

MALLORY'S FRIEND

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FADE IN:

INT. CARPENTER HIGH SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

Students in a classroom lab. With the exception of one student, they are split up in partners of two, a covered project in front of them.

By himself, BILL, stares at the mystery before him.

MISTER LOKEY (late 30s), back to the students, writes an assignment on a chalkboard.

The students strip away the covers. Everyone gets the same gift: a tacked down dead frog.

The classroom door quietly opens. Dressed in black. Fire engine Raggedy Ann hair, MALLORY (16) steps in, slowly closes the door behind her...

She looks around, beelines back of the lab towards Bill.

LOKEY

(off)

You're late, Miss Gates.

Mallory hunches down low.

LOKEY

Again.

A few of the students smile, but nobody laughs. Mallory steps up next to Bill, fishes a notebook out of her backpack. She's already a duck out of the pond, as others around her become irritated by her noise.

LOKEY

(off)

Gloves, Miss Gates.

Mallory shoots the teacher a frustrated face as she puts on a pair of disposable plastic gloves.

Bill makes a small cut. Mallory observes.

BILL

(whisper)

Why didn't you just ditch?

MALLORY
 (whisper)
 Almost did.

Bill peels back the frog's outer layer carefully.

MALLORY
 They got a new monitor today.
 Gestapo cracks a whip, doesn't
 care.

Bill turns his head, sniffs her blonde hair. Goes back
 to the project.

MALLORY
 What?

BILL
 I like your perfume.

MALLORY
 Lick me.

BILL
 Just saying, you know.
 Shouldn't be smoking the
 spinach.

Puts a pin on part of the slimy frog skin..

MALLORY
 Wasn't mine.

BILL
 I didn't ask. Your turn.

She pushes in another pin. The frog's innards expose out
 in disgusting glory.

STUDENT#1
 (off)
 Ribbit.

It breaks tension in the class. Some laughter.

LOKEY
 Enough.

INT. CARPENTER HIGH SCHOOL. HALLWAY - DAY

Mallory walks alone down a busy multiple lane of student traffic. The majority of students around her don't dress like her. She stands out.

A few kids give her dirty looks. Girls giggle away.

She spots DENISE, who looks more biker mama in training. Denise shuffles books in and out of her locker.

Mallory steps up.

DENISE

Not a good idea talking to me
right now. I'm not in the mood.

MALLORY

I'm here. Let's talk.

DENISE

You nuts? Come right up, let's
talk about it why don't we? You
get busted?

MALLORY

No, Thank God.

DENISE

Call your parents? Drag you out
in handcuffs?

MALLORY

It's not the point.

DENISE

What is?

Closes her locker.

DENISE

They called my parents. My
father's going to be pissed
when mom calls him.. I got off
with a detention. What did you
get? Oh, that's right. You
didn't get caught.

MALLORY

I just wanted to thank you for
not ratting me out. That's all.

DENISE

Day is young.

Denise walks away.

Mallory closes her eyes for a moment.

When she opens them, the hallway becomes claustrophobic.

TWO MEN WITH HOCKEY MASKS spring out from the crowd. The
masked men carry medieval battle-axes.

They waste little time. Both phantoms swing away on
Denise. Blood spits out every which way. One lucky chop
gets her in the neck.

A STUDENT bumps into Mallory, wakes her up from the
daydream. The phantom killers are gone, Denise, still in
one piece, blends into the crowd.

Mallory frowns, turns.

In between the packs of peers: Bill.

Her sad look changes to a bright smile. She makes her
way through the masses.

As she gets closer, the smile disappears,

A pretty blonde girl in a cheerleader uniform, PARIS,
talks to Bill.

MALLORY

(Soft)

Slut.

A guy's hand pats her on the left shoulder. She turns.
JACK, a tall kid stands behind her. Towers.

JACK

I've been looking for you,
Mallory.

MALLORY

Bet you have.

JACK

Made the effort. Better come with me.

MALLORY

You didn't catch me with the pack.

JACK

Next thing you'll tell me is that you didn't know they were laced.

MALLORY

I didn't.

She looks back to Paris and Bill. Paris gives Bill a deep full-mouthed kiss. The sight disgusts Mallory.

JACK

What? You like to watch?

MALLORY

I'd like to watch her bleed slow and painful, and for you to get off my ass.

As she watches Paris and Bill, Paris sports a long pair of vampire fangs, gives Bill a bloody hickey.

