

Quiet
by
Sean Elwood

© 2007, All Rights Reserved

OVER BLACK:

"Ghosts seem harder to please than we are; it is as though they haunted for haunting's sake -- much as we relive, brood, and smoulder over our pasts."

ELIZABETH BOWEN, preface to *The Second Ghost Book*

The text dissolves into nothing and all that's left is black. Though there's nothing to see, there's a voice to hear.

ADAM (V.O.)

You can't see me, but you can hear me. You can smell the delivered pizza from the other end of the school, yet you can't see it. You're unable to view the face of your friend, but feeling around it will give you a mental image of what they look like. Now open your eyes.

EXT. SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

ALEXIS (LEX) JOHNSON (17) opens her eyes and reveals the incredibly blue color that actually goes well with the freckles on her face.

ADAM LEWIS (17) sits across from her on the picnic table. His Peruvian hat presses his hair in front of his eyes, but he brushes it out of the way.

ADAM

So would you rather be deaf or blind?

Lex smiles.

LEX

Deaf. Because if I couldn't wake up and see your smile every day, I wouldn't be happy.

ADAM

And how many chick-flicks did you have to watch to come up with that cliché?

LEX

Shut up. I'm trying to be nice.

ADAM

What you're trying to do is hit on me.

LEX

Oh yeah, like I'd really like to hit on you.

ADAM

You know you want my bod.

LEX

And I'm sure your girlfriend thinks differently. Why did you ask me if I would rather be blind or deaf?

ADAM

Curiosity.

LEX

Pointless curiosity?

ADAM

I was just wondering.

LEX

You're so weird.

ADAM

People talk about this kind of stuff all the time.

Lex rolls her eyes.

ADAM

Okay, maybe the pizza part was a bit exaggerated.

Lex pulls out a smashed sandwich from her backpack. She stares at it and groans.

ADAM

Why don't you just keep it in your locker until lunchtime? You have to go there anyway.

LEX

You should be lucky I'm even eating.

ADAM

If I didn't criticize you about eating crackers for lunch every day, I'm sure you'd be having nothing as usual.

LEX

Hey! I eat breakfast! I had a big breakfast this morning!

ADAM

What did you have?

LEX

I'm not telling.

ADAM

Why the hell do you keep doing that? Seriously?

Lex takes a bite of her sandwich and talks with her mouth full.

LEX

Do what?

ADAM

You mention something and then decide not to tell. It's against the rules.

LEX

The rules of what?

ADAM

Of life. What's the point of mentioning something and end up not telling? There is none, you see? It's like asking someone if they want something to eat. They say 'Yes' and you decide not to get them anything.

LEX

There's nothing wrong with that. I'm able to mention something but not tell.

ADAM

Uh, yeah there is. You're taunting the person—it's basically bragging because you know something that they don't.

LEX
Are you talking?

Adam sighs and continues to eat his lunch. There's a bit of silence.

ADAM
God, it's freakin' December and it's still 80 degrees out. I swear, Texas is the worst state to live in.

LEX
I hear there's a cold front coming in this weekend.

A Yellow Jacket flies down at the table. Adam shoos it off.

ADAM
Good. I'm tired of putting up with these stupid wasps.
(Beat)
What did you have for breakfast?

LEX
A sandwich and a granola bar.

ADAM
Seriously? That's it?

LEX
I'm practically forcing myself to eat.

ADAM
You're sad, you know that?

LEX
(Trying to be serious)
Do you want me to beat you up?

ADAM
Every time you say that you don't mean it.

Lex sets her sandwich on the table and stands up, "prepping" up for a fight.

LAUREN FORAM (17) walks to the table. Behind her, JACKSON SCHULER (17) walks up and sets his stuff down on the table.

ADAM
 (To Lauren)
 Happy birthday. We were just
 talking about you.

They give each other a quick kiss on the lips.

LAUREN
 Thanks. About what?

LEX
 No, we were talking about you,
 like, five minutes ago.

LAUREN
 About what?

LEX
 How you want his bod.

She giggles and Lauren rolls her eyes. She sits down, as does Jackson. He begins to work on homework.

ADAM
 You know you want it.

He puts his arm around her.

LAUREN
 Well, you're going to have to wait
 a while to have mine.

JACKSON
 (Doesn't even look up)
 Yeah, well, I pee in the shower.

Lauren sets her sandwich on the table.

LEX
 Why!?

JACKSON
 Well, one, it saves water, and two,
 it's easier. All you have to do is
 just let it flow—

LEX
 No, why do you tell us these
 things!?

JACKSON
 (Shrugs)
 You know, I'm not sure.

LEX

Oh my God...

Lex pulls out a physics book and begins to read it.

ADAM

Hey guys, my family is having a New Year's Eve party in the cul-de-sac. You want to come?

LAUREN

When?

ADAM

I'm not sure. I think at, like, seven or something.

LEX

I'm able to go...considering I never go out anywhere anyway.

LAUREN

I think I'm able to go. I have to ask my parents.

JACKSON

You know I'm able to. Pace and I already bought some fireworks.

LAUREN

They're already selling fireworks at the beginning of December?

JACKSON

Yeah. We actually got a lot, you know, with that whole buy one get five free deal?

ADAM

Okay well just don't do anything stupid with them like you did last year.

LAUREN

What did he do?

ADAM

His dad was sleeping in a hammock on the patio and he put some Black Cats under him. When they went off, his dad freaked and fell off the patio and sprained his wrist.

JACKSON
Grounded for two months.

LEX
You're such an idiot.

JACKSON
Just trying to have some fun.

The bell rings and the four get up. Lex groans.

LEX
So, who else is going to fail this test?

ADAM
I already did.

LEX
Man, I'm going to fail it! I don't understand anything.

LAUREN
Well, try your best—

LEX
Yeah, yeah, yeah try your best, think positive, blah, blah, blah.

Adam pulls Lauren towards him.

ADAM
Try and make it, okay?

LAUREN
You know my parents. Instead of letting me have fun on New Year's Eve, they'll probably have me clean the house or something.

ADAM
What are you? They're maid?

Lauren giggles. They kiss. Adam walks away, but Jackson stops him.

JACKSON
(To Lauren)
Hey! Party tonight!

LAUREN
Yeah. Seven to Eleven.

JACKSON
I'll be there.

LAUREN
Just don't be too crazy.

JACKSON
(To Adam)
Where should we meet?

ADAM
Just meet me at my car after school
lets out.

INT. SCHOOL - THEATRE ROOM - DAY

The room is nice and clean, with tables spread out evenly in the middle of the large classroom. Theatre posters hang on the wall along with other theatrical accessories.

Adam walks in and sits down on the couch with other theatre students. One of them is PACE SCHULER (17), Jackson's twin.

PACE
What's up?

ADAM
I just want to get out of here.

PACE
One more period.

ADAM
And I have a test.

PACE
Did Jackson tell you about the
fireworks we got yesterday?

ADAM
Yeah. Just like I told him, don't
do anything stupid with them.

PACE
Relax. First of all, it wasn't me
who made my dad sprain his wrist.
And second, he was just trying to
have fun.

ADAM
Okay well don't try and kill anyone
this time.

PACE
Can we tie Black Cats to your cat's
tail?

ADAM
Fuck no!

Pace laughs and Adam slugs him with a pillow on the couch.
Pace blocks the blows with his hands and gives up.

PACE
Okay, okay, I surrender!

KATIE BEACHUM (16) walks in and sets her stuff on the table.
She sits down and pulls out a binder.

ADAM
Where's Mrs. Walker?

PACE
Gone. We have a substitute.

ADAM
So, it's a blow-off day today?

PACE
Yep.

ADAM
Awesome.

Adam walks over to Katie and sits down next to her.

KATIE
Oh, hey, Adam, I'm getting quotes
for the school newspaper. Do you
want to be in it?

ADAM
Sure. What is it?

KATIE
Okay, what's your weirdest habit or
talent or something of the sort?

ADAM
Um...Well, I'm able to lip read.

KATIE
Nuh-uh. Really?

ADAM

Yeah, I learned to read lips when I was little. I was a strange one back then.

KATIE

And you're even stranger.

ADAM

Well, for some reason I enjoyed watching people talk. I know it's weird. I just watched and I didn't care if they kept on staring at me.

KATIE

Creeper!

ADAM

Tell me about it. But it's paid off. I'm really good at it now.

KATIE

Yeah, whatever.

ADAM

I'll tell you what Pace and Michael are talking about it.

KATIE

I wouldn't really care. Michael and I don't talk much anyway.

Adam turns and sees Pace and MICHAEL (16) having an inaudible conversation. Adam stares at them.

After a moment, he turns back around.

ADAM

I think they're talking about a ski trip that Michael is going on over the break.

KATIE

(Uninterested)
Really.

Adam turns back around.

ADAM

Hey, Michael, what are you doing over Christmas break?

MICHAEL

Skiing in Colorado. Pace asked me if I wanted to go to your party thing, but skiing's keeping me from going. Sorry.

ADAM

It's alright. Just wondering.

Adam turns back around and makes an "I told you so" face towards Katie.

KATIE

Lucky guess.

ADAM

How about "special talent"?

KATIE

How about "show-off"?

He winks and walks back over to the couch. Katie watches him sit down and she sighs.

EXT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - PATIO - NIGHT

Music blares from a large speaker. A few people dance on the patio while others sit down at a table or lean against the railing.

Lex and Pace sit at a table. Pace engulfs a piece of cake while Lex takes tiny bites from a small piece.

LEX

God you're disgusting when you eat.

PACE

Well at least I eat.

LEX

Okay, seriously, what's the big deal? So I get full easily. Is that a problem?

PACE

Relax, we're only making fun of you. We know you eat...or at least we like to think you do.

Lex throws an ice cube at him, but he barely flinches.

LEX

Asshole.

PACE

You're eating a piece of cake no bigger than a cell phone! What else am I supposed to think?

LEX

That I don't have much a sweet tooth! Besides, I hate the frosting. The bread is the best part.

PACE

The bread?

LEX

Whatever it's called. The...fluffy stuff. The insides.

PACE

You know, eating more keeps your metabolism high.

LEX

Are you calling me fat?

PACE

What?

Adam and Lauren walk over to the table and sit down.

LEX

Happy birthday.

Lauren smiles in return.

PACE

How's it?

LAUREN

Good. Thanks you guys.

LEX

It wasn't just us.

Adam looks at Pace. Pace takes in a deep breath and looks at both Lex and Lauren.

PACE

(Sketchy)

I'm, uh, I'm going to go get more cake.

Lex yells at him as he walks off.

LEX

Pig!

LAUREN

(To Adam)

You're not touching your cake.

ADAM

I'm just letting the first piece sit. Calm down.

Pace walks up behind Lauren without her knowing it. He holds a plate with a large piece of cake on it. Adam nods.

ADAM

(To Lex and Lauren)

Hey, what's that?

He points towards the woods behind Lauren's house. They both look towards the direction.

Pace smashes the piece of cake in Lauren's face. Her scream is muffled by the dessert. Lex turns her head towards Lauren when Adam presses his piece of cake in her face.

Adam and Pace run away from the table as the two girls get up and grab whatever is left of cake at the table.

Other party guests with cake join in and begin to create a cake fight.

INT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jackson, Pace, Adam, and Lauren sit at a table with a bag of chips and cheese dip in the middle. They all still have a bit of cake on their faces and necks. Jackson and Pace chow down on the chips.

JACKSON

I wrote a script. Just a short one though. Seven pages.

ADAM

About what?

JACKSON

A guy tries to break up with his girlfriend.

ADAM

Anything else?

JACKSON

It turns out breaking up with his girlfriend causes a rip in the space time continuum or whatever, and he has to fix it before the world explodes.

ADAM

All that in seven pages?

PACE

Sounds stupid.

JACKSON

I was joking.

LAUREN

Are you going to film it, Jackson?

JACKSON

I don't know. I can't seem to find any actors.

Adam and Pace look at him.

ADAM

Uh, hello?

JACKSON

I'm kidding, I'm kidding, but yeah I don't know if I'm going to or not.

ADAM

Well you have camera experience and Pace has acting experience. All you need to do is find the girlfriend and get the show on the road.

JACKSON AND PACE

Whatever.

Adam stands up.

ADAM

Well I have to head on home.

JACKSON

Can you give us a ride home?

ADAM

Sure.

LAUREN

Oh, wait, one last picture. For
Myspace or Facebook or whatever.

