A MAN OF MY PAST

by

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FADE IN:

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL GYM - SENIOR PROM - NIGHT

A young couple pulls in to the school parking lot as they see students in formal wear approaching the entrance to the gym.

TITLE OVER: SENIOR PROM - WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL (1984)

Daniel, senior captain of the football team, parks the car as he looks at his girlfriend, Nicole.

Daniel and Nicole are a striking couple, both with beautiful blue eyes and blonde curly locks of hair that perfectly accentuate their face.

DANIEL

Well, are you ready for this?

NICOLE

(looking at Daniel)

Sure. Why wouldn't I be?

DANIEL

(smiling)

Well then, let's go do some dancing.

The loud echo of dance music coming from inside the gym is heard as Daniel exits the car.

As he exits the car and shuts his door, he walks around to the other side of the car and opens Nicole's door. She then takes his hand as he assists her out of the car.

As they walk up to the front door and enter the gym, everyone stops to take notice. After a couple of seconds, everyone resumes dancing.

DANIEL

(looking at Nicole)

Wow, I knew you were beautiful but I didn't know it would cause that kind of reaction.

NICOLE

(softly laughing)

Yeah, really.

Daniel is approached by one of his best friends, Richie, a petite, young-looking classmate with thick brown hair and big brown eyes

RICHIE

Hey, Man, how are you?

Daniel and Richie engage in a secret handshake, only known among Daniel and his closest friends, that had come about early on in elementary school.

It begins with a firm handshake, the interlocking of thumbs as in a thumb-wrestle position, the end of thumbs touching and then releasing with just the waving of the fingers, ending with the pointing of the index finger at the opposite person.

DANIEL

Rich, my man. How's it going? Who did you end up bringing?

RICHIE

Are you kidding me? Take a look around. There's at least two girls to every guy. It's open season out there.

Daniel and Nicole start laughing.

RICHIE

I'll catch up with you two a little later. It's time for to go hunting.

Daniel shakes his head and smiles as he leans in to Nicole.

DANIEL

Listen, I need to make a quick run to the bathroom. I'll be right back. Are you going to be okay?

NICOLE

Yeah, I'll be fine.

DANIEL

Maybe you can go find us a place to sit. I'll be right back.

NICOLE

Sure.

Daniel leans in to give Nicole a kiss on the cheek as he excuses himself.

April, a tall, slender girl with long dark hair approaches Nicole.

APRIL

Wow, look at you two. You are absolutely stunning.

NICOLE

Thanks. I can say the same for you too. Where's John?

APRIL

Oh, he's made his way over to the DJ to put in some early requests, so he says. I think he just went to spike the punch bar.

April and Nicole both nudge each other and bend over with laughter. Nicole looks up in time to see a fellow classmate approaching them.

Timmy, a shy and somewhat timid individual with bright red hair, freckles, large eye-glasses and a crooked smile walks up to the girls.

TIMMY

Hello, ladies.

April rolls her eyes and shakes her head as Timmy looks directly at Nicole.

TIMMY

I'll never know what he did to deserve you. You are definitely the most beautiful woman I have ever seen.

NICOLE

Well, thank you, Timmy.

TIMMY

(promptly bowing
his head out of
respect)

You're very welcome. It is definitely my pleasure.

NICOLE

(looking around)
So, who are you here with?

TIMMY

(sighing)

Myself. Since you were already taken, I figured I had no other choice.

NICOLE

(taking Timmy's
 hand)

Timmy, you are a wonderful guy. I know that you will find someone that will love you the way you deserve to be loved. Maybe, in another lifetime, things could be different.

April busts out laughing as she looks at Nicole.

Timmy looks down at Nicole's hand and takes notice to the ring.

TIMMY

So, is that just part of your costume jewelry or is there something else we don't know about?

Nicole immediately withdraws her hand.

NICOLE

I'm sorry. I need to go find Daniel. I'll talk to you later. Enjoy the prom, Timmy.

TIMMY

Sure. I'll see you later.

Timmy watches Nicole as she turns to leave. April immediately follows.

APRIL

(facetiously)

Wow, you really should give that guy a chance.

NICOLE

I can't see that he's all that bad. He's a nice guy. I just prefer to be with a guy more like Daniel.

APRIL

Yeah, right. You and every other female in the world.

Both girls start laughing. April immediately steps in front of Nicole to stop her dead in her tracks.

APRIL

(taking Nicole's

left hand)

However, he does bring up a valid point. What is this?

NICOLE

(slowly

withdrawing her

hand)

It's nothing. It's just a promise ring.

APRIL

(looking at Nicole)

Yeah, right.

NICOLE

It is. He just wanted to make a new promise to me as we tried to start fresh.

APRIL

(chuckling)

That is some promise ring.

Nicole casually smiles as she timidly looks towards the ground.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL GYM - IMMEDIATELY AFTER - NIGHT

Daniel is seen coming out of the bathroom. As he stands in front of the bathroom door, he takes in all of the action on the dance floor right in front of him.

He is approached by Amber, a very recent ex-girlfriend.

AMBER

Wow, you look amazing.

DANIEL

(turning to

address Amber)

Well, look at you. You look amazing as well. Who are you here

(MORE)

DANIEL (cont'd)

with?

AMBER

Well, nobody in particular. At least, not right now. Where's Nicole?

DANIEL

(looking around)

Oh, I don't know. She's around here somewhere. We haven't been here long.

Daniel and Amber stand still as they casually look at each other.

DANIEL

(interrupting the

silence)

I, uh, guess I better go find her.

AMBER

Yeah, sure. Maybe I'll see you later.

DANTEL

Yeah, maybe.

Amber grabs Daniel's arm as he attempts to walk away.

AMBER

Do you think that maybe we could share one last dance for old time sake before the night's over?

DANIEL

(shrugging his
shoulders as he
gently pulls away)

Yeah, sure. I don't see why not. I just have to go find Nicole right now. I'll catch you later.

AMBER

(casually smiling)

Yeah, bye.

As Daniel turns to leave, he runs into his best friend, John, a burly 18 year old with short brown hair, who he had just had a fallen out with.

DANIEL

(looking at John)

Oh, excuse me.

Daniel begins to walk around John as he is abruptly stopped.

JOHN

(taking Daniel by
the arm)

Look, Man, I don't want to do this anymore. We have been friends for way too long. Can we just call a truce for now, if not for anything else but for the girls?

DANIEL

(swiftly pulling
 away from John's
 grip)

Yeah, sure, whatever.

JOHN

Look, I know you're dealing with a lot right now and I'm willing to give you time to work things out. Just don't shut me out, okay?

DANIEL

Yeah, sure.

Daniel and John conduct their secret handshake.

JOHN

(looking around)
Where's Nicole? You two did come
together, didn't you?

DANIEL

Yeah, I need to go find her. Maybe we can catch up with each other later, okay?

JOHN

(nodding his head)
Yeah, I would like that.

Daniel nods his head at John and then turns to leave. John continually shakes his head as he watches Daniel walk away.

As Daniel makes his way through the crowd, he looks to the dance floor and sees April and Nicole standing off to the side, swaying gently in front of each other as the soft music plays. He then smiles as he heads off towards them.

NICOLE

(looking up as
 Daniel approaches
 them)

Hey. I was wondering where you were.

DANIEL

(dancing in sync
with Nicole)

I'm right here.

NICOLE

(laughing)

Yeah, I see that.

April smiles as she continues to move to the beat of the music.

After a minute or two of Daniel, Nicole and April dancing together, the screen goes black.

There is an unknown voice that yells out the word 'Dance-off' as a student, in his formal wear, comes on screen. He jumps out onto the middle of the dance floor and begins to perform a break-dance routine.

The students begin to chant and rave, clapping in sync with the music, as they observe the dancer.

After a couple of minutes, the dancer jumps to his feet and into the crowd as another dancer comes in behind him and resumes the dancing technique.

As the dancing continues, John is seen doing his own style of break-dancing as his close friends laugh and clap to the beat of the music.

Two or Three more dancers make their way down the middle of the crowd while showing off their dancing ability. As the last dancer makes his way down the aisle, the DJ takes the mic.

DJ (0.S.)

Can you believe that? How do those people move like that? Okay, let's do a complete 360 and implement a more traditional form of dancing with a little twist of West Point.

The divided group of students begin to mesh on the dance floor as the DJ continues.

DJ (O.S.)

Instead of musical chairs, we are going to play musical partners. How this is going to work is that I am going to play a variety of country songs and as I play the fast, upbeat ones, move your feet to the steps of a square dance involving everyone on the dance floor. When the music stops and changes to a slow song, quickly find another partner to slow things down with. You can not remain with the same partner or dance slowly with that same person again throughout the game. You must quickly find that someone new to finish out the song with. Should you be left standing alone, you will be eliminated from the game and must leave the floor at once.

The group begins to laugh and a few of the guys even take their bows in a joking manner as to initiate a traditional dance with a lady.

DJ (O.S.) (continuing)

Remember, we have captains walking around so all cheaters will be spotted and immediately eliminated. Also, for those of you who know nothing about square dancing, just follow my lead. We will begin with the arm-in-arm, skipping around, square dancing now.

As the first song begins to play, the students start maneuvering themselves in a square dancing method, while laughing and yelling 'Yee-haw'.

DJ (0.S.)

(in a rhyming, rhythmic nature)

Swing your partner round and round, don't look down cause you will frown. After going round and round, switch your partner to this sound.

The music stops as students scuffle to find another partner before the slow song starts up. As Daniel turns around, he is confronted by Amber who casually smiles and takes him by the hand.

April and Richie are seen matching up as well as John and Nicole who all die with laughter as they sway slowly to the motion of the song playing.

As the slow dancing continues, Amber addresses Daniel.

AMBER

(whispering in his
ear)

Are you sure that you're making the right decision?

Amber slowly withdraws as she kisses him gently on the cheek.

DANIEL

(putting up his hands)

Amber, I can't do this. I'm sorry. I have to go.

Daniel quickly turns and exits the floor as Amber remains still, staring in his direction.

The music immediately changes speed as a new song begins playing and students maneuver in laughter to find another partner. Amber, however, remains still as she becomes the main focus of the scene, staring off in Daniel's direction.

Daniel is seen exiting the building as he sighs and places his hands on his hips. He looks up to the sky, turns around as if to see if anyone has followed him out and then turns to walk off.

The students in the gym, surrounding the dance floor, come back on screen. There are five students left on the floor.

DJ (O.S.)

(music stopped)

Okay, everybody, we have got five people left on the floor. In this case, we will have two winning couples. I need all remaining individuals to stand back from each other and quickly grab your partner at the word go. Now get ready, cause here we go. Go!

Nicole and Timmy are two of the five last remaining individuals. At the word go, each student rushes to claim his partner. Upon quickly matching up, Nicole finds herself with Timmy as she looks up and beholds his smile.

The students start clapping for the two remaining couples as the DJ again chimes in.

DJ (O.S.)

We finally have our winners. Let's allow our remaining couples to finish their last dance to our last, slow song.

Everyone stands back as the two remaining couples continue their slow dance. The focus is now placed on Timmy and Nicole.

TIMMY

Wow. How could I have been so lucky?

NICOLE

(smiling)

I'm not sure. Just the luck of the draw, I guess.

TIMMY

Are you enjoying yourself?

NICOLE

(nodding her head)

Yeah, I'm having a really good time.

Nicole pauses as she takes a quick look around.

NICOLE

Have you seen Daniel lately?

TIMMY

(looking up)

No, not within the 30 minutes or so.

NICOLE

Hm. Who knows?

Daniel casually makes his way back into the gym. As he looks around, he catches sight of what is on the dance floor.

DANIEL

What the hell is this?

He immediately takes off towards Timmy and Nicole.

John is standing near the entrance of the gym and takes notice to Daniel heading towards the dance floor.

JOHN

(approaching

Daniel)

Hey, where have you been?

Daniel immediately looks at John in question as he proceeds to the dance floor.

JOHN

(sighing to

himself)

Great. Here we go.

As Daniel makes his way onto the floor, the students look on in confusion. Daniel quickly approaches Timmy and Nicole.

DANIEL

(talking to Timmy)

What do you think you're doing?

TIMMY

What?

DANIEL

You know I don't allow geeks to dance with my girl. Go find somebody in your own league.

Daniel casually pushes Timmy away from Nicole and takes her by the arm. Timmy just stands there, arms to his side, as he looks for something to say.

DANIEL

What? Are you going to cry now? Get a life.

The DJ catches wind and tries to control the situation as he immediately stops the music.

DJ (O.S.)

Whoa, hey, what do we have here? The contest is over, Dude. You'll have to make your way off the floor.

Daniel immediately directs his attention to the DJ.

DANIEL

Don't call me dude, alright?

