands up and walks out of the classroom.

Stu closes his study book. His eyes on Sierra.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Does something else have your
attention, Mr. Valentine?

Stu looks at Robert.

STU
No professor.

ROBERT
What was the lecture then?

STU
Lust.

ROBERT
Good, what else?

STU
A man lusting after a good-looking
woman.

ROBERT
Very good. Please, pay attention
more.

STU
I will.

Robert steps away.

Stu looks at the seat and sees Sierra has vanished.

STU (CONT'D)
What?

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA-COLLEGE CAMPUS-DAY

He takes a big bite out of a **cheeseburger**, flipping through his history book. Stu looks around, seeing a lot of attractive GIRL STUDENTS. A young woman steps past him. She stares at him. BONNIE, 19. College student. Naive, caring and trusting.

His eyes follow her.

Sierra leans towards his ear.

SIERRA
(whisper)
Look at those eyes. Do you know
what they're saying?

STU
No.

SIERRA
(whisper)
Their saying come to me. Take me
hard! Will you?

He wipes his face with the **crumbled-up napkin** in his hand.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-DAY

She drops to her back on the bed.

Stu climbs over her, kissing her lips.

Bonnie pulls his shirt over his head.

He tosses the shirt to the floor.

She unzips his pants.

His eyes on hers.

BONNIE
Give it to me!

A good grip on her skirt along with her panties.

He presses himself against her.

STU
(grunt)

BONNIE
(moan)

CUT TO:

INT. EXAM ROOM-CLINIC-DAY

Marcy sits on the exam table, in a robe. She looks around the room. Posters of mothers and their babies.

DOCTOR, 30s.

A Doctor steps into the room.

DOCTOR
Hi?

Marcy looks at the Doctor.

MARCY
Doctor?

She sits across from her.

MARCY (CONT'D)
What's the word, Doctor?

DOCTOR
You're pregnant.

She covers her face in disbelief.

MARCY
(muffle)
Pregnant?

DOCTOR
Two weeks exact.

Marcy looks around.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Congratulations.

She stands up and steps towards Marcy, pats her on the shoulder.

The Doctor steps out of the exam room.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Stu sits up on the bed, tying his shoes.

Bonnie wraps her arms around him.

BONNIE
That was good.

Stu smiles.

STU
It was good for me too.

Bonnie kisses him on the cheek.

BONNIE
Same time, same place?

STU
Sure! Why not.

Stu stands up.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENTINE APARTMENT-NIGHT

Marcy stands in front of a mirror.

MONTAGE

-- Marcy at three months.

-- Marcy at six months.

-- Marcy at nine months.

BACK TO SCENE

Marcy feels her stomach.

She looks back at the door.

MARCY
Where's daddy little girl?

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA-COLLEGE CAMPUS-DAY

Face to face, Bonnie sits on Stu's lap, kissing him.

STUDENTS watch Bonnie and Stu, disgusted looks on their faces.

MARCY

Stuart Richard Valentine!

Stu's eyes open wide.

Bonnie looks at Marcy.

BONNIE

Who's she?

Stu lifts Bonnie off his lap. He turns to Marcy.

STU

Hey babe? Are you feeling better?

Marcy steps towards him and slaps him across the face.

MARCY

Go to hell!

Stu feels his face. He looks at Bonnie.

BONNIE

What was that about?

STU

My ex.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENTINE APARTMENT-DAY

MARCY

(sob)

(cry)

Marcy tosses socks into a duffle bag.

A knock on the door.

STU

Baby!

Stu steps into the bedroom.

Marcy zips the duffle bag closed.

STU (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

MARCY

Are you sorry for hurting me or are
you sorry that you got caught?

Marcy steps past him.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS-DAY

STU

Babe!

Marcy steps away from him.

MARCY

Get away!

STU

Just talk to me, please!

She stops at the curb and looks back at him.

MARCY

Leave me alone!

A garbage truck speeds past her, hitting her in the back.
Marcy falls to the ground, landing on her stomach.

STU

Marcy!!

Stu rushes to her.

GARBAGE TRUCK DRIVER, 40s.

Stu proceeds to turn her.

The Garbage Truck Driver steps towards Stu, grabs his hand.

GARBAGE TRUCK DRIVER

Don't! Don't move her.