JACK

Being new Hall Monitor, I'll always be on it.

Paris sucks up Bill's blood.

MALLORY

Bet you would like that. I wouldn't.

Paris licks Bill's deep red bounty.

JACK

I know.

MALLORY

You'd give me crabs.

JACK

Maybe we can work out a deal.

Mallory's fantasy snaps out. Paris and Bill talk to each other, but aren't intimate. Mallory swivels to Jack.

She locks eyes with him. His face widens into a devilish grin.

MALLORY

What?

JACK

Where did you stash them?
Bathroom? Locker? Hole in the
wall?

MALLORY

Just the hole up your ass.

JACK

Show me where they are, give me
a drag, and I won't slip you,
jam you up.

MALLORY

What if I slipped jammed you
up?

JACK

I'm not joking.

Mallory knees him in the groin, he drops to his left knee.

MALLORY

Neither was I.

INT. CARPENTER HIGH SCHOOL. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Mallory: seated and silent.

In front of her behind a polished desk: PRINCIPAL ED OMAHA (40s) who has a telephone headset while he stares coldly at the troubled teen.

Grabs a small candy from a glass bowl. Unwraps it slow. Plops the caramel in his mouth, rolls it around. Plays with the paper wrapper.

PRINCIPAL OMAHA
Hello, Mrs. Gates. Principal Ed
Omaha, Carpenter High. Sorry to
disturb you-

Ditches the paper wrapper in the nearby trashcan.

PRINCIPAL OMAHA
Yes, it's about Mallory. We got
a problem here...

EXT. THE GATES HOUSE - EVENING

Lights on in the house.

A dish shatters from inside.

A woman shrieks in rage.

CLARE GATES (O.S.)
Don't you break my plates! Hey!
I'm talking to-

MALLORY (O.S.)
Go to hell!

CLARE GATES (O.S.)
What did you say to me!
Rebellion! The Good Book says
Rebellion is a form of
witchcraft!

The front door opens. A distressed Mallory emerges in
tears. She carries her backpack with her.

CLARE GATES (late 40s) storms out after her, bible in
her right hand.

CLARE GATES
Don't you walk away from me!

MALLORY
What was I supposed to do?

CLARE GATES
Don't you walk away from me! I
am your mother!

MALLORY
Stepmother. Wicked stepmother!

CLARE GATES
You are under my roof!

Holds the open bible up like a Sunday Morning Preacher.

CLARE GATES
They that rebel against the
light! They know not the ways
of the Most High God! They do
nor follow his path!

Mallory's FATHER (40s) steps behind his enraged wife.
She turns to him.

CLARE GATES
Don't you say a word. I'm
right, I'm always right, and I
know...

Father walks away to an unseen location in the house.

Clare turns back around, Mallory is already two houses
down the street.

CLARE GATES
If you don't get here this
instant I will call the cops,
let them deal with you!

Mallory hears her, ignores her.

CLARE GATES
(shouts)
Least you could have cleaned up
your mess in my kitchen!

FATHER (O.S.)
What was she looking for
anyway? She left the bleach -

CLARE GATES
Zip it!

EXT. BOARDED UP HOUSE - NIGHT

Mallory walks up to the front door. Looks around.

INT. BOARDED UP HOUSE. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Mallory pushes her backpack inside through a busted out basement window. Slides in after it.

Her feet land on the floor. She reaches to her backpack and digs in. Takes out a cigarette lighter

Shines the flame around until she finds a set of white wax candles. She lights one candle.

Cobwebs become visible.

Candle holders.

SHORT TIME LATER

Flames dance on four candlewicks.

Mallory sits down on an air mattress.

Next to her, a CATERPILLAR.

The caterpillar crawls on the top of her right hand. She studies it.

MALLORY

Hello, friend.

Caterpillar eyes stare back at her.

MALLORY

Want to hear about my lousy day, or would you would like to hear the short version and just skip all the crap?

The FRIEND cares less, continues the ascent up her hand and onto her wrist.

MALLORY

It sucked. Crap skipped.

FRIEND (V.O.)

No, please tell me. I can help.

MALLORY

I got suspended. My best friend is a back stabbing skank, guy I like likes Paris Dayson, the fact that she screwed half the basketball team doesn't seem to bother him.

FRIEND (V.O.)

It doesn't?