She sets the timer on the camera and sets it on the counter. The four group up in front of the kitchen window. A red light on the camera flashes.

They smile, and the camera flashes. It's blinds all four of them for a second.

Lauren turns the camera off and kisses Adam goodbye while Jackson and Pace make their way out the front door.

INT. LAUREN'S HOUSE - LAUREN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lauren sits down at her desk and plugs her camera into the computer and downloads the pictures. She reviews them, but stops at the last one; the one taken in the kitchen.

She looks at Adam. And then behind him.

She looks closer and notices a small boy behind Adam. He peeks over his shoulder. His eyes are white and lopsided; too deformed to be human.

FADE OUT.

OVER BLACK: December 31st, 2007

INT. HONDA ELEMENT - NIGHT

Adam drives while Jackson sits in the front passenger seat. Pace sits in the back.

Jackson looks out the windshield and stares at the cars in front of them. The white headlights from the cars in the opposite lane twinkle along with the red taillights from the cars in front of them.

Jackson sighs.

JACKSON

It still looks like Christmas.

ADAM

Yeah. It doesn't really feel like
it though.

JACKSON

And to think we have to go to
school in three more days.

ADAM

Breaks just keep getting shorter
and shorter. Thanksgiving break is
only three days, Christmas break
begins on the 22nd.

He rolls down the windows. Jackson tightens up his jacket and
pulls out a cigarette. He sticks it in his mouth.

ADAM

Don't do it, man. Especially in my
car.

Jackson hesitates and puts the cigarette away.

JACKSON

Sorry.

PACE

I heard that every cigarette you
smoke, it takes off seven minutes
of your life or something like
that.

JACKSON

Is there any way someone can prove
that?

ADAM

Or did you know that a cigarette
has over four thousand chemicals in
it?

JACKSON

Yes, Adam, I did. I took health
class last year.

ADAM

You continue that, you'll end up
with a hole in your neck.

JACKSON

Will you just drive?

Adam smiles and stares out at the road.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

Adam, Pace, and Jackson walk in through the front door to
find Adam's mom, STACEY LEWIS (49), staring at a monstrosity:

A giant vase that sits inside a large pot. It's a fountain, with water that spills out the top of the vase and flows into the pot.

The three stop and Stacey turns around.

PACE

What is it?

JACKSON

I have no idea.

ADAM

(Disappointed)

It's a waste of money.

STACEY

It's not a waste of money.

(To Pace and Jackson)

Would you boys like something to eat or drink? I have sodas in the fridge and snacks on the table.

The two shake their heads.

ADAM

Mom, what is this?

STACEY

It's a fountain.

PETER LEWIS (50) walks in and examines the monstrosity.

JACKSON

That thing is bigger than I am, Mrs. Lewis.

PETER

This, right here, is art.

ADAM

That, right there, is my college fund going to waste.

STACEY

(Shooing them off; joking)

Just go up to your room, you little brat!

The three begin to head up the stairs.

ADAM

Hey, Dad, when is everyone getting here?

PETER

At eight.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - LATER

Band posters clutter the walls and the room is surprisingly clean. Rock music softly plays from a computer.

Jackson and Pace sit on a bed (really just a mattress with sheets and covers) that sits in one corner of the room.

Adam sits at the computer while Lex sits in a chair-hammock in another corner of the room. Lauren walks in with some drinks. The sound of party guests and laughter are cut off when Lauren shuts the door.

LEX

So what kind of fireworks did you guys buy?

PACE

Smoke bombs, M-1000s, sparklers, Roman candles—

JACKSON

—Black Cats, bottle rockets, fireworks that make “big boom.”

LAUREN

Man, 2008...It's weird to think about it, huh?

Adam holds up his drink.

ADAM

A toast?

LEX

(To herself)
Oh my God...

They clank their soda cans together.

LEX

You guys are so weird.

PACE

Well, I, for one, am actually proud that I was able to experience the new millennium back in 2000, and I'm glad that I was able to survive long enough in this God-forsaken world for another eight years.

JACKSON
Whoa, calm down there little lady.

LAUREN
Well I'm just glad the first semester is over and Fall exams are gone.

ADAM
You didn't exempt from any?

LAUREN
I could have for some, but I wanted to try and get my grades up. They were actually easier than I thought.

ADAM
I would've exempted when I had the chance.

LEX
Of course you would.

Jackson takes a gulp of his soda.

JACKSON
Oh, did you guys hear about that new snack at Sonic? The fried macaroni and cheese snacks?

LAUREN
What?

LEX
That's disgusting.

PACE
Wait, what is it?

JACKSON
It's like macaroni and cheese, except in chicken nuggets form.

Pace thinks for a moment.

PACE
I might have to try that.

ADAM
Seriously, who thinks of this stuff.

JACKSON

I think it was created by some retired employee or something.

LAUREN

I hate fast food. After seeing Supersize Me, I'm never eating at McDonald's ever again.

PACE

Who'd want to eat there in the first place?

LEX

Well, by looking at the commercials, they seem to be targeting kids with figures that you can easily become familiar with, such as Ronald McDonald or the Hamburglar. Plus they have those kids meals which, in every bag, you get a free toy. It's basically what every fast-food restaurant is doing.

PACE

What has our world come to?

ADAM

Man, Lex, I hate it when you have these complicated conversations. Politics, drugs, sex, death, it's all the same with you...And I hate politics.

LEX

And you always try to change the subject with stuff like, "Oh look it's the Wii!" or "I can't wait to see that new horror movie!" That's the same with you, also.

ADAM

(Joking)

Well then, let's do something different!

LEX

Alright! Let's!

JACKSON

How about we go use some Sparklers and a few Roman Candles?

ADAM AND LEX
(Still play-fighting)
Alright! Come on!

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Party guests stand and talk to each other with beer in their hands. They laugh and almost drown out the music that plays from some speakers in the corners of the house.

The teens walk through the kitchen towards the front door. Adam drifts off from the group.

ADAM
Hold on, I'm going to get another
soda.

He accidentally bumps into ROBERT REYMON (45), his hair already graying along with his thick mustache. His beady eyes look through thick glasses.

Robert drops a photo and it falls to the floor.

ADAM
Sorry.

Adam picks the photo up and looks at it.

INSERT - PICTURE: A small boy, JONATHAN REYMON (7), shows off his buck-toothless smile for a school picture.

ROBERT
That's Jonathan. He'd be eight next
month.

Adam looks up at Robert.

ADAM
Excuse me?

ROBERT
Do you drive?

ADAM
Yeah.

ROBERT
You don't drink, do you?

ADAM
No...No, of course not.

ROBERT

Good. Jonathan...He was killed by a drunk driver a few months ago.

Adam remains silent. He looks around in an awkward manner, but finally hands Robert the picture. Robert takes it.

Somebody pats Robert on the shoulder. Robert turns his head and smiles as Adam says:

ADAM

I'm...Sorry.

ROBERT

I'm sorry?

He cups his hand around his right ear. Adam stare, confused.

ROBERT

I'm sorry, I'm deaf in my left ear.

ADAM

Oh. I said, "I'm sorry."

Robert looks at the picture and sighs.

ROBERT

It's fine, I guess. Nothing really hurts me now. I've lost everything that matters to me.

(Beat)

My wife left me a few weeks after Jonathan's death.

LAUREN (O.S.)

Adam!

Adam turns towards Lauren and gives her the 1-minute finger. He turns back to Robert.

ADAM

I'm sorry. I know what it's like to lose someone...I mean, I've never lost someone that close but, yeah, sometimes I wish I could have intervened, you know?

ROBERT

Yeah, I know what you mean. I mean, I'd do anything to get him back...

Adam looks back at Lauren. He looks around him and then back at Robert, who stares at the picture.

ADAM

Look, I'm really sorry I brought it up.

ROBERT

It's fine. It feels good to talk about it some times.

ADAM

Yeah. It does.

ROBERT

Adam, right?

ADAM

Yeah.

ROBERT

I'm Robert Reymon. You can call me Mr. Reymon, Robert, whatever you feel like calling me.

ADAM

Alright. You ready for the fireworks tonight, Mr. Reymon?

ROBERT

You bet. I'll be out there to get a good seat.

Adam smiles and walks towards the front door. Robert sticks the picture in his back pocket and camouflages himself with the party guests.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lex and Jackson play with the sparklers while Pace hands Lauren a Roman Candle. Adam walks outside.

LEX

Look, I can spell my name out with the sparkler.

JACKSON

You act like such a kid some times.

LEX

So, people can act like kids whenever they want.

JACKSON

Whatever! You always get mad at me for wanting to go trick-or-treating every year! You always complain about how old you are to be doing it.

LEX

That's because trick-or-treating has its limits! Besides, you'd be weirded out also if you had a 25-year-old dressed up at your door asking for candy.

Adam walks over to Lauren and Pace.

LAUREN

What were you doing?

ADAM

Just talking to this guy who sent me on a really long guilt trip.

LAUREN

Oh.

PACE

Stand back, Adam. Who knows what your girlfriend can do with a Roman Candle.

Pace lights Lauren's Roman Candle. Lauren braces herself. The fuse sinks into the long tube and she shuts her eyes. Lauren flinches and lets out a small yelp when the first fireball shoots out the tube.

She opens her eyes as the second one flies out. Lauren begins to laugh as the last ones come out. Once their finished, she still holds it up.

LAUREN

Is it done?

PACE

Yeah.

LAUREN

That was fun! I want to do another one.

PACE

(To Adam)

You want to try one?

ADAM
Sure. Why not?

Pace lights it for him and Adam steps forward. He points the Roman Candle in the sky. The first fireball blasts out of the tube and into the starry sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LATER

All the party guests gather around the dead end of Adam's street. Peter walks up to some of the guests.

PETER
Alright everyone! Twenty seconds
until the New Year! Get ready!

The news gets passed around the cul-de-sac. Peter begins the count down, and everyone begins to join him.

EVERYONE
10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2
...1! Happy New Year!

The guests explode in cheers. Pace nudges Jackson and they grab a large box of fireworks and head to the center of the dead end.

Mr. Reymon walks over to help Jackson and Pace. They pull out a tube and a aerial shell. They stick the large ball in the tube. Mr. Reymon pulls out a box of matches.

Adam stands alone. He watches Pace, Jackson, and Mr. Reymon get the fireworks ready. A hand slowly reaches towards his shoulder. It looks pale, cold, dead.

It touches his shoulder.

Adam spins around and sees Lauren.

LAUREN
Hey! You ready?

ADAM
Yeah.

LAUREN
Are you okay?

ADAM
Yeah I'm fine. It's just a little
cold.

Mr. Reymon lights the fuse of the aerial shell and it sparks to life. Pace and Jackson run back. Mr. Reymon throws the match to the side.

The match, still lit, flies into the box of fireworks.

Jackson and Pace run near Adam and Lauren. Everyone waits.

KABOOM! The firework blasts off into the air and explodes in the sky. It creates a willow tree of crackling lights. Adam jumps at the noise.

Everyone cheers and claps. Jackson walks towards the box of fireworks when...

The box of fireworks explodes. It sends the fireworks in all directions. One aerial shell shoots towards Jackson.

Things seem to move extremely slow as the firework flies into Jackson's chest and explodes. His skin burns off from the fire and his clothes are engulfed in flames.

Still moving slower than usual, more fireworks shoot past Lex and Pace. A few aerial shells explode in Lex's face. She gasps as her face becomes charred.

A fireball flies into Pace's face. His forehead explodes in fire, blood, and brains.

Time speeds up again as people try and dodge the fireworks that continue to explode from the box. People scream as they run away, others are cut off as the fireworks hit them.

One man is hit by two fireworks and flies to the ground. Another woman explodes in flames as her clothes burn up in a fire.

A firework flies into Lauren's throat. She's thrown back to the ground. Adam stares at her as she goes down, but looks in front of him.

Time slows down again as another aerial shell makes its way towards him. He doesn't have time to move. He opens his mouth to scream.

The aerial shell flies into his mouth and explodes out the back of his head. Fire erupts from his eyes and pieces of brain and blood explode from his head.

All the events that just happened rewind back, from Adam's death to the accident with Lex and Pace, from the box exploding, all the way to the deceased hand about to touch Adam's shoulder.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - A MOMENT EARLIER

The hand touches Adam's shoulder. Adam breathes out a cold breath; his breath is visible.

LAUREN
Hey! You ready?

Adam looks over at Lauren, scared and confused. She looks back at him, also confused.

LAUREN
Are you okay?