Stu runs his fingers through her hair.

STU

Babe!

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Stu grips his hands together, looking into the abyss as he thinks of his injured pregnant wife.

DOCTOR, 40s.

A Doctor steps towards Stu.

Stu looks at him and stands up.

STU
Doctor, how is she?

DOCTOR
Mr. Valentine, come with me please?

The Doctor walks Stu down the hallway and approaches the window to the nursery.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

The Doctor stops, he looks at the newborns in the nursery.

DOCTOR
Your wife suffered excessive
hemorrhaging.

STU
What does that mean exactly?

DOCTOR
She's gone.

Stu covers his eyes, feeling guilt and anger at the same time.

STU
(sob)
The baby?

DOCTOR
She's right in front of you.

Stu looks at the name tag.

STU
She?

DOCTOR
You have a beautiful girl.

The Doctor steps away.

He leans his forehead against the glass.

STU
(cry)
(sob)

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY-DAY

Stu stands in front of the wooden casket, his eyes in a trance, feeling guilt.

Kelli and Pat stand behind Stu, their eyes on him.

Kelli rocks the newborn in her arms, calming her down.

Stu keeps his eyes on the casket as it lowers down into the hole.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-VALENTINE APARTMENT-DAY

Stu sits at the table, a bottle of beer in his hand.

Kelli steps towards the table.

KELLI
Stuart?

He doesn't move to the sound of her voice.

She sits.

KELLI (CONT'D)
Stu, can you hear me?

Kelli reaches out for his hand.

Stu pulls away.

KELLI (CONT'D)
We're going to move here and help
you take care of the baby, okay?

STU
Shh! She's sleeping.

KELLI

Who?

STU

The baby.

Kelli stands to her feet. She steps out of the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-DAY

Asleep on Bonnie's chest, Stu's eyes in a daze, he looks lifeless as he doesn't make a move.

BONNIE

Babe?

No movement from him.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Babe!

STU

(blink)

What?

BONNIE

I got some news.

He shuts his eyes.

STU

Yeah, what's that?

She leans her mouth towards his ear.

BONNIE

(whisper)

I'm pregnant.

Stu opens his eyes.

Bonnie waits for his response, the anticipation is driving crazy.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to say anything?

STU

Wow.

BONNIE

Just wow?

She pushes his head off her bare breasts.

Stu sits up.

Bonnie stands up and walks across the room. She grabs her panties and slides them up.

Stu grabs his boxers.

STU

I better get to class.

BONNIE

You better hurry before I wow you again!

Stu pulls his pants up.

STU

What crawled up your ass this morning!

Bonnie looks at him after hearing the remark.

He grabs his shirt and tosses it over his shoulder.

BONNIE

Just fuck off!!

Stu turns to the door. He pulls the door open and steps out.

The door slams shut.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

Loser!

CUT TO:

INT. HUMANITIES CLASSROOM-DAY

Stu sits at the top row.

A young woman kisses him on the lips. Mercedes, 18. A freshmen student. Naive and kindhearted.

ROBERT

Us men, yes, I'm including myself.
Since the dawn of time, we have
been sticking our heads some place
when we should be paying attention
in class.

His eyes in Stu's eyesight.

Mercedes backs away from Stu. She sits straight.

Robert looks at the front row.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

As I was saying. Men, gentlemen.
Proceed with caution because we
don't know how much time we have.
There's no telling when you are
going to see the ones you love
again. Class dismissed!

The Class stands up and scatters out of the classroom.

Robert steps up the stairs.

Mercedes steps past Stu.

MERCEDES

I'll see you out there.

She steps past Robert.

MERCEDES (CONT'D)

See you tomorrow, professor.

Robert looks back at her.

ROBERT

May you keep the grab ass in your
own time!

He looks at Stu.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

She's a beautiful girl, right?

Stu looks at him with disgust.

STU

Yeah.

ROBERT

Too bad she can't see past the real
problem.

STU
And what's that?

ROBERT
That thing dangling between your
legs. Those good looks you use to
flirt with her. It's all going to
fade away, trust me.

Stu steps towards the steps.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Keep the tomcatting out of my
classroom, please and you might
pass the course.

He looks at Robert.

STU
Understood.

ROBERT
Good.