MALLORY

Just another stain on her sheet. Bill is the only guy who even talks to me. I should have skipped that lousy class, but I love him, and he's in love with me.

INSERT

The left eye of a Friend. Reflections of amber highlight a million hexagons.

MALLORY

Wish I knew a way to get him back.

FRIEND (V.O.)

Love always finds a way.

BACK TO SCENE

MALLORY

The new Hall Monitor is a jerk. Worse than the last one.

FRIEND (V.O.)

Worse? You remember what I told you to do with the previous monitor. Did you do that?

INT. THE GATES HOUSE. KITCHEN -DAY (FLASHBACK)

Mallory opens the freezer compartment, takes out a frozen half-pound of ground beef.

EXT. YELLOW HOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Mallory squishes the thawed hamburger into the mailbox of the house.

EXT. YELLOW HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

JAMES (17) checks the mailbox. His face winces.

Maggots drop off the beef, out of the mailbox.

EXT. CARPENTER HIGH SCHOOL. PARKING LOT - DAY
(FLASHBACK)

James strolls up to his car. His expression becomes shock as he notices the passenger side window broken.

As he steps around the glass, he notices the rock by his feet. He looks inside the car.

An eyeless dead rabbit. Streaks of dirt and blood.

MALLORY (V.O.)

What if I can't find road kill?

FRIEND (V.O.)

Make some.

BACK TO SCENE

The caterpillar nears Mallory's elbow.

MALLORY

I just want my boyfriend back
right now.

FRIEND (V.O.)

Call him.

MALLORY

I don't have his number.

FRIEND (V.O.)

I do. If you bring me closer,
I'll tell you what it is and
how I know it.

Mallory smiles, brings her arm closer to her face. Gets her elbow close to right ear as much as possible.

FRIEND (V.O.)

I want to tell you! Closer!

It's a struggle. The best she can do is six inches from her chin. She cranes her neck, turns her head away.

FRIEND (V.O.)

You'll have to do better.

She re-adjusts, turns her head back to her elbow. Buts her arm under her chin. Angles her head again.

Her back shoulder flexes.

FRIEND (V.O.)

So close...not right...wait.
Turn your head back towards
your elbow.

Mallory eyes Friend. Complies.

Moves her arm up to her nose, like a classic Bela Legosi vampire with a cape.

FRIEND (V.O.)

That will work. Right about
there.

The larva moves towards her nose. Eyes.

Crawls casual on her face.

Over her nose.

Journeys past her eye, lands on her cheek.

Pulses across.

Side of her head. Wobbles around strand of bright red hair.

Close to the ear.

FRIEND (V.O.)
(whispers)
His number is six...

EXT. BOARDED UP HOUSE - NIGHT

His radio music on low, Bill drives his rusted up car in front of the derelict house. Kills the headlights.

He gets out, closes his cell phone.

Surveys the house. Around the street. Nobody around.

Checks his emergency flashlight keychain. Works.

He heads to the side of the house. The front door opens a crack. Darkness within.

MALLORY
(low, quick)
William! William, over here!

Bill halts, looks.

Shakes his head, zaps over to the front door. Mallory's barely visible in the shadows.

BILL
What do you think you are doing?

MALLORY
Having a surprise party.

BILL
Right. I think I should take you home.

MALLORY
Alright. One. Two. Three. Look, I'm home. Come on in.

Bill sighs, thinks about the invitation.

MALLORY

Put your best foot forward...

Bill approaches.

INT. BOARDED UP HOUSE - NIGHT

Mallory holds a candle in her hand.

Bill puts a white hanky over his mouth.

BILL

Kind of rank in here.

A bead of wax trickles down the candle,

MALLORY

Incense in the basement.

Bill observes the candle more, focuses. The bead of wax tips on the edge of Mallory's finger. Her black nail polish glimmers in the soft light.

Mallory's cleavage. Lace bra. The flame jumps up.

BILL

Okay. You don't want to go home? It's early enough. I'll take you out.

MALLORY

Out? On a date out?

BILL

Well, yeah. If that's what it is. You've had a bad day. I understand.

MALLORY

Do I look like I want to go out for a bag of fries?

BILL

Pizza, seafood. Fudge sundae. Point is, anywhere but here.

MALLORY

You look funny with that cloth
over your mouth.

BILL

This was a bad idea. I'll be
out in the car, I'll give you a
few minutes, then I'm gone.