Adam looks over at Pace and Jackson. Mr. Reymon lights the fuse to the aerial shell in the tube.

Pace and Jackson run back from the lit fuse.

PACE
What's up?

The aerial shell explodes from the tube and flies into the sky. Everyone claps. Adam calms down for a moment.

A man with a video camera records the experience.

THROUGH CAMERA SCREEN: the firework in the sky explodes into the familiar willow tree design. The camera moves back down and focuses on the box of fireworks.

Adam looks at the box of fireworks, then at Jackson, who walks towards the fireworks. His eyes grow wide.

ADAM
No! The box! Jackson!

Jackson stops and faces Adam.

The box explodes.

THROUGH CAMERA SCREEN: the fireworks are sent through the air and the screen transforms into static.

The fireworks fly in all directions. Adam pulls Lex and Lauren down. Everyone screams as the fireworks fly at them.

Fireworks fly into yards and trees. A few areas catch on fire. People fall to the ground with their clothes on fire. Others take cover behind trees and cars.

Lauren sits up just as a firework flies at her face. Jackson jumps to the ground and covers his head.

Pace falls to the ground. He watches the fireworks pass over him. He turns around as a firework flies at his face, also.

A flash of light bounces off of Adam and Lex just as blood sprays across them. A loud BOOM pierces Adam's ears, and all that's heard is a loud ringing sound.

Adam sits up and looks around. The ringing sound continues and drowns out every other noise.

Adam looks over at Lex, who seems to be screaming. She's covered with splotches of blood. Adam sticks his fingers in his ears and tries to "clean" them out, but the ringing still continues.

He looks at his fingers...then hands...then arms. They're covered with blood. He looks over at where Pace was.

Adam shakes when he sees Pace's body. He backs away slowly and covers his mouth. He looks at Lauren's still body. Her face is unseen, but her body is bloody. His eyes water up. The ringing still continues.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LATER

A fire truck and a few ambulances sit in the middle of the cul-de-sac. Their lights twirl in circles and cause shadows in the cul-de-sac to dance.

Adam sits in an ambulance with a blanket around him. He wipes off the last bit of blood from his face, his eyes are a puffy red.

Lex sits at another ambulance. Her eyes and face are red and puffy from crying, and tears still stream down her face. A PARAMEDIC sits with her.

PARAMEDIC

Do you feel hurt or uncomfortable
in any part of your body—?

LEX

No! I can't hear out of my right
ear...I...God damn...

Lex trails off. She looks over at her two parents who run to her. She gets up and her mother and father hug her at the same time. She bawls in their arms.

ADAM'S POV: everything is quiet. He stares at firemen who yell at each other, then at a paramedic who speaks in a walkie-talkie speaker. Small debris is still on fire, and people hold on to each other, either crying or scared.

Adam's bottom lip quivers, and he covers his face. It's obvious that he's crying. Stacey and Peter jog over to Adam.

STACEY

Are you okay? Are you hurt?

Adam just stares at them.

STACEY

Adam? Are you hurt?

ADAM

I...I can't hear you...

The same paramedic who talked to Lex walks up.

PARAMEDIC

He has, possibly, temporary hearing damage in both ears. Must've been the fireworks. You're going to want to have him checked out.

STACEY

Oh God...

PETER

Is there anything we can do?

While the paramedic talks to Adam's parents, Adam's attention is directed towards two bodies covered with white sheets. Pace and Lauren.

He looks in another directions to keep his attention away from that. But he notices two figures who stand across the cul-de-sac from him.

It's Pace and Lauren. They suffer the injuries that they got when the fireworks exploded.

Adam stands up and slowly begins to walk towards them. They stare at him. Whispers seem to come from the two, but their mouths remain shut.

Adam looks over to his left to see a man, one who suffers injuries similar to Lauren's and Pace's.

He looks back at Lauren and Pace. They continue to stare at him until a fireman walks in front of Adam and blocks the view of Lauren and Pace.

Adam looks around the fireman, but Lauren and Pace are gone. He looks to his left. The man is missing too.

But the whispering continues. Adam looks around. The whispering gets louder, but everyone around him is inaudible.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

(Whispered)

Can you hear us?

Adam turns around just to catch a glimpse of a partially transparent boy who disappears behind an ambulance. Adam stares at that area to comprehend what he saw when Lex gets in the way.

She stops and looks at him. Adam looks at her face, and she begins to cry some more. Adam feels her emotions and his face goes into a depressed state.

She walks up quickly to him and hugs him tightly. He does the same. She buries her face into his shoulder.

ADAM

It's okay. I'm still here...I'm still here...

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Stacey, Peter, and Adam walk out into the lobby with DR. GERALD (40).

PETER

So. What's happening?

DR. GERALD

I'm sorry to say this but he's permanently deaf. It's not temporary or anything.

PETER

What do we need to do?

DR. GERALD

Well, I suggest that Adam begins to get sign language lessons along with you two.

STACEY

Well he already knows sign language. He's been taking it for about three years.

PETER

Is Adam still able to attend school?

DR. GERALD

Oh, yeah, of course, though I think you should keep him out for a while, maybe hire a mentor or tutor or something. He should have one especially for school.

ADAM

I don't need anybody to help me. I can copy down any notes myself.

Adam walks out the entrance and to the car. Stacey watches him lean against it and sighs. She turns back to the doctor.

PETER

I think it'd just be best if we let him make his own decisions.

He puts his arm around Stacey and they walk out the entrance.

INT. CAR - DAY

The car is quiet. Adam stares out the window while Stacey and Peter stare blankly out in front of them. He looks at them.

ADAM

I don't want anyone to treat me any different now with what's happened. I'm able to read lips well. I'm close to communicating normally like I was able to before.

Stacey looks at Peter. He shakes his head.

ADAM

I just want to be treated like everyone else.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: One Month Later

Adam walks into his room and sits on his bed. As he kicks off his shoes, he sees a note laying on his bed. He picks it up. It reads:

"Adam, Dad and I have gone out to eat. Be sure you're ready for school tomorrow. We love you very much. Love, Mom"

Adam sighs and crumples up the paper. He throws it away and lays down on his bed.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

A taxi pulls to the side of the street. The city is quiet and deserted except for one MAN who waits for the passenger of the taxi to get out.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

STEPHANIE POE (28) gets her stuff ready. She slips on a large, bulky fur coat and seems to be having trouble with it.

STEPHANIE

How much?

The TAXI DRIVER looks in the rearview mirror.

TAXI DRIVER

\$8.48

Stephanie pulls out a ten dollar bill and hands it to the taxi driver.

STEPHANIE

Keep the change.

TAXI DRIVER

Thanks!

Stephanie smiles and gets out of the left passenger side of the taxi. The man opens up the right passenger side.

Stephanie is about to shut the door when the man stops her.

MAN

Oh, uh, Miss? You forgot your purse.

Stephanie sees him holding her purse out to her. She smiles and takes it.

STEPHANIE

Thanks.

MAN

You're welcome.

Stephanie, in between the car and the door, turns around just as a pair of headlights turn on in front of her.

Her eyes grow wide, but quickly shut, just as a car slams into the taxi.

The man flies back and hits the wall of a building. The door in front of Stephanie slams shut and snaps Stephanie's head off. Blood sprays on the windows of the taxi.

All this in what seems like a second.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam's eyes pop open. He blinks and rolls onto his back to observe his surroundings. It's dark.

Adam coughs, his throat sounds dry. He pulls the covers off and steps out of bed. He walks into the...

BATHROOM

Connected to his room, Adam turns the bathroom lights on and immediately shields his eyes. He covers them for a moment, to let his eyes adjust to the light.

He uncovers them and blinks to get his vision back. Adam walks over to the sink and turns the faucet on. He stares at himself, rubs his hair, and sighs. He bends down to drink from the faucet.

A figure passes by behind him with no reflection in the mirror, followed by a soft laughter—a kid's laughter.

Adam hears this. He rises up and turns the faucet off. He stares behind him from the mirror. Nothing's there.

Adam turns around and walks out the bathroom, but keeps the light on. He "cleans" out his ear by sticking his fingers in there and rubbing the inside.

ADAM

H...Hello?

He slightly pats on his ear, but gives up, and stops. He walks over to the bathroom to turn off the light when

BANG! Something pounds on the door.

Adam jumps. He heard it for real this time! He walks back into his room and stares at the door. BANG! He jumps back again.

STACEY (O.S.)

Adam! Open this God damn fucking door right now!

Adam stares at the door, now scared and confused.

ADAM

Mom?

STACEY

Open the fucking door! You have until the count of three!

ADAM

Mom...Mom! Mom I can hear you!

STACEY (O.S.)

I mean it, Adam! One!

BANG! Adam cowers back.

ADAM

Stop! Mom! The door's unlocked!

Adam walks towards the door.

STACEY (O.S.)

Two!

BANG!

Adam opens the door.

ADAM

Mom, I—

Nothing's there. Nothing but an empty, dark hallway. Adam shuts his mouth and narrows his eyes. He slowly shuts the door and backs away. His breathing gets deeper.

He turns and runs for his bed. Like a kid, he gets under the covers. He can still see light from the bathroom light peek through the covers.

His breathing is hard and shaky and his eyes are sealed shut. He opens them and his breathing subsides.

Adam slowly pulls up the covers and give him some air. The light begins to shine in the dark cavern of the space under the covers.

The light hits Adam, goes past him, to reveal the distorted face of the child that was seen in the picture Lauren took on her birthday.

Adam turns his head and sees the boy. He screams and jumps out of the bed and onto the floor.

Still screaming, he backs up against the wall and stares at the bed, at the FLAT covers.

Stacey runs into room while putting her robe on. She kneels down to Adam and grabs his head to calm him down. She shushes him and his screams turn to whimpers.

STACEY

Sh, sh, sh it's okay! It's okay
Adam! You had a nightmare!

Adam stares at his mother like a deer in the headlights.

ADAM

I...I thought I heard you...

Stacey sighs and hugs him. He hugs back, and stares at his bed, at his flat covers. Peter walks in.

PETER

Is everything okay?

STACEY

I think he just had a bad dream.

Peter doesn't know what else to say. He keeps his mouth shut and walks out of the room.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Adam sits at the counter with a bowl of cereal. He watches the news from the TV sitting on another counter in front of him.

INSTERT - TV: the REPORTER stands in front of a familiar scene. A smashed taxi cab with another car rammed into the left side of it. An ambulance sits in the background.

REPORTER

I'm standing here at the scene of a tragic car accident that happened earlier this morning at around 2:30 AM. What you see is a black Lexis that has crashed into the side of this taxi, killing at least one pedestrian and injuring another who was thrown back from the cab when the Lexis hit.

Adam drops his spoon in his cereal and focuses on the scene behind the reporter. He recognizes it.

REPORTER

A 28-year-old Stephanie Poe, who was killed in this accident, was found decapitated after the Lexis crashed, slamming the door shut on her. The Lexis was found empty when officials arrived. The injured man was taken into the St. Jude's Hospital for intensive care after suffering head trauma and two broken ribs.

The TV shuts off. Adam perks up and sees Stacey set the remote on the counter while she talks on the phone.

STACEY

Yeah I know what you mean. I don't know about Adam, I haven't really been able to talk to him much.

She looks at him and mouths the word "eat" to him. He looks at the TV, then at his cereal and munches down on it.

STACEY

And what's worse is that every time I look out the front window or go jogging every morning and see that big burnt spot in the middle of the cul-de-sac, I'm always reminded of what happened.

Adam puts his bowl in the sink and grabs his backpack. He kisses his mom on the cheek.

ADAM

By Mom. I'll see you after school.

Stacey holds him back from leaving.

STACEY

Hey, Carol, can I call you back?
Yeah...Okay...Bye.

She hangs up and gets a good look of Adam. She opens her mouth to say something, but shuts it and grabs a notebook and a pen. She begins to write something down.

ADAM

Mom, don't.

He grabs the notebook from her.

ADAM

Please, just try. If I can't do anything about it, then we'll resort to this.

He holds up the notebook and smiles. Stacey hesitates.

STACEY

Are you sure you don't want me to take you to school?

Stacey over-mouths her words. There's a moment of silence between the two.

ADAM

Mom, I can drive. I went deaf, not blind.

STACEY

Are you sure?

ADAM

Please, Mom...

Stacey sighs and gives in.

STACEY

Alright. Have a good day at school.

She kisses him on the forehead and he heads out.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

A little less than half of the classroom is full. Students continue to walk in, along with Adam. Those who know stare at him as he walks across the front of the room towards the teacher.