The picture of the DJ, with his headset on standing behind all of his equipment, comes on screen as he gives off a disgruntled look and shakes his head with a partial smile.

John walks up behind Daniel.

JOHN

Daniel, come on, Man, it's just a game. You don't want to do this.

DANIEL

(turning around to
 address John)
Don't even start with me. Come
on, Nicole. We're out of here.

Daniel partially pulls Nicole off of the dance floor as everyone continues staring.

As Daniel approaches the door to leave, he is confronted by other students who are standing in front of the doorway, blocking the exit.

DANTEL

If you know what's good for you, you'll get the hell out of my way.

Daniel, while literally pulling Nicole, swiftly moves through the crowd and out the door. John, followed by Richie and April, walk out right behind them.

DJ (O.S.)

Well, somebody needs to loosen up on the dance floor. Let's resume this party, shall we? We'll show 'em how to have some fun.

The crowd yells in agreement as they continue dancing.

EXT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL GYM - IMMEDIATELY AFTER - NIGHT

Daniel and Nicole, with his hold now released, walk outside as John, April and Richie quickly follow.

JOHN

What's up with you, Man? Have you lost your mind?

DANIEL

(turning around to
address John)

Nobody dances with or touches my fiance but me.

John immediately displays a look of disbelief.

APRIL

I knew it!

JOHN

Look, Daniel, she's not Amber. She's not going to do you like that. You have to relax and learn how to trust again. What is your need in trying to prove some kind of a point to everybody?

DANIEL

Why don't you just learn to mind your own business?

JOHN

Maybe I need to make it my business for the sake of Nicole's safety. You're losing it, Daniel, and you need help.

Daniel laughs casually as he shakes his head and looks down. The girls, along with Richie, just look on helplessly.

DANIEL

(looking at John)

Let me get this straight. You are concerned about my girlfriend's safety?

JOHN

Yes, Daniel, I am. She's my friend too. Nicole is a great person who deserves to be with someone who truly understands her and is not out for his own selfish needs.

DANIEL

(laughing)

Oh, please, give me a break. I bet there are times when you wish that other person was you, right?

John jumps at Daniel as he places his forearm directly under Daniel's chin and against his neck, pushing him back against the vehicle.

JOHN

(looking directly
into Daniel's
eyes)

You need to choose your words very carefully around me. You know exactly how I feel about April and no one else. It's time to grow up, Daniel.

Daniel abruptly pushes John off of him.

JOHN

I'm only trying to discuss these issues with you because you are my friend too, my best friend, and if you don't watch it, you're going to lose the best thing that has ever happened to you.

DANIEL

(breathing heavily)
No, we use to be friends but not anymore. Don't ever approach me again.

Daniel turns around and firmly addresses Nicole.

DANIEL

Get in the car.

okay?

Teary-eyed Nicole softly waves as she and Daniel both get in the car. Daniel immediately backs out in a fury and promptly leaves the premises. A few extra onlookers casually make their way outside.

John, April and Richie, as they stand in shock, watch Daniel drive away. The onlookers, standing in the background near the front entrance of the gym, look at each other and genuinely shake their heads.

JOHN

(turning to address the group) Guys, I'm sorry. Let's not let this ruin the rest of our night, The individuals slowly make their way back inside the gym as they occasionally look over their shoulder in the direction of Daniel and Nicole as if to imply a possible return.

John is the last one to enter the building as he stops and stares out into the distance.

JOHN

(sighing as he shakes his head)
Unbelievable.

John then turns and enters the gym.

FADE OUT.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

The front exterior of the gym, which seems to be a little less kept, is briefly shown as the sun shines brightly.

Inside the gym, people are engaged in conversation and laughter.

TITLE OVER: WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL REUNION (20 YEARS LATER)

A heavier April, with much shorter hair, is accompanied by another female as they approach John sitting at the bar. John now has less hair and has seemed to age quite a bit as well.

APRIL

Meagan, this is my husband, John.

MEAGAN

(nodding her head) Wow, April. Nice catch.

JOHN

(smiling as he extends his hand to Meagan)

Thanks. It's nice to meet you. Did you go to school here?

MEAGAN

(shaking John's
hand)

No, I guess you could say I married into it.

JOHN

Oh?

APRIL

(laughing)

Remember Matt Bonner? That's her husband.

JOHN

Oh, okay, the bone man. Now I remember. Where is he? I need to make my way over to him.

MEAGAN

(looking around)

Oh, he's around here somewhere. I guess maybe I need to go find him. It was nice meeting you.

JOHN

(waving)

Yeah, you too. Maybe we'll see you later. Bye.

MEAGAN

(turning to leave)

April, come find me before you leave, okay? Do not leave without saying bye.

APRIL

Yes, I will. See you later.

April smiles as she leans in to give John a kiss on the cheek.

APRIL

Have you made your way around to everyone?

JOHN

Yeah, I think I have.

APRIL

No sign of them yet?

JOHN

(shaking his head)

Not that I've seen.

APRIL

(sighing as she looks around)

Do you think they'll even show?

JOHN

(sighing)

Who knows. I tried everything I could think of to get a message to him.

APRIL

If I know anything about Nicole, it's that she'll either convince him to come with her or she'll find a way to get here. The last letter I received from her implied just that very thing.

John shakes his head and continues talking with his fellow classmates. As he lets out a chuckle, he just so happens to turn towards the entrance of the gym and immediately does a double-take.

JOHN

(looking towards
 the door)

April, look at the door.

As April quickly glances towards the door, she beholds Daniel and Nicole, a couple resembling a high school king and queen, standing in the entrance area looking around. Everyone near the couple stops dead in his tracks.

APRIL

(never taking her
eyes off Daniel
and Nicole)

There they are. They haven't changed a bit.

JOHN

(looking at April)

Well, come on. Let's go meet them.

As John and April approach Daniel and Nicole, Nicole and April lock eyes as John casually extends his hand to Daniel.

NICOLE

(looking around as
 she directs her
 attention back on
 April)

(MORE)

NICOLE (cont'd)

Wow, talk about dejavue.

APRIL

(extending her

arms to Nicole)

Yeah, tell me about it. You haven't changed a bit.

As April and Nicole embrace each other, Daniel and John conclude their casual handshake.

JOHN

It's nice to see you again, Daniel.

DANIEL

Yeah, likewise.

Everyone else commences talking as April addresses Nicole.

APRIL

I have tried desperately to get in touch with you. Where have you been this whole time? I wrote you several letters and it was only until six months ago did you respond.

NICOLE

(whispering)

April, please, not now.

Nicole looks at Daniel and John.

APRIL

Excuse me, boys, but us girls have a lot of catching up to do.

April takes Nicole by the hand as they walk over to join the other group of girls. Daniel watches her every move as he is interrupted by John.

JOHN

So, has it really been 20 years? It seems like it was just last week.

DANIEL

(chuckling)

Yeah, it does. Time doesn't wait on anybody.

JOHN

(laughing)

No, it doesn't. That's for sure. You, uh, want to go grab a drink?

DANIEL

Sure.

John leads Daniel over to the bar as they take a seat.

JOHN

So, tell me. What's been going on in your life for the past 20 years? You and Nicole been getting along okay?

DANIEL

(shaking his head)

Yeah, everything has been going okay. It just seems like all I ever do is work.

JOHN

(chuckling)

Yeah, I know what you mean. It was so easy in high school. We had less responsibility and the times seemed to last forever.

DANIEL

Yeah, tell me about it.

JOHN

(looking at Daniel)

I really hate that we didn't get a chance to go to the wedding.

DANIEL

(shaking his head)

Yeah, us too.

JOHN

(laughing while

speaking

sarcastically)

I guess, maybe, our invitation got lost in the mail?

Daniel flashes a questionable look at John as he then looks straight ahead.

JOHN

(sighing)

Look, Daniel, I know this has been harder on the girls, but I'm really ready to clear the air. It's terrible the way we left things off. I just wanted to say that I was sorry, okay. Maybe I made a few unlikely assumptions. That, I'll admit.

Daniel sighs, nods his head and looks at John.

DANIEL

Yeah, I know. It's okay. We'll get past it. Don't worry about it.

JOHN

(looking calmly at Daniel)

After how long? It's been 20 years.

Daniel takes a drink and looks down. After sitting in silence for a brief moment, John begins to speak.

JOHN

Well, what do you do for a living now?

DANIEL

(looks up and stares straight ahead)

Well, for the past two years, I've worked in construction with a buddy of mine that owns his own business. He recently promoted me to supervisor.

JOHN

That's good. Sounds like a pretty good job.

DANIEL

(looking at John)
Yeah, it pays the bills. How about you?

JOHN

After college I took on a job as a graphic designer for a small company in Oklahoma. I was there (MORE)

for about four years.

DANIEL

Hm, that's pretty exciting work. Did you design anything I may be familiar with?

JOHN

Have you ever heard of the Ruff Mix Dogfood?

DANIEL

(shaking his head) Yeah, I think so.

JOHN

Well, I designed their company website right before I accepted a job with April's uncle. He owns a huge manufacturing facility in Texas and asked if I would head their marketing team.

DANIEL

Really? I thought you were wanting to major in recording arts or something along those lines.

JOHN

Well, I did but with the rapid advancement of technology, I was beginning to see more of a potential income in what I do now and the possible offers that could come my way given that April's uncle is also in the business. So, with that, I opted out of the field, majored in multimedia graphic design a few years later and the rest is history.

DANIEL

Sounds pretty high-tech.

JOHN

Yeah, it can be pretty demanding at times, but I really enjoy it.

The two quietly share a drink as John breaks the silence.

JOHN

Your long lost friend really seems to have it together.

DANIEL

(looking at John)

Yeah, and who would that be?

JOHN

(chuckling)

Remember your buddy, Timmy Stratton?

DANIEL

(huffing)

How can I forget. That kid gave me the creeps all through high school.

JOHN

Well, he's doing pretty good, actually. He developed his own networking company that has already profited more than 2.5 million dollars just within the past two years. He couldn't even make it to the reunion this year because of his demanding job and all of the responsibilities that go with it. Sounds to me like he's definitely made it.

DANIEL

Really? Good for him. Did he ever get married?

JOHN

I don't think so. I haven't heard any differently.

DANIEL

(chuckling)

Yeah, even with all of that money, he still can't find anybody stupid enough to take him.

John casually shakes his head as he looks down.

Daniel nods as he turns to check out the crowd. Everyone is dancing around and enjoying each others company.

DANIEL

Have you seen Amber around anywhere?

JOHN

No, she pretty much skipped town right after graduation just like you did. It would greatly surprise me if she shows up.

Daniel calmly nods his head with a smirk.

JOHN

(looking at Daniel)
Man, are you ever going to let
that go? What is this hold she
has on you?

DANIEL

(looking at John)

Hold? What are you talking about? All of that is history. I'm just trying to catch up on old friends.

JOHN

Really? The only thing I could think about after you left was how egotistical and arrogant you were in thinking that everything has to go at your pace on your own time.

Daniel chuckles as he shakes his head.

DANIEL

Come on, Man, not now. Okay?

JOHN

No, I have to get this off of my chest. Just hear me out. Nicole never deserved to be isolated from her friends, taken for granted and treated like an object by anyone whether it be by the likes of you, Amber or anybody else.

DANIEL

(looking at John)

Amber? What does she have to do with this?

JOHN

Come on, Daniel, it's not like that whole ordeal with her wasn't mainly your fault. I think that (MORE)

much of your attitude with Nicole was simply a carryover from her.

DANIEL

(chuckling while looking at John)

What? You have absolutely no idea what you're talking about. You haven't even been around for the past twenty years. Maybe I just extended myself as far as I wanted to go at the time. As long as us men get what we want, that's all that matters, right? Trust me, John, Nicole never has, nor ever will, want for anything.

Daniel pats John a couple of times in a friendly manner on the back as he stands up.

DANIEL

(looking around)

So, when is Richie going to show up? Does he still have to be late for everything?

JOHN

(looking at Daniel)

What? You mean you didn't know?

DANIEL

(looking at John)

Didn't know what?

JOHN

(sighing)

Daniel, Richie was killed about three years ago in a terrible car accident. He was hit head on by a drunk driver.

Daniel's face immediately draws a blank as he slowly sits back down.

DANIEL

(looking at John)

What?

JOHN

Yeah, Richie's brother tried tracking you down but it was almost as if you had quarantined yourself and was no longer (MORE)

traceable.

Daniel is taken aback as he simply stares off into space. John serenely interrupts him.

JOHN

Daniel, I'm sorry you had to find out like this. We honestly tried to contact you. It was by mere chance that you found out about the reunion. You literally cut yourself off from everybody.

DANIEL

(as if to come
 back down to
 earth)

What happened to the other driver?

JOHN

Everyone involved in the accident was killed. Richie's wife, who was also pregnant, was in the car with him. It was a very tragic incident.

