

HONEY

Written by

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EXT. PARADISE HILLS, SAN DIEGO - ESTABLISHING

Suburbia. We see the same five housing models erected until it makes a neighborhood. Welcome to Paradise Hills-- a tight knit Filipino community, all mixed with Christians, drug dealers, wannabe racers and gangstas.

TITLE CARD: JUNE 10, 1998.

TITLE CARD: PRESENT.

EXT. CIRCLE K - DAY

It's early. JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS walk to BUS STOPS on their way to school. The OLDER KIDS with driver's licenses ride around in their tricked out cars.

HONEY CABRERA (14, straight laced, rule follower, Jesus freak, but underneath it all, a girl on the verge) waits anxiously in an ALLEY.

A SOUPED UP INTEGRA drives by, and TWO TEENAGE BOYS eye Honey.

She becomes self conscious, and notices the breasts on her chest that are just now blooming. She zips her sweater up.

The Teenage Boys WHISTLE.

A HOMELESS WOMAN emerges from the Circle K with a PREGNANCY TEST, a carton of cigarettes and toilet paper. She meets Honey, and gives the pregnancy test to Honey.

HONEY

Thanks.

HOMELESS WOMAN

No problem, honey. You take care now.

HONEY (V.O.)

Everyone does that. She doesn't know my name is actually Honey. Filipino moms. They want to be so unique. I hate being unique.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING

One of the few places that house seventh through ninth grade. Here, you get to hold off going to the wasteland of high school for one more year.

To cope, every kid does what you usually do when you're stuck in the middle: You act older than you are.

TEENAGE GIRLS wear skin tight jeans and crop tops.

TEENAGE BOYS, who can drive, sit in front of their CIVICS OR INTEGRAS with MODIFIED BODIES AND SPOILERS.

Hormones and hairspray are abound and plentiful.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY

Honey sits in a stall, and stares at the stick of a pregnancy test. And you're a winner. It's blue.

HONEY (V.O.)

I hated being unique so much that I  
went and did something about it.  
How did I get here? By praying.

INT. CABRERA HOME - DAY

Middle class Filipino home, big screen TV with karaoke machine and an amazing speaker system. All throughout the house, Christian images of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and knitted Bible passages in frames hung on the wall.

TITLE CARD: AUGUST 21, 1996.

TITLE CARD: TWO YEARS AGO.

INT. CABRERA HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

On the wall, a knitted doily, the verse from Psalm 27:1: THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION-- WHOM SHALL I FEAR?

Honey sits with her MOTHER, MARIBEL CABRERA (40s, hair tied back in a strict bun, features sharp, like she hasn't smiled in a decade, defines the term devout Christian).

Honey's FATHER, JEROME CABRERA (40s, stoic, absentee parent though he's physically there) corrects research papers at the table. They're all marked up with red ink.

Maribel ignores Jerome, and looks to Honey who has barely eaten anything.

MARIBEL

Finish your dinner. We need to get  
ready for church.

HONEY

Is dad coming?

MARIBEL

No, he has work to do. It's midterms.

Jerome grunts, but doesn't look up. This is their dynamic. Maribel runs this house.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

You know, I watched the news today and the ozone layer is almost gone. Just gone. This is why you should stay home with your mother. Going outside is going to kill you.

Honey looks at her mom, and a MENTAL LIST POPS UP NEXT TO HER.

It's titled: THINGS TO BE AFRAID OF BECAUSE IT WILL KILL ME.

The list is incredibly long and includes things like Y2K, KILLER BEES, and SATANIC CULTS. The list freezes, and we see OZONE LAYER at the top now.

The list weighs heavy on Honey, and almost crushes her. So young and so many things to fear.

HONEY (V.O.)

I have a long list of things to be afraid of according to my mom. I think that's why we go to church so much.

INT. BLITHESOME TIDINGS CHURCH - NIGHT

Honey sits surrounded by her mother and other CHURCH GOERS.

