

Seattle

By
Quentin Bangston

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The GYMNASIUM is full of life as two high school basketball teams battle each other in the final seconds of the important game. Suddenly, one boy-JAKE COOPER-around 17, tall, dark haired, handsome, and athletic- seizes the ball and drives to his hoop, shoots and scores. The crowd cheers.

A player of the other team throws the ball in, and begins to dribble down the court. Their POINT GUARD makes it to the three point line, and shoots, but his shot is rejected.

Jake jumps up and knocks the ball away. He retrieves it and hurries down the court just as the CROWD begins to CHANT 10...9...8...7...6....He goes down the court, shoots a lay up and scores! The crowd goes wild.

The BUZZER sounds and the teams run back to their coaches. Jake gets a few good pats on the back.

ANNOUNCER'S TABLE

The ANNOUNCER hysterically grabs for a microphone.

ANNOUNCER

(cheerfully)

They've done it again! The Red Brooke Wolverines are going to the state play-offs!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

Jake is finished changing and is now in nicer, less sweaty clothing. He is alone in the dim locker room. The DOORS fly open. Jake looks up. SHAYLEE PRATT enters.

Shaylee is always the most mature-looking woman in the room only being seventeen, with her dark brown hair you would mistake her for being older. She walks like she owns the room.

Walking up to Jake, she jumps. Jake catches her with ease. She wraps her legs around him, and gives him a kiss. They lean against the lockers.

JAKE

(flirty)

You taste like skittles.

SHAYLEE

Hmm...new slogan. Shaylee Pratt-taste the rainbow.

(break)

Good game.

She gives him another kiss.

JAKE

Thank you.

SHAYLEE

I knew we were going to win it.

JAKE

Not a doubt in my mind either.

Jake sets Shaylee down. She looks around and sniffs.

SHAYLEE

(disgusted)

What is that smell?

JAKE

What smell?

SHAYLEE

That stench....

JAKE

I don't smell anything.

SHAYLEE

Probably because you practically live in here. It smells like sweat.

JAKE

(sarcastically)

Oh...I smell it now....I can't imagine why it would smell like sweat in the men's locker room. Why don't you exhale and make it smell like skittles?

SHAYLEE

(with tired sarcasm)

Ha ha...you're so funny.

(break)

So...are you going to the club tonight?

JAKE

No...I don't think so. I have to get home to my mom. I didn't see her at the game, so she must not be feeling too well.

SHAYLEE

(disappointed)

Oh...okay, yeah...I get it.

JAKE

Shay....

SHAYLEE

(bravely)

No, hey, Jake...it's cool. I understand.

JAKE

Okay. Do you need a ride home?

SHAYLEE

No, actually, Mel is out waiting for me in the car, so I better get going.

JAKE

Oh...see you tomorrow.

SHAYLEE

Sure.

(forces a smile)

Bye Jake.

She struts out of the room.

INT. JAKE'S HOME - NIGHT

Jake enters a dark house. The house is neat and contemporary. A light is on in the LIVING ROOM. Jake walks toward it.

Jake's mom, MARIA COOPER-young even though she doesn't act it. With long brown hair, she is very young looking for being mid thirties- is asleep with a blanket, curled in a chair. She has a bottle of red wine open and a glass half full sitting on a nightstand. She has a book on the armrest of the chair, open. Jake walks over and goes to turn the light off. Maria wakes up. She looks at him and smiles.

MARIA

(wearily)

Hey sweetheart. How was the game?

JAKE

We won!

MARIA

Good! I'm so proud of you.

JAKE

I know you are, Mom. I'm pretty tired. I think I'm gonna go to bed.

MARIA

Okay. Good night.

Jake leaves the room. Maria eyes the glass...and takes a swig from the bottle. She sighs and takes another.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASH BACK - ONE YEAR AGO

Maria is sitting in DOCTOR MARTIN'S office, stunned. DR. MARTIN- a man defined by his graying hair although he is only in his fifties- is wearing a despaired look.

MARIA

Are you sure its--

MARTIN

Positive. The blood tests don't lie.
Miss Cooper, I'm very sorry.

MARIA

You're sure?

MARTIN

I double checked the tests myself. I wish we could have recognized the cancer sooner, then there may have been some way to prevent it from reaching this point.

MARIA

(disappointed)

Oh. What has it spread to exactly?

MARTIN

Most parts have spread to the kidneys and liver. From this point, there is no way of preventing it. Pancreatic cancer is usually noticed by this point, and been diagnosed.

MARIA

So...do I have...a time limit?

MARTIN

I would have to say...a year. Year and a half at the most.

MARIA

Oh.

MARTIN

I'm very sorry, Mrs. Cooper. Truly, very sorry.

Dr. Martin turns to a set of cabinets and opens one of the doors. He pulls out a pamphlet about pancreatic cancer. He hands it to Maria.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

If you have anymore questions, just
read this pamphlet.

(break)

I'm very sorry, but I have to get to
another appointment.

He walks over to the door and exits.

Maria sits silently, looking forlornly at the pamphlet. A
tear falls from her cheek and onto the paper. She crumples
up the pamphlet and throws it away. She wipes away her tears,
and fixes her mascara. Then she exits.

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY - ONE YEAR AGO

Maria enters a crowded law office, momentarily stunned. She
looks around, and then walks up to a SECRETARY behind a desk.

SECRETARY

(cheerfully)

Hello. Can I help you?

MARIA

(hesitant)

Uh...yeah-yes. Can you tell me who I
need to see about creating a will?

SECRETARY

Just one moment please.

The secretary gets up and walks to a door, and disappears
behind it. She is gone for seconds before she walks back
out, closing the door behind her.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Just walk in, and the man in there
will help you.

MARIA

Thank you.

Maria walks to the door and opens it.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT DAY

Maria is spacing off. Dr. Martin is looking at her.

MARTIN

(concerned)

Maria.