MALLORY

Serious?

He breaks his gaze over her allure. Meets her eyes.

BILL

No. I changed my mind. I'm
going now.

MALLORY

Wait. Wait. Wait.

BILL

I'll bet if I go down there
with you, you got a couple of
screwballs down there, ready to
put my mug all over You Tube
and laugh yourselves drunk.

MALLORY

Nobody here but you, a friend
and me. Would you like to meet
him.

BILL

Him?

MALLORY

Well, I think it's a him. Never
asked. Sounds like a him.

BILL

Sounds like...me doing an about
face, I just landed on the
moon; I want to jump off, get
back to Earth.

MALLORY
He's cool. You'll like him.
Please? It's not a prank. I
swear.

His expression : disbelief.

MALLORY
Swear by my pinky. Pinky swear.

INT. BOARDED UP HOUSE. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Incense sticks in an empty jar. Smoke rises into the
air.

Friend slinks down Mallory's right hand. Mallory lets
Bill have a closer look. Bill shines his keychain
flashlight over the surface of her hand.

BILL
What's his name?

MALLORY
Friend.

BILL
Haven't had time to think of a
name?

MALLORY
That's what he wanted to be
called.

BILL
Right. You found him tonight.

MALLORY
No, three days ago. Been coming
in this house for the past
month. My own little sanctum.

BILL
Whose house is this, anyway?

Mallory kisses Bill, full on the mouth. When she parts:

MALLORY

Was that better than Paris
Dayson?

BILL

What about her?

MALLORY

That's what I want to hear.

BILL

You think Paris and me? Oh man,
that's rich.

MALLORY

It's true, isn't it? She made
out with you earlier today.

BILL

She talked to me, about an
assignment in Poly Sci. Gave me
a flyer for this Friday's
school dance. Oh, man. I'm
going to have to call Greg.

Takes out his cell phone. Presses buttons.

MALLORY

Isn't that her boyfriend? One
of many?

BILL

That's a rumor. A bad one at
that. But if you think there's
something going on, half the
school will think there's
something going on by lunchtime
tomorrow.

MALLORY

That's not a problem, Even if
it is true-

BILL

It isn't. But that's not the
point.

Mallory reaches to his hand, takes the phone. Her thumb
ends the call.

BILL

Hey-

MALLORY

You don't need to. Just say,
you're with me.

BILL

Come on...

MALLORY

She found out I was getting
suspended. She made a move on
you. Playing Greg too. Just
like a cheap slut.

BILL

Alright. I'm done here.

Pulls away. Looks at her hand. His cell phone. Friend
moves off her finger and dangles.

Friend's feet lands on the phone.

Back to her.

BILL

You need to get it together.

A knock on the door.

Bill hears it, dread.

Mallory watches his reaction. Says nothing.

Silence breaks with -

Another knock.

DENISE (O.S.)

Mallory? You in there?

BILL

Who is that?

DENISE (O.S.)

Open up, Mallory! It's the
police!

Bill lunges for his cell phone. Mallory backs up, plays around. Holds the phone high in the air. Friend moves away back onto her wrist.

DENISE (O.S.)

You mother is worried sick! She put a missing persons report on you!

BILL

Stop playing.

Mallory laughs,

MALLORY

What's the worst that can happen? We aren't even naked yet.

BILL

Give me my phone.

Mallory tosses his phone into her other hand. Bill reaches for it. Mallory pitches it overhand. It flies out of the window.

Bill brushes past her, heads to the window.

Denise slips inside.

DENISE

Hi, Bill.

Bill breathes easy. Laughs a little, glances to Mallory.

BILL

Okay, that was un-cool.

MALLORY

Makes a fine You Tube moment, if one had a camera.

DENISE

Why? What-? Oh! He thought I was -

BILL

Yeah. Very funny.

Friend crawls up Mallory's arm.

MALLORY
(to Denise)
You bring the beer?

DENISE
Tried. I got carded. I have the
next best thing.

Digs in her pocket, produces a small dark bottle.

DENISE
Peppermint Extract. Got juice
in the car.

BILL
Extract?

DENISE
That's eighty-seven percent
pure alcohol. Used for baking,
cooking, and spiking punch
bowls. Here. Smell.

She opens up the bottle, offers to Bill, who sniffs the
contents.

BILL
That's no joke.

DENISE
Easy to hide, easy to get rid
of. One hell of a buzz.