They're "laying hands on her"-- praying for her young soul. Honey opens her eyes to look up at the serious faces who encircle her.

HONEY (V.O.)

Today is Wednesday, which means we go to church for mid-week service. My mom prays for my soul on Wednesdays.

EXT. RALPHS - NIGHT

Honey marches in the parking lot with her mother, Maribel. They carry signs warning GROCERY SHOPPERS about their sins: REPENT NOW. JESUS LOVES YOU. SAVE YOURSELF.

Honey tries to hand a MALE GROCERY SHOPPER a BIBLE TRACT, which is just a bible verse printed on a piece of paper and rolled up like a fortune cookie for Christ.

The Male Grocery Shopper pushes her hand away.

HONEY (V.O.)

On Thursdays, we preach the gospel and try to save heathens from themselves. My mom says the work we're doing is essential and necessary.

EXT. CABRERA HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

In the living room, there is another Bible passage on a doily, PSALM 46:1: GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, AN EVER-PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE.

Honey sits with SIX CHURCH GOERS. TWO TEENAGERS AND FOUR PARENTS. Her mother, Maribel, reads from the Bible to them.

TEENAGE CHURCH GOER #1 raises her hand and nods. Yes, she is receiving the word of God.

The PARENT CHURH GOERS say AMEN and YES often. This is a sacred space, obviously.

HONEY (V.O.)

On Fridays, we have Bible study at our house. We go over passages, usually our favorite ones. My mom says you should have the Lord's word in your heart daily.

EXT. ROHR PARK - DAY

Honey throws a frisbee around with TEENAGER #1.

Her mother, Maribel, sets up food with other CHURCH GOERS. It's a real Filipino spread: LECHON, SISIG, PANCIT PALABOK, AND CHICKEN ADOBO.

HONEY (V.O.)

On Saturdays, we spend time with other members of our church, Blithesome Tidings. My mom says it's good to surround yourself with people who fear God.

INT. BLITHESOME TIDINGS CHURCH - DAY

Honey's mother, Maribel, leads the CHURCH GOERS on a STAGE as they sing PRAYER SONGS.

Honey's hands are raised in the air, voice loud in praise.

Maribel breaks out in TONGUES, and speaks a language that supposedly only angels speak. No one really knows for sure.

HONEY (V.O.)

And it all comes full circle on Sunday when we're back at church for service. Why do we go to church so much? My mom thinks my mortal soul is always in danger.

INT. CABRERA HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

There are so many pictures of HONEY AND HER MOTHER. All of them are at CHURCH or RETREATS WITH THE PEOPLE FROM CHURCH.

There is one lone picture of Honey's mother, Maribel and her father. It's of their WEDDING DAY.

Maribel looks scared, while her father looks like he wants to be anywhere but at his own wedding.

HONEY

Mom, we should put up more pictures of you and dad.

MARIBEL

Oh, he doesn't want it.

HONEY

But we haven't asked him.

MARIBEL

Ay, Honey, I told you. He doesn't want it.

HONEY

What were you like before you guys got married? How did you meet?

MARIBEL

Honey, you ask too many questions.  
We're late for church. Get ready.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD AREA - DAY

Honey sits alone, eating from a packed lunch. She closes her eyes, and quietly prays over her rice and spam.

STUDENTS near her stare and WHISPER. Honey hears her nickname often: JESUS FREAK.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

GIRLS teetering between girldom and womanhood change into sweats and t-shirts. Honey is no where to be found.

FEMALE GYM TEACHER enters the fray and--

FEMALE GYM TEACHER

Honey! Anyone seen Cabrera?

GIRL #1

She's changing in the bathroom.

FEMALE GYM TEACHER

What for? It's not like you guys got anything to see.

Other GIRLS in the area LAUGH. JESUS FREAK.

GIRL #1

Well, she's scared. You know, something about God hating her.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY

Honey tutors PRECIOUS BAUTISTA (12, tall, graceful, statue-esque, dreams of carbs every night).