Maria ignores him.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Maria?

Maria continues to ignore him.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(a little louder)

Maria.

Maria hears him.

MARIA

(startled)

Yes. Hi. Sorry. Just a little--

MARTIN

Nervous?

MARIA

I would say a little more along the lines of just elsewhere.

MARTIN

You know, it's completely normal to be worried or afraid by this time. But if you aren't its perfectly fine.

MARIA

I have been a little anxious lately.

MARTIN

That is entirely normal. I should ask, do you have all your affairs in order?

MARIA

You know...I thought I would have, but I...haven't really gotten around to it.

MARTIN

Well...you have around a week left.

MARIA

I know.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Shaylee slaps a colored flier onto a wall. The paper has "Party at the Library" written in large letters. She turns and smiles.

SHAYLEE

I'm tellin' ya. It's gonna be a huge party.

JAKE

Yeah- hun, but at the Library? That's the smallest club in all Vermont!

SHAYLEE

Yeah, well, now it is, but it won't be when I go and move some stuff out after school.

JAKE

Need help?

SHAYLEE

No, it's okay. Mel will be there and besides, you need to get your rest for the big game tonight!

JAKE

I just think that--

SHAYLEE

You do that too much.

JAKE

Do what?

SHAYLEE

Think.

JAKE

I don't think too much.

SHAYLEE

Yeah, kind of.

MELISSA AMES walks up. Melissa likes to wear flashy and sometimes revealing clothes, which help hide her growing stupidity. She is the same age as Shaylee, and of medium height, with stunning brown hair.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

He does it too much doesn't he, Mel?

MELISSA

What?

They begin to walk down the hallway and stick papers up. Shaylee hits one on extra hard on a locker and turns to Melissa.

SHAYLEE

Think.

MELISSA
(confused)
What?

SHAYLEE
He thinks.

MELISSA
Who?

SHAYLEE
JAKE!

MELISSA
I know! What about him?

SHAYLEE
He thinks too much.

MELISSA
Oh...yeah. Too much. Not good.

JAKE
Thanks for backing me up Mel.

MELISSA
What? Was I s'pose to?

JAKE
(exasperated)
You know what? Never mind.

The class bell rings and they all look at it.

Shaylee hands a stack of paper to Melissa, and a stack to Jake.

SHAYLEE
Hand these out wherever and whenever.

JAKE
You do that too much.

SHAYLEE
What?

JAKE
Be bossy.

SHAYLEE
Cute. Good one. I have to get to class smart-ass.

Shaylee walks away.

MELISSA

She is kind of bossy, and you are
kind of a smart-ass.

Jake turns to her.

JAKE

And your kind of thick headed.

Jake hands all the papers to her. Melissa juggles all in one arm with her purse and school bag. She touches her head, as if to make sure it's not abnormal.

INT. JAKE'S KITCHEN -EARLY EVENING

Jake walks into the kitchen. Maria is reading the paper and sipping a glass of red wine.

JAKE

See you at the game?

MARIA

Wouldn't miss it for the world.

Jake grabs a red apple and takes a bite out of it. Then he looks at the glass of wine.

JAKE

Isn't it a little early to be
drinking?

Maria ignores him.

MARIA

Shouldn't you get going? You're going
to be late.

JAKE

I just wanted to get a quick bite to
eat.

Jake walks over and Maria gives him a quick peck on the forehead. Then Jake turns and heads out the door.

MARIA

(shouts)
Good luck!

The door SLAMS. Maria gets up and walks over to the sink and is about to dump out the glass, but pauses, closes her eyes and takes a slowly breathes. Then she opens her eyes and dumps the glass.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Jake runs with the ball down the court to his team's basket, the other team and his team is in the B.G. running to keep up.

Jake goes for a lay-up and scores. The crowd goes wild and another two points is added to the score. The score is Wolverines 42, opponents 28. The time left in the game is two minutes.

The referee BLOWS his whistle to signal a time out called by the opponent's coach. The two teams run to their benches.

COACH

Okay. Guys we have a pretty good lead, now let's keep it. Just remember what you have learned and we will be going to the championships before you know it.

They all put their hands in the center.

COACH (CONT'D)

One, two, three

ALL TEAM

WOLVERINES!

The two teams go back to the court and start to play. The opponents throw the ball in. The game continues.

The horn SOUNDS, signaling the end of the game. The Wolverines win, 50-32. The crowd goes wild, and they run onto the court.

Jake turns and catches Shaylee. She gives him a huge hug and then a huge kiss. Melissa comes running up and stands beside the couple.

SHAYLEE

Come one! We have to get going if we are going to start a party!

Shaylee jumps down from Jake and she grabs his hand and pushes through the crowd. Melissa follows close behind. Jake stops and pulls Shaylee close to him.

JAKE

I have to go shower and change.

SHAYLEE

Well...go! Hurry! We will meet you in the car! Come on Mel!

Shaylee grabs Melissa's hand and pulls her through the crowd. Melissa waves good bye before she disappears through the thick crowd.

INT. THE LIBRARY - NIGHT

The Library is crowded. Loud music plays from the DJ turntable. Melissa and Shaylee sit at the bar, Shaylee slowly moves to the music.

The BARTENDER walks over. He replaces the empty glass in Melissa's hands with a full one. She pleasantly smiles at him. Slowly, she sips the drink. Shaylee gives her a disgusted look.

SHAYLEE

I can't believe you would do that to yourself! That's it! I'm cutting you off!

She pulls the drink away. Melissa stretches for it.

MELISSA

(whining)

But I want it! But I need it!

SHAYLEE

But darling, the bartender is too old for you.

MELISSA

I mean the drink.

SHAYLEE

The drink? Hun, I'm not gonna drive you home when you are too drunk to function.

MELISSA

(whining)

But its non-alcoholic!

SHAYLEE

And yet I still enjoy cutting you off!