The teacher looks at him with a blank face, but then smiles. She hands Adam a packet of papers that look like notes.

Adam stares at them and walks back to his desk. He pulls out a notebook and pencil and begins to do whatever homework assignment there is. A few people continue to stare at him.

EXT. SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

Adam sits quietly at the table with just a sandwich. He bites into it and slowly chews it. The courtyard is quiet; a ghost town.

Lex sits down at the table with a solemn look on her face. Adam looks at her.

ADAM
Hey.

LEX
Hey.

More silence between the two. Adam continues to eat his sandwich. Lex pulls out just a granola bar and nibbles on it.

ADAM
Where've you been?

Lex doesn't answer.

Adam looks around him, but nobody else is around. He takes a deep breath and puts his sandwich down.

ADAM
So...Did I miss anything while I was gone?

Lex looks at him but doesn't know what to say.

ADAM
Lex, just talk. It'll feel like normal again whether I could hear you or not.

Lex hesitates and takes in a deep breath.

LEX
You didn't really miss out on much. Mrs. Robertson had her baby.

Adam makes sure he read her correctly.

ADAM
Mrs. Robertson...had...a baby?

Lex nods.

ADAM
What's its name?

LEX
We don't know yet.

There's more silence between the two. Adam rubs his eyes. He looks up at Lex with watery eyes.

ADAM

Weird things have been happening to me lately, Lex.

Lex leans in and rests her head on her hand.

LEX

Like what?

ADAM

I don't know, just some weird stuff. Like, first of all, I thought I heard my mom yelling at me last night.

LEX

Heard? Adam, you're deaf.

ADAM

I opened the door to see what was the matter and she wasn't there. She was asleep in bed.

LEX

Maybe it was just a dream.

ADAM

It wasn't a dream.

LEX

Then it was your imagination.

ADAM

It sounded too real. And before that, I had a dream about this lady who was killed in a car accident. When I was watching the news this morning, there was a report about the same accident.

LEX

Coincidence?

ADAM

No. It's too close to being a coincidence.

LEX

What else could it be?

ADAM

I don't know.

Lex takes another nibble from her granola bar.

ADAM
I think I'm losing it.

LEX
You're not losing it, you're just
having flashbacks from when the
accident happened.

ADAM
I...can't read your...

Adam sighs and stops talking. Lex sets her granola bar back down and leans forward.

LEX
(Over-mouthing)
You're not losing it.

ADAM
I am! I'm losing it. It's obvious,
I'm obvious, I'm over-analyzing it,
I'm obsessing over it.

LEX
Adam!

ADAM
I saw Pace and Lauren after the
accident!

Lex opens her mouth to speak, but immediately shuts it. She stares at Adam.

ADAM
I saw them. I saw them after what
had happened to them. I heard them.
And that's the problem. I'm hearing
things that aren't here. In fact, I
shouldn't be hearing anything at
all!

LEX
Adam you're not making any sense.

Adam rubs his eyes.

ADAM
I can't concentrate. I'm losing it.

LEX
It's just your imagination, Adam.

Adam stops rubbing his eyes and sees her looking at him.

ADAM
Did you say something?

LEX
Your imagination.

ADAM
No! No it's not! I don't know what it is, but I do know that it's not my imagination and it's not because of what happened a month ago.

The bell rings. Lex stands up and gathers her bag. Adam looks around him and sees students walk out. He gets the idea and gets his stuff together.

Adam and Lex look at each other. She sighs and gives him a hug. By the time he returns it, she pulls away.

LEX
I'm sorry.

She steps back and walks away. Adam stands next to the table as students walk around him.

INT. SCHOOL - THEATER ROOM - DAY

Adam walks in and sits down at a table. He throws his stuff on the ground. Katie walks in and sees Adam.

KATIE
Adam!

She runs up to him and gives him a hug. He stares at her and awkwardly hugs her.

Katie sits down and faces Adam.

KATIE
(Over-mouthing)
How are you?

Adam shrugs off at the question. He looks around and looks back at Katie.

ADAM
Is Jackson...How's Jackson?

KATIE
I don't know. He hasn't been here since the break.

Adam cocks his head.

ADAM
Really?

KATIE
Yeah.

ADAM
What happened?

KATIE
I don't know.

Michael walks in. Adam stops him.

ADAM
Michael! Where's Jackson?

Michael stares at Adam, then at Katie.

MICHAEL
(Whispered to Katie)
Isn't he deaf?

KATIE
As crazy as it sounds, he can lip
read.

MICHAEL
That's not crazy. A lot of people
learn to lip read if they go deaf.
It just takes a while.

KATIE
He learned as a child.

MICHAEL
Okay, that's a bit weird.

ADAM
Michael!

MICHAEL
He was pulled out of school. I
thought you knew?

ADAM
Pulled out?

MICHAEL
After...what happened...his parents
pulled him out. He's home schooled.

ADAM
Jesus Christ. Pace...

MICHAEL
Yeah he's still upset.

KATIE
Well of course, it was his twin.
They've been together ever since
they were...made...

MICHAEL
Yeah but I wasn't saying it like he
should have gotten over it already.

KATIE
And I wasn't implying that you made
it sound that way.

MICHAEL
Uh, yeah, you did.

Adam gets up and walks away as they continue to argue. He
walks over to MRS. WALKER (42), who types rapidly on the
computer.

ADAM
Hi, Mrs. Walker.

Mrs. Walker looks at him and she perks up.

MRS. WALKER
Oh! Adam! Uh...Hold on...Um...

She thinks. Adam smiles, but it quickly fades.

ADAM
Mrs. Walker. Stop. I...Can read
lips. Well.

MRS. WALKER
Are you sure?

ADAM
Yes, I'm sure.

MRS. WALKER
Oh! Wonderful! Though, I'm glad I
learned basic sign language. How
did you learn to lip read?

ADAM
I was a strange kid when I was
little.

MRS. WALKER
Oh, no surprise there. You're a theater kid.

ADAM
Look, Mrs. Walker, I'm sorry.

MRS. WALKER
For what?

ADAM
I'm sorry I couldn't make it to the show. I was really looking forward to it, but, well, you know what happened.

MRS. WALKER
Oh, it's fine, Adam.

ADAM
How did it go?

MRS. WALKER
It went great.

ADAM
I wish I could of at least seen it.

MRS. WALKER
Adam, it's fine.

She puts her hand on his. He rubs his forehead.

ADAM
I don't think I can do theater anymore. It'll just be too much to handle.

Mrs. Walker nods her head.

MRS. WALKER
I understand.

ADAM
Thank you.

Adam walks out of the room. Katie watches him leave and she hesitates. She gets up and follows.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Adam leans against the wall and falls to a sitting position. He tries to hold back from crying. Katie walks out.

KATIE

Oh man, Adam. Please, don't cry.

She sits down next to him.

ADAM

God...

KATIE

Don't cry. I mean, I know it's part of the grieving process but can't you save that for later? You'll make me cry.

ADAM

Jesus, this whole thing is just screwing me over. What did I do to make this happen?

KATIE

Things happen for a reason.

ADAM

Well you can believe that, but I would rather stick to another path.

Katie puts her arm around him and he rests his head on her shoulder. He begins to cry.

ADAM

I just miss them so much. I've never lost someone this close to me before. I can't believe they're gone.

Katie rubs his head as she rests her head on his.

ADAM

How long?

He looks up at her.

KATIE

How long until what?

ADAM

How long until things return back to normal?

KATIE

I don't know. It depends for everyone.

Adam buries his face in his hands. Katie holds on to him.

ADAM

I just want to go back and do everything correctly. I tried so hard to prevent it. I tried my hardest and everything still happened. I'll never be able to let this go...I just have so much guilt...

KATIE

It's not your fault...

ADAM

I don't know what I'm going to do.

KATIE

Sh...It's not your fault.

Adam leans back against the wall.

ADAM

Katie?

KATIE

Yeah?

He looks over at her.

ADAM

Will stay here with me next period?
I could really use a friend right now. And I never want to lose you.

Katie gives in and hugs him.

KATIE

Nothing is going to happen. Everything will be alright. You'll get through this.

ADAM

I know you're talking, and I can't hear what you're saying, but it lets me know that you're still here-here.

Katie smiles.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Adam walks to his car and gets in. He pulls out his cell phone and opens up a new text message. He types in "I'm on my way home" to his mom.

He puts the cell phone in his pocket and starts the car. Adam pulls the car out of the parking lot and onto the street.

INT. HONDA ELEMENT - NIGHT

Adam drives down the street. Music plays from the radio. He notices that the radio is on and turns it off.

His cell phone vibrates. Adam slows to a stop as he approaches a red light and pulls out his cell phone. His mom replied to his text message saying "Hurry home."

The text begins to flicker and the letters begin to change. Adam stares at his phone and tries to exit out of the text message. The letters begin to change.

He shuts his phone and opens it back up. The changing letters still appear on screen. They transform into the sentence: "look up."

Adam looks up at the stop light. A boy sits on top of the pole.

ADAM
What the f...?

The boy stares Adam down. He is partially transparent, his face distorted and inhuman, his body twisted and unproportional.

A car behind Adam honks.

INT. OTHER CAR - NIGHT

FRANK (29) and HILLARY (28) sit in their car. Frank lets out an angry sigh and honks again.

HILLARY
Just go around him, Frank.

FRANK
There's traffic on the other side,
Hillary, I can't go around.

Frank honks again, but Adam doesn't budge his car.

FRANK
Fuck it.

Frank gets out of his car.

HILLARY

Frank! Frank just get in the car
and go around!

INT. HONDA ELEMENT - NIGHT

Adam stares at the boy on the stoplight. Frank walks up to the window and bangs on it. Adam looks at Frank.

FRANK

Hello? Can you move, please?

Adam, his breath now getting heavy, looks back at the stoplight and sees the boy. He looks back at Frank.

FRANK

Hey, green means go!

Adam doesn't do anything.

QUICK FLASHBACK

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam stands at his bedroom door. A loud BANG!

STACEY (O.S.)

Open the fucking door!

BACK TO SCENE

JONATHAN (V.O.)

(Whispered)

Open the door.

Adam continues to stare at Frank, as if hypnotized. He snaps out of it.

ADAM

I...I can't hear you! I'm deaf!

Frank sighs and backs away from the car. He grabs the bridge of his nose and stands there for a moment. He walks back to the window. He points at the green light.

FRANK

Green light...

Adam looks back at the stoplight. The boy still sits there. Frank gets a little agitated. Adam looks back at him.

FRANK
(Over-mouthing)
Green—

A car smashes into Frank and grazes the side of Adam's car. The driver window explodes into shards of glass and Adam covers his face.

EXT. HONDA ELEMENT - NIGHT

Frank flips over the car and lands on the ground. He rolls to a stop in the middle of the intersection and coughs up blood.

HILLARY
Frank!!

Hillary jumps out of the car and runs over to Frank. Adam uncovers his face and looks at Frank, and then the car that hit him. It speeds off.

HILLARY
(To Adam)
Call an ambulance!

Adam, his mouth agape, looks back at the stoplight. The boy is gone. Adam begins to shake. He steps out of his car and takes a few steps towards the accident. He stops and steps back.

Frank spits up blood, gurgles on it, and becomes still.

Adam collapses against his car and falls to a sitting position. He covers his ears and squeezes his eyes shut.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

Adam sleeps in his bed. His clock reads six o' clock.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Stacey and Peter sit at the kitchen table. They drink coffee while they read the newspaper. Stacey sets her paper down.

STACEY
They still haven't found him.

PETER
How do you know it was a he?

STACEY

Because you don't really hear a woman doing something like that.

PETER

If it was a woman, she probably did it on accident. You know how they are when they drive.

He chuckles to himself and sips down some coffee. Stacey is not amused.

STACEY

That's not funny.

PETER

Oh come on, I'm trying to lighten up the mood. It's nasty outside.

STACEY

You're joking about something our son was involved in!

PETER

Okay, okay I'm sorry.

STACEY

No, you aren't. Seriously, have you tried talking to him about what's happened in the past month, Peter? I feel as though it's just me and him who is living in this house now. Have you tried talking to him?

PETER

Well how am I supposed to? He's deaf!

STACEY

He's still able to talk, though. Just listen to him!

PETER

And when I try, he doesn't want to, and I don't blame him. He's been through Hell since New Year's, I really don't think he wants to talk about what he learned in science or math or whatever class.

STACEY

Do you know how all of this is going to affect him?

PETER

What?