Precious tries to learn the dreaded pre-Algebra, but she's not getting it, even with Honey's help.

PRECIOUS

I'm just stupid.

HONEY

Don't say that.

PRECIOUS

It's true. I'll never get this.

HONEY

Maybe, we need to take a break, get something to eat.

PRECIOUS

No thanks. I don't eat.

HONEY

Okay. You're not serious, right?

PRECIOUS

Deadly, my mom wants me to grow up and be beautiful.

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - DAY

Stark, clean lines, nothing that announces this family is Filipino.

There are GLAMOUR SHOTS of Precious and her mother, JOAN BAUTISTA (40s, a gorgeous perfection it almost seems unreal, pretty on the outside, rotten on the inside).

Every image inside the house boasts perfect faces and bodies-- PICTURES of MOTHER AND DAUGHTER IN BIKINIS, TIGHT FORMAL WEAR, and ACTION SHOTS of the two in WORK OUT GEAR.

There are no pictures of PRECIOUS'S FATHER around.

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

Joan and Precious eat what they consider "dinner," which are SAD, TINY BOXES OF LEAN CUSINE. Precious scarfs her food down in a matter of seconds. She's really hungry.

Joan barely touches hers. Precious jealously looks at her mother's untouched food.

JOAN

I know you said you wanted another serving of dinner, but you know why I'm going to suggest you do not do that.

PRECIOUS

I know, mom. Your mom and stuff.

JOAN

Not just my mom and stuff. My father, I don't even remember what he looks like.

(MORE)

JOAN (CONT'D)

Well, he left my mother after she had me. And do you know why?

PRECIOUS

Because she got too fat, and couldn't lose the baby weight?

JOAN

Wrong. Well, yes, she couldn't lose the baby weight, and he left. But she got too complacent. She thought she didn't have to be beautiful to be loved because she had a baby and a husband. Well, she spent the rest of her life afraid and alone. She couldn't even say the word fat. She'd only refer to it in the whispers of Tagalog.

Joan pauses for dramatic effect, then--

JOAN (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Taba.

Joan looks to Precious now, so she can utter the words she's taught her since she could speak.

PRECIOUS

She was wrong. No one will love you if you're not beautiful.

JOAN

And how do we be beautiful?

PRECIOUS

By being thin.

JOAN

Very good. Now do you want another serving of dinner?

PRECIOUS

No.

Joan looks proud of herself. Precious simmers with resentment.

PRECIOUS (CONT'D)

I just have one question. If you're so thin and beautiful, then why did dad leave?

JOAN

He didn't leave. I divorced him.  
There's a difference.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD AREA - DAY

It's the end of the school day, and the only STUDENTS left on campus are those that are there for extra curriculars like CLUBS or SPORTS.

There are, however, a handful of STUDENTS who were either late to school or were sent to the Principal's Office, and are now earning their penance by picking up trash on campus.

WEDNESDAY TORRES (13, resident "bad girl," all black clothing, Doc Martens, maroon lipstick, actually has no clue what she's doing) pretends to pick up trash. Really, she's just hanging out until her mom picks her up.

Honey wears a YELLOW VEST with a badge labeled VOLUNTEER. She sees Wednesday standing about, and picks up an empty soda can and hands it to her.

WEDNESDAY

Why do I want that?

HONEY

Because you're on trash duty. Your bag is empty.

WEDNESDAY

Well, aren't you helpful. Fuck off.

Honey immediately begins praying.

WEDNESDAY (CONT'D)

Are you praying?

HONEY

Yes.

WEDNESDAY

Why?

HONEY

For your soul. You obviously need it.

Wednesday responds to this by taking Honey's bag of trash, and dumping it on her.

WEDNESDAY

Kiss my ass.

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Small and cramped. A mix of Goodwill furniture and odd knick knacks found along the way. The place is a mess, and no one is cleaning it up any time soon.

Wednesday's mother, CLAUDIA TORRES (40s, MILF, total mess, a BFF more than a Mom, 60's free love and all that bullshit) is on the phone fighting with Wednesday's BIOLOGICAL FATHER.