MELISSA

(matter-of-factly)

Now that's just rude.

SHAYLEE

I do it because I love!

MELISSA

Do me a favor...love me less.

Shaylee turns away as the bartender sneaks over and hands Melissa another drink with a wink. She smiles graciously at him. She sips it.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Speaking of love. There's your lover.

Shaylee turns to him. Melissa hides her drink and slinks away.

Shaylee stands. Jake grabs her hand. He pulls her out to the dance floor.

JAKE

Let's dance.

The music changes to a slow song. Jake and Shaylee get close together. Jake holds her and they slowly move to the music.

SHAYLEE

I was beginning to think you weren't coming.

JAKE

I wouldn't miss this for the world.

SHAYLEE

I'm glad you came.

JAKE

Me too.

SHAYLEE

I never want this song to end.

A SHERIFF walks up behind Jake. He taps him on the shoulder. Jake turns, slightly surprised.

JAKE

Can I help you?

SHERIFF

Come with me.

Shaylee steps in to intervene.

SHAYLEE

Can I ask why?

SHERIFF

This matter doesn't concern you, so I'm going to politely ask you to step aside.

JAKE
 (stern)
 Shaylee move.

Shaylee moves to the side.

SHERIFF
 Come with me Jake there is no time
 to discuss.

JAKE
 Tell me what this is about first.

SHERIFF
 Jake, it's your mother. She's in the
 hospital.

Jake turns to Shaylee.

JAKE
 (assuring)
 I will be back soon, okay. Just,
 hang out for a little while.

Jake turns to the sheriff and they walk out of the club.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jake sits in a chair, staring at the wall in front of him
 gloomy white hospital hallway. A DOCTOR walks past and Jake
 looks up with hope, only to see the doctor keep walking.

A door opens at the end of the hallway and a disheveled
 Shaylee hurries in, followed by a tired Melissa. They look
 around. They see Jake and hurry to him.

Jake looks up, and then gets up to greet them. Shaylee
 embraces him.

SHAYLEE
 (continues to hug
 Jake)
 We came as soon as we could.

She releases him and he sees she is crying.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)
 I'm so sorry Jake.

Shaylee wipes a tear away.

MELISSA
 Have you heard anything yet?

JAKE

She's sleeping right now.

(break)

They said...she has had pancreatic cancer for a little over two years..

SHAYLEE

Wait...she never said anything about cancer.

JAKE

I know. Apparently she didn't want to hurt me.

Dr. Martin walks up.

MARTIN

Jake Cooper?

JAKE

Yes.

Doctor Martin and Jake exchange handshakes.

MARTIN

I'm Dr. Martin, your mother's doctor.

JAKE

How is she?

MARTIN

Right now. Stable. But she is only going to get worse.

JAKE

How much time do you think....

MARTIN

Well...a week at the most.

Shaylee hugs Jake again. Melissa is stunned.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I'm so very sorry Jake.

Doctor Martin walks away, grim.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Shaylee is asleep in the corner of the small room, using Jake's coat as a blanket. She slowly opens her eyes.

Jake is staring out the window. Shaylee moves to get up and Jake turns to his Maria with some hope. Then he turns to look at Shaylee.

JAKE
(forces a smile)
Good morning.

SHAYLEE
(smiles)
Good morning.
(break)
Did she ever--

JAKE
No.

Jake sighs and sits down in an open chair.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Do you want me to take you home so
you can sleep some more?

SHAYLEE
What time is it?

Jake looks at his watch.

JAKE
Quarter 'til nine.

SHAYLEE
No. It's okay. I can call Mel.

Shaylee gets up and walks over to Jake. She sits on his lap
and rests her head on his shoulder.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)
You need to go home and sleep. I can
stay here. You need to rest for the
game tonight.

JAKE
Shay, I don't think I can play this
game. Not tonight. With all that
has happened.

SHAYLEE
Jake this is a big game. I'm sure
your mom wouldn't want you to miss
it.

JAKE
Shay....

MARIA
She's right Jake.

They look over at Maria Cooper as she begins to wake up. She COUGHS a little, opens her eyes, and they shuts them again.

Shaylee and Jake both get up, and walk over to the bed.

JAKE

Mom. How are you feeling?

MARIA

Don't worry about me Jake.

SHAYLEE

I'm just gonna....I'll be right outside.

Shaylee walks away and out the door.

JAKE

Mom. Why didn't you tell me?

MARIA

I didn't want to hurt you.

JAKE

But it wouldn't have hurt me. This... this right now is hurting me.

MARIA

I'm sorry Jake. I just couldn't.

JAKE

There are some things you have to do no matter how much they hurt.

MARIA

I'm sorry.

JAKE

I know.

Maria closes her eyes.

MARIA

I'm sorry Jake, but I'm so tired right now.

JAKE

That's okay. Try to get some rest.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MORNING

Shaylee is sitting down on a bench. Jake opens the door to his mother's room and walks out. Shaylee stands up.

SHAYLEE

I called Mel. She's on her way.
(break)
How is she?

JAKE

(spellbound)
She knew. She knew that she had cancer
the whole time and she wouldn't tell
me.

SHAYLEE

I'm sure it was hard for her.

JAKE

But she didn't tell me.

SHAYLEE

(blunt)
Maybe she was afraid, Jake, did you
ever think of that? Maybe she thought
that if she said it out loud it would
become more real. Did you ever think
of that?

Shaylee's cell phone VIBRATES. She pulls it out and reads
the screen. Swiftly, she slides it back in her right front
pocket.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

I gotta go, my ride is here.

She walks past Jake and out the doors. Jake stares awe-struck.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Shaylee walks to her car as other cars pull out of the snow-
covered parking lot at the school. She begins to look into
her purse and continues to walk. Reaching her car, she looks
up to see Jake laying down on the hood of the car. He gets
up.

SHAYLEE

(disappointed)
Jake...what are you doing here? I
thought you were going to be with
your mom.