STACEY

He saw a man die, not to mention two of his friends on New Year's Eve.

PETER

Seriously, if he doesn't want to talk to me that's fine. I don't want to control him around, especially now that he's handicapped. You heard him: just because he's like this, he doesn't want to be treated any different than he was treated before the accident.

Stacey rubs her eyes.

STACEY

Okay, let's just stop. I don't want to argue.

PETER

We just were.

STACEY

Peter...

PETER

No, don't. You bring this stuff upon yourself. I say a little joke or something doesn't happen the way you want it and you have to make a big deal about it. Face it, the things we do that you don't like stirs up an argument that you seem to bring up.

STACEY

Don't blame all of this on me, there's no reason for us to be arguing! We have a son that we need to help.

PETER

Fine. Go help him. If he wants to talk to you, that's fine by me. He'll come to me when he needs to talk to me.

Stacey sighs and sets her paper down. She gets up and leaves.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

The clock says 6:07. Stacey quietly walks in and stands next to Adam. She caresses his head and kisses his forehead. She walks back out.

The clocks speeds forward from 6:07 to...

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - LATER

...10:23. Adam's eyes flicker open. He looks at the clock and rubs his eyes.

ADAM
God damn it, Mom...

He gets out of bed and quickly gets into normal clothes.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Adam walks downstairs.

ADAM
Mom!

Stacey walks into the living room. He sees her.

ADAM
Why didn't you wake me up?

STACEY
You're not going to school.

ADAM
Mom, I'm going to school.

STACEY
No you're not. I don't want you...

She stops and remembers he's deaf. She looks at the newspaper and sees the scene at the intersection in the picture on the front page. She picks it up and hands it to Adam. Adam looks at it.

ADAM
Mom...

She shakes her head.

ADAM
Mom, please...

Peter walks in, ready for work. Adam turns to him.

ADAM

Dad can you give me a ride to school.

PETER

(To Stacey)

Why isn't he at school?

STACEY

I'm not letting him go after what happened. I want him to stay home and rest.

ADAM

Just take me there...

Adam grabs his backpack and walks out to the garage. Peter watches him leave, then looks at Stacey.

STACEY

He's not going.

PETER

Stacey, just lay off, okay? Let him do what he needs to do. Keeping him from school won't bring everything back to normal. You can't change the past so don't try and control his future.

Stacey tries to say something, but no words come out. Peter leaves and Stacey sits down at the table, shocked. Her bottom lip quivers, and she silently cries in the corner of the kitchen.

INT. JACKSON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jackson lays on the couch and stares up at the ceiling with a blank expression. His MOM walks over to him.

MOM

I'm going to work. I'll see you when I get home this evening.

Jackson doesn't say anything. His mom kisses him on the forehead and leaves. Jackson watches her walk into the garage.

He gets up and walks into the...

KITCHEN

Jackson pulls out a piece of notebook paper from a spiral inside a drawer, along with a marker. He writes something on it and walks to his...

BATHROOM

He tapes the note up on the door and walks into the bathroom. He shuts the door and the note is revealed, which says: Don't Come In.

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Students shoot basketballs at the goals as they spend time free throwing.

On one side of the gym, two workers stand on a scissor lift as they fix one of the light fixtures. Another worker stands at the bottom of the scissor lift, his face unseen.

Katie and Michael shoot some hoops and pass the ball to each other.

KATIE

What did you think of the math test?

MICHAEL

Can't say anything about it.

KATIE

Why?

MICHAEL

Bad luck...sort of. If I say it was easy, I end up doing bad on it. If I end up saying it was hard, I do bad on it.

KATIE

That doesn't make sense, but I guess it's true.

MICHAEL

Either way I'm screwed. How'd you think of it?

KATIE

(Shrugs)

It was okay. I know I missed, like, two, but that's, like, a 90, right?

MICHAEL

There were twelve problems.

KATIE

So?

MICHAEL

That means each one had to be around eight points each.

KATIE

Bastard! I hate my teacher.

MICHAEL

You actually learn something. Mr. Dampshire doesn't do anything. He does powerpoint notes, and he flips through them like there's no tomorrow.

KATIE

I hate math...and physics.

MICHAEL

They're practically the same thing.

KATIE

Which is why I'm pretty much failing both classes.

Katie shoots a basket. She makes it in.

MICHAEL

I hate Junior year. Especially because of the SATs.

KATIE

I hate school. Period.

MICHAEL

Who doesn't?

Lex walks in with a note in her hand. She walks over to the coach and hands it to him. As he reads it, she notices Michael and Katie. She walks over to them.

LEX

Hey, have you guys seen Adam?

Michael looks at Katie. She shakes her head.

MICHAEL

Haven't seen him all day.

KATIE

I feel so sorry for him. This is the worst way to start a new year.

LEX

Okay, well, if you guys see him,
just have him come to me.

MICHAEL

Alright.

Lex walks away. Katie sits down on the bleachers.

KATIE

I miss him.

MICHAEL

Who? Adam? He's only been gone for
a couple days—

KATIE

I miss *him*.

Michael thinks for a second, and then sets the ball on the
floor and sits down next to her. He puts his arm around her.

MICHAEL

I miss him too. It takes a while
for it to get through. I mean, Pace
was a cool kid and all, and it's
going to be different without him
here.

KATIE

I can't even imagine how Jackson
feels. His brother's gone.

MICHAEL

And there's Adam. Not only did he
lose his hearing but his girlfriend
too.

Katie rubs her face.

KATIE

(Upset)

Okay, let's...Just stop talking
about it.

She gets up and bounces the basketball.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Adam walks to a door just as Mr. Reymon walks out with a
toolbox in his hand.

ADAM
What are you doing here?

ROBERT
Just fixing some lights.

ADAM
What?

Robert points at the light above him. Adam nods. Mr. Reymon walks away.

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Lex walks towards the doors as Adam walks through them. He stops and they look at each other for a moment. Lex smiles and they hug. They pull away.

ADAM
I'm...Sorry.

LEX
For what?

ADAM
For...Everything. I just wanted to tell you that.

LEX
You don't have to be sorry for anything.

ADAM
Lex...If I stop talking to you, to anyone, just, don't take it as an offense. You don't need to worry about me. What's happened has happened...There's no going back. We both know that.

Adam hugs her again. He squeezes her tightly and squeezes his eyes shut.

JONATHAN (V.O.)
(Whispered)
Don't look.

He continues to hug her and opens his eyes. On the other side of the gym, the boy stands there.

A basketball rolls into the scissor lift. A BOY walks towards it.

LEX

Did you say something?

A group of guys play their own game of basketball, half-court style. One of the guys throws the ball to another, but the other guy misses the catch.

The boy bends down to get the basketball. He grabs it and stands up just as the basketball thrown by the guys hits him in the back of the head.

The boy falls forward and the scissor lift malfunctions. It breaks loose and the platform begins to drop down as the folding supports collapse into the original position.

The boy's head lodges itself between one of the linked, criss-cross folding supports. The platform reaches the bottom and the metal folding support slices the boy's head off.

The two workers on the platform fly over the railings and the boy's body jolts up in the air. Blood sprays all over the floor and on the scissor lift.

Katie and Michael stare at the scene in horror; Katie covers her mouth. Adam backs away and Lex turns and stares at the grisly scene.

Everyone stops what their doing and they sort of move in for a closer look. A few people scream or look away in disgust.

Adam stares at the decapitated boy, then at the small boy at the other side of the gym. A few people pass in front of the small boy, and as one person passes, the boy disappears.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

An ambulance sits outside the school with its lights flashing, along with a coroner car. Paramedics roll the body on a stretcher towards the vehicle as students watch from a distance.

Katie and Michael lean against the wall of the school as they watch the stretcher legs fold up. The body is pushed into the back of the coroner car.

KATIE

I never thought I'd see something like that happen. I've never seen anyone die before.

Michael breathes in deeply and closes his eyes. He gulps, lets out the breath, but keeps his eyes shut.

KATIE

It's definitely not like how it is
in the movies.

MICHAEL

God...Do you think he...You know...
Felt it?

KATIE

I don't know. I don't want to think
about it.

MICHAEL

Adam's had it worse. That kid's
going to end up needing help.

Michael looks around.

KATIE

Where is he?

MICHAEL

I don't know.

Michael looks at the ambulance. He curses to himself.

MICHAEL

(Upset)

I'm getting dressed out.

He walks away from the scene.

KATIE

Where are you going to go?

Michael doesn't look back to her. He continues walking.

MICHAEL

Class.

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF SCHOOL - DAY

Lex and Adam sit against the wall. Lex's eyes are red and her
breath is a bit shaky. Adam sits with a solemn look on his
face.

LEX

He was in my history class. I
actually talked to him, and yet I
barely knew him.

Adam looks down at his feet.

LEX

I mean, I've always wanted to talk to him. He seemed like a pretty cool kid, you know? Now I wish I got to know him better.

She looks up at the clouds.

LEX

Though, I'm glad I didn't know him that well either, or I'd probably be bawling my eyes out over him right now because I'd lost another friend.

Lex looks at Adam, who continues to stare at his feet.

LEX

I know you can't hear me, but I'm just glad I'm friends with you, Adam. I really am. And I'm so thankful that I didn't lose you along with Pace and Lauren. I really am. And I think you know that.

She sighs.

LEX

God, I might as well be talking to myself.

Adam looks at Lex.

ADAM

Lex?

LEX

Yeah?

ADAM

I miss hearing you talk.

LEX

Oh please...Nothing's changed. I—

ADAM

I need to tell you something. And I want you to listen because you still can. No matter how crazy I sound.

Lex scoots to where she's in front of Adam.

LEX

Okay.

ADAM

I've been seeing things that don't seem right. I've been dreaming weird things and having strange things happen to me that I can't explain. You know when I told you that I saw Pace and Lauren...that night?

Lex nods.

ADAM

It's gotten worse. I don't know what's going on. I've been seeing this kid...his face is messed up... And I've seen him before but I don't know where. And I don't care how crazy this sounds but every time I see him, someone dies. I saw him the night of the accident, I thought I saw him when that lady was killed in the car crash, and I just saw him in the gym.

LEX

That's it?

ADAM

I also saw him when I was in the car accident.

LEX

You were in a car accident?

ADAM

I thought my mom told you?

LEX

No...Oh my God, are you okay?

Adam becomes upset.

ADAM

No, I'm not, because I saw that boy and I saw someone die and I am really freaked out right now. Not only am I seeing dead people but I'm hearing them too, and you know what? That's not possible because both of my ears cease to function!

Lex's eyes open wide.y. She leans in a bit.

LEX

I do too...

ADAM

What?

LEX

I hear the voices also.

She points to her right ear.

LEX

But only in this ear. I can't hear
out of this ear, Adam.

Adam gets up and begins to walk away.

LEX

Adam, where are you...Shit!

She gets up and runs after him. She stops him but he snaps at her.

ADAM

Lex, I can't talk right now. I
don't want to. I need to know
what's following me—us—because
every time I see that boy,
somebody's going to die.

He quickly walks off and leaves Lex alone.

INT. SCHOOL - SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

The classroom is empty except for one person. It's Mr.
Reymon. He works on a light fixture.

Behind him are two long lab tables that stretch from one side
of the room to the other. Four sets of gas pipes consisting
of four hoses in each set sit on both lab tables.

All the gas hoses have been opened, and a thin stream of gas
rises up towards the ceiling. It rises up with a sort of heat-
wave effect and blurs the background behind it.

The gas spreads across the ceiling towards some vents. The AC
turns on, and the air blows the gas lower towards the desks.

The bell rings and students begin to walk into class. They
sit down and talk to their friends.

The teacher, MR. DOGGETT, walks in and sits down at his desk. One STUDENT sits down next to his friends.

STUDENT

God, it smells like ass in here.

Adam walks into the classroom but stops when he sees Mr. Reymon standing on his desk. He sniffs the air and disgust overcomes his face. He shakes it off.

ADAM

Hi, Mr. Reymon.

ROBERT

Oh, hey, Adam. Just fixing another light. They've been flickering all over the school.

MR. DOGGETT

(To Robert)

Oh, uh, hey...

Robert looks at Mr. Doggett.

MR. DOGGETT

He's...deaf...

Robert looks back at Adam. Adam looks at Mr. Doggett then at Robert.

ROBERT

I know.

He stares at his tool belt and lets out an angry sigh. Robert steps down from the desk and walks out the door. Adam follows.

ADAM

Mr. Reymon, where are you going?