Wednesday watches TV, pretending she doesn't care.

CLAUDIA

I told you. You never sent the money for this month!

In the background, we hear a VOICE that sounds like CHARLIE BROWN'S TEACHER yelling at Claudia. This is what Wednesday's father sounds like because she usually never gets talk to him.

Claudia yells through the phone's receiver.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

You're lying! Liar!

Wednesday just turns the volume of the TV up to drown out her barely functioning family.

The TV and her mother are interrupted by a KNOCK KNOCK on the DOOR. Wednesday doesn't get up. There's another KNOCK KNOCK.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Get the door, Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY

No, you.

CLAUDIA

I'm on the phone.

WEDNESDAY

You're just yelling. Who cares?

CLAUDIA

Wednesday, get the door and we'll get pizza for dinner, okay.

WEDNESDAY

With whose money?

CLAUDIA

Your father if he wasn't late with  
his child support!

Claudia goes back to ignoring Wednesday, and yelling into the phone.

There's another KNOCK KNOCK on the door, and Wednesday finally gives in and gets up.

EXT. TORRES APARTMENT - NIGHT

Honey is at the ready with BIBLE TRACTS and PRAYERS. She has a speech set up, but then freezes when she sees Wednesday opening the door.

HONEY

Oh ... hi.

WEDNESDAY

What are you doing here?

HONEY

It's Thursday. My mom and I  
decided to go door to door to  
preach the gospel.

WEDNESDAY

Where is she?

HONEY

She's right next door. She thought  
I was ready to do this alone.

WEDNESDAY

Well, we don't believe in God.

HONEY

Oh, that's okay. I can still pray  
for you.

Just then, Wednesday's mother, Claudia--

CLAUDIA (O.S.)

If you don't send that fucking  
money, I will fucking skin you the  
fuck alive!

Wednesday looks fluster, embarrassed even. Honey looks at her with compassion.

HONEY  
Is everything okay?

WEDNESDAY  
(closing the door)  
It's fine. We're fine. We don't  
need prayers.

INT. CABRERA HOME - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Honey lies awake, staring at her ceiling. She tosses and turns for a bit, then sits up and prays.

HONEY (V.O.)  
Hi God. I know it's late, but I'd like to send out some prayers for two girls I know. They're not really my friends, but they need someone. And if it's not too much, I do too.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Precious walks slowly to class because she hates school.

Wednesday heads into the Girls Bathroom. She plans on skipping most of the day.

Honey walks brusquely to class, minding her own business. Of course, when you're female and you do that, some guy out there will always have an opinion about what you're doing.

A MALE JOCK looks Honey up and down, surveying her face and body, and makes a decision.

MALE JOCK  
Damn, you're ugly!

Honey turns to Male Jock, and doesn't know what to say.

All of MALE JOCK'S FRIENDS look over at Honey, and they LAUGH THEIR ASSES OFF.

MALE JOCK (CONT'D)  
Yeah, you!

Honey's face turns red, and she runs toward the GIRLS BATHROOM.

Precious sees the whole incident, and chases after Honey.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY

Honey sits in a bathroom stall, crying. She didn't know it could hurt so much, one little word.

Wednesday is in another stall, sitting on the toilet with the seat down. There's a bottle of WINE COOLER in her hand.

She hears Honey crying. She looks concerned, but she doesn't know what to do.

Honey hears someone come into the bathroom, and immediately stops crying.

Precious looks under the stalls, and sees Honey's shoes.

PRECIOUS

Honey, you there?

HONEY

No.

PRECIOUS

I saw what that guy did. Don't listen to him. You're not ugly. He's dumb. Most of them are.

HONEY

Yeah, but you're beautiful. No guy will ever say that to you.

PRECIOUS

Yes, they will. And they have, when I don't do what they want.

HONEY

Why do we like them, then?

PRECIOUS

That's simple. Because we're also dumb.

Wednesday finally joins the conversation, and we see her peeking above the stalls.