JAKE

I was, and then I took the bus and
came here.

SHAYLEE

What do you want?

JAKE

I want to say I'm sorry. What happened this morning.

SHAYLEE

I'm sorry, too. I know, that's hard to go through.

JAKE

So is everything better between us?

SHAYLEE

Of course.

JAKE

So you can do me a favor?

SHAYLEE

Yeah, what?

JAKE

Stay with my mom tonight while I play in the game.

SHAYLEE

(pleading)

Won't she be okay for one night?

Jake looks away from her gaze. Shaylee looks disturbed.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

What aren't you telling me?

Jake doesn't look at her. She touches his arm.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

Jake. What aren't you telling me?

JAKE

(with sorrow)

The doctors say she's getting worse.

Probably won't make it the rest of the week.

SHAYLEE

Jake...I had no idea.

(break)

I'm so sorry.

JAKE

(upset)

Yeah.

SHAYLEE

I will make sure she stays with us,
at least for tonight.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Maria is sitting up in her bed eating an early dinner of ham, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans and a dinner roll.

Jake and Shaylee enter the room, surprised to see her up and eating so well.

JAKE

(stunned)
Mom, you up.

SHAYLEE

And eating?

MARIA

I don't know what it is today, but I
feel like I could run a marathon.

JAKE

And you are eating, a lot.

MARIA

Well I just figure that when I die I
want to be full.

Jake is slightly disheartened.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(softly)
Jake.

SHAYLEE

I'll...just.

She slowly walks out the door.

MARIA

(softly)
Jake, come here.

Maria moves over on the bed. Jake walks over and lays down next to her. She begins to stroke his hair.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Jake I'm so sorry. I should have
told you. But I did what any good
mother wouldn't do and held it in.

JAKE

I don't want you to die. I need you.

MARIA

I know you do honey. I know.

They sit in silence until Shaylee opens the door and walks in. She takes the dinner roll off of Maria's plate.

SHAYLEE

Sorry. I haven't eaten since breakfast.

She walks quietly to the door and walks out.

INT. BASKETBALL COACH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jake walks past the messy COACH's office.

COACH

(loudly)

JAKE. Can you come in here for a second?

Jake walks in and stands next to the cluttered desk.

JAKE

Yeah coach?

COACH

I heard about you mother. I just wanted to say that I'm sorry.

JAKE

It's okay.

COACH

Also, I need to know that you will be in the game one hundred and ten percent tonight. This means a lot to our school.

JAKE

It means a lot to me too coach. You can count on me.

COACH

Then let's go get 'em.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The gymnasium is full of boisterous people. The announcer grabs his microphone.

ANNOUNCER

And now we watch the game that everyone has been waiting for. The Red Brooke Wolverines play the North Wood Admirals for the state championship. Here come your Wolverines!

Out of a hallway comes the whole wolverines team, led by Jake.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Shaylee is sitting in the corner of the hospital room, reading a magazine. Maria is leaning up against a pillow, but has her eyes closed.

MARIA

You had better be good to him.

Shaylee stops reading her magazine and looks at Maria.

SHAYLEE

Excuse me?

MARIA

You heard me.

Shaylee stares incredulously, and sets down her magazine.

SHAYLEE

(impolitely)

Yeah, I heard you, but I would like to hear it again.

MARIA

I said, you had better be good to him.

SHAYLEE

What is that supposed to mean?

MARIA

It means exactly what it sounds like.

If you aren't good to him, he deserves someone better than you.

SHAYLEE

So you're saying I'm not good enough? Not good enough for you little boy? That's funny, because I don't think you're a good enough mom. You wouldn't even tell him that you had cancer!

Maria opens her eyes and stares down Shaylee.

MARIA
(callously)
Don't you tell me how to be a mother.

Don't you ever do that again. Not to me.

SHAYLEE
Well guess what. You don't own me.
And you won't be around for forever.

Maria seems stunned at this remark.

MARIA
(loud)
Get out of my room.

SHAYLEE
Jake told me to stay.

MARIA
(louder)
GET OUT OF MY ROOM!

Shaylee grabs her magazine and stands up. She slowly walks out of the room.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The point guard of the Admirals team runs down the court and shoots a lay-up, beating half of the players on the court. The score is now Admirals 32, Wolverines 28.

Jake throws his hands above his head, frustrated.

The coach tosses his clipboard, angry.

COACH
Ref! Time out!

The referees blow their whistles. The players run over to coaches and gather around him.

COACH (CONT'D)
Okay, we are still in this game. But if you don't get in the game then we should just forfeit right now. Is that what you want?

The team stands silent.

COACH (CONT'D)
Is it?

The team says NO in unison, unconvincingly.

COACH (CONT'D)

What is it. Why aren't we winning?

They all stand strong but silent.

JAKE

They are running us up and down the court.

They are faster and stronger than us. We are doing the best we can...they are just better.

COACH

Well. We are only behind by four. We can come back.

The refs BLOW the warning whistle. Coach puts his hand in the middle; the rest of the team follows.

COACH (CONT'D)

Score on three.

(break)

One. Two. Three.

TEAM

SCORE!

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shaylee sits, reading her magazine in the almost empty waiting room. A NURSE walks up to her.

Shaylee sets the magazine down.

NURSE

Ms. Cooper is asking for you.

Shaylee looks up at her, annoyed.

SHAYLEE

(drained)

Sure...thanks.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Shaylee opens the door. It closes with a BANG. Maria opens her eyes and looks at her.

SHAYLEE

(irritably)

You rang.

MARIA
(softly)
Yes. Please sit down.

SHAYLEE
(hotly)
I think I'll stand.

MARIA
(breathes slowly)
Fine.
(break)
I would like to apologize.

Shaylee brushes some non-existent hair out of her eyes.

SHAYLEE
Well I can't imagine why you would
want to do that.

MARIA
Earlier, I was a
little...unreasonable.