Daniel looks down and shakes his head as he tries to regain his composure.

JOHN

(sighing)

What has happened to you? We all use to be so close. It's terrible to let something so small affect everyone like this. You've got a beautiful wife who adores you and you seem to want to close her off to everything.

DANIEL

(looking at John)

Man, did you recently become a therapist or something? You're not exactly perfect either. I think you know what I'm talking about.

JOHN

April and I have gotten past all of that and we now share a beautiful, trusting marriage. We've learned how to love and let (MORE)

die.

DANIEL

(laughing to himself)

Love and let die? Are you serious? What does that even mean?

JOHN

(putting his hands
up)

Look, I'm sorry, but it's obvious that we'll never see eye to eye on some things. It's just that we need to try and let loose of all of these harbored feelings. It's time to move past it and just let go.

DANIEL

(standing to his
feet)

Look, John, it's been quite interesting talking to you. Maybe I can catch up with you a little later, okay? I'm going to go find Nicole.

As Daniel starts walking away, John addresses Daniel one last time.

JOHN

One of these days you will see what it's like to truly love and be loved if not in the most unfortunate way. When you honestly find it, it may be too late to keep it.

Daniel turns around and responds to John with a questionable look as he shakes his head and again turns to walk away.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL -GYM - IMMEDIATELY AFTER - DAY

Nicole and April come on screen. As they reminisce, Nicole is immediately taken aback by April's comment.

APRIL

We tried everything we could think of to find you. What has he done to you?

NICOLE

What?

APRIL

Oh, come on, Nicole. Don't act dumb with me.

NICOLE

(sighing)

I guess he thought he was doing what he had to do to protect me.

APRIL

To protect you? Protect you from what? Living a life? He has barricaded you from all of your family and friends for 20 years. How is that protecting you?

April leans over and takes Nicole by the hand to observe her wedding ring.

APRIL

(chuckling)

I'll tell you one thing, though. He sure knows how to pick out a wedding set. It took my breath away the first time I saw the engagement ring.

Nicole calmly chuckles to herself.

NICOLE

(sighing)

I don't know. I've asked myself that very same thing for years.

APRIL

Well, have you ever thought about leaving?

NICOLE

Several times, but he wouldn't hear of it.

APRIL

Well, it's not really his place to say.

NICOLE

Yes, but that is always easier said than done. I truly love him.

April lets out a sigh as if in an attempt to emphasize with Nicole as she looks over to see Daniel heading their way.

APRIL

(looking at Nicole)
Hey, I'm going to go find John and sit with him for a little while.
Why don't you come and find us later?

NICOLE

(nodding her head)

Sure. I'll see you later.

April stands and flashes a look at Daniel as she begins to walk away. Daniel returns the favor by flashing a fake smile as he approaches Nicole.

DANIEL

Enjoying yourself?

NICOLE

Yes, I am. It's really nice seeing everyone again.

DANIEL

(chuckling)

Maybe for you.

NICOLE

What is wrong with you, Daniel? It's been 20 years with no communication and your friends still love you. Why are you so cautious at trying to make amends, especially with John?

Daniel briefly looks at Nicole and then stares down at the ground.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - SAME - NIGHT

The exterior of the gym comes on screen as it shows the sun setting.

Back inside the gym, the old classmates are now going at a slower pace. Daniel is sitting in the same location as before, while with John, as he turns up his last drink.

JOHN

(approaching Daniel)

Hey, I thought you were going to join us at the dart game on the other side.

DANIEL

(looking at his
watch)

Man, I'm sorry. Nicole and I are going to have to soon go. We've got a long ways to drive.

JOHN

Oh, yeah sure. I understand that.

John watches as Daniel turns up an empty glass, as if trying to catch the last drop.

JOHN

Maybe you should find somewhere to stay for the night or have someone drive you home.

DANIEL

(standing to his

feet)

No, are you kidding? I'm fine. I just need help finding Nicole.

Daniel attempts to take a step and stumbles.

John walks over to Daniel and places his arm around him as if to assist him in walking. Daniel immediately steps away.

DANIEL

Man, look, I told you I don't need any help. I'm fine.

Daniel glances around the crowd to find Nicole and beholds a small group cluttered in the far corner of the gym.

DANIEL

What's going on over there?

JOHN

(looking in that direction)

I'm not sure. Maybe we should go check it out.

John takes off walking towards the crowd as Daniel slowly makes his way behind him.

John reaches the crowd as Daniel remains several steps behind. Upon reaching the crowd, John immediately recognizes the red-headed, more matured individual in the center of a group of girls, including April and Nicole.

JOHN

(to himself)

Oh no, not again.

John quickly turns around to find that Daniel is right behind him.

JOHN

(whispering under

his breath)

Here we go.

DANIEL

(looking at John)

Is that who I think it is?

JOHN

(smiling nervously)

Yeah, Man, it's Timmy. He's our class millionaire.

Daniel immediately makes his way through the small crowd and walks up to Nicole.

DANIEL

(taking her by the

arm)

Come on, Nicole. It's time to go.

NICOLE

What? Now? The reunion's not over yet.

DANIEL

Yeah, it is now.

Daniel immediately hears a distinct voice from his past.

TIMMY

Daniel?

Daniel turns to find himself face to face with Timmy.

TIMMY

(extending his

hand)

Daniel, it's Timmy. How are you? It's good to see you again.

Daniel slowly shakes Timmy's hand.

TIMMY

(smiling)

Of course my friends now just call me Tim.

DANIEL

(facetiously)

Great, Timmy, that's nice to hear.

Daniel immediately withdraws his hand.

TIMMY

(sighing)

I just wanted to offer my condolences. I know what happened with Richie was a very tragic thing. It's so hard to lose our friends, especially close friends like the two of you were.

Daniel looks straight at Timmy and without another word, escorts Nicole past the crowd and out the door. The small crowd, including Timmy, briefly look on in question and then continue talking.

John and April immediately follow Daniel and Nicole as they make their way outside.

EXT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL -GYM - IMMEDIATELY AFTER - NIGHT

Daniel, Nicole, John and April all exit the gym.

NICOLE

(following right
behind Daniel)

Don't you think we need to wait awhile or at least let me drive?

As they approach their vehicle, Daniel opens the passenger side door for Nicole to get in. As he stands with the door open, he is approached by John.

JOHN

Daniel, are you sure you want to do this? You know what happened several years ago, except this time, you're not by yourself. You have to consider Nicole and her safety.

DANIEL

Thanks, John, but I think I can manage.

JOHN

(shaking his head)
Man, you are still the same guy
you were back in high school. You
haven't changed a bit.

Daniel stares directly at John in a non-friendly manner.

NICOLE

(standing near the
 passenger side
 door)

Daniel, I am not getting in the car with you like this. You're drunk.

DANIEL

(persistently)

Get in the car, Nicole. I am fine.

NICOLE

No, I told you. I'll have John and April take me home.

DANIEL

(throwing his
hands up)

How? They don't even know where you live. It's four hours away. I am only telling you this one last time. Get in the car. I told you I was fine. There's no reason to rely on anybody else.

Nicole looks at John and then cautiously climbs into the front seat of the car as Daniel closes the door. She slowly fastens her seat belt and calmly bows her head. All John and April can do are stand by and watch.

Daniel walks around to the other side of the car and opens the door.

DANIEL

(getting in the car as he addresses John)

Why would I change? I was perfect back then and I'm perfect now.

Daniel gets in the car and slams his door.

John sighs as he looks at April.

NICOLE

(inside the car)

It's not that I don't trust you, Daniel. You may be above a lot but your not above the influence of alcohol. I'm only looking out for myself, given that someone has to. You sure seem to show no interest.

DANIEL

(looking at Nicole)
Oh, like I honestly don't have
your best interest at heart?

NICOLE

(looking at Daniel)

If you did, you wouldn't want me
to get in this car with you.

Daniel starts the car, backs out of the driveway and spins out as he takes off down the road. Friends are standing around watching in awe. April takes hold of John's hand.

APRIL

If he hurts her in any way, I'll personally kill him myself.

John immediately looks at April and then pulls her to him as he embraces her.

JOHN

(softly to himself) Yeah, me too.

INT. DANIEL'S CAR ON LOCAL HIGHWAY-IMMEDIATELY AFTER - NIGHT

After a brief bit of silence, and Nicole staring straight at Daniel, she begins to speak.

NICOLE

Are you trying to prove a point or something? Why do you insist on treating me like this? What happened back there?

DANIEL

I'm not treating you like anything. It was just time to go.

As Daniel speaks, he continues to drive, as in a drunken fashion, all over the road.

Nicole bows her head as if in prayer. As they come up on the first curve, a car coming in the opposite direction barely misses them.

DANIEL

(yelling as he sticks his head out of the window)

Are you crazy?

Daniel again looks straight ahead as he rolls up the window.

DANIEL

(shaking his head)

Man, some people.

NICOLE

(with a shaky

voice)

Daniel, please slow down.

DANIEL

(looking at Nicole)
I told you, I have it under
control! When are you going to
learn to trust me?

As Daniel looks at Nicole, she turns straight ahead. Her expression immediately turns to fright, causing Daniel to look straight ahead just before ramming into a car head-on.

The impact causes Daniel's car to flip three times. As the car comes to a standstill upside down, there is a brief moment of silence as the exterior of the car is in view.

Daniel then comes on screen as he lies unconscious, hanging halfway out of the car.

EXT. LOCAL HIGHWAY - RIGHT AFTER ACCIDENT - NIGHT

Daniel begins to come to as he makes a loud groan. He immediately begins to observe his surroundings and finds that he is stuck. As he attempts to free himself from the vehicle, he immediately remembers Nicole.

DANIEL

(painfully)

Nicole?

He looks to the passenger side of the car but can not find her anywhere.

DANIEL

(screaming)

Nicole! Answer me!

He tries again to free himself but is unable to move. He slowly begins to jimmie his way out through the window and crawls on his hands and knees as he endures a piercing ache in his side. He immediately falls on his back.

DANIEL

(in agony)

Nicole! Where are you? Please, answer me!

As he looks towards his right, he notices Nicole's limp body lying in the ditch. He immediately turns over, pushes himself up and slowly crawls over to her.

DANIEL

Nicole! Oh my gosh, answer me!

Tears begin to wail up in his eyes as he approaches her. He lifts her limp body, holding her tightly in his arms and begins rocking slowly in a smooth maternal fashion.

DANIEL

(sobbing)

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. Please don't die on me.

Daniel raises his head to look around and takes in the destruction.

DANIEL

(yelling)

Help! Can anybody hear me?

As Daniel looks behind him, he notices that the other car has hit a tree with no bodily movement in sight.

DANIEL

Oh, you've got to be kidding me. Help! Help!

Daniel's attention is drawn to a bright object, appearing to be in the shape of a man, standing just off the side of the road.

DANIEL

(squinting to see the object)

Hello? Who are you? Can you help us?

The object stands motionless.

Daniel continues watching the object as sounds of sirens are heard coming up the road. He immediately turns in that direction and then turns back to address the object, only to find that it is no longer there. All he can do is stare.

The ambulance pulls up to the scene as the medical staff immediately rushes to their aid.

EMT

(talking to Daniel)
Sir, we have to take her now.
There's nothing more you can do
for her.

Daniel turns towards the EMT.

DANIEL

(trying to speak
 through tears)
You have to save her, please.

EMT

We can promise you that we'll do our best. She's not breathing so she needs drastic medical attention. The EMT is assisted by two other fellow technicians who slowly pull Nicole from Daniel's arms and place her on a stretcher. As Nicole is taken away, the first EMT again addresses Daniel.

EMT

Are you hurting anywhere?

Daniel begins sobbing.

DANIEL

(crying as he shakes his head)

She's not going to make it.

EMT

(talking to

co-worker)

I need some assistance over here.

DANIEL

(as in a daze)

There was a strange man standing on the side of the road. He was here for a moment and then he just disappeared.

Daniel looks up and stares the man directly in his eyes.

DANIEL

He was here to protect her from me.

EMT

(looking at Daniel)

I'm sorry?

DANIEL

Yeah, I couldn't hear what he was saying but I seemed to understand it just the same. I know I'll see him again, very soon.

The other two members of the team again approach Daniel with a stretcher in hand.

EMT

Sir, we need you to relax.
Everything is going to be alright.
Don't worry about your wife.
We're doing everything we can to see to it that she has the best possibility for survival. We need you to focus on your health right (MORE)

EMT (cont'd)

now and leave the rest to us. Can you manage that?

DANIEL

(nodding his head)

Yes, Sir.

Daniel is assisted in laying down on the stretcher as the technicians proceed in getting him to the ambulance.

As Daniel is lifted up and taken off, he continues staring in the direction of the object which had now already dissipated and left the scene.