Stu steps down the steps.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-COLLEGE CAMPUS-DAY

Stu steps into the hallway.

Mercedes steps alongside of him.

He wraps his arm around her back and rests his hand on her
shoulder.

MERCEDES
Where to?

Stu looks at her like she's supposed to know.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-DAY

Stu goes back and forth while Mercedes sits on all fours.

MERCEDES
(moan)
(grunt)

He goes at a fast pace.

STU
(grunt)

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-DAY

The door closes behind him.

Stu steps down the hallway.

Bonnie steps towards him. She looks at Stu.

He looks at her with a smug look of satisfaction.

She stops and looks at him.

BONNIE
I see that you wasted no time.

STU
I got to move on sometime!

BONNIE
Son of a bitch!

Stu walks away, feeling proud of what he said.

STU
(laugh)

She steps down the hallway and turns to the door that Stu came out of.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-CONTINUOUS

The door opens.

Mercedes covers herself with a robe. She looks back at Bonnie.

BONNIE
Hello.

Mercedes ties the strap to the robe.

MERCEDES
Hey, how was class?

BONNIE
I want to ask the same thing.

MERCEDES
Oh, him. He's just helping me
study.

BONNIE
And then some.

MERCEDES
What's that supposed to mean?

BONNIE
Listen, please?

Mercedes sits down across from her.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENTINE APARTMENT-DAY

Stu drops to his bottom on the sofa. He sets his feet up.
The sound of the newborn wailing doesn't get to him.
He closes his eyes.

KELLI (O.S.)
Stuart!

Kelli rushes into the living room.

KELLI (CONT'D)
You don't hear the baby!!

STU
What baby?

KELLI
You selfish bastard!

Kelli steps out of the living room.

Stu turns to the back of the sofa.

STU
Yeah, yeah, whatever! No one asked
for your help!

The front door slams shut.

Pat stops and looks around.

PAT
What's going on here?

Kelli steps into the living room.

KELLI
This is what is going on!

Stu sits up and runs his fingers through his hair in anger.

PAT
What kind of man are you!

STU
Not like you.

Pat steps closer to him, leans down.

PAT
My daughter deserved better.

He looks at Kelli.

PAT (CONT'D)
Kelli, we're taking her. Get her
stuff ready!

Kelli steps out of the living room and steps towards the
bedroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-DAY

Kelli steps towards a pick-up truck. She looks back at the
window at the second floor.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENTINE APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Stu looks out the window. His eyes in sadness, realizing he's
lost everything but has no heart to keep it.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS NEIGHBORHOOD-NIGHT

Stu walks down the sidewalk and steps in front of a
fraternity house. Stu looks away and then back at the house.

STU
What the hell!

Stu steps towards the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-FRATERNITY HOUSE-NIGHT

Stu stands in front of two young girls. FRAT GIRL #1 and #2.
19 and 20. He raises a **solo cup** over his mouth.

STU
(gulp)

Their eyes in amazement.

He drops the cup to the floor.

FRAT GIRL #1
Holy shit!

Stu looks at both of them.

STU
Tell me, which of you ladies likes
it from behind?

FRAT GIRL #2
We're not picky.

FRAT GIRL #1
Yeah.

He smiles.

STU
Good. Neither am I.

Frat Girl #1 grabs his hand and walks him up the stairs.

FRAT GIRL #2
What about me!

Stu grabs a hold of Frat Girl #2's hand.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-FRATERNITY HOUSE-NIGHT

Stu falls back onto the bed.

Frat Girl #1 climbs on top of him. She kisses Stu.

FRAT GIRL #2 (O.C.)
Hey! Save some for me!

Frat Girl #2 lifts her shirt over her head, exposing her bare breasts.

Stu looks at her and smiles.

STU
(wave)
Come here!

She steps towards him and kisses him.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS NEIGHBORHOOD-NIGHT

Bonnie walks past the fraternity house.

BONNIE
(shake head)
Idiots!

Night turns to morning.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-FRATERNITY HOUSE-CONTINUOUS

Laid asleep in bed, Stu lies under Frat Girl #1 and #2. He opens his eyes.

STU
(moan)

He grabs at his head, feeling the effects of a serious bad hangover.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-DAY

Stu steps up to the door to his apartment and sees a notice on it. He takes it off the door.