I said some mean things about you, and I would like to
apologize.

Shaylee stands, impatient.

MARIA (CONT'D)
What! I apologized, what more do you
want?

Shaylee continues to stand, her legs a little shaky. Her
eyes slowly tear up. Maria sees this and gets a heartbreaking
look on her face. A tear falls from Shaylee's eyes. Maria
holds out her arms. Shaylee walks foreword into her open
arms.

SHAYLEE
(bawling)
I'm so sorry. I didn't mean anything.

MARIA
(quietly)
I know you didn't. It's okay.

They release, Shaylee looks at Maria.

SHAYLEE
I don't know what he would do with
out you.

MARIA
He will be just fine.

SHAYLEE

How do you know?

Maria smiles at her.

MARIA

He has you.

Shaylee smiles at her. She wipes away a few tears.

SHAYLEE

Do you need anything?

MARIA

Actually, would you get me something to drink?

SHAYLEE

Of course. Let me just grab some money out of my purse.

Shaylee walks over to her purse and digs through it. She pulls out a five dollar bill.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

What do you want?

MARIA

Anything cold.

Shaylee exits. Maria lays her head back down on her pillow. She slowly closes her eyes.

Her breathing starts to slow. The consistent BEEP of her heart monitor starts to get sluggish. Slower and slower until it finally changes to an earsplitting scream.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Shaylee browses the drinking selection from a vending machine. She inserts the money and pushes a button. An orange juice falls out of the slot and she leans over to pick it up.

Behind her some nurses rush through a door and run down a hallway.

Shaylee stands up, and exits.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The ball is passed to Jake. With limited time left on the clock he drives in and goes for a lay up.

On the bleachers, Melissa digs her phone out of her purse. She finds it and dials a number.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The rest of the room isn't seen as Shaylee's cell phone vibrates on top of her pink purse.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shaylee nonchalantly struts down the hallway. A nurse pushes past her with a defibrillator.

SHAYLEE

(rudely)

You almost made me spill my juice!

She looks at the running nurse. Drops the juice and runs down the hall. She turns right. Down the hall doctors and nurses are surrounding Maria's room. She sprints to the room.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The gymnasium is less crowded than last seen. The game is over. Final score is still on the board. 50-47 in favor of the Wolverines.

Melissa stands in the middle of the court.

MELISSA

Hey Shay! We won! Everybody is going to party! Umm...just call me when you get this message!

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shaylee stares on horrified as doctors and nurses run around in Maria's room. A nurse tries to hurry past her, but Shaylee grabs her arm.

SHAYLEE

(stunned)

What is going on?

NURSE

Sorry, but I'm going to have to ask you to wait in the waiting room.

SHAYLEE

But what is happening here?

NURSE

I cannot disclose that information at this time. You will have to go to the waiting room.

The nurse tries to leave but Shaylee still has a grip on her sleeve.

SHAYLEE
 (hysterically)
 I'm sorry but you are going to have
 to disclose that information at this
 time!

NURSE
 Ma'am, I need you to listen to me--

SHAYLEE
 (ruthlessly)
 No you listen to me. That lady in
 there is my boyfriend's mom, and if
 she dies I need to be there for him
 and tell him what happened. Do you
 understand?

The nurse stares at Shaylee, bewildered. She shakes herself
 free from Shaylee and rushes inside the room, closing the
 door.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Shaylee sits curled in a chair. The door is closed. Maria's
 body lays covered with a blanket. Enter Jake. He joyfully
 struts into the room, with flowers.

Shaylee jumps out of the chair. Jake stares at the form under
 the blanket. He drops the flowers.

SHAYLEE
 (whispers)
 Jake....

Jake turns his gaze to her.

JAKE
 What happened?

SHAYLEE
 Jake....

JAKE
 (a little louder)
 What did you do?

SHAYLEE
 Jake, what are you talking about?

Jake marches over to her. He slaps her across the face.
 Shaylee stares with her hand on her face. She is speechless.

JAKE
 WHAT DID YOU DO!

SHAYLEE
 (breaks down to tears)
 NOTHING! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

JAKE
 (seething)
 THEN WHY DID SHE DIE!

Jake grabs Shaylees shoulders. Shaylee swiftly slaps him once, then again. Jake seems a little less furious. Shaylee goes to slap him again; stopped halfway by Jake.

Shaylee pulls herself free of his grasp. She turns and grabs her purse and runs out the door.

INT. SHAYLEE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Shaylee sits, motionless in her car. Gradually she turns on the radio and blasts the music. She lays her head on the steering wheel and begins to bawl, barely audible over the music.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY-DAY

The hall is full of people moving between classes. Shaylee is looking through her locker. Jake comes up behind her. Shaylee turns to him.

SHAYLEE
 Jake I don't want to talk to you.

JAKE
 Shay I'm sorry about last night.

SHAYLEE
 I don't want to talk to you.

Melissa walks up and pushes Jake against the opposite lockers.

JAKE
 Mel just let me talk to her.

MELISSA
 Sorry Jake but she doesn't want to talk.

And after what you did to her I wouldn't talk to you either.

JAKE
 I just want to say that I'm sorry.

MELISSA
 And I'm just saying that she doesn't want to talk.

Jake looks away from Melissa's strong gaze. He looks her back in the eye.

JAKE
Why do you have to be so protective?

MELISSA
Because that's what best friends do.

JAKE
Just tell her I'm sorry.

MELISSA
No. She will come to you when she is ready.

Melissa looks at her watch.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Look at the time. Got to go to class.

Melissa nonchalantly punches Jake in the gut. Jake lets out a GRUNT. She fixes her hair, then disappears into the crowd.

INT. JAKE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jake enters. Shaylee is sitting in a large chair. Jake doesn't notice her.

SHAYLEE
I went to get her orange juice.

Jake turns, surprised to see her.

JAKE
What?