ROBERT

I forgot something in my van. I'll just fix it after class.

But before Adam can say anything, Robert turns and walks away. Adam walks back into the classroom.

The bell rings and all the students are in their desks. Michael sits in the back. The teacher begins to go on with his lecture. Adam copies down notes in his notebook from a copy that Mr. Doggett gave him.

The light above him flickers. Adam looks up at it, thinks nothing of it, and continues copying down the notes. His pencil breaks.

Adam sighs and opens his backpack. He reaches in to get another pencil when two hands shoot out from the backpack and latch on to his arms.

They're tiny arms, those of a kid. They're pale, bruised, and have burns on them. The backpack opens up and the light reveals the face of the small boy. His eyes are lopsided, and a large burn covers half of his face.

Adam screams and jumps up from his seat. Everyone stares at him. Mr. Doggett stops talking and stares at Adam.

Adam backs away from his backpack and looks at all the students.

ADAM

He's here! He's here! We need to
get out of this classroom!

MR. DOGGETT

Adam...!

Mr. Doggett holds on to Adam, but Adam breaks away.

ADAM

We have to get out! Something bad
is going to happen!

Michael gets up from his desk and walks over to Adam.

MICHAEL

Adam! Adam calm down! What's going
on?

ADAM

Get out! Everyone get out!

MICHAEL

(To Mr. Doggett)
I'm going to take him outside.

ADAM

We all need to get out of this room
now!

Michael forces Adam out of the door and into the hallway. Mr. Doggett stares at the students. The students, out of curiosity, get out of their seats and stare out the small window in the door.

MR. DOGGETT
Okay, everyone in their seats! Now!

The students obey the order and get in their seats.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Michael and Adam walk away from the classroom down the hallway. They stop.

MICHAEL
Adam? Adam what's wrong?

ADAM
Everyone needs to get out! I saw him!

MICHAEL
Saw who? Adam, you're not making any sense!

INT. SCHOOL - SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Mr. Doggett looks out the window in the door. The light above Adam's desk flickers more. It gets brighter and brighter.

MR. DOGGETT
Stay in your seats. I'm only going out there in a second. When I get back in, anybody who is out of their seat will get an automatic zero on today's lab.

The light gets brighter and begins to buzz.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Mr. Doggett walks out of the classroom. He takes a few steps forward.

MR. DOGGETT
What's going on?

MICHAEL
Nothing, just go away.

INT. SCHOOL - SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

The light buzzes extremely loud. It gets brighter and brighter and finally shatters.

The tiny explosion knocks the plastic covering off. Sparks rain over the desks and ignite the gas. The room is engulfed in flames, as are the students.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

The explosion blasts through the door and engulfs Mr. Doggett. Michael and Adam cover their faces as they jump to the ground. The fireball rolls over them and the fire dissipates.

INT. SCHOOL - ANOTHER CLASSROOM - DAY

The room shakes and the students scream and freak out. The teacher gets up from her desk and runs to the door. She touches the doorknob but retrieves her hands as they sizzle when they touch the hot doorknob.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Mr. Doggett's charred body lays against the wall. Flaming debris sits in front of Michael and Adam who sit up and see the destruction before their eyes.

Michael chokes on the smoke, and Adam begins to cry. He stares at what he just witnessed, and stands up. He holds out his hand towards the classroom and lets out a loud scream:

ADAM
(Angry and upset)
NO!!!!

Michael pulls him back and they turn and walk down the hallway. Michael holds Adam close to him.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Adam walks in through the front door with Peter. Stacey walks quickly to Adam and hugs him tightly. Adam squeezes her, and Peter watches.

Adam pulls away and slowly walks up the stairs. Stacey watches and Peter holds on to her.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam slouches over at the computer and stares at the desktop. His eyes are water, but he shuts them and tries to dry them up.

The desktop flickers. Adam doesn't notice. Internet Explorer opens up by itself and is immediately directed to Lauren's Myspace.

Adam opens his eyes and sees what page he's on. He stares at it, and sees Lauren's profile picture. Adam scrolls down the page and reads several comments left on her page.

They're comments of sympathy, people saying they wish she was still here, that they miss her, even a few who tell her to say hello to a few relatives who passed away.

Adam's eyes begin to water up again. This time, he lets it be. He clicks on her photos and the page directs its way to a page full of photos. One of the firsts ones is the picture that Lauren took on her birthday night.

Adam looks at the picture and scans it from left to right: Pace, Lauren, Adam—stops.

He takes a closer look. There's something behind Adam; the boy. Adam puts his finger on the boy, he notices the deformed face.

QUICK FLASHBACKS

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Adam turns around and sees a quick glimpse of the boy slipping behind the ambulance.

CUT TO:

EXT. HONDA ELEMENT - NIGHT

The boy sits on the stoplight and stares Adam down.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

The boy stands at the other side of the gym. Nobody else notices.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Adam picks up a photo of Jonathan; he shows off his buck-toothless smile for a school picture.

BACK TO SCENE

Adam stares at the picture.

ADAM

Oh my God...

He closes the window and gets up from his desk. His cell phone vibrates and he pulls it out of his pocket. Adam opens the phone and reads a new text message.

He stares at it, his hands shaking. He closes his phone and collapses on to his bed. He buries his face in his hands.

ADAM

No...Please, God, don't do this to me...

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The TV is on. The reporter sits at her desk and speaks to the camera.

REPORTER

A tragedy strikes at home when 17-year-old Jackson Schuler had committed suicide in his own bathroom earlier today. His body was discovered by his parents at around 5 o' clock when they arrived home from work.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Dozens of people, all dressed in black, stand around the casket, decorated with flowers. The sky is a gloomy gray, and a breeze flows through the cemetery.

Adam stands with his parents, Lex with hers on the other side of the casket. Michael and Katie stand next to each other further back in the group.

REPORTER (V.O.)

His mother found him in the bathtub with his wrists cut open.

(MORE)

REPORTER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He left a note for his parents
telling them how much he loved
them, and how he didn't want them
to see him in the state he was in.

Adam looks up at Lex. She stares at the casket, and then up
at Adam.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Jackson's parents feel as though he
did this over the loss of his twin
brother, Pace Schuler, who was
killed on New Year's Day after an
accident involving fireworks.

The preacher closes his Bible, says his final words, and
those with flowers set them on the casket.

The people disperse. Michael sighs.

MICHAEL

It's weird being here on a
Thursday...With school closed and
all.

Katie doesn't say anything.

MICHAEL

Sorry...

Katie grabs Michael head and gives him a big kiss on the
lips. Realizing what she's doing, she quickly pulls away.

KATIE

I'm sorry.

Awkward, she leaves. Michael stares in disbelief and
confusion. A small smile forms on his face, but it quickly
fades.

Adam stands where he's been the entire ceremony. He watches
Lex leave with her parents. She looks back and looks at him.
She has an "I'm Sorry" look on her face.

Michael walks up to Adam. He taps Adam on the shoulder.

MICHAEL

Hey, um, I...Just wanted to say...
Thanks.

Adam just stares at him.

MICHAEL

You saved my life...Thank you.

Michael shifts awkwardly. Adam continues to stare at him. Michael smiles slightly and walks off.

Adam walks behind GREG (23) who talks with his friend.

GREG

No, I only live about a mile down.
I'll just walk.

His friend pats him on the back and they go their separate ways. Greg walks towards the street where some workers fix a telephone pole. One of the workers sit in a cherry picker and works on the telephone pole.

Adam walks over to the car while his parents wait inside. His dad starts up the car and Adam walks to the back passenger door.

He looks at himself in the window reflection. Just as he puts his hand on the door handle, two hands press against the glass, followed by the boy's face. The boy screams.

Adam screams and jumps back from the car. Peter and Stacey stare at him. Stacey gets out of the car, while Peter opens his door but stays in the car.

Stacey runs over to Adam.

STACEY

Adam? What happened?

Whispers begin to fill the air that only Adam can hear. He covers his ears but the whispers continue.

ADAM

No! No not right now!

STACEY

Adam! Adam what's wrong?

Adam breaks from his mom's grasp and spins around. The whispers get louder, all the voices incoherent. Adam stops and sees Greg. He walks towards the work truck.

Adam stares at Greg, and then up at the worker in the cherry picker.

The cherry picker begins to rumble and malfunction. The worker looks back at the workers down on the ground. The cherry picker shakes and rocks back and forth.

Adam begins to run.

ADAM
(To Greg)
Hey!

STACEY
Adam!

The cherry picker threatens to break, and the worker jumps onto the telephone pole just as the machine plummets to the ground...right over Greg.

The cherry picker gets closer. Greg looks up and sees the cherry picker basket getting bigger. Before he can move or shield his eyes, Adam tackles him.

The cherry picker basket crumples like a tin can. Sparks spray from the control box inside the basket, and pieces of metal roll across the ground.

Everyone runs towards the scene. The workers run to Greg and Adam. One WORKER kneels down to them.

WORKER
Are you okay? Are you hurt?

Adam shakes his head. He looks at Greg.

GREG
No...I'm fine...

Greg looks at Adam.

GREG
Thanks...

Stacey and Peter run to Adam and help him up. Stacey brushes dirt off of Adam.

STACEY
Oh my God, Adam, are you okay?

He doesn't say anything. Stacey squeezes him.

PETER
Come on. Let's just get home.

The workers help Greg up.

WORKER
Look, we're so sorry, we don't know what happened, we're so sorry—

GREG

It's fine, it's fine! Nobody's hurt, it was just a close call. Don't worry I won't be pressing charges. Your friend could use more help than me.

Greg points up at the worker hanging on to the pole. He yells at the workers for some help.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

INT. CAFE - DAY

Michael walks in and walks towards the counter. He orders a coffee and waits.

INT. CAR - DAY

Adam sits in the back and stares out the window. Stacey and Peter talk an inaudible conversation. Stacey looks back at Adam.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Lex runs down the street in shorts and a tank top. A Walkman is strapped to her arm.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Katie rides her bike along a pathway. She stares up at the cloudy sky.

EXT. CAR/ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Adam steps out of the car and shuts the door. Stacey and Peter walk into the house.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Michael gets his coffee and sits down at a table. He sits and fumbles with his cup while he thinks about something else.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Lex slows down to a stop. She doubles over and rests by putting her hands on her knees.

EXT. CAR/ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Adam closes his eyes and leans against the car. He takes in a few deep breaths.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Katie sticks her bike in the back of her Jeep Cherokee and shuts the back door. She sighs and sits down on the back of her car.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam sits down on his bed. He turns his bedside lamp off.

Everything goes black.

END MONTAGE

EXT. PARK - DAY

Michael and Katie sit on a bench. They watch people jog past or walk their dogs across the grass. Katie takes a gulp from her water bottle.

KATIE

So...

MICHAEL

So...

KATIE

So it's still weird that we haven't been at school for a while.

MICHAEL

Yeah...

There's some silence between them. Katie pulls out a bag of chips from her bag and opens them up. She pulls out a chip and tosses it on the ground where pigeons feed on it.

KATIE

Sorry about what I did that day.

MICHAEL

Huh?

KATIE

When I...kissed you...

MICHAEL

Oh...That...It's okay. I just don't really know what to say about it.

KATIE

I didn't know what I was thinking. I was just really stressed out and I had mixed up thoughts and I guess it was just an impulse or something and—

MICHAEL

Katie. It's okay. You don't have to be sorry.

Katie eats a few chips. She throws another one on the ground for the pigeons.

KATIE

Michael?

MICHAEL

Yeah?

KATIE

I really like you.

MICHAEL

(Smiling)

Well, I like you too.

KATIE

I feel as though I really got to know you after what happened after Christmas break. I mean, we were both close to Pace and Jackson that when we started talking about what happened, I felt as though I saw a side of you I never really noticed.

MICHAEL

Probably because you never really talked to me before.

KATIE

I guess I was just shy. And I know this isn't the best time to be talking about it. But I just wanted you to know that I really like you. And that that kiss was probably because of how I feel towards you, or not, I'm not entirely sure.

Michael smiles and scoots next to her. He put his arm around her.

MICHAEL

Well...I really like you too.

Katie smiles and leans her head on his shoulder. She sighs.

KATIE

I hate this year.

MICHAEL

Yeah...this year is just fucked up.

KATIE

Don't mind me if I start crying,
alright?

MICHAEL

I won't. I'll be here.

INT. SCION - DAY

Lex drives while Adam sits in the passenger seat.

LEX

So...Where are we going exactly?

ADAM

What?