BILL
I pass.

DENISE
Last year you were into the
same scene, Senior year starts
a month ago, and all of a
sudden, you don't hang around
us as much. What happened?

MALLORY
My mother invited him to -

DENISE
Oh shit.

BILL

It's a work in progress. I-

Behind Denise: Jack slides inside.

MALLORY

What is he doing here?

DENISE

I invited him. I figured you
still have the stuff. Was I
wrong?

Mallory bends her arm to her face. Friend on her elbow.

Lowers her arm.

MALLORY

No.

JACK

What was that?

MALLORY

That is my Friend.

She heads over to her backpack. Digs in.

MALLORY

Lot more personality than you.

BILL

Stuff. You mean -

DENISE

Told you, did she?

Mallory finds the pack of cigarettes.

DENISE

Yeah. I'm such the rat. I'm the
bad guy.

Mallory offers her a cigarette.

MALLORY

Hey, peace offering.

Denise takes it. Puts it in her mouth.

Jack smiles, jams his hand in his inside jacket pocket, flips open his lighter.

Denise takes a hit off the flame. She takes the drag, blows out a ring of smoke.

BILL

I'm gone.

JACK

So go.

Jack eyeballs the cigarette pack, snatches the pack from Mallory. Slips out two cigarettes, slides them in his mouth. Lights himself a double sensation.

Offers the pack to Bill.

JACK

Unless there's a reason for staying.

Bill takes the pack, examines it. His fingers draw one out halfway. Hands the pack back to Mallory, who accepts them back.

JACK

Got Jesus?

Laughs. Denise joins in with him.

JACK

Speaking of which. Where's my Jesus Juice?

Bill eyeballs him.

JACK

What?

BILL

Nothing.

JACK

Keep it that way.

SHORT TIME LATER - BASEMENT

Toppled over paper cups, near empty container of Grapefruit Juice. Two discarded bottle of extract.

A portable MP3 player belts out dark wave rock music.

Shirtless Jack and Denise make out on Mallory's air mattress. A jar lid serves as ashtray.

INT. BOARDED UP HOUSE - NIGHT

On a table, incense sticks on a jar lid. Mallory's backpack on the floor.

Moonlight.

In front of an open door that leads to the basement, Mallory listens to the couple.

Bill steps up behind her, but not too close.

Friend on her back shoulder.

BILL

Got my phone.

MALLORY

Not mad at me for throwing it out of the window, are you?

BILL

No.

Moves to her side, away from Friend.

BILL

Keep this up; you'll have just one friend left. One day, that friend will change, fly away.

Bill steps back. Mallory hears him walk towards the front door. She turns.

MALLORY

Wait. Let me get my things.

A moment later: she puts Friend in a jar.

Grabs her backpack.

INT. BILL'S CAR - NIGHT (MOVING)

Music echoes out from the speakers. Mallory closes her eyes, lets the wind from the open window blow around her.

Bill glances over to her on occasion, his focus on the street before him.

INT. BOARDED UP HOUSE. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Denise gasps for air.

Jack lies in his own vomit, his body belches, goes limp.

A flow of blood covers half- smoked cigarettes.

Denise coughs up blood, her face goes pale.

Chokes.

Stumbles backward, knocks over candles. Her body convulses, jerks in a dance.

INT. BILL'S CAR. BACKSEAT - NIGHT

Streetlights pass by overhead, illuminates Friend's glass prison. Soul less bug eyes watch ahead.

From the front seat, Mallory glances back.

The car slows down.

Mallory looks around, frowns.

MALLORY

Why here?

BILL

Why not?

MALLORY

My stepmother is a total witch
with a capital B.

BILL

She's not a bad person.

MALLORY

Ding-dong, bitch should be
dead.

BILL

Hey.

MALLORY

You think everyone isn't a bad
person. Bitch likes you because
she invited you to Sunday
school and you showed up.

BILL

Well, when you smoke Palm Alls
laced up with pot, and start
assaulting people whether they
deserve it or not, then bolt
out of the house, you'd have to
expect some kind of reaction.

MALLORY

Taking her side?

BILL

I'm not. I'm just saying. You
know.

MALLORY

You are. Well you don't live in
this pig farm. I do.

BILL

Pig farm Your house is a pig
farm?

MALLORY

Pigs live here.

BILL

Are you a pig, then?

MALLORY

Oink-oink.