SHAYLEE
We had just apologized and she wanted something to drink. So I got her orange juice.

(break)

I was only gone for five, maybe ten minutes. When I came back...it was horrible. Nurses were running around, doctors trying to revive her. I tried to get some answers but no one would tell me anything. So I did what any normal person would do and I waited. Those few minutes felt like hours.

Jake moves to her and sits next to her on the chair. He wraps his arms around her, comforts her.

JAKE

I'm sorry.

SHAYLEE

Me too.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Everybody is holding a black umbrella, sheltering themselves from the light drizzle falling from the sky. They are surrounding a grave and a white coffin that is littered with flowers. The PASTOR is reading.

PASTOR

Today we gather to remember Maria Jo
Anne Cooper.

Shaylee is crying silently. Melissa wipes away a tear with a handkerchief. Jake stands strong, holding Shaylee.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - DAY

People walk up to Jake and give their condolences. Shaylee and Melissa are a few paces away, snacking on finger sandwiches.

MELISSA

So you and Jake made up?

SHAYLEE

You could say that.

Melissa gives her a curious look.

MELISSA

You two didn't...you know.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

(uncomfortably)

You know...please don't make me say
it.

(whispers)

Bump uglies?

Shaylee gives her a disgusted look.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Well did you?

SHAYLEE

No!

MELISSA

Just checking.

SHAYLEE

Oh God...you're imagining it aren't you!

MELISSA

(unsure)

No...well, not now.

Jake walks out of the room. A door SLAMS upstairs.

SHAYLEE

I should go check on him.

MELISSA

Okay, I'm going to start to kick people out.

Shaylee leaves the same direction as Jake.

INT. JAKE'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jake is laying on his bed. His room is a mess. He is throwing a basketball up in the air and catching it. A KNOCK is heard at the door.

JAKE

What.

SHAYLEE (O.S.)

It's me.

JAKE

It's open.

Enter Shaylee. Silently she closes the door behind her. She stays close to the door.

SHAYLEE

(quietly)

Do you want to talk?

JAKE

No.

SHAYLEE

Are you sure?

JAKE

No.

Shaylee walks over and sits on the foot of the bed.

JAKE (CONT'D)

That room is full of people who knew my mom. They knew her better than I did.

Shaylee turns to him, Jake stays looking up at the ceiling.

SHAYLEE

Have you learned anything new about her?

JAKE

Only that she is the only person who knows where my dad is. Another thing she didn't bother telling me.

SHAYLEE

Jake, you know she had her reasons for every thing. Your mom was a good person.

JAKE

Then why didn't she every tell me about my dad, huh?

SHAYLEE

Maybe he was a bad person.

JAKE

Maybe my mom was a bad person.

SHAYLEE

Jake don't say that. She was a good person.

Your mom was a great person. She understood everything...had a reason for everything.

Jake considers this statement.

JAKE

Is everybody gone downstairs?

SHAYLEE

Everybody but Melissa.

JAKE

Could you just leave me alone for a little while?

There is a KNOCK at the door. They turn to it.

MELISSA (O.S.)

It's Mel!

SHAYLEE
Can you give us a minute?

MELISSA (O.S.)
I'll be in the car.

Shaylee turns back to Jake.

SHAYLEE
Call me later?

JAKE
Yeah.

Shaylee moves to him and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

SHAYLEE
Don't do anything I wouldn't do.

JAKE
But you do everything.

SHAYLEE
(smiling)
Not everything.

Shaylee stands and exits.

Suddenly, the door opens again.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)
Quick question. Who is coming to
take care of you?

JAKE
Uncle Scott is coming tomorrow to
stay for the rest of high school.

SHAYLEE
Ok, I will be back over tonight.

Shaylee sticks her head out of the doorway.

JAKE
Wait!

Shaylee's head pops back in.

SHAYLEE
Yes.

JAKE
Tonight?

SHAYLEE

Yes.

She disappears again.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT - LATER THAT DAY

Shaylee's cell phone is held up to her head by her shoulder. She takes things and sets them in her cart.

SHAYLEE

Mel, if you mother just died what would you want to eat?

Shaylee takes some pickles off a shelf. Listening.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

A peanut butter and jelly sandwiches?

Clearly you haven't experienced death in your family.

Shaylee looks miserably at her cart. Pickles, tortilla chips, and ketchup sit in it.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

I don't know how to cook anyway.

She checks her watch.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

It's almost six. I don't have time to make Jake a nice dinner anyway. Maybe...Chinese.

Shaylee sets the pickles back on the shelf.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

What? No I will not buy you some. I will call you later. Love ya.

Shaylee hangs up.

INT. SHAYLEE'S CAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

Shaylee is driving with a tray of Chinese food in the passenger seat.

Something catches her attention. Jake's car parked outside The Library. Curiously, she turns, parking next to it.

EXT. THE LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Curiously, Shaylee wanders over to Jake's car. She peers into the driver's side window. She tries to open the door but fails.

INT. THE LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Shaylee looks inside the bar. She turns to leave, when laughter erupts from a dark corner. Shaylee turns to it.

Jake and five other college guys are laughing with a cluster of empty beer bottles spread on the table.

Shaylee struts up to them. The college guys hoot and holler. Jake looks terrified.

JAKE

Guys, guys...don't whistle at my girl.

COLLEGE GUY 1

Hey hot stuff, how about you dump this dude and go with me instead?

Shaylee ignores him and goes to Jake. Jake stands.

JAKE

Hey babe.

Shaylee slaps him hard.

COLLEGE GUY 2

Dude! You just got bitch slapped.

Shaylee turns to him. She points and wags her finger, telling him to come closer.

College guy 2 stands and saunters to her.

SHAYLEE

(smiles)

Hi. Let's make this short and sweet. I'm Shaylee Pratt. I'm underage, so whatever you were thinking about would be illegal.

Don't like it, bring it up with my father, Steven Pratt, the best lawyer in the state!