STU
Whatever!

Stu unlocks the door and opens it.

The door slams shut.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENTINE APARTMENT-DAY

Underneath the bed, digging through a **shoe box**. Stu pulls out a **wad** of **cash**. He looks at the cash and smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-CONTINUOUS

A man steps towards the door, ready to use a **power drill**.
LANDLORD, 30s.

The door opens.

Stu peeks his head out.

STU

Here!

Stu tosses an envelope out to the front steps.

The Landlord picks it up and looks at Stu.

STU (CONT'D)

Fuck off!

The door slams shut.

The Landlord turns around and steps away.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOTORCYCLE DEALERSHIP-DAY

Stu steps through the rows of **motorcycles**.

SALESMAN, 30s.

He stops.

STU

That one!

SALESMAN

Great choice, sir!

The Salesman turns to the dealership.

SALESMAN (CONT'D)
Let's go get the paperwork signed.

STU
Yes, sir.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD-DAY

Riding on a *Harley Davidson motorcycle*, headed south. Stu presses his foot on the gas pedal.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-DAY

Stu walks down the steps of the apartment complex, carrying a duffle bag.

Bonnie steps towards him.

BONNIE
Hi.

Stu looks at her and her pregnant baby bump.

BONNIE (CONT'D)
Going somewhere?

STU
I have to go see my daughter.

BONNIE
And what about this one?

STU
I never said I was leaving for good.

Bonnie looks down, feeling sad.

STU (CONT'D)
What?

BONNIE
Every guy has said that and guess what? They never stuck around.

He steps a little closer to her and kisses her.

STU
I'm not like other guys.

She steps back.

BONNIE
Call me when you get back.

STU
I will.

Bonnie turns around and walks away.

Stu sits on the motorcycle, takes one glance at her and drops his foot to start the engine.

She watches him ride away on the motorcycle.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD-DAY

Stu drives the motorcycle down the road. He passes through busy traffic.

The road up ahead is blocked by trucks and a crashed car up ahead.

He looks to his right, taking his eyes off the road, looking at the accident on the side of the road. Stu looks at the road. His eyes grow in shock. He cannot stop but take the bad outcome that is about to hit like a ton of bricks.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

A phone rings.

Kelli picks up the receiver and presses it to her ear.

KELLI
Hello?

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-REYES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

KELLI (O.S.)
(sob)
(cry)

A sound of glass crashes.

Pat stands up.

PAT

Kelli!

He steps out of the office.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Kelli sits on the floor, the receiver in her hand.

KELLI

(cry)

Pat steps towards her. He crouches down.

PAT

What? What happened?

She looks at him.

KELLI

He's dead. They found Stu dead in a tree.

He wipes the tears from her eyes and hugs her.

KELLI (CONT'D)

The poor girl has no parents.

PAT

She has us.

Pat hugs her, consoling her.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

SUPER: SIX YEARS LATER

An alarm clock sounds.

A little hand belonging to a little girl hits the off button.
MAYA, 6. A homeschooled girl living with her grandparents.
Charismatic, loving and courteous.

MAYA
Grandma!!

CUT TO:

INT. MASTER BEDROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Kelli turns and hides her face.

MAYA (O.S.)
Grandma!!!

Kelli sits up.

KELLI
Coming!

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Maya sits in front of the **vanity** mirror while Kelli gently brushes her hair. Kelli grabs a **pink beret** from the vanity.

MAYA
I don't have to wear that, do I
grandma?

KELLI
Not if you don't want to.

She sets it back down on the vanity.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-DAY

A man sits on a bed; his eyes are on a suit jacket picked out for him by his wife. NICK, 30. Custodian. A kind and gentle man.

A woman walks into the bedroom in a flowered dress. BRENDA, 24. Paralegal. A stubborn, driven and caring woman.

BRENDA
Why aren't you dressed?

NICK
I don't want to do this!

BRENDA
Stand up!

Nick stands up.

She grabs the jacket.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
We're doing this whether you like
it or not! Remember, charity is
caring. Get those arms in!

He puts his arms through the sleeves.

Brenda pulls it down over his back and straightens it for
him.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
There! You're handsome. Look!

She turns him to the mirror.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
See!

NICK
(laugh)

Brenda kisses him on the cheek.