LEX

(Over-mouthing)
Where are we going?

ADAM

I just wanted to get out of the
house for a while. We can just hang
out at a restaurant or something.

Lex takes a deep breath.

ADAM

So I know who this boy is. I
finally found out.

LEX

Who?

ADAM

Mr. Reymon's son. Jonathan.

LEX

Who?

ADAM

Mr. Reymon. He was at the New Year party. I talked to him for a little bit when I found a picture of his son on the floor.

LEX

Have to talked to him about it yet?

ADAM

No...

LEX

Adam! Why? This is something he might need!

ADAM

Because I don't want to freak him out or make him awkward! I don't want to tell him that I've been seeing and hearing his son only to end up seeing someone die moments after I see him! His son was only seven when he was killed in a car accident from a drunk driver. Do you really think he wants to hear that?

LEX

Well we have to tell him sooner or later.

ADAM

When?

LEX

I don't know.

ADAM

And besides, if we do tell him, we won't have an explanation because I don't even know why this kid is following me around. I just want to find out what's up before I go telling him that his dead 7-year-old is following me.

They come up to a stoplight next to the park. They sit there in silence. Adam looks out his window and sees Michael and Katie. They get up from the bench and walk over to a trash can.

Adam rolls the window down and sticks his head out.

ADAM
Michael!

Neither of them look in his direction. He sticks his head back in.

ADAM
They can't hear me.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Katie throws her bag of chips away.

MICHAEL
So....now what?

KATIE
What do you mean?

MICHAEL
Are we...dating?

Katie giggles.

KATIE
Well, yeah, I guess, I mean, if you were leaning that way—

MICHAEL
Oh no, I mean, yeah, I was but I just wanted to...make sure...

She laughs.

KATIE
And I thought *I* was awkward.

MICHAEL
Oh, be quiet!

She laughs some more and Michael pulls her towards him.

INT. SCION - DAY

Adam and Lex stare at the two holding each other.

LEX
Huh. I wonder what they're up to.

Past Lex further away, a semi-truck begins to move towards the intersection.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

Don't move.

Lex and Alex look at each other.

ADAM AND LEX

What?

They stare at each other, both their eyes widen.

ADAM

Oh shit...

LEX

Where is he?

Adam looks around the car. The boy isn't in site.

ADAM

I don't see him!

Adam checks the back seat. There's nothing there. He looks behind the car, and around the car.

The light turns green, but Lex doesn't notice.

ADAM

I can't find him!

Neither of them notice that the truck heading towards the intersection isn't slowing down. It passes the intersection and slams into the back of the Scion.

Both of them are flung around the inside of the car. The truck smashes into a stoplight, and the Scion spins around. Adam's seat belt snaps apart, and his door flings open.

Adam is thrown out of the car and rolls on the ground. The stoplight breaks apart and begins to rain sparks down on the truck and Scion.

The truck, when it collided, broke the gas tank open. Gas spills out onto the ground right under the raining sparks.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Michael and Katie turn their attention to the accident.

KATIE

Oh my God!

Michael pulls out his cell phone and dials 911.

EXT. SCION - DAY

Adam coughs and he slowly sits up. He winces in pain and grabs at his side. He looks at his hand. A little bit of blood is smeared on it.

He faces away from the car.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

Over here.

Adam looks in front of him. He doesn't see the boy anywhere. Behind him, Lex lays unconscious.

The sparks ignite the gas and the fire engulfs part of the back of the car.

Lex slowly wakes up and looks at the sideview mirror. The fire spreads. The back window shatters and the fire licks inside.

Lex becomes fully awake and tries to unbuckle, but it won't undo. She tries opening her door, but it only opens an inch or so as the truck is blocking her way.

The seat belt suddenly tightens by itself. Lex gasps as her gut is squeezed to the seat.

Adam stands up and continues to stare out in front of him. He looks for the boy.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

(Almost tauntingly)

Look harder.

Lex looks at Adam.

LEX

Adam! Adam—Shit!

She tries to loosen her seat belt but it tightens even more. She looks back at the fire. It begins to engulf the back seats.

LEX

Adam!

Adam looks as though he is hypnotized. Suddenly, he doubles over and coughs. His breath is visible and he takes in a deep breath.

He turns around and sees Lex, the fire, the fear in her eyes. He jumps for the car, but the passenger door shuts by itself. He tries opening the door, but it won't allow, even when it's unlocked.

Adam steps back and puts his elbow out in front of him. He smashes his elbow against the window. Nothing. He rams it into the window again. Still nothing. One more time, and this time it shatters.

Adam crawls in and tries to undo Lex's seat belt, but the clip won't pop out. He tries to loosen the belt, but he feels it tighten by itself.

ADAM

Fuck!

The fire moves closer. Adam grabs Lex.

ADAM

Hold on to me!

Lex grabs him and Adam begins to pull. Lex slowly slides through the belt. He pulls harder. The fire spreads quicker.

They both fly back when Adam gets her out of the seat belt. She yelps and holds on to her leg. It's bleeding.

Adam grabs her and quickly slips through the window and pulls her through.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Michael puts his phone away. Katie notices Adam.

KATIE

It's Adam and Lex!

She runs towards the direction. Michael watches her run and he follows her.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Adam pulls Lex to the ground and drags her away from the car just in time.

The back of the car explodes. Adam falls to the ground. Debris flies in all directions throughout the area. Adam and Lex cover their faces.

Adam looks at Lex. She gives him a big hug.

Michael and Katie run over to the two and kneel down next to them.

KATIE

Oh my God, are you guys okay?

LEX

My leg hurts.

MICHAEL

Don't worry, I called for an ambulance.

Adam backs away a few inches.

ADAM'S POV: Everything is completely silent. Katie and Michael's mouths move during an inaudible conversation. But then, Adam hear's a tiny kid's laugh.

BACK TO SCENE

Adam turns around. He sees a boy walk across the street, similar-looking to Jonathan.

Adam looks at the boy, but then down the street where a car speeds down like there's no tomorrow. It's headed straight for the boy.

Adam's eyes grow huge. The car is only yards from the boy. Adam stands up.

ADAM

NO!

The car runs right through the boy, who dissipates into thin air. The car suddenly dissolves into a black mist which slowly dissipates.

MICHAEL

Adam what's wrong?

Adam quickly turns his head and sees Jonathan staring at him. He turns around and walks away. Adam runs after him.

ADAM

Wait!

MICHAEL

Adam! Adam where are you...!

Adam watches the boy walk behind the tree, but he never comes out from behind it. Adam runs to the tree and looks around it. Nothing. The boy is gone.

Adam backs away, out of breath. Hundreds of voices begin to fill the air. Adam spins around to see where they're coming from, but there's nobody around him. They get louder.

The whispers soon turn into screams of torture, pain, fear, and others are deep, demonic laughter and inhumane screeches.

Adam covers his ears and backs into the tree. The voices stop. Adam uncovers his ears and looks straight in front of him. A thick liquid drips from above.

Adam stares at the running liquid and puts his hand under it. It's a dark red, almost black, and it's very thick. Adam looks up.

There, hanging upside down from a branch, is Jackson's body, his wrists sliced open, the blood dripping from them. His face is sunken in, his cheek bones protruding from his elastic skin. His eyes are a cloudy white.

Adam screams at the sight and backs away. He can't help but stare at the body, but finally he can't take it. He turns around and bumps into a lady.

But it's no ordinary lady. It's Stephanie from the car crash. When Adam bumps into her, her head falls off. Blood splurts from her neck and her body falls to the ground.

Adam stares in horror and backs away. He trips and falls onto his back. Immediately, he looks over next to him. It's the boy from the gym. Only his head is separate from his body. His eyes are wide and cloudy, and blood flows from his mouth.

Adam screams again and shoots up to a sitting position, as does Frank, whose body Adam tripped over.

Frank's body crackles as he sits up. Blood drips from his nose and ears, and he opens his mouth. Blood flows out, and so does the loud ringing sound Adam heard when he first went deaf.

Adam quickly gets to his feet and stumbles backwards. He runs into a tree, where two hands come from behind it. They're child hands. They cover his ears. Immediately after, two more child hands cover his eyes.

ADAM'S POV: fire. A man burns alive, and his screams echo in the darkness he's in. The man looks at Adam. It's Mr. Reymon.

BACK TO SCENE

The bodies are gone. The hands disappear and Adam falls to his knees. He screams in agony as his clothes and skin smoke as though he's about to catch on fire.

He looks at his hands and arms. They're red as if they're burning on the inside. Smoke flows out of his mouth every time he exhales.

ADAM

No...

Adam stands up, but collapses to his hands and knees. He attempts to stand up again, and succeeds.

ADAM

...You're not getting him.

Adam stumbles forward and sees the boy walking across the street. Adam regains his strength and begins to run after the boy.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Adam runs into the neighborhood and searches for Jonathan. He spots him just slipping around a corner. Adam runs after him.

He runs around the corner and sees the boy walk into the darkness of a house. Adam runs towards the house, but stops when he reaches the porch.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

It's extremely dark inside the house. The only visible parts of the interior are illuminated by the light outside. Adam stares in, and slowly, he's drawn inside.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Adam walks in and looks around the interior of the house. The front door slowly squeaks shut. Adam looks back at the door and then back in front of him.

He walks towards the...

LIVING ROOM

A small picture lays on the floor. Adam picks it up. It's the picture of Jonathan he found on his kitchen floor on New Year's Eve.

ADAM

Mr. Reymon?

Adam sniffs the air.

ADAM

Mr. Reymon, it smells like gas in here...

Adam's attention is drawn to a child's laugh. He walks forward and into the...

KITCHEN

Adam walks in. The only light is the sunlight that squeezes through the halfway closed blinds from one window. He tries flipping the switch, but the light refuses to turn on.

ADAM

Hello?

Adam looks in front of him. A doorway leads to a pitch black abyss. Suddenly, Mr. Reymon walks through. He holds a tub of gasoline.

ADAM

Oh thank God you're alright.

ROBERT

God?

Adam is shocked. He perks his head up.

ADAM

Mr. Reymon...! Robert! I can hear you! Oh my God!

ROBERT

Where is he?

ADAM

What?

ROBERT

Where is this "God" that I hear everyone talking about? I've heard of him before, but I would like to know where he was when my life went down the fucking drain.

Adam stares in disbelief. He looks at the gas can.

ADAM

You need to get out of here.

ROBERT

Where was "God" when my son was killed, huh? Where was he when my wife left me in this shithole?

(MORE)

ROBERT (CONT'D)

He took everything from me when I didn't deserve any of it! I don't fucking deserve any of this, God damn it!

ADAM

Mr. Reymon, please, we need to get out of here now!

ROBERT

Shut up!

Adam becomes quiet. Mr. Reymon begins to cry.

ROBERT

Every night I prayed for things to get a little better, that I could actually move on with a normal life. It's like he's playing a game with me, to see how long it takes for me to come to the brink of suicide.

ADAM

You just need to calm down. If you need help, I can get you some help!

ROBERT

I don't need any help. I've asked for it for too long and it's too late. Nothing else will work. I can't take it anymore. I hate waking up every single morning knowing that my son is dead and realizing that the spot next to me in bed is empty!

Robert rolls up his sleeves. Adam notices the slit marks on his wrists.

ADAM

Mr. Reymon, killing yourself won't bring your son back.

ROBERT

He wouldn't allow it...

ADAM

Who?

ROBERT

My son.

ADAM

What?

ROBERT

I tried but he said he wouldn't allow me to do it.

ADAM

You heard him talk to you?

ROBERT

Through my bad ear. I was able to hear him only through my bad ear.

Adam slowly walks towards Robert. He snaps at Adam.

ROBERT

Stay back!

Adam jumps back.

ADAM

I heard him too! He's talked to me also!

ROBERT

I miss him so much. When I first heard him I thought I was just having a dream, and that he was still here with us.

ADAM

He's been following me. I can hear him and see him.

ROBERT

I feel so guilty. I was watching him...I turned my back for a second and I heard the tires screech. When I turned back around, I saw him on the ground...The driver out of his car, staring at him...

ADAM

Mr. Reymon...I don't know how to say this...I just don't want to upset you...But...

Robert opens up the gas can.

ROBERT

I'm sorry, Adam.

ADAM
Why? You shouldn't...

ROBERT
I have to make it look like an
accident...

ADAM
What are you talking about?

The door behind Adam slams shut. Adam spins around. Robert splashes the gas towards Adam. Gas flows down his arms, into his cuts, which start bleeding.