WEDNESDAY

You guys wanna get out of here?

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Honey, Precious and Wednesday drink WINE COOLERS and snack on PIZZA. Well, Precious hasn't touched her food.

She keeps getting PAGES that she doesn't answer. Wednesday notices, but doesn't say anything.

HONEY  
(to Wednesday)  
Where's your mom?

WEDNESDAY  
I dunno.

HONEY  
Is that normal for you?

WEDNESDAY  
Pretty much.

HONEY  
My mom always knows where I am,  
well, not now.

WEDNESDAY  
That's terrible.

Precious's PAGER goes off again.

WEDNESDAY (CONT'D)  
Okay, who is that?

PRECIOUS  
My mom.

WEDNESDAY  
Call her back, then.

PRECIOUS  
She's just sending me pager texts,  
reminders.

WEDNESDAY  
About?

PRECIOUS  
What I shouldn't eat.

WEDNESDAY  
Like pizza?

PRECIOUS  
Pretty much.

WEDNESDAY  
I'm going to be nice to you, just  
for one second. Don't let it get  
to your head, okay?

PRECIOUS

I guess.

WEDNESDAY

You're beautiful. The most beautiful girl I've seen. I wish I looked like you.

PRECIOUS

Thank you. I don't know what to say.

WEDNESDAY

And you shouldn't listen to your mom. You should eat. Right, Honey?

Wednesday looks to Honey for her support, and Honey nods in agreement.

HONEY

She's right. C'mon. It's just a slice.

Precious looks at the pizza in front of her, and then at her new found friends and gives in. She takes a bite.

PRECIOUS

This is so good. My mom is going to kill me.

HONEY

So is mine because I skipped school.

WEDNESDAY

Mine ... I'm lying. She doesn't care.

All three continue eating pizza and drinking wine coolers. Can we dare say it? I think these three are friends.

HONEY (V.O.)

It was all going so well. I finally found people I could call friends. And they didn't care I was a quote Jesus Freak.

BEGIN MONTAGE

--Honey, Precious and Wednesday all at Wednesday's place eating, and watching MUSIC VIDEOS on TV. They dance to ZAPP & ROGER'S COMPUTER LOVE. Wednesday pretends to be a robot.

--Honey, Precious and Wednesday show Honey how to sneak out of her house.

--Honey, Precious and Wednesday let Honey borrow some of their revealing clothing. Honey tries it on and seems shy at first, but takes a look at herself in the mirror, and sees she doesn't look like herself. She's not plain or ordinary.

--Honey, Precious and Wednesday are at an ALL AGES CLUB called WORLD BEAT CENTER. They teach Honey to dance like the kids do, grinding and gyrating, moving their pre-pubescent bodies without care or abandon.

END MONTAGE

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY

Honey is on one of the community computers doing research on THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

TITLE CARD: JUNE 3, 1998.

TITLE CARD: A WEEK BEFORE HONEY FINDS OUT SHE'S PREGNANT

Now TWO YEARS OLDER, Precious and Wednesday take a seat next to Honey. She doesn't acknowledge them and continues her research.

Precious's pager goes off, and she ignores it. It goes off again and again.

WEDNESDAY

Uh-oh, mommy wants to know what you're eating for lunch.

PRECIOUS

Shut up. She's just concerned and wants me to eat healthy, so I can be my very best.

WEDNESDAY

Is that what she wants you to tell people?

PRECIOUS

This week, yes.

HONEY

Did you guys want something? I've got a research paper to write.

PRECIOUS

Have Wednesday buy you one.

HONEY

No, my mom has to proof read it,  
and she'll know.

PRECIOUS

Well, are you still down to sneak  
out tonight?

HONEY

Yeah, sure. It's Monday, so my mom  
usually cries herself to sleep  
watching movies on Lifetime.

WEDNESDAY

Good, because some bitches are  
challenging us, and we need to show  
up.

HONEY

Which bitches?