BRENDA
I'll meet you in the car.

She steps out of the bedroom.

Nick looks at himself in the mirror.

NICK
It's not so bad.

EXT. PARKING LOT-HOSPITAL-DAY

A 2005 Escalade parks.

CUT TO:

INT. 2005-ESCALADE-DAY

Kelli puts the AUTOMATIC in PARK.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-COMMUNITY CENTER-DAY

Maya sits in a *wheelchair* while Kelli pushes her through the hallway.

KELLI
Are you excited?

MAYA
Yes!

KELLI
Me too.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNITY HALL-COMMUNITY CENTER-DAY

Brenda stands in front of Nick, tying his *tie*.

BREND
How often do we have to go out for
you to wear suits like this?

NICK
Once.

BREND
Once a week, or a day?

NICK
Year.

She pushes him.

BREND
(laugh)

He looks at Maya as she gets closer.

Brenda looks at him and then looks at Kelli.

BREND (CONT'D)
Hi.

KELLI
Hello?

Maya ducks her head down, her eyes wander as she hopes she's invisible.

BREND
My name is Brenda.

She shakes Kelli's hand.

KELLI
Nice to meet you. I'm Kelli.

BRENDA
This is my husband Nick.

Nick shakes Kelli's hand.

KELLI
It's good to meet you both.

He crouches down to Maya.

NICK
And who is this beautiful girl?

KELLI
This is Maya. She's a little shy.

NICK
Is that so. Guess what?

MAYA
What?

NICK
I'm shy too.

BRENDA
Don't listen to him sweetie. He's
never been shy, not even when he
met me.

Sitting side by side, Nick and Brenda hold hands, with their
attention drawn to the stage.

A man stands with a **microphone** in his hand. SPOKESPERSON,
30s.

SPOKESPERSON
Good afternoon, ladies and
gentlemen. We are pleased to have
you here for the children's cancer
benefit.

EVERYONE
(applause)

SPOKESPERSON
That being said, it is time to
announce the volunteers.

The Spokesperson reaches into his front pocket and pulls out a card. He looks at the name on the card.

SPOKESPERSON (CONT'D)
Mr. Nicholas Valens!

Nick looks at Brenda.

NICK
What?

BRENDA
I signed you up by the way.

The Spokesperson looks around for Nick.

SPOKESPERSON
Oh Mr. Valens! Please stand up!

Brenda pushes him.

Nick stands up.

The Spokesperson looks at Nick.

SPOKESPERSON (CONT'D)
Please step up to the stage!

Nick steps up the steps. He turns to Everyone in the community hall.

SPOKESPERSON (CONT'D)
Now, Mr. Valens, are you ready to
know who will be your lucky buddy?

NICK
Yes.

The Spokesperson pulls out another card. He looks at it.

SPOKESPERSON
Maya Valentine!

Nick looks at Maya.

Maya smiles.

He smiles.

Brenda stands up.

BRENDA
(clap)

MAYA
(clap)

SPOKESPERSON
Thank you. You may step down Mr.
Valens.

Nick steps down the steps.

He sits alongside Brenda.

NICK
Yeah, I think I'm going to get you
a present for this.

BRENDA
Really?

He raises his hand to his face and scratches his nose with
his middle finger.

Brenda smiles. She leans her head on his shoulder.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
(whisper)
You're going to thank me someday.

Nick looks back at Maya.

Maya smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-COMMUNITY CENTER-DAY

Nick stands, waiting for Brenda to come out of the bathroom.

KELLI (O.C.)
Mr. Valens?

Nick looks back at Kelli.

KELLI (CONT'D)
I just want to thank you.

He looks down at Maya.

KELLI (CONT'D)
Maya really doesn't ask for much
and she is left out of everything.

NICK
It'll be a pleasure to spend some
time with her.

CAMERAMAN, 20s.

CAMERAMAN
Can I get a picture of the two
lucky buddies together!

NICK
Sure.

Nick crouches down to Maya's right side.

The Cameraman leans down and snaps a picture of Nick with
Maya.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Nick sits at the edge of the bed.

BRENDA (O.C.)
You were so cute with her!

NICK
The poor girl deserves a better
role model.

BRENDA (O.C.)
(spit)

Brenda steps out of the bathroom and steps towards him.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Are you kidding me. You're great
with Nicola.