College guy 2 scowls at Shaylee, and returns, shamed, to his seat.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

Anybody else? No...probably a good thing 'cause I'm a black belt in the martial arts.

Jake pulls Shaylee away from the college guys.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

What are you doing here?

JAKE

Havin' a good time.

SHAYLEE

Are you drunk?

Jake smirks. Shaylee gives him a warning look.

JAKE

No. I pour most of it out when I first get the bottle.

SHAYLEE

You haven't been drinking?

JAKE

No.

SHAYLEE

Let me smell your breath.

JAKE

No.

Shaylee gives Jake a kiss. She pulls away.

SHAYLEE

(disappointed)

It's just like with the skittles, Jake. except you don't taste like skittles.

JAKE

Okay I had a little.

Shaylee turns to leave, disgusted.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Don't leave like this.

SHAYLEE

Don't worry, I'm already gone.

Shaylee exits.

COLLEGE DUDE 2

Oh man...you blew it!

JAKE

(furiously)

Shut up.

EXT. THE LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Shaylee runs out the doors to her car. Jake comes out behind her. Shaylee seems to find it hard to get the keys in the keyhole.

JAKE

(yells)

So that's it for us? After everything we been through?

Shaylee turns to him.

SHAYLEE

I guess so, Jake.

JAKE

Why don't you stay?

Shaylee turns to him, crying.

SHAYLEE

Give me a reason too. Right now. A reason to stay and deal with all the crap that you are going to give me.

Jake thinks, but comes up empty handed.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

That's what I thought.

She reaches inside and takes the Chinese food tray. She throws it all at him. The boxes spill the food all over him.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

There's your dinner.

Shaylee gets in her car and starts it. She speeds away. Jake stands, wiping away the food.

INT. JAKE'S HOME - DAY

The doorbell rings, ENTER Jake. He walks to the door and opens it. Dr. Martin stands there.

JAKE

(confused)

Do I know you?

MARTIN

No, but I know you.

Jake gives him a confused look.

JAKE
(closing the door)
Okay, closing the door now, please
don't try the back one until I get
it locked.

Dr. Martin sticks his foot in the door.

MARTIN
Jake I'm not here to hurt you.

Jake opens the door wider.

JAKE
How do you know my name?

MARTIN
I was your mother's doctor. You met
me.

It was a while ago, I'm sure you forgot.

Jake opens the door.

JAKE
I remember. I just try to forget.

MARTIN
I understand.

JAKE
Please come in. Sorry about the mess.
It's been hard to keep it clean
after....

Dr. Martin enters the home.

MARTIN
Do you have a guardian?

JAKE
Guardian? Yeah, my Uncle Scott has
been around. He's been kinda busy
with stuff though.

They walk into the living room. Dr. Martin and Jake sit.

JAKE (CONT'D)
So, just come by to check up or what?

MARTIN
Actually my visit is concerning your
mother's will.

JAKE

Her will?

MARTIN

Precisely. Have you had time to oversee the document?

JAKE

I wasn't aware that there was a will.

MARTIN

Well, I assume that now you know you will go looking for it. Do you have the slightest idea of where she might have left it?

JAKE

She normally didn't tell me these things.

MARTIN

(surprised)

Really? Normally they inform you somehow.

You're sure there is nothing. Not a note?

JAKE

Sure as can be.

MARTIN

That's a shame.

The telephone RINGS.

JAKE

I'll be right back.

Jake EXITS. Dr. Martin examines the messy home. He walks to a bookcase. Wiping away a dirty sock, he picks up a picture of a younger Jake and Maria at a river. A few seconds later, Jake ENTERS. Dr. Martin doesn't notice.

JAKE (CONT'D)

We took that when we were camping at Lake Memphremagog.

MARTIN

It's beautiful there.

JAKE

I don't really remember it. That was taken about seven years ago. The only thing I remember is that it

(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)
 rained that afternoon and our picnic
 was ruined, but when we went back to
 the car we sat in the back seat and
 had the picnic there.

MARTIN
 Sounds like fun.

JAKE
 It was.
 (break)
 Well, I guess this is your lucky
 day.

A lady from some office called about a will.

MARTIN
 Are you planning on going?

JAKE
 (timid)
 Could you give me a ride?

MARTIN
 What's the address?

EXT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

A car pulls up to the curb, and stops.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jake sits. Dr. Martin turns the car off. He looks at Jake.

DR. MARTIN
 (worried)
 You okay Jake? You look a little
 nervous.

JAKE
 (nervously)
 Yeah I'm...fantastic. You wait here
 I will be back in a few minutes.

Jake gets out of the car.

DR. MARTIN
 (yells)
 Take your time!

INT. LAW OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Jake walks into the lobby. He strolls over to a SECRETARY's
 desk. She looks up from her paperwork.

SECRETARY

(sweetly)

Can I help you?

JAKE

Uh...yeah I think so. I got a call a little bit ago about my mother and a will?

SECRETARY

You must be Jake Cooper. I can show you to the paperwork.

The secretary stands and motions for Jake to follow. Jake follows.

INT. BACKROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jake sits at a desk. A MAN walks in with a silver fire-proof box. He sets it on the table and walks out of the room, closing the door behind him.

Jake breathes deeply as he opens the box slowly. Inside the container is a single white slip of copy paper, and a little torn piece of paper with writing scribbled on it.

Jake reads the paper.

MARIA (V.O.)

The last will and testament of Maria Jo Anne Cooper. I revoke all previously created wills and codicils. I have only one person to leave all my personal belongings to; my son, Jake Cooper. I leave him in full care and protection of my brother Scott Cooper and leave him to take care of my child as he sees fit. If Jake pursues to find and contact his birth father Scoot Cooper shall have no choice but letting him go.

Jake finishes reading. He picks up the other slip. On it is Marcus Porter, Seattle, Washington.