INT. WEST POINT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - NEXT - DAY

Daniel remains still as he lies in his hospital bed. The sound of a knock on the door is heard. Without waiting for a response, a policeman enters the room.

POLICEMAN

(entering the room)
Daniel? Hi, my name is Robert

Patterson. You can call me Bob.

Daniel continues staring straight ahead as if to be lost in deep contemplation.

POLICEMAN

(continuing)

I am a police officer with the West Point police department. I hope I'm not disturbing you but I was hoping to have a few words with you.

Coming out of his daze, Daniel looks up at the policeman.

DANIEL

(scooting up in

the bed)

Yes, Sir. Please, come in.

The policeman walks over to the side of the bed.

POLICEMAN

(sighing)

Daniel, I need to ask you a few questions. Are you sure that now is a good time? I can come back later if I need to.

DANIEL

No, it's okay. What can I help you with?

POLICEMAN

Well, I hate to get to the point so quickly, but per our investigation, we have to get accurate information as to exactly what happened last night. Was there any drinking involved, narcotics or any other drug that may have altered your logical thinking? We have to try and clear your name of any wrong doings as quickly as possible and eliminate you as a suspect.

DANIEL

Suspect? Suspect for what?

POLICEMAN

(pausing)

Manslaughter, Daniel.

DANIEL

(becoming frantic)

What?

POLICEMAN

The other individuals that you hit head on were all killed in the accident.

DANIEL

(heart racing)

And Nicole?

POLICEMAN

It's not quite certain yet. It could go either way.

Daniel immediately places his hand on his chest as in an attempt to ease the pain.

POLICEMAN

(trying to hold

him down)

Daniel, calm down and breathe.

After a couple of seconds, Daniel regains his composure.

POLICEMAN

I need you to answer my questions as accurately as possible. Okay?

DANIEL

(shaking his head)

Yes, Sir.

POLICEMAN

(pulling back)

Now, was there any drinking of any kind last night?

DANIEL

I had a few beers at the reunion but not anything that would cloud my judgment. Nicole and I got into a fight that made me a little irritated, but I was fine to drive.

POLICEMAN

How many beers would you consider to be a few, Daniel?

DANIEL

(swallowing)

I don't know. Maybe four or five?

POLICEMAN

What was the fight about?

DANIEL

(thinking back)

I really don't know. Me and my ignorance I guess.

POLICEMAN

What happened right before you left the reunion?

DANIEL

When we got out to the car to leave, she started insisting on some friends taking her home. That irritated me even more to think that maybe she didn't trust me or think that I couldn't handle myself, so I started yelling and making a scene.

POLICEMAN

Why would you yell at her when she was only trying to protect herself given that you obviously didn't even care about your own safety?

DANIEL

(shrugging his
shoulders)

I don't know. I guess with the alcohol, the fight and my arrogant attitude, I felt I was above everything and didn't feel like being told what to do by anyone.

The policeman briefly stares at Daniel and then sighs as he pulls out a small baggie from his pocket. He reaches towards Daniel to hand him the baggie.

DANIEL

(taking the baggie)

What's this?

POLICEMAN

It's the only tangible thing left of Nicole. I'm sorry, Daniel.

DANIEL

What?

Daniel slowly opens the baggie. As he peers into the bag, he immediately glances up at the officer and reaches in to pull out the object.

As he pulls the object from the bag, he begins to tear up as the focus is placed on Nicole's wedding set.

DANIEL

(crying as he
 glances up at the
 policeman)

I don't understand. You said she was alive.

POLICEMAN

(sighing)

No, Daniel, I said it could go either way and last night, she chose the way she wanted to go and that was home.

Daniel can do nothing but stare in complete awe.

POLICEMAN

The Doctors worked consistently on her until they finally realized that all hope was gone. She didn't make it, Daniel. I'm sorry.

Daniel tightly closes his hand and clutches the ring as he bows his head and begins to sob.

After a few moments, Daniel raises his head, wipes his eyes and tries to address the officer.

POLICEMAN

(hushing Daniel)

Daniel, we have a lot of issues that we have to weed through. Given that Nicole has now passed, it changes the direction of our investigation, placing the main emphasis on you.

DANIEL

(bowing his head
 to cry)

Please, I just want to be left alone for awhile.

POLICEMAN

(sighing)

I'll be back with further questions, but during the meantime, get some rest. You're going to need it. Once we get the toxicology results back, I'm sure we'll be meeting again. I'm greatly sorry for your loss.

The policeman turns to exit the room.

Prior to leaving, he turns around to address Daniel one last time.

POLICEMAN

Daniel, I am truly sorry for your loss. However, you may want to consider getting some legal help to assist you with all of this. I'm afraid you may be going to need it.

The policeman then turns and exits the room.

DANIEL

(raising his voice)

What the hell does that mean? I love my wife. I would never do anything to hurt her.

Daniel suddenly feels a sharp pain as he immediately grabs his side.

DANTEL

Is there a doctor? Please, send a doctor in here.

In response to Daniel's loud request, a doctor immediately enters the room.

DOCTOR

Sir, you need to lower your voice.

The doctor walks over to Daniel to observe the area of the pain.

DOCTOR

Give me a chance to page the nurse. I'll have her bring you some medication to help you relax. Okay? During the meantime, you need to remain as still as possible.

As the doctor turns to leave, Daniel grabs him by the arm.

DANIEL

(through tears)

Please tell me it's not true about my wife, Nicole Spencer. Please tell me she's okay.

DOCTOR

(sighing)

Daniel, Nicole and the passengers in the other car you hit head on did not make it. The impact of the accident killed them all instantly. You were the only survivor and there were no other witnesses. There is a thorough investigation going on right now and we need your full cooperation.

The doctor looks towards the door and then back at Daniel.

DOCTOR

(continuing)

We're not really at liberty to discuss the events of that night, but only to make sure that you get yourself well soon to assist the authorities with the investigation.

Daniel becomes completely frozen as his eyes wail up with tears.

DOCTOR

Nicole is gone, Daniel. I'm sorry.

DANIEL

(crying)

How can this be? I've got to be dreaming this.

The doctor pauses for a brief moment as he looks at Daniel.

DOCTOR

Daniel, listen to me. Due to your medical condition, we didn't want to burden you with that loss right now but if you really want to help the situation, you have to get some rest and be attentive enough to help out with the investigation if not for anyone else but for Nicole, okay? Both sides of the family have been contacted and are on their way so you will have your moral support soon.

DANIEL

(looking down)

Yeah, that's something I really deserve.

DOCTOR

You're not exactly in the clear yet, either. You have two broken ribs, a broken leg and a strained wrist. It's a miracle you even made it. You must rest and remain as calm as possible.

With that, the doctor bows his head once to Daniel out of respect for his loss and turns to exit the room. However before he leaves, the doctor turns to address Daniel one last time.

DOCTOR

Your friends are here to speak with you but they have been informed that visiting hours are now over. They wanted you to know that you are in their prayers and that they will be back tomorrow.

Daniel quickly glances up towards the window of the room and beholds John and April staring back at him in disappointment and disbelief.

The doctor exits the room and begins to converse with John as April continues staring at Daniel through the glass.

As Daniel and April continue locking eyes, John takes April by the arm, quickly peers into the room at Daniel and turns to leave as he escorts April down the hall.

DANIEL

(after a brief

pause)

Oh, this can't be happening. God, please, please give me a second chance. I know I can fix things. I promise to never hurt a single soul again, especially those that I love. Please just give Nicole her life back and take mine instead.

Daniel bows his head and cries uncontrollably. As he continues crying, a shadow of a man slowly covers him.

STRANGER

Daniel, is your heart true when you say that?

Daniel raises his head to behold a very attractive dark-haired stranger, dressed in a white leisure suit (with somewhat of a glowing aura) standing before him.

DANIEL

(sobbing)

You? It was you I had seen at the accident. Who are you and what are you doing here?

The man stands directly at the foot of the bed as he addresses Daniel.

STRANGER

Well, my name is Gabrielle and I come as a messenger of God. You can call me Gabe.

DANIEL

(taken aback)

What?

Daniel looks around the room as if to find someone else assisting with this joke.

GABE

No, Daniel, there is no one else and this is far from being a joke. I have heard your cries and I have been sent here to assist you.

At that moment, a nurse walks in to give Daniel his medication.

DANIEL

(addressing the

nurse)

Can you see him?

NURSE

(looking at Daniel)

I'm sorry, do what?

DANIEL

(pointing towards the end of the

bed)

Can you see him?

NURSE

(looking in that
 direction)

See who?

DANIEL

Him, standing right there at the end of my bed.

The nurse continues looking in that direction as she then looks all around the room until finally placing her full attention on Daniel.

NURSE

Sir, I'm sorry but I don't see anyone here. It's just you and me in this room right now. Do I need to get a doctor?

Daniel looks at Gabrielle (Gabe) in question.

DANIEL

(sighing as he
 continues looking
 at Gabe)

No, it's okay. I must be seeing things. I'm probably tired and just needs some sleep. That's all. Thanks anyway.

NURSE

Sure. If you need anything, push this button on the side of your bed and we'll send someone in here, okay?

DANIEL

(never taking his
attention off of
Gabe)

Yeah, thanks. I appreciate it.

The nurse turns to leave and exits the room.

DANIEL

(speaking to Gabrielle)

This has got to be a joke.

GABE

No, Daniel, this is no joke. You are the only one that can see or hear me. Therefore, speaking of this to anyone is forbidden.

DANIEL

I don't understand why you are here. Why me? Are you like a death angel or something?

Gabe walks over to the chair on the opposite side of the room and takes a seat. After a brief moment, he begins to speak as Daniel watches his every move.

GABE

I am the angel of life and your soul messenger. Although God doesn't make deals, that promise can be granted should you choose to take on this challenge.

DANIEL

What do you mean?

GABE

Amidst your pain, you promised God that if He would give Nicole her life back that you would never hurt anyone else again.

Daniel sits up directly in his bed.

DANIEL

What? What are you saying?

GABE

I was observing you and the validity of your sincerity.

DANIEL

I'm sorry, but I don't understand.

GABE

You have been chosen to overcome a big challenge. Should you carry through with your promise of never hurting a single soul again, Nicole will not be taken. However, if your promise fails, she will pass away. You are being given a rare opportunity to make things right with those you love as well as with yourself. You can change the course of things and save Nicole's life. That decision will be entirely up to you.

DANIEL

The decision to save Nicole's life? But what would I have done to be given this opportunity?

GABE

Well, from the way I understand it, you are the perfect subject to learn the true meaning of sacrifice. Thus far in life, Daniel, you have yet to sacrifice (MORE)

GABE (cont'd)

anything. From what I have seen, you had everybody else sacrificing for you.

DANIEL

Sacrifice?

GABE

Yes, Daniel, sacrifice. Nicole will be able to maintain life through this experience but only if you allow her to. In order to do that, though, you will have to sacrifice something very important to you for the sake of itself.

DANIEL

What does that mean?

GABE

That's something you must figure out for yourself.

DANIEL

I don't know if I can do this.

GABE

What Nicole needs is your friendship, trust. and understanding. From that, and that alone, you can learn to trust yourself and become that man you were meant to be.

Daniel begins to laugh to himself.

Gabe stands to his feet and approaches Daniel as he stands near the side of his bed in a very intimidating manner.

GABE

Should things be left the way they are, and you resort to your old ways, it will be Nicole who will sacrifice her life for you because she trusted you enough to place her own life in your hands. Now, it is your turn to place your life in hers. If you are interested in taking on this task, you must listen very closely to what I am about to say, for my time here is very limited as yours will be (MORE)

GABE (cont'd)

also.

Daniel slowly pushes his body up against the back of the bed as he reaches for his side and moans in pain.

GABE

Nicole's perception of time will be changed and her memory completely erased. Yours, however, will not. You will have complete recall of everything that has happened up to this point. If you cannot agree to these terms, the agreement will be voided, Nicole's life will be lost and nothing up to this point will have been altered. If this occurs, you will pay for her death and spend the rest of your life in a hellish prison.

Gabe turns and walks towards the end of Daniel's bed as he slowly begins to fade from existence.

DANIEL

Please don't go. I'm still not sure what you're asking of me.

GABE

(while fading)

You must figure that out for yourself. Will you love or let die?

DANIEL

Love or let die? Where have I heard that?

Gabe has now completely vanished as Daniel stares out into space. He can still, however, hear Gabe's voice.

GABE (V.O.)

Forbid Nicole's death from happening, Daniel. The key is in your hands. Close your eyes and count back to your high-school years.

DANIEL

(looking around)

Wait a minute! What do you mean? I can't do this on my own.

As Daniel waits for Gabe's response, he sits in silence. Upon receiving no answer, he begins to talk silently to himself.