Nick feels her belly bump.

NICK
How's my little girl in there?

BRENDA
She's good. Kicking like crazy but
good.

NICK
Good.

Nick hugs onto her waist. His ear pressed against her stomach.

She closes her eyes and runs her fingers through his hair.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS-DAY

A bus stops in front of the Reyes residence.

Nick stands up and steps towards the exit door.

DRIVER, 20s.

Nick looks back at the Driver.

The Driver opens the door for him.

NICK

Thanks.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Nick steps towards the front yard. He looks at the lillies on the lawn.

NICK

Nice!

He presses his finger onto the **doorbell**.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Kelli opens the door and holds it open for him.

KELLI

Come in Mr. Valens.

Nick steps in.

Kelli shuts the door.

KELLI (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Mr. Valens but she's not feeling well this morning.

Nick looks down the hallway.

NICK
Can I try to lighten up the mood?

KELLI
Sure. She likes to watch movies.
Try that.

He steps towards the hallway.

KELLI (CONT'D)
Thank you, Mr. Valens. She really
needs this. Maya's father and
grandfather are both gone. I want
her to have a male role model.

Nick looks back at her.

NICK
No problem. Please, call me Nick.

KELLI
Okay, Nick.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Nick gently knocks on the door, steps in and walks towards the bed.

Maya opens her eyes.

NICK
I hope I didn't wake you.

MAYA
No, I was just resting my eyes for
a moment.

Nick sits in the rocking chair in front of her.

NICK
What movie do you want to watch?

MAYA
No movie. Can you just stay a
while, with me.

NICK
Sure.

MAYA
Can you come a little closer?

He steps closer and sits on the edge of the bed.

Maya grabs a hold of his hand.

Nick grips tighter, helping her know she has someone fighting with her.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-DAY

Nick stands in front of a **propane grill**. He flips a **hamburger patty** over.

Brenda steps towards him.

BRENDA
Hey babe!

Nick keeps his attention on the hamburgers sizzling on the grill.

She looks at him with concern.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Babe?

He looks at her.

NICK
Hey.

Brenda touches his arm.

BRENDA
What's going on?

NICK
I never see anyone like that before. Not a little girl.

She takes the **steel spatula** from him.

BRENDA
Baby, listen?

Nick looks away.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Look at me, please?

He looks at her.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
She's strong, okay. You are there
with her for a reason. Okay?

No sign of emotion, just a blank expression of guilt.

She hugs him.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Baby!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

He sits at the edge of the bed, rocking his one-year-old daughter in his arms.

Nick looks back at Brenda asleep under the covers. He stands up.

A kiss to her cheek.

Brenda opens her eyes.

He gently caresses her cheek.

BRENDA
Good night. I love you.

Nick turns to the door, carrying the toddler out of the bedroom.

NICK
I'll be right back.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSERY-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Nick lays the toddler down in the crib. He kisses his hand and lays it on her head.

NICK
Good night angel.

He steps out of the nursery and cracks the door.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-CONTINUOUS

Nick crawls onto the bed. He scoots closer to Brenda, grabs her from behind.

Brenda looks back at him.

BRENDA
Baby.

He kisses her on the cheek.

NICK
Good night.

BRENDA
Good night.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS-DAY

The bus stops.

The Driver looks at Nick as he sees he's looking at the front yard through the window.

DRIVER
Are you alright?

Nick looks at the Driver.

NICK
I'm good, thanks for asking.

The Driver opens the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Nick steps towards Maya.

MAYA
Hi.

NICK
Are you ready?

MAYA
Yes.

Nick gets behind the wheelchair and pushes her towards the bus.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS-CONTINUOUS

A **red ribbon** wrapped around her head, covering her eyes.

MAYA
Are we there yet?

NICK
Almost.

MAYA
(breath)

Nick pushes her a little further.

MAYA (CONT'D)
Are we there yet?

He removes the ribbon.

NICK
Why don't you see for yourself.

She looks at the carnival just across the road.

MAYA
Really!

NICK
Yes.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-DAY

Nick pushes the wheelchair past the rides.

Maya closes her eyes and smells the sweet aroma of the **cotton candy, funnel cakes** and **popcorn**.

Nick sits across from her, eating a **hot dog**.

Maya takes a big bite from hers.

NICK
Is it good?

Maya nods her head "Yes."

An **ice cream cone** in her hand, Maya licks it as it melts all over her hands.

NICK (CONT'D)
(laugh)

At the top of the **Ferris Wheel**, Nick sits with Maya.

Her eyes stare off into space, with something on her mind.

NICK (CONT'D)
Do you want anything else?

MAYA
No thank you.

He pushes her towards the bus.

Maya's hands are full of two stuffed **teddy bears**.

NICK
That was fun, wasn't it?

MAYA
Uh huh.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Kelli stands in front of Maya as Nick pushes her closer.

KELLI
Did you have fun?

MAYA
Yes.

KELLI
Two bears!

Kelli looks at Nick with a smile.

KELLI (CONT'D)
Thank you.

NICK
No problem.

Nick steps in front of her.

MAYA
Thank you, Nick.

NICK
No problem. It was fun. I'll see
you in a couple of days.

Nick steps towards the bus.

KELLI
Good night.

NICK (O.C.)
Good night!

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS-DAY

Nick steps off a *city bus*.

Bonnie rushes towards the bus, carrying her five-year-old son
in her arms.

BONNIE
(wave)
Stop!

The doors close.

Nick gets in front of the bus.

NICK
(wave)

The doors open.

Bonnie looks at Nick, smiling.

BONNIE
Thank you.

NICK
No problem.

She rushes up the steps.

Nick steps away.

The bus drives off.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Nick flips a **T-Bone steak** over on the grill.

Brenda steps onto the porch.

BREND
Hey babe!

NICK
Hey.

She sits.

BREND
Smells good.

NICK
Yeah, I stopped by the market and
got dinner.

BREND
How was your day with her?

NICK
She had fun.

BREND
Good.

NICK
She got to take two teddy bears
home with her, but I believe she's
going to cherish the fun she had.

BREND
Good. That's really good.

NICK
So, dinner is on me.

Nick stands up. He grabs the **tongs**.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

The Television is on.

Nick sits up with Brenda laying her head on his lap.

He grabs a handful of popcorn from the bowl on her stomach.
His eyes on hers. Nick drops a few coronels into her mouth.

Brenda sits up and chews.

BRENDA
Thank you.

She grabs the remote and hits the power button.

Nick stands up to his feet, grabs the bowl and kisses Brenda on the lips.

NICK
I'm just going to go bag this.

BRENDA
Hurry back cuddle buddy.

NICK
(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Nick sets the bowl of popcorn on the counter. He opens the cupboard.

A phone rings.

BRENDA (O.S.)
Hello?

Nick listens.

BRENDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Yes?

His eyes wander, wondering if it's good news or bad.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
(sob)
When?
(cry)

A tear streams down his cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-DAY

Nick steps into the room.

Kelli stands up. She steps towards him.

KELLI
Glad you're here.

He hugs her.

She backs up.

KELLI (CONT'D)
Please, sit!

Nick looks at Maya as she lies in a coma. He sits.

KELLI (CONT'D)
I'm going to the cafeteria. Do you
want anything?

NICK
No thank you.

She steps out of the room.

Nick moves the chair closer. He grabs her hand.

NICK (CONT'D)
I know you're there.

He squeezes her hand.

NICK (CONT'D)
You are one of the sweetest girls I
ever met.

Nick stands up and leans towards her face, kissing her cheek.

PASTOR (V.O.)
As we lay our sister, Maya to rest.
May she find rest. Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY-DAY

Kelli's eyes on the little casket. Her eyes move to the left,
looking at the other two tombstones of Marcy and Stu.

KELLI
(sob)
(cry)

Nick lays his hand on Kelli's shoulder.

Kelli touches his hand.

KELLI (CONT'D)
(cry)

CUT TO:

INT. BRENDA'S CAR-DAY

Brenda puts the Automatic in Park. She turns off the ignition.

Nick sits and looks outside the window.

BRENDA
We're here.

She takes off the seatbelt and opens the door.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Are you coming?

NICK
I'll be there in a minute.

Brenda opens the door and gets out.

The door slams shut.

NICK (CONT'D)
(breath)

Nick leans his head against the door and closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

Kelli steps towards the coffee table and sets a **tray** of **lunch meat, cheese** and **crackers** down.

BRENDA
Hi.

KELLI
You made it!

BRENDA
Yeap.

She looks around.

KELLI
Where's Nick?

BRENDA
He's in the car.

Kelli steps past Brenda.

KELLI
Excuse me, please?

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. BRENDA'S CAR-DAY

Kelli knocks on the window.

Nick opens his eyes. He looks at Kelli.

Kelli opens the door.

KELLI
There's something I have to show
you.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-REYES RESIDENCE-DAY

The door opens.

Kelli walks into the bedroom.

Nick walks in and looks around.

She picks up a framed photograph from the nightstand and
shows it to him.

KELLI
This is how she felt about you.

He steps closer and takes it from her.

KELLI (CONT'D)
She loved you.

Nick drops to his knees.

NICK
(cry)

Kelli kneels down and hugs him.

Brenda stands in the doorway. She wipes her eyes.

BRENDA
(sob)

She steps away.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. BRENDA'S CAR-DAY

Nick's eyes are on the photograph. He looks at Kelli standing on the other side of the door.

KELLI
(wave)

The car drives away.

He looks back at Kelli.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-DAY

Nick sits at the dinner table.

Brenda steps in. She caresses her belly.

BRENDA
Nick?

He doesn't look in her direction.

She turns away.

NICK
Yes.

Brenda turns back and walks towards him. She rubs his face.

BRENDA
I'm proud of you. For everything.

Nick looks at her.

She vanishes.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWAMP-DAY

Nick's eyes are on the water. He sees himself with Maya.

MAYA (V.O.)
(laugh)

He picks up a **lantern** from the ground.

Nick stands up and turns away from the water.

DREYA (V.O.)
I'm in college!

CARLA (V.O.)
So! You're still living in my
house!

Nick looks down at the water. He sees two women face to face with each other. DREYA, 21. College student. Naive, stubborn and self-centered. CARLA, 36. Artist. Strict, caring and overbearing.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-NIGHT

Dreya steps towards the front door. She grabs the keys from the key ring.

Carla steps towards her.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. ESCALADE-NIGHT

The driver door to an Escalade unlocks.

Dreya rushes to the door and pulls it open. She sits.

Carla rushes to the door.

The door locks.

CARLA
Unlock the door!

Dreya puts the key close to the ignition.

The Escalade starts.

She puts the Automatic in Drive and presses her foot on the gas pedal.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEL AIR NEIGHBORHOOD-NIGHT

The Escalade drives through the Bel Air neighborhood.

It merges into oncoming traffic.

A car runs into the Escalade.

The Escalade flips over.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. ESCALADE-NIGHT

Dreya's head is against the roof of the Escalade. She fights to keep her eyes open.

DREYA

Mom?

Her eyes close.

A trail of flames follows the Escalade.

A man grabs a hold of Dreya's seatbelt. He cuts the seatbelt strap and pulls her from the Escalade. HOMELESS MAN, 30s.

He lifts her up and carries her away to the sidewalk.

The Homeless Man lays her down on the sidewalk.

She looks at him through the crack of her eyes.

He steps away.

Sirens sound.

PARAMEDICS #1 and #2. 30s.

Paramedic #1 looks at her.

PARAMEDIC #1

Miss!

Dreya closes her eyes.

DREYA

Mama --

Paramedic #1 lifts her legs.

PARAMEDIC #2

Don't move her!

PARAMEDIC #1

Okay.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWAMP-DAY

Nick looks up at the starry sky.

NICK

Thank you.

SIERRA (O.C.)

Don't thank him yet.

Nick looks across the water and sees Sierra.

NICK

You! I knew I smelled something cheap.

SIERRA

(laugh)

Good one.

NICK

Why are you here?

SIERRA

The same reason you are. I'm watching.

NICK

If that's what you call it.

Sierra reaches up.

A **vine** of **grapes** drops down.

Sierra plucks a grape off. She tosses it into her mouth.

SIERRA

Grape?

NICK

No.

SIERRA

Okay.

Nick sets the lantern down on the damp dirty ground. He sits.

NICK
I can do this all night.

SIERRA
So, can I.

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-DAY

Dreya lies asleep. She rests comfortably.

NICK (V.O.)
It's just a matter of time!

FADE OUT:

THE END