BILL

Very funny.

MALLORY

Depressing is what it is. And now I'm losing you too.

BILL

No you're not.

MALLORY

Prove it. Drive me away right now. Blue Monkey's open.

BILL

You want to go to the Monkey? At this hour?

MALLORY

Miller Park, then. Anywhere but here.

BILL

Okay. Let me tell them -

MALLORY

No. You get out of the car, ask, they'll say no. You'll feel a need to respect them, drop me off.

BILL

And what's wrong with that?

MALLORY

I'll be grounded, that's what's wrong with that. And another sermon on top of it.

Bill looks away, thinks.

A loss for words.

MALLORY

You know what I would do?

Bill gazes back to her. Silent shrug.

MALLORY

I would slit my wrists in the
bathtub, just like Aaron Aries.

BILL

Who?

MALLORY

Guy who used to own that old
house. Died in it about a year
ago. Been empty ever since.

BILL

Just what I needed to hear.
(pause)
How do you know -?

Before she answers, he waves her off.

BILL

Never mind. Better left unsaid.

Meets her eyes.

EXT. MILLER PARK - NIGHT

On top of his car hood: Bill and Mallory.

They stare up at stars and a full moon.

A slow moody song comes on the radio. Mallory slides off
the hood and invites him to dance.

Bill takes her hand. Joins her.

After a few steps, he whispers in her ear. She smiles.

FRIEND (V.O.)

Strike.

Mallory backs up into Bill. He slips on the ground,
falls. Bangs his head on the car front bumper.

Bill loses orientation.

Small cut on his forehead.

Mallory reaches in her backpack. A small generic coffee can. She takes off the lid, puts the can near Bill.

FRIEND (V.O.)

Take him.

Mallory mounts Bill.

She rips off his shirt.

Caresses him.

MALLORY

Take me.

As she kisses him, an army of bugs emerge from the can, swarm around them.

The bugs open their wings. Moths flutter up in the air around the couple.

Bill reaches for his head, smears blood on his fingers.

Mallory takes his hand, puts one of the fingers in her mouth. Sucks the blood clean.

She stands, moves to the car.

Bill, disoriented.

Mallory gets Friend's jar out of the backseat. Walks towards Bill, who sits up against his car.

MALLORY

Friend says this is the right thing to do. Friend says this is the best way to get you back.

BILL

Stop playing around.

MALLORY

Everyone wants to take you away from me. Dumb slut bitches in school, even God.

(pause)

I can't - I won't- let that happen.

She raises the jar, smashes it against the car. Glass spits out around her and Bill.

She cuts her hand in the process.

She bends down, lets Friend crawl on that same hand.

She picks up a big shard of glass, cuts her hand more. Blood trickles down to the ground.

MALLORY

Like Friend, we must be free.

She closes in on him.

Evil smile.

Laughs.

Drops the glass, takes him full on the mouth. Her blood smears on his face and chest.

EXT. BOARDED UP HOUSE - NIGHT

Flames consume dead wood. Smoke rises into the air.

Fire trucks converge.

INT. CARPENTER HIGH SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

His cut on the head cleaned up to the point where it looks more like a scrape, Bill looks down at the new lab assignment: a dissected cricket.

INT. CARPENTER HIGH SCHOOL. HALLWAY - DAY

Bill on his cell phone, among the peer congregation.

MALLORY (FILTERED)

It was an accident. We could have gone back, but how were we supposed to know?

BILL
Doesn't make me feel any
better.

INT. THE GATES HOUSE. MALLORY'S ROOM -CONTINUOUS

Mallory surrounded by posters of dark wave/ electronic
metal bands, horror films and varied bugs.

On her bed. Her bandaged hand strokes the white sheets.

MALLORY
You saved my life.

INT. CARPENTER HIGH SCHOOL. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Bill opens his locker. Looks inside.

MALLORY (FILTERED)
Thanks again for the favor.

At the bottom of the locker: a generic coffee jar.

MALLORY (FILTERED)
Tell him I'll see him in a few
days, alright?

INTERCUT

Bill smiles to himself. Ignores the can. Changes books.

BILL
I think he knows.

MALLORY
Friend does. He just wants to
hear it from you.

Bill leans in to the can.

BILL
She will see you in a few days.

MALLORY

You saved his life too, Bill.
He can be your Friend too if
you want.

Bill shuts his locker door.

FADE OUT.