Jake slips this paper into his pant pocket. He closes and locks the box. Opening the door, he exits.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jake opens the car door and enters. He gawks at nothing, looking out the window. Dr. Martin looks at him.

MARTIN

Jake?

JAKE
 (star-struck)
 She gave me his address.

MARTIN
 (inquiringly)
 Whose address?

JAKE
 My father's. She left everything to
 me.
 (break)
 I'm going to find him.

MARTIN
 Jake, who is your father.

JAKE
 I need to get to Seattle.

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

Jake sits under a tree on a bench. Shaylee enters. Jake stands.

SHAYLEE
 Jake why are you here? The school
 gave you free days at home. That's
 where you should be.

JAKE
 I stayed up all night last night. I
 couldn't sleep.

SHAYLEE
 (snooty)
 They make pills for that.

JAKE
 I didn't want any. I didn't want to
 sleep.

I have thought about what I was going to say to you all night.

Shaylee sits down. Jake gets down on one knee. Shaylee gives him a disturbed look.

SHAYLEE
 Jake...what are you doing.

JAKE
 Shaylee Pratt, I don't quite know
 how to say this but-

SHAYLEE

Jake. Don't-

JAKE

I'm moving to Seattle

SHAYLEE

(relieved)

Oh thank God.

JAKE

What?

SHAYLEE

It's just...I thought.... You know what? Nevermind! It's in the past. You're movin', huh? That's...great!

JAKE

I know! I'm finally going to find my father!

The happy look on Shaylee's face disappears.

SHAYLEE

Your father? The one who left your mother?

JAKE

(delighted)

Yeah! Isn't that great!

SHAYLEE

Jake are you sure this is a good idea? I mean, he doesn't even know you are alive. What if he doesn't accept you?

And what about us, your friends? And the house? And your Uncle Scott? Jake we are your life, and we don't want you to get hurt.

They both stand.

JAKE

I won't get hurt. Uncle Scott is going to keep the house, I'm giving it to him.

SHAYLEE

You don't own it.

JAKE

Yes I do. My mom left it to me.

SHAYLEE

Really? The whole thing-wait-that's beside the point. Jake this is crazy talk! You can't just move from Vermont to Washington on a whim that this man could be your father.

What if he isn't!

JAKE

(serious)

What if he is! I don't want to go my whole life not knowing what could have been.

SHAYLEE

I don't want you to go not knowing either, but I don't want you to go and be hurt.

JAKE

I won't get hurt. I can fend for myself.

If it turns out my mother is wrong I can always come back, right.

Shaylee looks away, hurt.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Right?

Shaylee looks back, teary-eyed.

SHAYLEE

You won't have anything to come back to.

Jake walks away, angry.

SHAYLEE (CONT'D)

(crying)

Jake wait!

JAKE

(angry)

So first you leave me and now you want me to stay? I'm tired of this shit Shaylee. I'm tired of it! And most of all I'm tired of--

(softly)

And most of all I'm tired of you.

Jake walks away. Shaylee falls to the ground, sobbing.

SHAYLEE

(yelling)

No! Please come back Jake! Please!
Jake! I love you!

I love you!

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jake struggles to lift a box. Slowly he carries it outside.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

Jake sets the box down. A MAN comes and picks it up, and he carries it away to a moving van. UNCLE SCOTT-tall, young, mid-thirties, handsome-ENTERS with another box.

SCOTT

I think that's the last of yours.

JAKE

Thanks Scott.

SCOTT

No problem. What time does your plane leave?

JAKE

Six.

A TAXI pulls up. The TAXI DRIVER HONKS.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I guess my taxi is here.

SCOTT

I guess so. Umm...have fun in Washington.

JAKE

Thanks for everything.

They go to hug, but stop. They settle with a firm handshake.

SCOTT

Good bye Jake.

Jake turns and walks to the taxi. He gets inside.

INT. TAXI - MOMENTS LATER

Jake closes the door.

JAKE

Airport, please.

A NOISE in the B.G. draws Jake's attention. He turns to look out the back window.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Can you give me a minute?

DRIVER
(impatiently)
Make it count. You're on the clock.

Jake EXITS.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Jake climbs out of the car. Melissa runs up to him. She is out of breath.

MELISSA
Did you really think I would just let you leave without a good bye?

JAKE
I didn't know if you wanted to see me.

MELISSA
I'm going to miss you.

Melissa hugs Jake.

JAKE
Me too.

The driver HONKS the horn, and they release.

JAKE (CONT'D)
I should be going.

MELISSA
Will you come and visit? I know about you and Shay. You should know that you might not have a place in her world...but you always have a place in mine.

JAKE
Thank you Melissa, you are a true friend.

They hug again. Jake lets go. Melissa wipes away a beginning tear.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Good bye. Come and visit sometime. Scott has my phone number and address.

Jake ENTERS the cab. Melissa waves goodbye.

INT. CAB - MOMENTS LATER

The driver turns around and looks at Jake.

DRIVER

Ready?

JAKE

Oh God I hope so.

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Jake stares out the darkened window into the night on a plane. He lowers the shade and leans back in his chair. A blanket covers him and he pulls it up and slowly falls asleep.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A TAXI pulls up beside a large house. A brick wall surrounds the house. A steel gate blocks a driveway to a garage and house.

Jake gets out of the taxi. He hands the driver a wad of money. He walks to the trunk and takes his suitcases out. The taxi drives away.

Jake walks up to the gate. It opens. He continues to walk with his suitcases up the driveway. The gate closes behind him. He continues to walk until he reaches the front doors.

He rings the doorbell. It opens. Marcus Porter--mid thirties, handsome--stands smiling. He looks tired and impatient.

MARCUS

(eager)

Yes?

JAKE

(nervously)

Marcus Porter?

MARCUS

Yes?

JAKE

(more nervous)

I don't know how to say this Mr. Porter, but....I'm your son.

FADE OUT: