

GROWING UP ASIAN

Written by

Wallaine Sarao

Inclusion Management
Sandra Avila
sandra@inclusionmgmt.com
323-850-2760

INT. NGUYEN HOME - NIGHT

Wealth slithers throughout the room, making you feel every bit inadequate, as you should.

DIDI (16, blessed with boobs in high school, mean girl with a self esteem complex) AND LIZ (16, flat chested in high school, not actually mean, just a scared sycophant) stand in front of a huge BANNER with the words: HAPPY SWEET SIXTEEN. CONGRATS!

There are selfies on the banner, and photographs of the BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT with a BOY IN A TRACK SUIT, a BOY WITH A LETTERMAN JACKET, and a GIRL WITH GLASSES.

Didi and Liz point to the picture of the GIRL WITH GLASSES.

DIDI

Four eyes, that's Krista.

LIZ

She's so lucky. She really isn't pretty enough to hang with this crew.

DIDI

Well, you know they grew up together. Michelle and Krista are like sisters.

Didi and Liz move on to photographs of the Birthday Celebrant with BANDAGES AROUND HER EYES. She's posing with a PLASTIC SURGEON: The blind selfie-ing the blind.

DIDI (CONT'D)

Like, OMG. Her eyes are so going to be everything after this procedure. She'll be Homecoming Queen for sure.

LIZ

I heard her parents paid for the whole thing as a Sweet Sixteen pressi.

DIDI

Well, it's tradition. Her entire family has had their eye flaps done.

Didi looks at her reflection using her phone. She folds down that small area of the skin on top of her eye. Her eyelids, unfortunately, are practically flapless.

DIDI (CONT'D)
I wish my eyes weren't so ...

LIZ
Chinese?

DIDI
I was going to say ethnic. Oh, I
can't wait to see what she looks
like when the swelling has gone
down!

SERVER #1 (O.S.)
Hors d'oeuvres?

JEAN FLORES (16, long hair completely shaved on one side,
independent thinker lost in a sea of clones) wears a CATERING
UNIFORM and holds a plate of bitesized calamari.

DIDI
I can't believe you were best
friends with her in the second
grade. She's so weird.

JEAN
It's he now, not her.

Beat.

DIDI AND LIZ
Shim?

JEAN
My name is Jean.

LIZ
Whatever, Jeanette.

DIDI
Oh, look. Let's go. There's
Tyler. He is totes gorgeous.

Didi and Liz practically knock totes gorgeous down, TYLER
YANG (17, tracksuit, smart, next level hot, douche bag with a
heart of gold).

The girls immediately whip out their cameras and take selfies
with him.

... and they're still at it ... now they've whipped out the
selfie stick.

In the BG, Jean hands his GRANDMOTHER, BEVERLY FLORES (50s), an empty tray. Beverly also wears a catering uniform. Jean excuses himself mentioning the bathroom.

Jean waits outside of a BATHROOM BECAUSE IT'S OCCUPIED.

INSIDE THE BATHROOM

The BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT, MICHELLE NGUYEN (16, dream queen, Sophomore president, type A) kisses DAVID GO (16, her perfect counterpart, football player, dreamboat with a dash of entitlement).

David unwraps a bandage that's covering Michelle's eyes. He takes a step back, looks at her.

MICHELLE

They said the swelling was supposed
to go down.

(beat)

Well, what does it look like?

DAVID

Like you got stung by a bee.

Michelle turns to the mirror and we see what all the fuss is about: a few centimeters of skin on top of her eyelid.

Although her eyes are still swollen, you can see the procedure worked. One less Asian girl, check.

INT. NGUYEN HOME - PIANO ROOM - NIGHT

Michelle plays Beethoven's Symphony No.9 for her guests. The room explodes with applause throughout her recital.

Her boyfriend, David, and best friend, Krista, are surprisingly missing during her performance.

INT. NGUYEN HOME - MICHELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Two kids have awkward sex on top of Michelle's bed. There's guttural sounds and a lot of hip thrusting.

DAVID

Don't worry. I won't tell
Michelle.

KRISTA LO (16, Asian with the typical trappings: mathlete, pianist, usually responsible) closes her eyes because she can feel David's breath on her face.

KRISTA (V.O.)
I thought I knew who I was. Before
this moment, I was the good girl,
the best friend, daddy's girl. And
now, I'm not so sure.

MAIN TITLES

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING

Glass buildings, nice lockers, clean grounds. STYLISH
STUDENTS roam the campus with their smart phones and Beats by
Dre headphones.

TITLE CARD: SIX WEEKS EARLIER

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - FLASHBACK

Michelle, Krista and David all sit near Tyler's car, a USED
BUT SOUPED UP 1986 CIVIC. The hood is popped and Tyler looks
at the engine. It won't start.

DAVID
When are you going to get rid of
this piece of shit?

TYLER
It's not a piece of shit. She just
needs love and care.

MICHELLE
C'mon, Tyler. David can drive us
home.

DAVID
Yeah, in a car that works and was
purchased in this century.

MICHELLE
What you get on that history test,
Krista?

KRISTA
Oh, you know, I did all right.

MICHELLE
Vomit. You got a 98 again, didn't
you?

KRISTA
Hey, you said it. I didn't.

MICHELLE

I don't get it. I study so hard,
and you barely open your books and
still. My mom flipped out on me
because I got an A minus.

KRISTA/DAVID/TYLER

(in their parent's
accents)

Minus, what's with the minus, huh?

MICHELLE

They said if I don't get it up to
an A, they're going to take away my
cell phone.

TYLER

Oh no. The world is ending.

KRISTA

I can help you study. We'll get
notecards and stuff.

MICHELLE

Thanks.

In the BG, Jean makes his way to his car. David sees this as
a perfect opportunity to torture him. Tyler and Michelle
laugh. Krista doesn't, but she doesn't stop David either.

DAVID

Hey Jean. Jeanette. Show me your
tits.

KRISTA

Oh, c'mon, David.

MICHELLE

He's just joking. It's funny,
don't you think?

All eyes are on Krista now, and she can either agree and let
this go, or disagree and get into a fight with her best
friend.

KRISTA

It's a little funny. I heard she
doesn't wear a bra and tapes her
boobs down now.

They whole group laughs, and all of them continue their CAT
CALLING.

INT. LO HOME - FLASHBACK

It's not opulent like the Nguyen home. Psychology books on SEX AND SEXUALITY and books on ACCOUNTING AND TAX LAW fill the shelves in the room.

On a bookcase, a PHD focusing on SEX COUNSELING, MENTAL HEALTH AND MARRIAGE from UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA blocks a Macc for PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING from UC BERKELEY.

Pictures of FEMINIST MATRIARCHS fight for wall space with images of TASTEFUL ART FROM TARGET and FAMILY PHOTOS.

All in all, it seems like an Insta Story of a family.

Krista sits in the living room with a spread of COLLEGE PAMPHLETS in front of her. Most of them have a common thread: EARLY ACCEPTANCE. They're alphabetized and have color coded post-its on them for positives and negatives.

LETTY LO (40s, educated, opinionated, Queen of TMI and the touchy-feely parenting style) walks in with EDGAR LO (40s, stuffy, stoic, pocket protector).

KRISTA

Hi Dad. I got a 98 on my history test.

EDGAR

That's good. Listen--

KRISTA

Oh, and look at this, all the schools in California that offer a Macc in Accounting. Still, I think I'd like to go to UC Berkeley, where you went.

LETTY

Krista, we need to talk to you.

Krista takes a seat and can't believe what she's hearing.

KRISTA (V.O.)

They told me they were getting a divorce. All I could think was: But I thought we were happy?

EXT. LO HOME - FLASHBACK

Krista hands Edgar a box. The rest of his things. There's a COLLEGE CO-ED in the passenger seat of Edgar's car. She waves hello to Krista, and Krista manages a grimace.

Letty stumbles out of the house holding a BOTTLE WINE. She's still in her pajamas.

Krista's NEIGHBORS talk amongst themselves, whispering and staring at them.

KRISTA (V.O.)
No, they weren't happy. They both
were lost, like me.

INT. LO HOME - NIGHT

The MAcc in ACCOUNTING DEGREE from Berkeley is gone, so are the family pictures and art from Target. Instead, they're replaced with an IMAGE OF A VAGINA painted like a BLOOMING FLOWER.

TITLE CARD: PRESENT DAY

Letty sits with Krista in front of an array of sex toys: vibrators, butt plugs, and lube.

LETTY
Masturbation is a great way to
satisfy sexual urges. Now, do you
know how and where to touch
yourself?

KRISTA
I'm not one of your clients, mom.

LETTY
I just want to help.

KRISTA (V.O.)
My mom found out I had sex for the
first time last week, and that's
why she's doing this. My mother is
second generation Chinese. When
she was a girl her parents warned
her about Gallivanting. You never
Gallivant with a boy, or even
talked about it with your parents.
They just automatically assumed you
were a virgin until you died. I'm
third generation. My mother
rebelled against her parents. She
not only wants me to Gallivant, she
wants to show me how to do so and
maintain my core identity.

While Krista pretends to listen to her mother,

INSERT: IMAGE OF A FAMILY TREE. Krista's GRANDPARENTS are at the TOP: MODING AND EVERLYN YEN. Below them are Krista's parents: LETTY AND EDGAR LO. Krista is at the bottom with a huge QUESTION MARK next to her name.

KRISTA
I told you I'm fine, mom.

LETTY
I just want to make sure you know
you are powerful in all your
decisions, even your mistakes.

KRISTA
It wasn't a mistake.

LETTY
Is Michelle still not speaking to
you?

INT. NGUYEN HOME - DAY

Michelle has breakfast with her parents BEN NGUYEN (40s, distinguished, new money, Napoleon Complex) and KIRIN NGUYEN (40s, trophy wife, but with a BA she never uses, Tiger Mom). A MAID serves them coffee and sees to their needs.

Michelle and her mother plan out Michelle's week, or in actuality, her mother plans out her week for her. They both have their calendars and phones out.

KIRIN
You have ballet and piano this
week. I'll send it to your
calendar. I also signed you up for
a tutor. We need to get that
History grade up.

MICHELLE
I have an A minus, mom.

KIRIN
I know.

MICHELLE
Fine.

KIRIN
You have your ASB meetings after
school, too. You're planning to
run for president Junior Year.
You're also volunteering at
Paradise Hospital.

(MORE)

KIRIN (CONT'D)

That's a good thing to put on your resume. What do you think about taking acting or singing lessons?

MICHELLE

I think my schedule is full--

KIRIN

If you want to be a TV Anchor, you'll need to be comfortable in front of an audience.

(to Ben)

Talk to your daughter.

BEN

Listen to your mom, Michelle.

MICHELLE

Fine. Sign me up.

EXT. NGUYEN HOME - DAY

David pulls up to Michelle's house in a BMW Roadster. He clips the curb, but that doesn't phase him. He honks his horn for Michelle to come out.

He takes out a FLASK and drinks from it. Michelle gets into the car and he offers her a drink.

MICHELLE

It's 8:30 in the morning.

DAVID

I know.

MICHELLE

I thought we talked about this. Your drinking and stuff.

DAVID

We did. And?

MICHELLE

Nevermind.

DAVID

Suit yourself.

EXT. YANG HOME - DAY

Tyler is under the hood of his car ... again. He tries the ignition, and it doesn't start. Fuck. He looks at his watch. He's definitely going to be late today.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - DAY

Krista walks through a CROWD overflowing with whispers and side eye. She is no longer the Popular Girl's Best Friend. She's no longer Michelle's best friend. All the protections that afforded her are now gone.

TEXT MESSAGES pop up above her. And like a modern day Sisyphus, she carries words like SLUT, LOSER, and TRAITOR on her shoulders. Each step she takes adds another word to her text bubble of shame.

Welcome to high school when you have a vagina.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - SOFTBALL FIELD - DAY

Gym class, where caked on make-up goes to die and loner kids get picked last for just about everything.

Michelle and Didi stand in front of a group of GIRLS, picking teammates for softball. In reality, they'll just be taking selfies the whole time, but you know, the GYM TEACHER needs to make them do something.

Like the social lepers they are, Krista and Jean remain the last two people unpicked for a team.

MICHELLE

Great, I'll take Jean.

DIDI

No, you picked last. I want Jean.

MICHELLE

Well, I'm not playing if *she's* on my team.

DIDI

I don't want her either. You have to take her.

Michelle and Didi continue to bicker about who is going to "take" her, meaning Krista.

Krista shrinks inside herself every second that passes. Jean finally steps in and offers to sit the game out, which satisfies Michelle and Didi.

Jean and Krista sit at the bleachers, watching everyone frolicking on the field. No one really knows how to play actual softball.

Michelle takes selfies with the GIRLS ON HER TEAM, her adoring fans. She laughs obnoxiously, just loud enough for Krista to hear.

JEAN

Sorry.

KRISTA

For what?

JEAN

Life.

KRISTA

I did it to myself.

JEAN

Still, it sucks.

KRISTA

It sure does. You're Jeanette, right?

JEAN

Jean now, just Jean.

Beat.

JEAN (CONT'D)

She'll forgive you ... eventually.

KRISTA

How do you know?

JEAN

I understand her in a way. You're probably her only real friend.

KRISTA

Maybe.

JEAN

Those eyelids though, ridiculous.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Tyler gets all his things together to go home. COACH JOHN (30s) congratulates him on his progress.

COACH JOHN
You're doing great. Your 100-meter
is the fastest you've ever ran it.

TYLER
Thanks, Coach.

COACH JOHN
Remember to keep those grades up,
okay?

TYLER
I will.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - BUS STOP - DAY

Tyler facetimes with his mother, MARY GRACE (40s, Nurse Practitioner), while he waits for the bus.

INTERCUT WITH MARY GRACE AT VALLEY WOMEN'S CLINIC

TYLER
Hey mom. I'm out of track
practice. Gonna head home.

MARY GRACE
Okay, son. Your dad left you some
food. Did you talk to your math
teacher about retaking your test?

TYLER
Not yet. I will tomorrow.

MARY GRACE
Okay, but don't forget. If you
can't raise your grade, you can't
participate in track.

TYLER
I know, mom.

MARY GRACE
Always I know. I'm just reminding
you. Is David taking you home?
How is Michelle?

TYLER

They're fine. Yeah, David is taking me home. They're both good.

MARY GRACE

Okay, I've got patients. I'll talk to you during my break.

Tyler is about to greet his mom goodbye, but never gets to finish because she hangs up and he gets a text message from KRISTA.

KRISTA (V.O.)

Do you hate me?

TYLER (V.O.)

I don't hate you.

KRISTA (V.O.)

Can you meet me in the girl's bathroom near the library? I need help.

Tyler watches the bus arrive and then turns around to walk back to campus. This better be good.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GIRLS BATHROOM - DAY

Krista sits on the floor, holding her stomach. She's in obvious pain. She googles her symptoms ONLINE: PAIN WHEN PEEING, BLOOD, STOMACH PAIN. She finds out she has an URINARY TRACT INFECTION. Just great.

She gets a TEXT FROM HER DAD, but she ignores it.

TYLER (O.S.)

Krista?

KRISTA

Tyler?

Krista opens the stall she's in.

KRISTA (CONT'D)

Thanks for coming.

TYLER

What's wrong? You made it sound like an emergency.

KRISTA

Okay, but first, just know I can't talk about this with anyone because everyone hates me. And my mom, oh god, she'll probably record it and post it on Twitter. I just need your help. I did some googling.

(whispers)

I think I have a UTI.

TYLER

What's a TI? Is that like TMI?

KRISTA

No, geez, a UTI.

TYLER

Oh, is it burning? It's definitely a UTI, then.

KRISTA

Look, this is already embarrassing enough, so I don't want to answer your questions. I had sex. Something is wrong. Your mom is a nurse. Can she help me?

INT. VALLEY WOMEN'S CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Krista stares at the diagrams of a woman's uterus and posters claiming that STI's are on the rise.

She's wearing one of those flimsy paper gowns.

Mary Grace, Tyler's mom, comes in with a tray of tools used to give pap exams.

MARY GRACE

Hi Krista. How is your mom? I've been so busy. I need to call her.

KRISTA

She's okay. I guess.

MARY GRACE

Tyler told me what happened.

KRISTA

It's embarrassing.

MARY GRACE

No, it's good you asked for his help. You should get checked.

(MORE)

MARY GRACE (CONT'D)

Lie down and put your legs in the stirrups.

Krista lies down. The icy metal of the stirrups almost sting Krista's bare legs.

MARY GRACE (CONT'D)

Move a little closer to me. A little more. There.

KRISTA (V.O.)

There's nothing like having someone you grew up with looking at your vagina, but this is what happens when you have sex. I don't get what all the hoopla is about. All it's gotten me is trouble.

MARY GRACE

Okay, this is going to be cold. I need you to press down so I can get a good sample.

KRISTA (V.O.)

She kept talking to me as if having her hand in my hoocha was so common place. I'm never having sex again.

MARY GRACE

All done. Go ahead and get dressed. We'll give you medication for your UTI, and test this sample to make sure you're okay. We'll call you in a week, but no news is good news.

KRISTA

Okay.

MARY GRACE

Don't worry. I'm sure you're fine.

KRISTA

You don't remember being sixteen, do you?

Mary Grace only laughs at Krista, who can't believe that it will ever get better. Teenagers.

EXT. VALLEY WOMEN'S CLINIC - DAY

Krista walks out with Tyler and his Mother. Krista carries a brown paper bag filled with antibiotics. Mary Grace hugs Krista and fixes Tyler's hair.

INT. BUS ROUTE GREEN - NIGHT

Krista sits with Tyler on a bumpy bus ride back to their neighborhood.

KRISTA
Your mom is great.

TYLER
I never see her or my dad. They work double shifts whenever they can.

KRISTA
My mother is the opposite. She's on Sabbatical and discovering herself after divorce. That just means she always want to talk to me about practically everything.

TYLER
You're lucky.

KRISTA
You think?

TYLER
Yes.

KRISTA
Yeah, she's kinda great. Don't tell her I said that, though.

EXT. LO HOME - NIGHT

Krista and Tyler sit on her front porch. It's late, but Tyler doesn't have parents who need him home.

TYLER
I hate David, man.

KRISTA
I always thought you guys were best friends.

TYLER

No, my mom thinks he's a good influence on me. Him and Michelle.

KRISTA

Obviously, they don't know David.

TYLER

No, but I don't think David knows David.

KRISTA

What a dick.

They both laugh, but when the laughter is done, Tyler looks at Krista and--

TYLER

So tell me why.

KRISTA

Why what?

TYLER

C'mon. Why you slept with your best friend's boyfriend?

KRISTA

Well ... I don't know. I know that's not what you want to hear, but it's the truth. My parents just divorced and I spent the entire time avoiding feeling and being strong for my mom. And I see Michelle and her family, I wanted to photobomb her picture perfect.

TYLER

Wow.

KRISTA

I'm horrible, right?

TYLER

No. Just human.

KRISTA

Thank you.

TYLER

You're welcome.

Krista and Tyler turn to face each other, their eyes meeting. Something unsaid passes between the two and Tyler kisses Krista.

INT. FLORES HOME - NIGHT

A small single family home, and unlike the homes previous, wealth is not apparent here. Wicker furniture, laminate floors, second hand items from Goodwill.

The refrigerator is plastered with tests Jean took that he aced.

There's a lone picture on the wall of Jean before he decided he wanted to transition to a male. He's with his parents. The rest of the photographs are with his grandmother, Beverly.

Jean prepares a plate of CHICKEN ADOBO for Beverly. He serves her before making a plate for himself.

JEAN

Auntie Nene called you.

BEVERLY

Ay, puta ina mo.

JEAN

You need more friends.

BEVERLY

She just wants me to go to church so I can repent for let you stray.

JEAN

She's harmless, though.

BEVERLY

The last time I have lunch with her, she tell me you going to hell and should be stoned. I throw my lunch at her face, waste of pancit.

JEAN

I love you, too.

BEVERLY

And you take your own advice. Such a shame, all the company you have on Friday night is an old lady.

JEAN

But you made Chicken Adobo. You know how much I love it.

BEVERLY

You should go to that Homecoming.

JEAN

They don't want me there.

BEVERLY

You are my grandson. I don't teach you to shrink and wilt. You go where you want. I teach you to be proud, who you are.

JEAN

I'll go to Homecoming if you make a friend.

BEVERLY

Ay, Jean, sige. Be careful.

JEAN

It's a deal then.

INT. FLORES HOME - JEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

This room used to be his grandmother's spare bedroom, so it's filled with Beverly's weaving and specialty yarn. Pictures of deer and elephants she got at the second hand store are peppered along the walls.

Jean lies awake, unable to sleep. He gets out his phone and calls a number on his phone designated MOM. There's a message that states the number he called is disconnected. His mother changed her phone number.

Jean then listens to a voicemail on his phone from his MOTHER dated eight months ago.

JEAN'S MOTHER (V.O.)

Hey Jeanette. I'm calling because I am very concerned about how you acting lately. I read your diary. All this talking about how you thinking you are boy. You are not boy. In the bible, it states that what you are doing is a sin. When you get home, we are going to fix this and talk to Pastor John. I am your mother and I love you.

Jean looks at his arms. He has long scars on them from a suicide attempt. He puts his hands over his eyes and cries.

INT. NGUYEN HOME - MICHELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Her room is plastered with SASHES from pageants, AWARDS from PIANO AND BALLET. One wall is oozing with photos of Michelle, both professional and ones she took on her phone.

A few of the pictures with Krista have Krista's face crossed out with a sharpie.

Michelle has her camera out and is recording herself on a video blog. She points the camera to her computer and her social media accounts are open.

MICHELLE

I look like I have such a perfect life. That's the point.

Michelle's FACEBOOK PAGE has dozens of photos of her with DIDI and LIZ at her house. The caption on them: MY NEW BFFS. K WHO?

The pictures receive likes immediately followed by comments denouncing Krista as a WHORE.

Michelle opens another window for her INSTAGRAM and shows her INSTA STORIES. She recorded JEAN AND KRISTA at the SOFTBALL GAME. She captioned that LOL LOSER.

She opens her Snap Chat and there's a PICTURE SHE TOOK WITH DAVID. They look happy together. She captioned it HOMECOMING HOTTIES #COUPLE GOALS.

She then turns the camera on her blog titled: CRYING IN MY CROWNS. Her entire blog is set to private, so only she can see it.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

I think if I look good on the outside, well, it'll help the inside. It never does though.

One look at her blog and there are videos of how things actually went throughout her day.

Her new BFFS? They only spend enough time to take pictures with her, then walk away. She posts photos of Didi and Liz pruning and staring at themselves, instead of talking to her.

The video of Krista with Jean at the SOFTBALL FIELD is followed by her secretly telling the camera she misses Krista. The girls behind her don't notice because they're taking selfies.

And the snap of her boyfriend, David? There's a snap of what actually happened before she took a pic of them. She's waiting behind him in the SCHOOL HALLWAY. He's talking to TWO CHEERLEADERS.

He's flirting with the Cheerleaders, and ignores Michelle. He pulls up his shirt to show them his abs and they touch him.

This whole exchange, David hardly acknowledges Michelle is there.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

You want to know a secret? I miss my best friend. I feel alone. I don't have a single friend, not really, not anymore.

INT. NGUYEN HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Michelle wears semi-formal attire to dinner with her parents Ben and Kirin. Again, the Maid waits on them.

The dinner looks delicious, but Michelle doesn't touch her plate. She's distracted by her phone.

KIRIN

Ay, Michelle Nguyen. Get off your phone. It's family time.

MICHELLE

Sorry, mom. It's just, David and I are trying to iron out our Homecoming plans. It's in two weeks.

BEN

How is David? I like him. He comes from a good family. His mom drives the new Model 3 Tesla.

KIRIN

And he's so cute, a football player. You just make sure you keep your grades up.

MICHELLE

I will, mom. Yeah, David is great.

BEN

Why doesn't he come over anymore?
I like to talk sports with him.

MICHELLE

He's busy, dad.

KIRIN

Why don't you invite him over next
weekend? Your dad bores me with
his sports talk.

Michelle nods, but is not listening to her mother because she's staring at the phone in her hand. She's sent David 10 message, no response. 11 messages. 12 messages. Nothing.

INT. GO HOME - DAVID'S ROOM - NIGHT

A teenage mess, clothes strewn all over the floor. Bed not made. Half-eaten plates piled on top of each other. He's obviously prone to eating dinner by himself.

He's playing BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM on XBOX ONE.

In the BG, his PARENTS, CORRINE GO (40s) and MATT GO (40s) ARE ARGUING. David acts like this is commonplace and doesn't seem phased by it. He turns the volume up on his TV to drown out their arguing, but they're really loud.

CORRINE (O.S.)

Stop lying to me!

MATT (O.S.)

You're the problem here! Going
through my phone!

David's phone goes off, but he ignores it. It goes off again and again. He knows it's Michelle. He doesn't even read the messages.

On his computer, we hear the DING OF A FACEBOOK INSTANT MESSAGE. He checks that. It's a message from Michelle's so-called BFF, Didi.

DIDI (V.O.)

RUH? Parents gone. Wanna come
over?

DAVID (V.O.)

Be there in five.

David hops out of his bedroom window, leaving his phone on the floor as it continues to collect messages from Michelle.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

AP ENGLISH TEACHER passes out test essays from last week. He hands Krista her exam, and it has in big red letters: F WHAT IS GOING ON? PLEASE SEE ME AFTER CLASS.

AP ENGLISH TEACHER
I don't understand what's going on
with you guys. These were the
lowest scores all semester.

AP English Teacher goes on and on about how disappointed he is, and then asks everyone to turn their heavy textbooks to Shakespeare's "Sonnet 116."

KRISTA (V.O.)
This is the first time I've gotten
an F in my life. It feels really
weird, but also very comforting.
The lowest grade I've ever received
before this was a B plus, and I
cried that day.

Krista receives a phone call from her DAD again. She ignores it yet again.

She receives another call from a number she doesn't recognize. She ignores that phone call, but that number calls again and again. After three attempts, she gets a message.

AP ENGLISH TEACHER
Krista, if you don't put that phone
away, it's going to be mine.

KRISTA
Can I go to the bathroom?

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - DAY

Krista paces while on the phone. She listens to the message on her phone from NURSE #1 at the VALLEY WOMEN'S CLINIC.

NURSE #1
Hi, this message is for Krista Lo.
We got your tests back and need you
to give us a call please.

Krista is a little worried, but makes the phone call anyways. She gets the RECEPTIONIST on the phone who puts her on hold for Mary Grace, Tyler's mother.

INTERCUT WITH KRISTA AND MARY GRACE

MARY GRACE

Yes, your results came in and it looks like you need to be rechecked. You were positive for chlamydia.

KRISTA

I don't understand. It was only my first time.

MARY GRACE

That doesn't matter. These things happen all the time. We need to see you again. Let's make another appointment.

Krista nods and listens to Mary Grace droning on and on about opened dates and times. She doesn't pay attention though.

KRISTA

Sure, in a week is good.

MARY GRACE

Also, Tyler talks to me all the time about you and his friends. Your results and all. How is Michelle?

KRISTA

I don't know. She hates me.

INT. LO HOME - KRISTA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Maps on one side of the wall. Countries Krista wants to visit: Australia, France, Italy, Japan, etc.

A family photograph on her desk is flipped down, so she can't see it.

Krista sits at her computer, skimming the pages of WEB MD and the interwebs for CHLAMYDIA. Every result she gets, makes her frown and cross her legs. This doesn't look pleasant at all.

She gets a text from Tyler.

TYLER (V.O.)

Can I come over tonight? My car is working again. Her engine purrs like a beaut.

KRISTA (V.O.)
I'm really tired. I'm gonna try to
sleep early.

TYLER (V.O.)
Boo. Library tomorrow then? Same
time?

KRISTA (V.O.)
Yup, I'll see you then.

TYLER (V.O.)
My lips can't wait.

KRISTA (V.O.)
You're a dork. Bye.

Krista goes back to freaking herself out by looking at google
images of chlamydia. Oh, the internet, what a wonderful
place.

KRISTA
So gross. Ohmygod.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING

It's a hot summer day, and of course, boobs and budding
sexuality are abound and plenty. The clothes on campus have
gotten tighter and skimpier.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY

Krista and Tyler make out in the book stacks. Tyler is
totally into it, but Krista has her eyes open. She's worried
about her vagina and preoccupied by images on the internet of
STI's.

TYLER
What is it? You haven't been there
this whole time.

KRISTA
Nothing. It's nothing.

TYLER
Tell me.

PULLING BACK ON THE TWO

Didi and Liz hide two book stacks down. Didi has her iphone
out, recording Krista and Tyler. Didi's streaming it to her
FACEBOOK LIVE.

KRISTA

I just ... got my test results back
from the clinic and--

Krista never gets to finish her sentence because in the BG,
Didi and Liz burst out LAUGHING. Tyler immediately pushes
Krista away.

Didi and Liz come out of their hiding place. They both have
their phones out now. Liz makes kissing noises.

LIZ

Gross, she has herpes.

KRISTA

I never said that.

DIDI

Is this your new girlfriend, Tyler?

TYLER

Uh, uh, I'm just no she's not.
She's not my girlfriend.

SCROLLING THROUGH FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM STORIES AND SNAP CHAT

There are videos on a loop of Krista saying she went to a
Clinic, Liz saying Krista has herpes, and of course, Tyler
rejecting Krista.

There are all sorts of captions going on: STD QUEEN and SLUT
REJECTED are the top two.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - DAY

Krista runs through a GROUP OF KIDS who are watching the
videos Didi and Liz uploaded. They laugh at her.

Yes, we live in a Brave New World where what humiliates us
can be spread with a click of an upload. The views on the
video have already reached the thousands.

Jean watches Krista disappear off campus and shakes his head.
This sucks.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL BLEACHERS - DAY

Michelle records herself for her VLOG, but gets notifications
from her social media pages. She stops, and watches the
videos just uploaded by Didi and Liz.

She grimaces. Man, it's tough out there. Michelle hears someone approaching, and gets ready to bolt. She relaxes when she sees it's Krista.

MICHELLE
Oh, it's you.

KRISTA
I thought I'd be alone.

MICHELLE
Well, you're not.

KRISTA
I can leave.

MICHELLE
Wait. Truce? Just for an hour?

KRISTA
Truce.

Krista takes a seat next to Michelle.

MICHELLE
I saw what happened.

KRISTA
Tyler is an idiot. I can't believe I thought he was different. It was the abs. They blinded me of all logic and reason.

MICHELLE
He's just being who the kids out there want him to be. It's not personal.

KRISTA
Is that what you're doing?

MICHELLE
Maybe?

KRISTA
Who is that anyway?

MICHELLE
You know, the girl that has it all. What a fucking joke, huh?

Beat.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

I miss you. I don't forgive you,
but I miss you.

KRISTA

I'm sorry, Michelle. I know what I
did ... I'm not justifying it, but
I am sorry.

MICHELLE

Thank you.

KRISTA

I-I need to tell you something.

MICHELLE

I know. I know about David.

EXT. GO HOME - NIGHT

David sits on the sidewalk with his father, Matt. They're
sharing a beer.

Behind them, there's a FOR SALE SIGN on the Go's front lawn.

Matt is incredibly drunk. David can hear his Mother crying
in the bg, but he's not bothered by it because he's sloshed.

MATT

Don't ever get married, you got me?

DAVID

I won't, dad.

MATT

It's all a bunch of bullshit. They
all want you to be clones,
marriage, house, kid. You just end
up with your balls in a vice.

DAVID

Is that why you're leaving?

MATT

Don't worry about it. I just
wasn't made for this.

DAVID

We're out of beer.

MATT

That's gonna be a problem. I'll go
get some more.

DAVID

Hey, dad.

MATT

Yes, son.

DAVID

We'll still talk, right?

MATT

Sure. You can always call me.

Matt disappears into the house to get more beer. David knows that's a lie. When his dad leaves, he's going for good. He cries into his hands and quickly wipes his face clean because he doesn't want to his dad to see him when he comes back.

Matt reappears with a new six pack, and David cheerfully opens another cold one. David smiles, and wears the face he always wears. This is fine. This is okay. Just drink.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Michelle rubs David's back as he throws up into the bushes. The bell for second period has rung, and they're still in the parking lot because David can't stop retching.

He reeks of alcohol, and his clothes look like he slept in them.

MICHELLE

Is he really just leaving?

DAVID

Yup.

MICHELLE

I'm sorry.

DAVID

He did say that I could call him.
What a fucking lie. We both know
he's never looking back.

MICHELLE

What'd you say when he said that?

DAVID

Nothing. What can you say?

MICHELLE

It's going to be okay.

DAVID

No, it won't. My date hates me.
He hates me.

Michelle holds David, resting her head against his shoulder. The two sit like this for a beat, David crying inconsolably. For the first time, we finally see him for who he really is, just a lost kid who wants a family.

INT. NGYEN HOME - MICHELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Michelle adjusts her iphone camera, recording a VLOG for her BLOG: CRYING IN MY CROWNS. Like with all her blog entries, she sets this to private.

She has pictures of David throwing up into the bushes in the parking lot, and posted it on her BLOG. Along with him throwing up, she has videos of DIDI FLIRTING WITH DAVID right in front of her.

MICHELLE

I wish you could control who you love. But you can't. Everyone thinks I'm stupid. They don't say it to my face, but I know they do. He wasn't always like this.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Jean sits with his THERAPIST in a room that looks like it came in the Therapist's Starter Kit: Books on psychology, cheap 70's furniture, a green couch.

He hands the Therapist a WAD OF CASH because he doesn't have insurance. Therapist writes him a receipt with the words CASH PATIENT on it.

JEAN

I'm doing okay. I want to start planning my transition.

THERAPIST

You just started seeing me. I need to do a full evaluation before I can sign off on that.

JEAN

Okay. How do we do that? I really want to get going, and get my life started.

THERAPIST

How are you dealing with all this?

JEAN

Just fine.

THERAPIST

Two word answers, great. How are other people treating you and how are you dealing with it?

JEAN

I dunno. People are dumb.

THERAPIST

How does that make you feel?

JEAN

It doesn't. I try not to feel.

THERAPIST

Why?

JEAN

There's just too much. I'm scared.

INT. SARI SARI GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Jean shops with his grandmother, Beverly. They're picking out vegetables for Kare Kare: EGGPLANT, PECHAY LEAVES, GARLIC CLOVES.

Beverly tries to push the cart herself, but Jean insists on helping his grandmother. BEVERLY grabs some hot PANDESAL and they both have a piece.

He ignores the people around them who are staring and whispering because his grandmother makes him laugh by telling him corny jokes.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LUNCH QUAD - DAY

Tyler sits with David, Michelle, Didi and Liz. You know, he's with the JOCKS and PRETTY PEOPLE.

DIDI

I can't believe Krista is still out.

LIZ

It's only been a week. If I were her, I'd never come back to school.

TYLER
You guys are terrible.

DIDI
And that's bad because ...?

TYLER
Nevermind.

Tyler gets a text from his mom, Mary Grace.

MARY GRACE (V.O.)
Son, I'm working tonight. Dinner
is ready for you.

TYLER (V.O.)
Again? This is the fourth night in
a row. You're exhausted, ma.

MARY GRACE (V.O.)
I'll be fine, and we need the
money.

Tyler stares at all this wealth in front of him, a sea of
Apple products, Tom Ford, Prada, Givenchy, all this
privilege-- a barrier that prevents basic bitches from
entering their domain. He hates it, but he doesn't know how
to escape it.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GEOMETRY CLASS - DAY

Tyler gets tutored by MATH TEACHER during his study period.
He's getting it, but it's slow. He checks his phone
throughout the tutorial because he's text Krista: ARE YOU
OKAY. She hasn't responded.

MATH TEACHER
Tyler, I told you no phones.

TYLER
Sorry, I'm just waiting for someone
to message me back.

MATH TEACHER
Look, you told me you were serious
about this. I can't have you
retake the test, but I can tutor
you so you get a better score next
time. Am I wasting my time?

TYLER
No, no you're not. I'll be better.
I have to be for track.

MATH TEACHER

Great, let's get back to this.

Math Teacher gets back to explaining the QUADRATIC EQUATION to Tyler. Oh, man. It takes everything in Tyler, but he doesn't check his phone again. He gets the next equation right. He's learning.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK FIELD - DAY

Tyler runs track with his teammates, the 100 meter dash. Coach John gets all their times. Tyler is the fastest.

Tyler gets water, and notices his suit and shoes are old. There's a hole in one of his shoes, and the sole of the other is coming off.

COACH JOHN

Gotta get new gear, son. We have a meet in three weeks. Those shoes aren't going to cut it.

TYLER

Yes, Coach. I'll get on it.

Tyler googles the cost of good running shoes, and they're at least a hundred bucks.

INT. YANG HOME - NIGHT

Middle class, but trying to pose as more. Name brand big screen TV and multimedia center mixed with Ikea furniture.

Tyler eats his dinner in the kitchen by himself. He goes through the mail: BILL, BILL, BILL and MORE BILLS.

His dad, JOSEPH (40s), facetimes him and he talks to him between mouthfuls.

INTERCUT WITH TYLER AT HOME AND HIS DAD AT LAX

JOSEPH

Did you find the food your mom made you?

TYLER

Yeah.

JOSEPH

You study hard? Get your math grade up?

TYLER

I am, dad. My teacher is tutoring me.

JOSEPH

That's good. That's good. And how is your time for the next track meet?

TYLER

It's good. I just ...

JOSEPH

What is it? You doing okay?

TYLER

I want to get a job. You and mom work too hard. It's not worth it.

JOSEPH

Your mom and me need to work harder because of the mortgage, interest rates go up. It's not for you to worry about.

TYLER

But I could help. Quit track.

JOSEPH

No, don't do that. You have a gift. It will get you far in life, so you won't have to be like your mom and dad, always working so hard all the time. Your life, your future gonna be different.

TYLER

What's the point though if I never see you guys.

JOSEPH

You just keep working, keep studying, run your track, go to college. That's all your mom and me want.

TYLER

Okay, dad.

JOSEPH

All right. I got to get back to work. You need anything else, son?

Tyler wants to ask his dad for new shoes, but he just can't, not when his parents work so hard just to exist.

TYLER
No, dad. I love you.

INT. LO HOME - KRISTA'S ROOM - DAY

Krista lies in bed, staring at the ceiling. Her hair is a mess, tangled because she hasn't showered for days. She gets another call from her Dad, but she just lets it go to voicemail.

KRISTA (V.O.)
People are calling me the nastiest names. They're saying I'm dying or my vagina is falling off. They've gotten really creative.

Krista's mom, Letty, takes a seat on her bed.

LETTY
You want to get breakfast?

KRISTA
No.

LETTY
Are you going to get up today?

KRISTA
No.

LETTY
Well, what about a shower?

KRISTA
Leave me alone, mom.

LETTY
You have to go back to school.
It's been over a week.

KRISTA
You don't understand.

LETTY
I saw the videos. Those girls are just insecure because they know you have more to offer than just your looks.

KRISTA
Just say it, mom.

LETTY
Say what?

KRISTA
I'm ugly. Just say it.

LETTY
Is that what you think?

Silence. Letty takes Krista's face in her hands, wiping her tears with her shirt sleeves.

LETTY (CONT'D)
That is not true. You are beautiful.

KRISTA
You have to say that.

LETTY
No, I don't. Do you know why you're beautiful?

Krista shrugs.

LETTY (CONT'D)
Because I've watched you all of your life, and when you fall, you fall hard. But do you know what you do next? You get up, dear one.

KRISTA
Oh, mom.

INT. VALLEY WOMEN'S CLINIC - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Krista and Letty sit together, talking to Tyler's mom, Mary Grace.

MARY GRACE
You going to watch Tyler in his meet next week? Can you record it for me?

KRISTA
I'll try.

LETTY
So what were the test results?

MARY GRACE

She's all clear. She just needs to continue with the antibiotics to make sure the chlamydia is gone.

LETTY

That's great. Thank you so much for taking care of Krista.

MARY GRACE

Of course, Tyler always talks about her. She's like a daughter to me.

LETTY

Maybe, she should definitely go to Tyler's track meet then?

KRISTA

Mom. We talked about this.

LETTY

Yes, yes. I'm too nosy, she says. I want to be too involved with her life she says. I just love her so much.

KRISTA

Can we go now?

Letty and Mary Grace give each other a look like: TEENAGERS.

INT. LO HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Krista and her mom eat delivery pizza. There's a stack of old boxes behind them. Dinner has become a sad affair at this house.

Krista's phone has THREE MISSED PHONE CALLS FROM HER FATHER.

KRISTA

I'm kinda sick of pizza, mom.

LETTY

I know. I'm sorry.

KRISTA

Remember when I made that hot dumpling soup with dad?

LETTY

So you're going to school tomorrow? Are you excited?

KRISTA (V.O.)
Whenever I mention my dad, she
ignores it.

Krista picks at her pizza, frowning.

LETTY
Well, I'm glad you're going back.
I'm proud of you.

KRISTA
What do you think about me cooking
something next week?

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Krista stands in front of the school's main thoroughfare. Is she really going to do this?

There are signs plastered all throughout the school and parking lot indicating HOMECOMING IS THIS WEEKEND.

The second bell for first period rings. Students have five minutes to get to class. There are a few STRAGGLERS who are running now or at least walking brusquely.

Krista just stands there, immobile.

KRISTA (V.O.)
I wish my mom could go to school
for me. I mean, she's the only one
excited about me going back.

Jean takes a place next to her, but Krista is so absorbed in her own thoughts she doesn't notice.

JEAN
Beautiful, especially when the sun
hits it in the right spot. Man, I
love school.

Krista looks over at Jean, really? The two burst out laughing.

KRISTA
Did you see the videos?

JEAN
Sure did. They're trending on
Twitter right now.

KRISTA
Shut up.

JEAN
Who cares?

KRISTA
They do.

JEAN
They're dumb.

KRISTA
Why are you being so nice to me? I
used to be one of them, went along
with them when they called you
horrible things.

JEAN
I don't know. I guess I'm not as
horrible as people make me out to
be. Don't tell anyone, though. I
have a rep to protect.

KRISTA
I won't.
(beat)
Walk with me?

HALLWAYS

Krista and Jean part a group of HIGH SCHOOLERS. Didi
catcalls the two. Krista ignores Didi and continues moving
forward.

Didi yells louder at Krista, but soon Krista is so far down
the hallway that she looks a little ridiculous. For today,
Krista 1, Mean Girls 0.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASS - DAY

The class is separated in groups of three, working on
revising essays about The Great Depression. HISTORY TEACHER
watches the class with vague interest.

Tyler sits with Didi and Liz. Krista sits with STUDENT #1
and STUDENT #2. Jean sits in a group away from Krista and
Tyler with STUDENT #3 and STUDENT #4.

Tyler looks over at Krista often, but she doesn't return the
favor. Didi and Liz are chattering about Kylie Jenner's lip
kits. Oh, man do they have opinions about liner and lip
stick.

Krista listens to Student #1 talk endlessly about metaphors
in his essay when she gets a text message from Tyler.

TYLER (V.O.)
I'm sorry

KRISTA (V.O.)
Go away.

TYLER (V.O.)
You can't ignore me forever

KRISTA (V.O.)
I'm going to try.

Krista looks over at Jean and then motions to Tyler. She pantomimes vomiting. Krista texts Jean.

KRISTA (V.O.)
Tyler won't stop texting me.

JEAN (V.O.)
What does he want?

KRISTA (V.O.)
I dunno. He's trying to apologize.

JEAN (V.O.)
What are you going to tell him?

Student #1 finishes talking about his essay, and so Student #2 goes on analyzing his work. Krista is not really paying attention, and gets a text message from Tyler.

TYLER (V.O.)
You going to Homecoming? It's this Saturday. We should hang together

KRISTA (V.O.)
Gee, thanks. Oh and fuck you.

HISTORY TEACHER
You have five more minutes for group work. Also, as a reminder, none of you should be messaging each other on your phones. Put them away.

Krista reluctantly puts her phone away. Tyler looks at her, but she ignores him, gets up and takes a seat next to Jean. They talk in hushed whispers at first, but then Krista speaks loudly when she asks Jean--

KRISTA
If you don't already have plans, we should go to Homecoming together.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Tyler hangs with Didi and Liz. He shows off his knowledge of cars and such to them. Didi and Liz look bored. This is the kind of patience afforded guys who are exceptionally good looking by people who don't care about such things.

TYLER

I want to put rims on my wheels soon. She'll look so good then.

DIDI

Blah, blah. So who are you bringing to Homecoming?

LIZ

Uh, he's bringing me.

DIDI

No, he's not.

TYLER

Actually, I'm not going with anyone.

DIDI

That is so dumb. Liz and I are taking a limo. You should come with us.

TYLER

Limo. That's too rich for my blood.

LIZ

That's okay. We got you.

DIDI

Aren't you glad you're not going with Krista?

TYLER

C'mon, guys. Enough already.

DIDI

Ugh. You're so sensitive.

TYLER

I'll go if you guys won't bring up Krista.

LIZ

Fine.

DIDI
We'll keep the shit talking to
ourselves for a night for sure.

TYLER
Okay, I guess I'm going to
Homecoming with you two.

INT. NORDSTROMS - FITTING ROOMS - DAY

Michelle tries on homecoming dresses with Didi and Liz. All
three of them examine their bodies in the mirror, and of
course, don't like what they see.

MICHELLE
I wish my boobs were bigger.

DIDI
No, you don't. My back always
hurts.

LIZ
At least people look at you all the
time.

DIDI
They're not actually looking at me,
you know.

LIZ
Well, I'd give anything to put the
fat I have in my thighs, up here in
my chest.

MICHELLE
What time are you guys getting to
homecoming?

DIDI
I don't know. What do you think,
Liz?

LIZ
Fashionably late?

DIDI
Did you hear Krista is going with
Jean?

MICHELLE
No, I didn't. She is? What is she
thinking?

LIZ

She asked the shim right in history class in front of, like, everyone.

DIDI

I know. They're probably going to wear matching outfits.

Michelle's mom texts her, well, she doesn't really text to talk to her. She texts her reminders that she has her piano appointment in an hour. And tutoring tomorrow.

MICHELLE

I got to get going. My momager is beckoning me on to whatever she has planned for me.

INT. NGUYEN HOME - MICHELLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Michelle posts a video of her playing piano from her lesson earlier today. It's on her Blog: Crying in my Crowns. She's really good and really smiles when she's playing.

MICHELLE

Don't tell my mom, but I like playing the piano.

She then turns the camera on her and practices waving to it.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

I think I'm going to win Homecoming Queen. I just hope David is going to make it. We'll see. He's been in bad shape lately.

EXT. GO HOME - NIGHT

A UHAUL sits on the driveway filled with all Matt's belongings. David watches his father pack the last final things. His mother is not around. She left him to deal with this goodbye on his own.

Matt hands over keys to the BMW Roadster we saw David driving earlier. It's all his now, a car for a father.

MATT

Take good care of her.

DAVID

I will.

Beat.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What should I tell mom?

MATT
I dunno. Whatever you want.

DAVID
Okay.

Matt extends his hand out to David. They shake like strangers who just met.

MATT
I'll see you when I see you, then.

DAVID
Sure, dad.

And with that, David watches his father drive away. He takes a seat on the curb and stares at the street ahead of him for hours.

He finally gets a text from Michelle about HOMECOMING, but he ignores her.

INT. GOODWILL - NIGHT

Krista shops with Jean, perusing aisles and aisles of second hand tuxes for sale.

KRISTA
What are you looking for?

JEAN
Something unique, maybe plum?

KRISTA
Oooh.

JEAN
What does your dress look like?

KRISTA
It's just black. I'm wearing something I wore to a different dance.

JEAN
Well, that's easy.

KRISTA
Hey, what about this?

Krista pulls out a frilly 70's tux that's plum. It looks a little dated, but so Jean. The look on Jean's face says that he thinks the same.

Jean takes off his shirt to try on the jacket and the shirt. He's wearing a tank top. Underneath the tank top, Krista notices binding around Jean's chest.

KRISTA (CONT'D)
Is that uncomfortable?

JEAN
A little, but I can still move in it.

KRISTA
Are you ... I don't want to be rude, nevermind.

JEAN
No, it's fine. I'm in therapy and need to get a doctor to sign off before I can start planning reassignment surgery.

KRISTA
What did your mom say?

JEAN
She wanted me to lie to myself. I've done enough of that. My mom and dad, they both left.

KRISTA
I'm sorry.

JEAN
It's okay. My grandmother is there. I don't think I'd be here if she wasn't.

Jean slips off his pants and tries on the trousers over his boxers. Everything fits.

JEAN (CONT'D)
How do I look?

KRISTA
Like we're going to Homecoming.

BEGIN MONTAGE

--Krista gets ready for Homecoming. Her mother helps her with her make-up.

--Krista takes pre-Homecoming pictures with Jean who wears the tux they picked out at Goodwill. Jean's Grandmother, Beverly, laughs with Letty, Krista's mom.

--Krista and Jean arrive at Homecoming. People stare, but the two brave on and dance the night way with confidence that's surprising of teenagers.

KRISTA (V.O.)
I wish this is how the night went,
but it didn't.

Just then, the MONTAGE moves in REVERSE, and we stop right after the moment when Krista asks Jean to Homecoming.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Krista just asked Jean to Homecoming. The STUDENTS around Krista and Jean begin whispering and tapping their little fingers on their phones. The room becomes a whirlwind of texting and instant messaging.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GIRLS BATHROOM - DAY

Michelle washes her hands at a sink when Krista comes out of one of the stalls.

Krista pretends she's really concentrating on getting her hands as clean as possible.

MICHELLE
Hi.

KRISTA
Hi

Awkward.

MICHELLE
Bye.

KRISTA
I voted for you for Homecoming
Queen. I know it's what you want.

MICHELLE
Thank you.

KRISTA
You're welcome.

MICHELLE

So I heard something and I don't know if it's true. Since you're here, and I'm here, well ... you're not going to Homecoming with Jeannette, are you?

KRISTA

We're just going as friends, but yes, I am.

MICHELLE

Oh, wow.

KRISTA

What do you mean, wow?

MICHELLE

You're not worried people are going to think you're gay and a couple? Or whatever she or he is.

KRISTA

It's he. That's the correct pronoun. Why are you bringing this up?

MICHELLE

I'm just saying after that thing with Tyler, well, I'd think you'd not want to attract so much attention to yourself. Just so you get it, this thing with Jean, you're going to attract a lot of attention to yourself. And it won't be the good kind, it'll be the bad, very bad kind.

And there it is, Krista doesn't have anything to say to Michelle because you can see what she's feeling on her face: doubt and fear.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Just think about it, okay?

INT. LO HOME - KRISTA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Krista scrolls through her social media accounts, and clicks on the links Didi and Liz made.

She watches the videos as if the person on screen were not her, and of course, she does what she shouldn't and reads the comments.

She sees words like #thirsty #loser #STDQUEEN #ugly. The views and comments increase with each second.

KRISTA (V.O.)
I've asked Didi and Liz to take the videos down, but they won't. I don't even know most of these people.

EXT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

There's an excitement on campus because today is HOMECOMING. People run about class to class talking about their plans and what they're going to wear tonight.

INT. EAST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

Krista reads a passage of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." She gets a text from Jean. Krista has a pained look on her face.

JEAN (V.O.)
So excited. I've never been to a dance before! Well, not as Jean.

EXT. IN-N-OUT BURGER - NIGHT

Tyler, Didi and Liz munch down on In-N-Out in their Homecoming attire. Didi passes a flask down to her friends, and they all take a sip. So far, it seems like a fun night will be had.

EXT. GO HOME - ROOF - NIGHT

David lies drunk on his roof. He's half dressed in his tux attire for Homecoming. A bottle of beer slips from his hands and breaks as it hits the concrete.

He takes his phone out, calls his dad. It goes to voicemail. He calls again and again. He still gets voicemail.

DAVID
Hey dad. It's me. Your son.
Hopefully, you remember you still have one. I'm not doing so good.
I think it's because you abandoned me, but it's okay. If I've learned anything from you it's just to get drunk when you have problems.
(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
So I'm drinking. And I'm fine.
I'm fine.

David goes to retrieve another beer, but somehow gets off balance and drops his phone. He forgets where he is, and reaches for it. He falls off the roof and lands hard on the concrete below him. His arm breaks his fall, but he still manages to scrape his body up something good.

He's bloody and can barely move, but he manages to reach his phone and call Michelle. All she can hear is grunting.

MICHELLE (O.S.)
David? Are you drunk again?
David?

DAVID
I don't think I'm gonna make it to
Homecoming.

EXT. GO HOME - NIGHT

Michelle, in full Homecoming attire, finds David bleeding and unconscious. She calls 911, and sits with David, holding his hand.

EXT. LO HOME - NIGHT

Jean sits on the front porch, dressed in the tuxedo we saw earlier. He checks the time on his phone: 7:40. Homecoming starts at 8:00.

In the BG, we can hear Krista's mom, Letty, speaking to Krista in hushed tones.

INT. LO HOME - NIGHT

Krista is not dressed for Homecoming. She's in sweats and a t-shirt. Her mother shakes her head, disappointed.

LETTY
No, Krista Lo. You made an
obligation, and if you want to
break that obligation, you need to
do it yourself. I won't do it for
you.

KRISTA

Mom, c'mon. Remember that time when you went on that Tinder date and you text me to call you and fake I had stomach flu? I bailed you out of that one.

LETTY

Yes, but this is different. I, at least, went on the date.

KRISTA

Please. Just do this for me and I won't ask you for anything else in my life.

Letty gives Krista a look. Really? No, you won't.

KRISTA (CONT'D)

Okay, for a month.

LETTY

I'm sorry, but the answer is still no.

EXT. LO HOME - NIGHT

The front door finally opens and Krista pokes her head out. It's obvious she's not ready.

JEAN

You're not ready.

KRISTA

No, I'm not.

JEAN.

That's cool. Taking cheesy pictures was never my thing. We can be late.

KRISTA

That's the thing.

JEAN

What is the thing?

KRISTA

I don't feel well right now.

JEAN

You look fine.

KRISTA
 (coughs)
 I guess I'm coming down with
 something.

JEAN
 Right.

Beat.

JEAN (CONT'D)
 Just say it.

KRISTA
 What?

JEAN
 Stop lying and tell me the truth.
 I deserve to hear it.

KRISTA
 No. I don't want to go to
 Homecoming with you.

JEAN
 Because ...?

KRISTA
 I'm embarrassed.

END OF SHOW