DANIEL

Is this for real? I need to close my eyes and think back to my high school years? What does that mean?

Daniel lets out a sigh as he looks around at an empty room.

DANIEL

Well, I guess it wouldn't hurt to try. At this point, I have nothing else to lose.

Daniel slowly closes his eyes and bows his head.

In a bit of hesitation, Daniel concentrates really hard and in an instance, all of his mentality takes him back to that specific point in time as a quick review of past images of his life with Nicole and prior girlfriends flow past him.

The images then completely stop as the screen immediately goes black.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A loud bell rings as a younger Daniel (as of that in his high-school years) comes on screen, having been frighteningly awakened. He immediately lifts his head from off of his desk.

TITLE OVER: 20 YEARS EARLIER - 1984

As he takes in his surroundings, he notices a very familiar face walking up to him as the other students in the class exit the room.

RICHIE

Hey, Man.

Daniel closely examines the individual standing right in front of him.

DANIEL

Richie?

RICHIE

Are you alright? You slept through the entire class. I'm surprised Mrs. Sanders didn't call (MORE)

RICHIE (cont'd)

on you.

Daniel observes Richie as he gets up and stands before him.

DANIEL

Richie?

Daniel approaches him as he attempts to give him a hug.

RICHIE

(calmly pulling

back)

Whoa, Man, wait a minute. Are you alright? What's happened to you?

Daniel pulls back as he looks at Richie.

DANIEL

You look the same way you did the last time I saw you.

RICHIE

(trying to figure

Daniel out)

Of course I would. Why wouldn't I? It was just this past period. Are you okay?

DANIEL

Richie, have I ever told you how grateful I am to have you as my friend?

RICHIE

(chuckling)

Wow, who are you and what have you done with Daniel?

Daniel immediately pauses as he looks at Richie.

RICHIE

What now?

DANIEL

Nicole? Richie, where is Nicole? Is she okay?

Richie has a very questionable look on his face.

RICHIE

Of course she's okay. Why wouldn't she be? I left her safely in class just this past (MORE)

RICHIE (cont'd)

period unless, of course, the aliens came and abducted her. With the strange things that have been going on around here, I wouldn't be surprised.

Richie laughs as Daniel darts towards the classroom door. With no hesitation, he immediately follows. Upon reaching the door, Daniel stops abruptly as he quickly turns to address Richie one more time prior to leaving the room.

DANIEL

What year is this?

RICHIE

(pulling back)

What?

DANIEL

Come on, Richie, don't ask stupid questions. Just tell me what year this is.

RICHIE

Okay, chill! It's 1984. It has been all year long. Why? Did you really get that wasted last night?

DANIEL

(to himself)

1984? Oh, my gosh. It really happened.

RICHIE

What really happened?

DANIEL

(looking at Richie)
The unimaginable. Now I have to do what I was sent here to do.

RICHIE

You're kidding, right? Is this some joke or something?

Daniel turns and exits the room into the hallway as Richie follows. As he walks past a room, he pauses (along with Richie) to glance inside as he takes notice to a younger, more beautiful Nicole, immediately taking his breath away.

RICHIE

(after a few
moments)

See, there she is. Just as she was last night.

DANIEL

(to himself)

Oh my gosh, she is so beautiful.

RICHIE

(looking at Daniel)

What?

DANIEL

(looking at Richie)

Oh, nothing. Sorry.

Daniel and Richie both step back into the hallway, out of view of the door, as the other students walk around them heading to class.

RICHIE

I was looking out for you though.

DANIEL

You were? What do you mean?

RICHIE

Well, I know that Nicole really likes you and regardless of what your state of mind was last night, she was willing to let you take her home even after you refused to let her drive.

DANIEL

So, I drove her home last night?

RICHIE

Wow, can you honestly not remember that? You really were shot, weren't you? I offered to take her home, just like every other guy there, but she insisted on going with you.

Daniel continues listening to Richie as he continues.

RICHIE

So, since she wouldn't take no for an answer, I followed you when you left to took her home, just to make sure you both made it home (MORE)

RICHIE (cont'd)

okay. I mean, you can just imagine the possibilities of what could have happened with you under the influence.

DANIEL

(nodding his head)
Yeah, Richie, I am very aware of
what could have happened. Thanks
for looking out for me. I
appreciate that.

RICHIE

Hey, no problem. That's what friends are for.

Richie starts walking down the hall. Daniel glances in the classroom one more time at Nicole (as she converses with her classmates), puts off a genuine smile and then takes off after Richie.

DANIEL

(genuinely speaking)

Richie, I've done a lot of things to those I love but I promise you, as sure as I'm standing here, I will make it up to everyone.

RICHIE

How's that?

DANIEL

(smiling and
 putting his arm
 around Richie)

Come on, walk me to my next class. That, you and I both will figure out in time.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL - SAME - DAY

As Daniel walks down the hall, observing all of the faces from his past, he notices Nicole and April talking to a familiar looking individual.

As he continues his deep observation of his most recent and past surroundings, he approaches the girls and immediately takes notice to the individual talking to them and suddenly realizes who it is.

Timmy, who has now transformed himself from that skinny individual with glasses to a nice looking individual immediately grabs Daniel's attention.

DANIEL

Timmy?

TIMMY

Oh, hey, Buddy. I was wondering when you might show up. You partied pretty hard last night.

The girls start laughing as Timmy reaches for Daniel's hand and proceeds in conducting the infamous private handshake.

Daniel immediately withdraws with a look of confusion on his face, implying that he was shocked to find that Timmy even knew what the handshake was.

TIMMY

(looking on in confusion)

Are you okay?

DANIEL

Where's your glasses?

TIMMY

(smirking)

My glasses? I haven't worn those in years. Did last night's splurge really do that much damage to you?

The girls start laughing as Daniel glances at Nicole.

TIMMY

(patting Daniel on

the back)

Come on, you know I'm just kidding, right?

Daniel still has a questionable look on his face as he tries to figure out this most recent scenario.

TIMMY

Look guys, I'm sorry but I have to get to the office before my last class to take care of some last minute business. Are we all still on for tonight?

The girls both answer with a synonymous yes as all three begin laughing. Timmy waves his goodbye as he heads down the hall.

DANTEL

(looking at the

girls)

Am I missing something here?

NICOLE

What do you mean?

Daniel is taken aback after hearing Nicole speak for the first time since the accident and helplessly stares right at her.

NICOLE

(waving her hand
in front of
Daniel's face)

Hello? Is anybody home?

April begins laughing as she shakes her head and smiles.

DANIEL

What? I'm sorry, were you saying something?

NICOLE

(laughing)

No, it's okay. I think you probably just need to catch up on some sleep.

DANIEL

Oh, yeah probably. What is it that everybody has planned for tonight?

APRIL

Boy, you do need some rest. It's the bonfire. Remember?

DANIEL

A bonfire? And Timmy will be there?

APRIL

It's at his house, Daniel.

DANIEL

(chuckling)

Since when do we hang out with Timmy?

NICOLE

What do you mean? You guys have been friends for years.

DANIEL

(chuckling)

Yeah, right. Since when?

April and Nicole look at each other in question as they turn to head to class, shaking their heads.

DANIEL

(following the

girls)

Look, I'm being serious.

APRIL

(talking with her back turned to Daniel)

Daniel, we've all been friends since grade school. I wish you would get off his back. His parents are the ones that provide the funding for extracurricular school activities, especially football. Remember the time that we needed more uniforms and his dad was there to pick up the slack?

DANIEL

(still following

behind)

Oh, I see. His family has money so we all feel obligated in having to hang out with him. Is that it?

April stops dead in her tracks as she turns to address Daniel. Nicole turns to watch the ordeal.

APRIL

What is your hangup with him? You have always seemed to have a problem with him. It's almost like you think you're better than he is which we all know is not true. You'd think that after he saved your life you would be more (MORE)

APRIL (cont'd)

appreciative of him. He really loves you, Daniel, and you always treat him like a jerk.

April turns to leave as Daniel takes her by the arm and turns her back towards him.

DANIEL

What do you mean he saved my life?

APRIL

What do you mean, what do I mean? The accident a couple of years ago? Let me guess. You forgot about that too?

Daniel looks on in question.

DANIEL

He was there?

APRIL

(abruptly)

You know he was there. He's the one that gave you CPR and resuscitated you. Thank goodness it was only you in the vehicle too. If there were any other passengers in the car, it probably would have killed them. Remember, it all happened the night you left my house drunk?

Daniel is taken aback.

DANIEL

(mumbling to

himself)

So, this is where it all starts. My opportunity of changing things for the better. This is it.

APRIL

(staring at Daniel)

Daniel, you really need to seek help, seriously.

April looks at Nicole as they again turn to leave. Daniel stands there in deep contemplation as he watches the girls walk down the hall. After a couple of seconds, Daniel lets out a sigh as he turns to head to his next class.

Upon turning around, Daniel comes face-to-face with Gabe who is standing right in front of him.

DANIEL

(looking at Gabe)

Whoa. Can you not warn me before you do that? I can't talk to you like this. People are going to think I'm crazy.

Without any movement from Gabe, Daniel begins walking towards him and mysteriously passes right through him. Daniel immediately turns around in question as Gabe continues staring right at him.

DANIEL

Look, if you keep throwing me curve balls your going to confuse the process even more.

GABE

(smiling)

Now how much fun would the game of life be without any curve balls? Just remember, Daniel, that everything happens for a reason. You must never sway from that concept.

DANIEL

(shrugging his shoulders)

What does that mean?

GABE

Take this chance you are given to figure that out. This, I must leave you with. Goodbye, Daniel.

Gabe turns from Daniel and begins walking down the hall as he slowly fades from existence.

DANIEL

(looking in that direction)

What am I doing here?

Daniel stands firm, still staring in that direction as the other students begin to clear out of the hallway and head to class.

EXT. DANIEL'S CHILDHOOD HOME - AFTER SCHOOL - NIGHT

Daniel approaches his old house as he slowly turns into the driveway. A woman, that had just walked past the kitchen window, suddenly grabs his attention as he leans forward to get a better look.

DANIEL

Mom?

As the woman comes back into view, a man walks up behind her and gives her a gentle hug from behind.

DANIEL

(eyes tearing up)

Dad?

As Daniel continues watching, the man leans around and gives the woman a kiss on the cheek as he then looks at his watch. The woman shakes her head as she peers out the window and sees Daniel sitting in his car.

DANIEL

(gasping)

This can't be real.

She begins to motion for Daniel to come in as she points to the table implying that supper is ready.

DANIEL

(as a tear drops from his eye)

Thanks, Gabe, I won't let you down.

EXT. TIMMY'S HOUSE - BONFIRE - NEXT - NIGHT

Daniel arrives at Timmy's house and parks the car. He sits in silence, watching the other students engage in conversation and laughter.

DANIEL

What am I doing here?

After a few seconds of silence, Daniel pulls the car key out of the ignition and places it in his pocket. Upon placing his hand inside of his pocket, he immediately pulls out Nicole's wedding ring set and gives off a confusing look.

DANIEL

I don't understand. How did this get in there?

Daniel then glances back out towards the crowd and lets out a sigh as he opens the car door and gets out.

As he heads towards the crowd standing right outside of the house, he is approached by a very familiar individual.

JOHN

There's my man!

John walks up to Daniel and initiates their secret handshake.

DANIEL

John?

JOHN

Hey, Man. Glad you could make it.

DANIEL

(sarcastically)

Sure. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

John reaches out with a beer as he attempts to hand it to Daniel.

DANIEL

(politely putting

his hand up)

No, Man, I'm sorry. Not tonight. I'm just not up to drinking.

JOHN

Yeah, I bet. After the partying you did last night, I'm surprised you even wanted to socialize.

John begins laughing as he heads off towards the crowd with Daniel just a few steps behind. As they approach the group, Daniel notices Nicole sheepishly smiling at him and then turning away.

As John tries to get everybody's attention, Richie walks up to Daniel as they too engage in their secret handshake.

JOHN

(raising his hands

to the group)

Alright, guys. I think we're all here now. I have some news I'd like to share with everyone.

The crowd unanimously replies with a moan.

No, this is good, really. I got accepted to my college of choice. Graduating high school is going to be a wonderful thing.

RICHIE

And which college would that be?

JOHN

(smiling)

I was accepted to the Full Sail Center for the Recording Arts.

RICHIE

(sarcastically)

Recording arts? Oh, please. You had us thinking it was something like Harvard.

Everyone in the group begins laughing as Richie continues.

RICHIE

Oh, but instead of practicing law, you want to ensure the highest quality of sound in our theater systems.

JOHN

That's right. So, when you turn on your TV and here that theatrical audio beaming from your set, you'll think of me.

DANIEL

No, I think you would be better suited for something more elaborate like designing websites for large corporations.

Everyone in the group immediately stops what he/she is doing and looks directly at Daniel.

JOHN

Designing what?

Daniel looks around and notices the confusion of the group.

DANIEL

It's something that will come later. You'll see. Maybe April's uncle can give you a job with his company and put you in charge of (MORE)

DANIEL (cont'd)

their marketing team.

John looks at April and starts laughing as he then looks at Daniel to respond.

JOHN

Yeah, Daniel. You really do have a sense of humor.

As the group laughs together, Daniel glances back over in Nicole's direction and notices that she is looking at him. As their eyes meet, Nicole immediately turns away.

DANIEL

(to himself)

What am I doing?

Daniel then excuses himself from the group.

DANIEL

Sorry, guys, if you'll excuse me for a moment, I have to go find the bathroom.

Daniel turns to leave as the group commences talking.

Daniel walks towards the house as he notices a huge tree just on the other side. He walks towards the tree and sits down behind it so as to be discrete.

GABE

(stepping out from behind the tree) Enjoying yourself?

Daniel jumps as Gabe, standing right in front of him, addresses him.

GABE

How is it being around the old crowd again?

DANIEL

(remaining seated)
You need to warn me before you just show up like that.

Gabe begins to laugh as he responds.

GABE

Why is that? Faint heart?

Daniel sighs as he seems to not be in favor of Gabe's humor.

DANIEL

Yeah, it's great being around everyone like this again, but I still don't understand what I'm doing here.

Gabe, dressed in his white leisure suit, stands right in front of him.

GABE

It's all about sacrifice, Daniel. You'll figure that out in time.

DANIEL

(looking up at Gabe)

Yes, but what does that mean?

GABE

Just remember as a general rule of thumb, Daniel, that misery loves company. However, in your case, this will not ring true. You have the power to love or let die. The decision is yours.

Daniel stands to his feet as Gabe slowly begins to vanish.

DANIEL

There you go again with this love or die nonsense. I don't understand what any of this means.

GABE

(fading)

Think about it Daniel. You now have the power to make that change and save a life.

Gabe has now completely vanished as Daniel stares off into space.

DANIEL

You truly come and go in the strangest ways.

Daniel sighs as he shakes his head.

DANIEL

I don't know what I'm here for but I'm willing to give it a try and make things right.

Daniel steps out from behind the tree and heads to rejoin the group.

As Daniel heads back towards the group, he sees Timmy laughing and joking around with Nicole, who seems to really be having a good time.

As he observes Nicole's enjoyment, past images of he and Nicole fighting immediately go through his head. He then pulls Nicole's wedding ring from his pocket and looks at it closely as he again glances back up at Timmy and Nicole.

He is then approached from behind by John who pats him on the back. Daniel immediately puts Nicole's ring away.

JOHN

(talking to Daniel)

Hey, Man. I've been looking for you. We were beginning to get worried. Is everything okay?

DANIEL

Yeah, everything's fine.

Daniel again glances back towards Timmy and Nicole as they seem to greatly be enjoying each other's company. John observes the ordeal and decides to confront Daniel.

JOHN

So, when are you finally going to go for it?

DANTEL

(looking at John)

What?

JOHN

Nicole, goofy. When are you going to ask her out?

DANIEL

(glancing back over towards Nicole)

Oh, I don't know. You think she would?

(looking over towards Nicole and the group)

Are you kidding me? I know she would. You're the only thing she talks about.

DANIEL

Really? Well, what's the deal with Timmy?

JOHN

What do you mean?

DANIEL

How does he fit in with us? He hasn't always been a part of our group. What's the catch?

JOHN

(looking on in question)

Well, I don't guess there is a catch. If you would just take the chance to get to know him, you might find that you actually like the guy.

DANIEL

Really?

JOHN

Yeah, Daniel. His dad is a very giving member of the community and has even sponsored many of our school activities. Timmy has the same giving tendencies. I can assure you that he's bailed me out a time or two. What is this hang-up you have with him anyway?

DANIEL

(looking at John
 as he lets out a
 sigh)

I don't know. Maybe it's something I'll figure out, eventually.

Both Daniel and John peer out at the group as they stand in silence.

(breaking the silence)

Just to give you an idea as to what kind of guy Timmy really is? Just look at him. He is head over heals for Nicole but he knows that she only has eyes for you. With that, he has taken a step back just to see her have what she wants. And you? It's almost as if you think the world revolves around you. From the looks of things, maybe it does.

With that, John excuses himself to rejoin the group. Daniel heads off after him, staying a few steps behind.

Timmy turns and notices Daniel and John heading back towards them.

TIMMY

Hey you two. We were starting to wonder if you got lost.

Timmy approaches John and initiates the handshake and then walks over to Daniel to do the same thing. Daniel immediately coughs into his hand just as Timmy was reaching out to shake it.

DANIEL

Sorry, Dude. I've been a little sick lately.

TIMMY

No, that's okay. You just get yourself well soon, okay?

As John rolls his eyes and shakes his head, Timmy looks over at the group to address everybody.

TIMMY

Don't forget that we're grilling over by the pool. Make sure to make your way over there to get something to eat. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go let everyone else know as well.

Timmy heads off to talk to the other guests as Daniel, John, Nicole, April and Richie all head towards the pool. Daniel remains a few steps behind as he casually observes Nicole.

(addressing the $\dot{}$

group)

Have you ever wondered, though, what all is out there? I mean, what if we could travel beyond space and time and have the ability to see things before they actually happen.

This grabs the attention of Daniel who looks over in John's direction.

JOHN

(continuing)

Man, think of the heartache that could truly be avoided if that was the case.

Daniel again looks back at Nicole and then addresses the group.

DANIEL

Guys, I'm sorry but I really need to be heading out.

RICHIE

Why? You're normally the one to close the place down.

DANIEL

Yeah, I just feel a little down tonight. I would really hate it if I made someone else sick.

JOHN

You don't want to get something to eat first?

DANIEL

No, I really don't feel like eating right now.

NICOLE

(addressing Daniel)

Would it be okay if I walked you to your car?

Everyone looks at Daniel, waiting on his response.

DANIEL

(shrugging his shoulders)

Yeah, sure. I don't see why not.

Daniel turns as he waves goodbye to the group.

DANIEL

Maybe I'll see you guys tomorrow.

Nicole follows Daniel to his car as the rest of the group watches them leave.

RICHIE

(looking at John)

What do you think is up with him? He's been acting kind of strange lately.

JOHN

I don't know, but I sure would like to figure it out.

Richie agrees as he nods his head.

Daniel is seen walking to the car with Nicole right behind him. As he approaches the car, he goes to unlock it.

NICOLE

Is it me?

Daniel immediately stops and turns to address Nicole.

DANIEL

I'm sorry. Do what?

NICOLE

Is it me, the reason that you're leaving early?

DANIEL

(shaking his head)

No, no, of course not. Why would you think that?

NICOLE

Then why are you acting so distant?

DANIEL

DANIEL (cont'd)

guys at school tomorrow. Okay?

NICOLE

(nodding her head)

Okay.

Nicole stands there as Daniel gets into his car and gives off a genuine smile. He then shuts his door and starts his car to leave. Nicole steps back as Daniel backs out of the driveway, waves and takes off down the road.

NICOLE

(softly to herself)

It is me. I can feel it. I just don't know what it is yet.

As the tail lights from Daniel's car vanishes, Nicole turns and walks towards the group.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER AREA - NEXT - DAY

Daniel is seen going through his locker as he searches desperately for something.

DANIEL

(throwing up his

hands)

I can not believe this. Where in the world would I have put it?

FAMILIAR VOICE

(laughing)

Knowing you, you probably never had it.

Daniel immediately turns around to see who has addressed him. As he turns around, he comes face to face with a girl from his past.

DANIEL

Amber?

AMBER

(smiling)

Yes, it's me. How are you?

DANIEL

Oh, my gosh!

Daniel gives Amber a quick hug.

DANIEL

What are you doing here?

Daniel closes his locker as he and Amber start walking down the hall.

AMBER

Well, I've moved back. My dad decides at the last minute that he wants his old job back here after they deliver their last and final pitch to him. He said that they just offered him a deal he couldn't refuse. So, with that, the family packed up and here I am.

DANIEL

Well, that's good news. It's always better to get promoted than have the alternative happen, I quess.

AMBER

Yeah, you're right. No complaints here.

Daniel looks up as he is approached by John.

JOHN

(doing exclusive
 handshake with
 Daniel)

Hey, Man. How's it going? You feeling okay this morning?

DANIEL

Yeah, I'm doing better.

John immediately takes notice to Amber.

AMBER

Wow, that's quite an interesting handshake.

DANIEL

(laughing)

Yeah, we came up with it in elementary school and have been doing it ever since.

JOHN

Amber?

AMBER

(smiling)

Hey, John. How are you?

JOHN

I'm great. What are you doing here?

AMBER

(laughing)

Well, nothing like a welcoming gesture from my good 'ol buddy.

DANIEL

(addressing John)

Her dad decides at the last minute that he wants more money.

Daniel and Amber both start laughing.

AMBER

Yeah, my dad got his old job back. So, I guess I'm here until graduation. It'll be okay. It's only three months and I'm back to the place I really liked anyway.

Daniel smiles and nods his head as John verbally responds.

JOHN

(looking at Daniel)

Hm.

AMBER

Well, it was nice seeing you two again. I've got to go to the office to get my schedule squared away. Maybe we can all get together and go do something sometime.

DANIEL

(nodding)

Yeah, sure. See you later.

Amber leaves as John looks directly at Daniel.

JOHN

So, this was totally unexpected.

DANIEL

Yeah, really. I never expected to see her again.

The two begin walking down the hall.

JOHN

You, uh, get any of those old feelings when you look at her?

DANIEL

(looking at John)
What? Come on, Man. Are you crazy?

JOHN

Does it sound crazy?

DANIEL

(shrugging his
shoulders)

No, it doesn't sound crazy, I guess. She still looks as good as she did back then, though, that's for sure.

JOHN

Yeah, she did look pretty good, but you gotta stay strong. Remember, you're moving on with your life now and Nicole has just as much if not more to offer.

DANIEL

Yeah, I'm very aware of that. Thanks for reminding me.

Daniel and John both smile at each other as they are seen walking down the hall among the other students.

EXT. WEST POINT FOOTBALL FIELD - SAME - DAY

Nicole and April are walking across the football field, heading towards the bleachers.

NICOLE

Can I ask you something?

APRIL

Sure, what's up?

NICOLE

Have you ever felt like you had some strong connection to someone but just couldn't quite figure out what it was? APRIL

Like what?

NICOLE

I don't know. It just seems like I may have known this person in another life or something.

April begins laughing as she jokingly nudges Nicole's arm.

APRIL

And who might that he be?

NICOLE

(smiling)

I think you know.

APRIL

Oh, come on. Do you really believe in past life stuff?

NICOLE

(nodding her head)

Yeah, I think to a certain extent there may be some truth to it.

APRTL

Well, would that not include the concept of reincarnation?

NICOLE

(shrugging her

shoulders)

I don't know. Do I look like some kind of theologists to you? I'm just speculating the possibility, that's all.

April starts laughing as they both step onto the bleachers and take a seat.

APRIL

(opening a book)

Well, if past lives truly exit, then both of you must still have quite a bit of learning to do. They say that the concept of reincarnation is that in each life a lesson is learned. The more lives you live, the more there is for you to learn.

NICOLE

(looking on in question)

Well, if there is something to it, what is it you think we may be here this time to learn?

APRIL

(smiling as she leans into Nicole)
Who? You and Daniel?

Nicole sighs and tilts her head as if to imply that Amber is being naive.

APRIL

(shrugging his shoulders)

Who knows. Maybe its for him to learn how to keep a relationship and put somebody else first for a change and maybe you're the one God has chosen as the prize should he learn it.

Nicole and April both start laughing.

APRIL

(nudging Nicole)

Now, come on. Enough of that deep thinking. Let's get some studying done.

The two girls smile as they begin reading.

EXT. WEST POINT HIGH STUDENT PARKING LOT - SAME - DAY

School has ended and most of the students have already left. Daniel is in the parking lot with the hood of his car up.

After a jerk of his hand, he pops up and hits his head on the hood of the car.

DANIEL

(to himself)

Dang it.

Daniel observes his finger.

AMBER

Wow, this is a sight.

Daniel turns around and sees Amber walking up behind him.

DANIEL

Hey. What are you doing here?

AMBER

Oh, I had someone assisting me with my studies, trying to get me caught up. Where are your buddies?

DANIEL

Oh, who knows. Everyone scatters when that last bell rings.

AMBER

Yeah, tell me about it. Do you even know what you're doing?

DANIEL

(laughing)

No, not really.

Amber places her books on the ground and walks up to the car next to Daniel.

AMBER

(looking under the hood)

Well, what is it doing or not doing? Is it turning over when you try to start it?

DANIEL

Tell you what, why don't I try to start it again and you see if maybe you can figure it out.

Amber starts laughing as Daniel goes around to the driver's side and gets in to turn the ignition.

The car sputtered for a moment before it just quit.

AMBER

(looking around
 the side of the
 car)

When is the last time you had the spark plugs changed?

DANIEL

It's probably been a while. You think that's what it may be?

AMBER

Well, my guess is either that or the fuel pump. Hopefully it's your plugs. That's a lot cheaper to fix. It could even be the fuel filter, but I would definitely try the spark plugs first.

DANIEL

How do you know all of this stuff?

AMBER

(laughing)

Well, if you grow up with three brothers who do nothing but talk cars, you learn a thing or two.

Daniel and Amber casually smile at each other as they immediately look away. Amber closes the hood and walks to the side of the car.

AMBER

Do you need a ride to the parts store? I'd be more than happy to give you one if you do.

DANIEL

(smiling)

Yeah, sure. I would really appreciate that.

Amber picks up her books from off the ground as Daniel shuts his car door and locks it. They then start walking towards her car.

As they approach her car, conveniently parked just five spaces down, Amber gets in on the driver's side as Daniel climbs in on the passenger side.

As Amber starts the vehicle and looks over her shoulder, she pulls out of the parking spot as she and Daniel converse inside the car, steadily laughing and carrying on.

As Amber drives away, Nicole is seen standing at the front entrance of the school, in plain view of the whole ordeal. She looks on in sadness as she looks to the ground and then turns to enter the building.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LUNCH - NEXT - DAY

As students enter the cafeteria, John is seen walking towards a table, tray in hand, to take a seat. Nicole walks in immediately after him and follows him to the table.

JOHN

(looking up as he
 sits down)

Hey, Nicole. Are you not going to eat?

NICOLE

(without much
enthusiasm)

No. I'm not really hungry.

JOHN

Why not? Are you okay?

Nicole sighs as she takes a seat at the table, beside John, as he opens his drink and begins to eat.

NICOLE

Not really.

JOHN

What do you mean? What's wrong?

NICOLE

Am I wasting my time?

JOHN

(looking at Nicole in question)

Wasting your time on what?

NICOLE

On Daniel. It seems like he has quite an attraction for Amber, that new girl. And, from what I understand, they use to date each other a couple of years ago before she moved away the first time. From the looks of things, they seem to be picking up where they left off.

John sighs as he puts his hamburger down.

JOHN

Nicole, the only one that can answer that question is Daniel himself. He and Amber did date a (MORE) JOHN (cont'd)

couple of years ago until he broke it off with her to have some weekend fling with a college girl. He had originally told her that they were just getting too serious and that she needed to back off. However, when he found out that she pretty much did the same thing that very same weekend that he did, he began to play the victim's game.

NICOLE

What do you mean?

JOHN

Well, that Sunday afternoon at the lake with me and Richie, he started drinking. He drank about two hours straight until he decided that he needed to leave. We tried our best to stop him, but it was no use. He ended up having a terrible accident that literally almost killed him. Ever since then, he has this attitude about himself that unless certain girls meet his particularly high standards, they aren't worth the time of day.

NICOLE

Wow, what does that say about me?

JOHN

Look, Nicole, I think he just needs some time. I know he really likes you. Maybe he's just waiting for that right moment.

Nicole sighs as she leans in to John and places her head on his shoulder for comfort. John places his arm around her and gives her a friendly kiss on the forehead.

JOHN

It'll be alright. He'll come to his senses at some point.

Nicole softly giggles as John flashes a smile and shakes his head.

Daniel is seen walking into the cafeteria as he immediately takes notice to John and Nicole, as she rests her head on his shoulder. At that moment, images of Nicole's limp body, as he held her after the accident, flashes through his head.

He immediately turns his head in agony as he takes a moment to regain his composure. At that moment, someone taps him on the shoulder.

As he turns to address the individual, he finds that it is Amber.

AMBER

Hey, what are you doing just standing here?

Amber glances over at John and Nicole and finds that April and Timmy have now joined them at the table. The four individuals laugh as they converse and enjoy each other's company.

AMBER

Hey, why don't you join me for lunch? There's some people I want you to meet.

DANIEL

Yeah, sure. Why not?

Daniel looks back over at Nicole as she raises her head and catches a glimpse of Daniel as he turns his head and follows Amber to the table.

NICOLE

(watching Daniel
 follow Amber)

Guys, I'm sorry, but I think I'm going to go get me some fresh air before class. I'll see you later.

Nicole stands up from the table and excuses herself to leave.

As Nicole turns to leave the cafeteria, everyone at the table looks at each other in question as Timmy catches sight of Daniel sitting beside Amber at a table across the cafeteria.

TIMMY

You have got to be kidding me.

Everyone sitting at the table turns their head in that direction and observes the same thing.

JOHN

Aw, Man. Is he crazy?

TIMMY

Guys, I'll be right back. I just want to make sure she's okay.

Timmy stands up from the table and exits the cafeteria to go find Nicole.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH -LOCKER AREA- IMMEDIATELY AFTER - DAY

Nicole steps out into the hallway as she immediately runs up to her locker, turns around with her back to the locker and then falls to her knees with her head in her hands.

Immediately after, Timmy steps out into the hallway and swiftly looks around until he spots Nicole kneeling in front of her locker and approaches her.

He slowly bends down beside her and gently places his hand on her back.

TIMMY

Nicole?

Nicole looks up with a disgruntled look and stares straight ahead.

TIMMY

Nicole, are you okay?

NICOLE

(crying)

No, Timmy, I'm not okay. I just don't understand it.

TIMMY

(sighing)

I don't either.

NICOLE

(looking at Timmy)

What do you not understand?

TIMMY

How a heart belonging to someone so beautiful can be breaking the way it is.

Timmy softly takes Nicole by the hand as she continues crying.

TIMMY

You need someone that will love you, Nicole, the way you need to be loved. I can be that for you if you will just let me in.

NICOLE

(sighing)

Timmy, I'm sorry. I've told you before that we are just two different people.

Nicole withdraws her hand and puts her head back down as she continues crying.

TIMMY

But what does that mean? Different people or just you thinking that something is wrong with me?

NICOLE

(looking up at Timmy)

Something wrong with you?

TIMMY

Yes, what is it that you think is wrong with me? I know I'm not quite the looker like Daniel or John, but physical beauty will never reach beyond the depth of our own skin. We really aren't that different. I can prove it to you.

Nicole gives Timmy a disgruntled look.

NICOLE

What?

TIMMY

(reaching out to
Nicole as a tear
falls from his
face)

Nicole, please. I have feelings just like Daniel or anyone else. I cry when I'm sad, I smile when I'm happy, I shake when I'm nervous and I pray when I'm scared. I know you do the same things so how can we be that different? If you would just give me a chance, you would see. You might find that (MORE)

TIMMY (cont'd) you could really like me.

The expression on Nicole's face exemplifies the look of a heart dropping.

TIMMY

See, if you look beyond all of the superficial issues that cloud your judgement, you might just find someone that reminds you of me.

Nicole slowly pulls away from Timmy as she continues looking at him, stands to her feet and turns to leave. All Timmy can do is watch. He slowly bows his head and wipes a tear from his eye.

As he glances once more towards Nicole's direction, he turns around and accidentally runs into a classmate, causing a book to fall from her hands. Nicole hears the commotion and stops to observe.

TIMMY

(picking up the book)

Oh, I'm sorry. Are you okay?

Timmy hands the book to the girl.

CLASSMATE

(smiling)

Yeah, I'm fine. Thanks, Timmy.

TIMMY

You're very welcome. Have a good one.

Timmy turns and walks off as Nicole is seen having observed the incident. She softly nods her head as in approval and then slowly turns to head to class.

As Timmy and Nicole walk off in opposite directions, Daniel is seen leaning his head back against the end of the lockers with a look of distraught as the bell rings.

Students then start filling the locker area, grabbing their books, preparing for the next class.

INT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL MAIN BUILDING - SAME - DAY

Daniel is walking down the hall among the students with books in hand. He is immediately confronted by John who taps him on the shoulder.

JOHN

Hey, Man, what are you doing?

DANIEL

(turning around)

Oh, hey John.

Daniel pauses as he and John engage in their secret handshake. They then continue walking.

JOHN

I think your future girlfriend has a lot of admirers but it's obvious she only has eyes for you. Why that is, I have no idea.

DANIEL

(looking at John)

What do you mean?

JOHN

(shrugging his shoulders)

I don't know. Just this hold you have on her.

DANIEL

What hold?

JOHN

This inability to move on. It's almost like she's waiting for definite confirmation that you have no interest in her and that she just needs to give up and move on.

Daniel lets out a sigh as he stops at his locker. John stops and stands beside him.

JOHN

I don't know. It's almost like your just being selfish, I guess.

DANIEL

(putting books in

his locker)

Selfish? You think I'm being (MORE)

DANIEL (cont'd)

selfish? How's that?

JOHN

Well, in a way, you are. If you don't want her, let her go. Why do you insist on stringing her along? She deserves to be happy too whether you believe that or not.

DANIEL

(looking at John)
What makes you think I'm just
stringing her along?

JOHN

Come on, Daniel. It's almost as if you're leading her on to keep her from being with somebody else. You don't want anybody else to have her either. What's up with that?

DANIEL

(closing his locker is he looks at John)
Is that what you think?

JOHN

(looking directly
 at Daniel)

Yeah, it is.

Daniel pauses as he looks at John in question.

JOHN

Come on, Daniel. Don't let her life slip right through your fingers.

DANIEL

What did you say?

JOHN

Sorry. I meant her love. I'm telling you, Daniel, this one is a winner. I just don't want to see you make one of the biggest mistakes of your life.

Daniel sighs and looks down to the ground.

DANIEL

I would be making a mistake.

JOHN

What?

DANIEL

(looking at John)

If I'm with her, I would be making a mistake.

JOHN

Why?

John looks at Daniel with a questionable look on his face.

DANIEL

There's a lot of things you don't understand.

JOHN

Oh, really? Try me.

DANIEL

I wish I could but this is something I have to do on my own.

JOHN

What does that mean?

DANIEL

It means that nobody else can help me. I have to figure it out on my own.

The conversation between John and Daniel tends to start getting a little loud as other students in the hallway begin to take notice.

JOHN

So, your just going to allow her to sit on a shelf until you decide what it is you want to do with her?

DANIEL

God, John, why don't you just hang it up and mind your own business.

Daniel glances up and sees Nicole walking towards them as his heart sinks.

DANIEL

I can't be with her. If she ends up with me, she'll die.

JOHN

(shockingly)

What?

Nicole stands in shock as she looks at Daniel.

JOHN

(looking at Daniel) What the hell does that mean?

DANIEL

It means exactly how it sounds. I'm no good for her. Trust me. If anybody knows that, it's me.

NICOLE

(approaching Daniel)

What is wrong with you?

Daniel stands in disbelief of what is actually taking place as he hears a familiar voice from someone coming up from behind him.

AMBER

(placing her hand
 on Daniel's
 shoulder)

Daniel, are you okay? What's going on?

Nicole puts off a distraught look as she looks at Amber and then back at Daniel.

Daniel gasps as his head begins to spin. He immediately looks down as he begins to breathe heavy.

AMBER

(looking at Nicole)

What did you do?

John begins to address Amber as Daniel stands back up.

DANIEL

(addressing Amber)

She didn't do anything. It was all me.

Daniel excuses himself as he turns to leave the building. Amber, John and Nicole stand there and face each other.

JOHN

Nicole, I am so sorry.

Nicole begins to tear up as she immediately turns and runs into Timmy.

TIMMY

Nicole?

Nicole looks up at Timmy as she makes her way around him and heads on down the hall. Timmy, along with John who walks up beside him, just stand there and watch her as she leaves.

EXT. WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL FRONT EXTERIOR - SAME - DAY

The afternoon bell has rang and students are exiting the building. Richie is desperately trying to make his way through the crowd in an effort to catch up with John.

RICHIE

John!

John stops and turns as he is approached by Richie.

JOHN

Hey, where have you been?

John and Richie begin walking.

RICHIE

What happened with you and Daniel? The whole school seems to be talking about it.

JOHN

You know, to be honest, I have no idea. He just totally dissed Nicole in front half of the class.

RICHIE

Why would he do that? I thought he liked Nicole.

JOHN

Yeah, I thought he did too. I'm just tired of his crap and the way he thinks he can treat people.

RICHIE

What exactly has he been doing?

JOHN

You know, it's just never a serious matter when it comes to him. He thinks everything is an amusement park, designed specifically for him. He is never going to grow up and I don't want to see anybody get hurt because of his immature ways.

RICHIE

You don't think he deserves a fair chance?

JOHN

(stopping to look at Richie) A fair chance at what?

RICHIE

To make it all right. Nicole is a big girl and it's not like they've been dating exclusively. She can handle herself. But as far as you and Daniel go, you two have been friends for far too long and have gone through so much to have this ruin your friendship. You don't think that maybe this is just a big misunderstanding?

John and Richie continue walking.

JOHN

Richie, it's okay. It's been coming for awhile. Remember when he dated April? Before she and I got together it was the same old thing. He needs to be taught a lesson of how to act cordially and treat people, especially women, with respect. It's almost like it's more of a number's game with him.

RICHIE

(sighing)

Wow, I can't believe this. Just give it time. Daniel needs you. You're just about the only one that understands him. His life (MORE)

RICHIE (cont'd)

lesson will be learned in due time. It's not up to us to teach him that lesson but something he'll have to figure out for himself. We have our own issues to deal with. Just give it some time and call him later. Okay? I'm going to go find Nicole and see how's she doing. See ya.

Richie pats John on the back as he waves and walks off. John's walking pace tends to slow gradually as Richie walks ahead of him. John continues watching in that direction as he casually stops and shakes his head.

EXT. PARK BENCH IN LOCAL WEST POINT CITY PARK - SAME - DAY

Daniel is sitting on a park bench, appearing to continuously wipe his eyes. As he sits with a look of deep contemplation on his face, he is interrupted by a female voice.

UNKNOWN FEMALE (talking to another gentleman)

Hey.

As the voice reminds him of how Nicole sounded at their very first meeting at the park, Daniel gasps and immediately looks up.

Upon seeing that it is actually another individual speaking to someone else, he immediately sighs and puts his head back down.

After a couple of seconds, he looks up to behold children engaging in laughter and families enjoying each other. These sights drive Daniel to reminisce and think back to his time with Nicole.

As Daniel sits in contemplation, images of him and Nicole come on screen as he intimately recalls the time he proposed to her at the park. After a few moments of contemplation, he pulls her wedding ring from his pocket.

As he observes the ring, he is casually interrupted by an elderly black man who sits down beside him.

ELDERLY BLACK MAN (addressing Daniel)
Hey, Son. You look like you could use a friend. Who are you?

Daniel casually looks up to address the man.

DANIEL

Daniel. My name is Daniel.

ELDERLY BLACK MAN

No. Who are you? That's what you have to figure out. Whatever it is that's bothering you doesn't amount to much in the main scheme of things.

Daniel gives the man a disgruntled look.

DANIEL

Excuse me?

ELDERLY BLACK MAN
Find yourself first. You know,
who you are and what you're here
for. Once you figure that out,
everything else will fall into
place. We all have to. It's part
of life. It all starts with love
and yourself. Only then can you
open yourself up to true love.

Daniel continues giving the man his undivided attention.

ELDERLY BLACK MAN

Take the time to figure that out. What's most important in your life? Now there's a riddle for you.

The elderly man is approached by a light skinned child who runs up to him and gives him a hug. The man picks up the child and turns to address Daniel one last time before he walks away.

ELDERLY BLACK MAN

Remember, you do know how to save a life, and that's your own. You just have to find it within yourself. Truly live your life to the depths of your ability and allow others to do the same. Just remember that God comes up with the best solutions, we don't. We just have to have faith.

The man smiles and tips his hat as he turns to approach a mixed couple (white male and black female). As he

approaches the couple, he hugs the lady and extends his hand to the gentleman. Daniel watches as he remains seated.

As the man walks away with his family in tow, Daniel sighs as he stands up from the bench and turns to leave.

EXT. TIMMY'S HOUSE AFTER SCHOOL - SAME - DAY

Timmy is sitting on the couch as he hears a knock on the door.

TIMMY

Mom, could you please get that?

Timmy sits still as he waits for a response. After a couple of seconds, he sighs and gets up to go get the door.

TIMMY

It's okay, Mom, I got it.

As Timmy slowly opens the door, he beholds Nicole just standing there, looking as if she had been crying. He steps out of the house to console her and shuts the door behind him.

TIMMY

Nicole? Are you alright?

NICOLE

(looking at Timmy)

You were right.

TIMMY

What?

NICOLE

You were right about all of it.

TIMMY

Nicole, I'm sorry. I still don't understand.

NICOLE

We're really not that different. Remember?

Nicole reaches out and grabs Timmy's hand.

NICOLE

(through teary

eyes)

Just like you, I cry when I'm sad, I smile when I'm happy, I shake (MORE)

NICOLE (cont'd)

when I'm nervous and I pray
when I'm scared. I know that now.
I just couldn't see it before.

Timmy's heart drops as he swallows to maintain his composure.

NICOLE

I looked beyond all of the superficial factors and I saw what reminded me of you. It was me.

Timmy grabs Nicole as they slowly embrace.

After a few seconds, Timmy refrains as a loud sound of thunder is heard overhead.

TIMMY

Come on, let's go in the house before we get wet.

Timmy opens the door for Nicole as she steps inside. As Timmy starts to go in behind her, he takes notice to Daniel who is discretely standing on the other side of the road.

Daniel genuinely smiles as he slowly goes through the motions of the handshake. As he ends the handshake with the pointing of the index finger right at Timmy, he moves the direction of his pointing to a small box sitting on the step.

Timmy looks over in that direction and sees the box. He then looks back at Daniel in disbelief, who softly places his hand on his heart, and then walks over to pick it up.

As Timmy slowly opens the box, he observes Nicole's ring. He immediately glances back up to address Daniel, but he is nowhere to be found.

Timmy just stands there, box in hand, looking off in that direction as a tear falls from his face. Another roll of thunder is heard as Timmy slowly turns and enters the house.

EXT. INNER CITY RAILROAD TRACK - THAT SAME - NIGHT

Rain is pouring down as Daniel stumbles around with a bottle of whiskey in hand. He is constantly mumbling and laughing out loud, walking alongside the track.

As the sound of a train coming up the track is heard behind him, Daniel quickly turns around. As he begins walking in

that direction towards the train, he trips and falls to the side of the track with the train not far from him.

As Daniel lies in agony, the train quickly approaches.

As he again looks up, he notices the train right up on him as he is immediately pulled from the side of the track to safety by an unknown individual.

As the train forcefully passes by, Daniel turns to address the individual as the brightness of the entity temporarily blinds him and he holds his hand above his eyes to shade the light. The outline of a man starts to come into focus.

DANIEL

(holding his hand
in front of his
eyes)

Gabe?

GABE

Daniel, it's not up to you to determine when it is over. The story is just now beginning.

Daniel sighs and bows his head to cry.

DANIEL

Why is this happening? I can't do this anymore.

Gabe reaches down and takes Daniel by the hand to assist him to his feet.

GABE

We know, Daniel. You're mission is now complete.

DANIEL

(trying to look at Gabe)

What does that mean? What will happen to me?

GABE

(looking at Daniel as the rain continues to fall)

You did what you had to do to protect Nicole. Unfortunately, the one you had to protect her from was you.

Daniel looks at Gabe as he tries not stumble and continues to cry.

DANIEL

But I can change. I know I can.

GABE

I know you can too, Daniel. And you've proven that very point.

Gabe places Daniel's arm around his neck to give him a crutch and as Daniel begins to maintain balance, Gabe once more disappears.

Daniel stands in agony as he calls out Nicole's name and begins to fall as the screen goes black and the sounds of rain and thunder suddenly cease.

EXT. INNER CITY NEAR RAILROAD TRACK - NEXT - DAY

Daniel is starting to wake the next morning as he slowly begins to maneuver his body and moan in agony.

DANIEL

(putting his hand to his head)

Oh, Man. What happened?

He slowly opens his eyes to observe his surroundings.

DANIEL

Where am I?

He suddenly observes a car heading in his direction. As the car gets closer, it immediately comes to a stop.

DANIEL

(raising his head)

Nicole?

The door to the vehicle opens as Amber steps out.

AMBER

(running up to

Daniel)

Oh my gosh, What happened to you? Are you alright?

DANIEL

(looking up at

Amber)

How did you know I was here?

AMBER

(trying to assist
Daniel to his
feet)

John called and said that you were missing and asked if I might know where you would be. Without saying another word, I dropped the phone and here I am. How did you even get out here?

DANIEL

(sighing as he looks around)
I honestly don't know.

With the help of Amber, Daniel stands to his feet and walks over to the car. As they approach the car, Amber opens the passenger side door for Daniel to get in. After he gets in, Amber then makes her way to the other side of the car.

Daniel places his head back against the headrest and looks out of the window, through eyes of obvious pain, as Amber takes off down the road.

AMBER

(looking at Daniel)
What is up with you? Is it
something I did that's making you
act like this7

DANIEL

(shaking his head
 as he looks out
 into the distance)
No. It's something I did.

Amber lets out a sigh as she shakes her head and continues driving, periodically flashing glances at Daniel.

DANIEL

(turning to Amber)

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt helpless to do anything, knowing that the worst was just about to happen? Then, as you focus more on what you consider to be the problem, you realize that the problem isn't the event about to take place but what you, yourself, harbor in your own heart?

Amber looks on in question.

AMBER

Do what?

DANIEL

(continuing)

I've hurt a lot of people in my life, Amber, including you. I've learned though that while you're still here on earth, it's another chance that we've been given to make things right with not only everybody else but also ourselves.

Daniel sighs as he places his head back against the head rest and stares out of the window.

AMBER

(looking at Daniel) So, what happens next?

DANIEL

(still gazing out
 of the window)

I guess we die and take those lessons with us.

AMBER

Or do we?

Daniel immediately looks at Amber in question. As she glances back at him, he is disturbed by something right in front of them.

He immediately turns and notices the car in front of them and quickly grabs the steering wheel, barely missing the passing car.

Their car then comes to a screeching halt as it runs into a tree. Daniel's head hits the dashboard and momentarily knocks him out.

As Daniel lies unconscious, past images of events with John, Richie, Amber and Nicole swiftly and mentally go through his head as they bring him closer to the future.

As he once again finds himself holding Nicole's limp body on the ground, he is suddenly awakened by a very loud and familiar voice. FAMILIAR VOICE (O.S.)

(yelling)
Are you crazy?

Daniel is startled as he comes to and faces the individual sitting on the driver's side of the car.

FAMILIAR VOICE (O.S.)

Man, some people.

DANIEL

(scooting up in his seat)

Nicole?

Nicole comes on screen as she looks at Daniel.

NICOLE

Oh my gosh, some people are crazy. Are you okay? You look a little shook up. I'm sorry that I woke you. You looked like you were sleeping soundly. Just make sure not to grab the wheel next time. You almost gave me a heart attack.

DANIEL

(still looking at
Nicole in
disbelief)

Nicole?

NICOLE

(smiling)

Yes, Daniel. It's me and I'm okay. Are you going to be alright? It was a close call but we made it. My car is shot, though.

Daniel serenely leans over and takes Nicole into his arms as they firmly embrace.

He then begins laughing uncontrollably as he peers out into the distance and beholds Gabe standing off to the side of the road.

Gabe flashes a pointing sign (the same as what Daniel did with Timmy) as Daniel graciously smiles back. Gabe then turns to leave and vanishes into thin air.

NICOLE

(pulling back)

Daniel, I'm serious. Are you going to be okay?

DANIEL

(smiling)

Yes, I am absolutely wonderful.

Daniel pulls Nicole back to him as he tightly hugs and caresses her. After a brief moment, he slowly pulls back to address her.

DANIEL

What year is this?

NICOLE

What?

DANIEL

Why does everybody freak out when I ask that question? What year is this?

NICOLE

(staring off into

space)

Hm. Well, let's see. We just had our 10 year reunion so my guess is It's 1994. Would that not have been a good indicator for you?

DANIEL

(raising up with

excitement)

Our 10 year reunion? Yes, exactly. How did it go? Did you enjoy yourself?

NICOLE

(laughing)

Of course I enjoyed myself. always do when I'm with you. You and Richie were a hoot. You were definitely the life of the party, let me tell you.

Nicole starts laughing as Daniel's eyes softly begin to water, allowing a single tear to fall from his face.

DANIEL

(to himself)

Everyone's okay. We made it.

Daniel takes Nicole's left hand as he feels her wedding band and looks down to observe. He then looks back up at her and leans in to give her a sensual kiss.

NICOLE

(leaning back)

And you're sure you're going to be alright?

DANIEL

Darling, I have never been better.

Daniel resumes his hug as laughter feels the car.

FADE OUT.

As the credits roll, various scene snippets flash on screen of Nicole, Daniel, John, April and Richie enjoying their children as they play in the park together.

After a couple of minutes of flashed scenes, the screen slowly fades to black as the credits finish rolling.

The End