Adam jumps back as the gas splatters on the ground. Robert continues to throw the flammable liquid on everything around him.

ADAM
Mr. Reymon! What are you doing!?
Robert!

Robert throws the can to the ground. It busts open and gas spills out all over the floor.

Adam runs over to the door and tries to open it, but it won't budge. Adam spins around and sees Robert with a lighter in hand.

ROBERT
I'd do anything to get him back.

He ignites the lighter.

ADAM
NO!

SLOW MOTION: the lighter sparks and the flame flickers up into the air. All of this comes to a stop. Everything FREEZES except for Adam.

Adam stops where he's standing and looks around. Everything's quiet again. He turns his head towards Jonathan, who sits in a chair at the table.

Jonathan's body is bruised. Blood drips from his nose and his has road burns all over his arms and face; his face looks burned and distorted.

ADAM
Jonathan?

Jonathan stares at him and smiles.

ADAM

Why have you been following me?

JONATHAN

Welcome to the first degree of Hell, Adam.

Jonathan stands up.

ADAM

What? How was I able to hear him?

JONATHAN

I sort of...allowed you to hear him and it's going to stay like that until you die. That way you can hear yourself scream as he starts up what I'm going to finish. Then you'll meet all your other dead buddies.

ADAM

Oh no...Oh God no...

JONATHAN

That's right. You're now able to put the pieces together.

Adam becomes weak. He falls to his knees and begins to cry. He holds onto his stomach as if he's been punched in the gut.

FLASHBACK

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Robert stares at the picture of Jonathan.

ROBERT

I'd do anything to get him back...

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jackson and Pace run away from the fireworks. Robert throws the match into the box of fireworks.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

You know that vision I gave you? It was on purpose.

The box explodes and the fireworks shoot off in all directions.

CUT TO:

Adam cleans out his ears.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

Once it happened, I had the chance to use your fear as a power I could literally feed off of. You going deaf was just a coincidence. But it seemed to help. I mean, seeing *and hearing* dead people is scary enough, right? The more fear, the merrier.

INT. HOUSE - ROBERT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Robert sits on the bed and stares at a picture of him, his wife, and Jonathan.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

Robert was weak with grief over the death of his son, which made him vulnerable. I made my move, disguised myself as his son, and used him.

Jonathan creeps up behind him and whispers in his ear:

JONATHAN

Daddy.

Robert raises his head. He's heard his son.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Stephanie gets out of the taxi. The man hands Stephanie her purse.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

Disguised as his son, I promised Robert that if he did what I told him, I'd be able to bring myself back. I was able to control him through his grief and weakness because of the loss of his son and departure of his wife.

INT. LEXIS - NIGHT

Robert sits in the driver seat, buckled in tightly. He speeds down the street towards the taxi.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

The Lexis crashes into the taxi.

Robert crawls out of the damaged car and stumbles off, holding on to his gut.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Robert, again, speeds down the street in another car. He heads straight for Frank, who stands outside of Adam's Honda.

The car smashes into Frank. Frank flips over the hood and onto the ground. Robert speeds off.

INT. GYM - DAY

Everyone plays basketball. Robert messes with a few bolts and screws from the bottom of the scissor lift.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

After the first few "accidents" was when I was able to do my part, to do more complicated procedures. He only started the chain reaction. I finished it.

EXT. GYM - DAY

Robert and Adam bump into each other.

ROBERT

Just fixing some lights.

INT. GYM - DAY

The ball hits the boy in the back of the head. His head gets lodged in between two of the folding supports. A few bolts fall out and sparks spray from the inside of the lift.

The scissor lift collapses.

INT. SCHOOL - SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Robert twists the handles of all the gas valves on the lab tables.

CUT TO:

Adam and Michael walk out of the classroom, Adam freaking out.

IN THE CEILING: Jonathan sits above the lights. He puts his hands on them, and they explode.

In the classroom, the fire engulfs all the students and everything in the room.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Robert stands outside the school and looks up at the third floor. A fireball explodes from the windows of the classroom.

INT. JACKSON'S HOUSE - DAY

Jackson sits on his bed. He stares up the ceiling. On his stomach, a picture of Jackson and Pace when they were younger, fishing on the lake.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

You weren't the only one I followed. I went after your friend, Jackson, and did the same as I did to Robert: took control of his depression and grief from the loss of his brother. I invaded his body, and intensified those feelings, much to the point where life just wasn't worth living anymore.

Jackson gets up.

CUT TO:

He walks to the bathroom and tapes the note up on the door.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jackson sits in the bathtub with a knife. He digs deep into his wrist with the metal blade. Blood flows from his arms. The red liquid swirls down the drain.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

JONATHAN (V.O.)

But you got smart. You figured out
that whenever I was present, so was
death.

The three workers, on their lunch break, sit on the hood of the truck. They eat their lunch while Robert sneaks into the basket of the cherry picker.

He opens up the control compartment and cuts a few wires. He shuts it and escapes before the workers finish.

CUT TO:

Adam tackles Greg as the cherry picker basket crashes to the ground.

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Robert, in his car, backs out of a parking spot at a high speed. He smashes into a truck parked at the top of a hilly driveway. The parking brake breaks, and the truck begins to roll down the driveway.

The truck rolls onto the street and heads down the hill towards the Scion Lex and Adam are in.

BACK TO SCENE

Adam, still on his knees, bawls while still clenching to his stomach.

JONATHAN

And now you're here, exactly how I
planned.

ADAM

No...Oh God...

JONATHAN

Face it. God isn't here.

ADAM

Why are you doing this?

JONATHAN

It's my job to create fear, to
create hate and war.

(MORE)

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

I'm the one who causes the fights
of people, the one who causes man
to murder man and create the effect
of no control. It's my job to do
the work of the devil.

Adam looks up and sees Jonathan sink into the dark corners of
the kitchen.

JONATHAN

Get ready for your nightmares to
come to life, Adam...

Adam watches him disappear. He stands up and stares at
Robert. Suddenly, everything slowly comes back to life, to
normal speed.

The flame flickers above the lighter. Robert stares at the
lighter, then at the gas-covered floor.

ADAM

Robert...Listen to me.

Robert doesn't look up.

ADAM

What you've been hearing is all a
lie. Doing this will not bring your
son back. You have to trust me!
That's not your son who's been
talking to you!

JONATHAN

Don't even bother, Adam! It's too
late!

ADAM

You just have to realize what
you've done and you need to stop
now! This isn't the answer! You
have to listen to me!

Robert looks up with sad, red eyes.

ADAM

Please?

ROBERT

I just want him back...

ADAM

He's dead, Robert. There's no way
he can come back.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

Don't believe what he's told you.
He's not coming back!

ROBERT

He said that after this, I'll be
able to see him again.

ADAM

That wasn't him talking to you...

ROBERT

I'm sorry.

He puts his hand on the flame and his arm becomes engulfed in flames. His whole body catches on fire, and the gas on the floor ignites.

Adam jumps back. He screams as Robert begins to scream in pain. Jonathan, barely seen, laughs. His laugh gets deeper and deeper, more demonic.

Adam runs to the door and tries to open it, but it still won't budge. He looks behind him and sees Robert look at him, his face in agony, just like the brief vision he had at the park.

He looks over at an alarm clock on the counter. The numbers quickly flicker and count up or down until they reach the time 3:33 AM. The alarm begins to go off.

Adam is thrown up onto the wall. His body rolls to the top of the wall and onto the ceiling. He then drops to the floor next to the spreading flames.

Adam quickly gets up and crawls away from the flames. They grow and catch the cabinets on fire, the ceiling begins to grow black and charred.

The only exit out of the house is the window which is surrounded by fire. Adam stares at his only escape to the outside world.

Adam runs over to another door and tries to open it, but it's also stuck shut. He rams himself into it.

JONATHAN (V.O.)

(Deep voice)

You can't escape your fears.

Adam continues to ram himself into the door, but it won't move. He coughs on the smoke and slides to the floor, weak, dirty, and helpless.

ADAM

Fuck it...I'm tired of running...

He closes his eyes.

MONTAGE: of his friends, Lex, Lauren, Jackson, Pace, Katie, Michael; the party; lunchtime with Lex, Adam, Jackson, and Lauren; Stacey squeezes Adam; Adam sets a flower on Jackson's casket; the toast of 2008; and other images of "happy times."

He coughs more intensely. The room is full of the dark, gray smoke, and it's almost too thick to see through. The fire burns around Adam.

Suddenly, the door flies open and a bright, blinding light shines through. Adam opens his eyes, but immediately shields them.

It's a fireman. He runs in and grabs Adam and picks him up. They disappear into the white light.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

Adam lays on a stretcher with an oxygen mask strapped to his face. The fireman sits next to him. Adam opens his eyes.

ADAM'S POV: the fireman stares down at him, his face covered by the gas mask. He looks at the paramedics. One of them's female, but you can't see their faces.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen door bursts open and two firemen run in.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

The female paramedic turns around. It's Stephanie, her hair tied back and dressed in a paramedic uniform. She looks at Adam and smiles. Adam's eyes become wide.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The firemen grab Adam's limp body and pull him out. One of the firemen looks at Robert's burning body on the floor.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

Adam looks at the fireman, who takes off his gas mask. It's Frank. He smiles as he stares at Adam. Adam looks back at Stephanie.

STEPHANIE
Everything is fine.

FRANK
You're gonna make it, man.

Adam's eyes slowly shut.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The firemen set Adam's body on the ground. One FIREMAN begins to do CPR on Adam.

FIREMAN
Where's the ambulance?

The ambulance arrives around the corner and pulls up in front of the house.

The paramedics pull out the stretcher and set Adam on it. They put an oxygen mask over his mouth and begin to pump air into his lungs.

INT. AMBULANCE - DAY

The paramedics try everything to get Adam to breathe again, but nothing seems to work. They continue to try and pump oxygen into him, but he still won't breathe.

They finally give up. One of the paramedics puts his fingers under Adam's wrist. After a moment, he shakes his head and checks the time on his wristwatch.

FADE OUT.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Dozens of people stand around a grave, a few with their heads bowed, while others listen to the preacher give his speech.

The preacher finishes and Lex takes his place. She pulls out a piece of paper.

LEX

Before we leave, I would like to say something. I've known Adam since elementary school, though some of you might have known him longer or your whole lives. And I miss him just as much as the next person. But I feel as though the death of a loved one isn't something to mourn over, something to be sad about or get mad at. It should be celebrated for the fact that he was able to live the life he was given. I understand why we get angry, probably over the question, "Why are we born if we don't get to live a full life?" But through the seventeen years that Adam was able to grow up through, he was able to experience family, affection, friendship, and love, and these are what life and death are all about.

She wipes away a tear and steps away from the group of people. The people disperse from the area and walk to their cars.

Lex and Katie hug, and then she hugs Michael. She sniffs and wipes away her tears.

Lex walks to her Scion, which has been fixed. She's about to open the door when she stops and turns around.

ADAM (V.O.)

I'm still here.

FLASHBACK

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Adam squeezes Lex.

ADAM

I'm still here...I'm still here...

BACK TO SCENE

Lex smiles and gets in her car.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCION - NIGHT

Lex drives while Michael sits in the passenger seat and Katie sits in the back.

LEX

So how was the play? I didn't get to make it.

MICHAEL

It actually went really well. We didn't have any major problems in any of the shows.

LEX

That's good.

KATIE

Yeah, except for the fact that Michael did forget one of his lines.

MICHAEL

What?

Katie laughs.

KATIE

I noticed it right off the bat. You sort of stuttered when it was your turn to speak and you totally improved. It was actually kind of bad.

MICHAEL

Well, you were in the same production.

KATIE

Yeah as costume manager. I don't even know what the line was originally supposed to be.

MICHAEL

Well I bet you everyone in the audience didn't even notice.

KATIE

You gotta learn to improv, Michael. It's one of the key things in acting, just in case you slip up.

LEX

Yeah, if someone else slips up, you have to go ahead and go along with it. And be funny about it.

MICHAEL

Whatever! You guys don't even know!

They all laugh.

Michael and Katie begin to talk to each other. Lex shivers. She looks in her rearview mirror.

Sitting in the empty seat next to Katie is Adam. Lex quickly turns her head and looks in the back seat. There's nothing there.

KATIE

What?

Lex looks back in the rearview mirror. Adam still sits there.

The whole car becomes deafly quiet. Lex stares in the rearview mirror as she continues to drive. The car crosses through an intersection. A large truck SMASHES into the side of the car—

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END