EXT. WORLD BEAT CENTER - ESTABLISHING

A circular building with colorful designs, images of  
EGYPTIANS, PYRAMIDS, AND TOTEM ANIMALS.

In the day time, this place is a CULTURAL CENTER, a place for  
the San Diego community to gather.

At night, however, it's a place for those under 21 to go to  
and pretend they're grown.

INT. WORLD BEAT CENTER - NIGHT

It's hot and sweaty. Silk's "Freak Me" plays via a DJ, and  
the bass vibrates throughout. You can feel the music in your  
bones.

TEENAGERS just a year post puberty move to the music. What  
they consider dancing, though, actually looks like dry  
humping to the common eye.

Just then, the CROWD PARTS to make way for TWO GIRL DANCE  
GROUPS.

DJ (O.S.)

I want you to put your hands  
together for Desire.

DESIRE'S FIVE MEMBERS are actually no older than fifteen.  
They're all wearing daisy dukes and tank tops.

Their lead dancer, GORGEOUS SANTOS (15, developed for her age and she thanks her lucky stars every night, a mestiza beauty, no skin whitening needed) steps out and slithers all over the dance floor. She's trying really, really hard to be sexy.

It works though because the TEENAGE BOYS around them YELL AND SHOUT.

This adoration is currency if you're a teenage girl.

Before Desire finishes their routine, however, another GIRL DANCE GROUP steps in, and pushes them aside.

DJ (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Oh, it looks like the girls from So Seductive have something to say to Desire.

The girls from SO SEDUCTIVE are HONEY, PRECIOUS AND WEDNESDAY.

All of them do not look their age. They have caked on make-up, voluminous hair, and all have a uniform of tight, ripped, acid wash jeans and tube tops.

HONEY (V.O.)

I don't know what it was, the constant praying, the growing list of things for me to fear, or the fact that with all the good girl clothing I was just invisible ...

Honey kisses Precious, then Wednesday. This gets everyone in the building CHEERING.

The beat of Destiny Child's "Say My Name" drops, and all the girls from a triangle and hit dance marks that are mix of vixen and ingenue.

HONEY (V.O.)

... so when Wednesday suggested we form this group, I jumped at the opportunity.

Honey rips off her crop top to reveal a STUDED BRA. She has a SEXY SOLO, and grinds on the floor for several seconds.

HONEY (V.O.)

And that's when it started, I was two different people. In the day time, I was a good girl Christian, and at night I wasn't.

The girls of Desire get lost in the CROWD because So Seductive just put them in their place. Everyone around them is in awe.

Precious helps Honey up, and Wednesday hugs them both. These girls, despite how young, are famous in this little world. They're royalty.

HONEY

I thought you said these bitches wanted a challenge.

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - NIGHT

Still a mess. It looks like a college dormitory, empty wine cooler bottles and pizza boxes.

Wednesday's mother, Claudia, hands out wine coolers to Wednesday, Precious and CONRAD MENDOZA (15, B Boy, sidekick, D student and a disappointment to his parents).

WEDNESDAY

Mom, no one wants to hear this story for the billionth time.

CLAUDIA

Yes, they do. Now where was I? Oh, yes. He was a Fireman. He bought me a drink or several, and the next thing I knew we were in his apartment. He said he had a condom, but you know how that goes.

WEDNESDAY

Mom, please.

CONRAD

Your mom is a trip, Wednesday.

CLAUDIA

And nine months later, I get this bundle of angst. I couldn't ask for anything more.

WEDNESDAY

Okay, that's it. It's time for bed, mom.

CLAUDIA

Okay, fine. Goodnight, kids.

Claudia smiles and kisses Wednesday on the forehead, and goes to her room.

PRECIOUS  
I love that story.

WEDNESDAY  
You love hearing about how my mom  
got knocked up by a one night  
stand?

PRECIOUS  
At least she let's you eat.

WEDNESDAY  
Where's Honey?

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Honey makes out with ROLAND OCAMPO (15, B boy, entitled first born son, learned everything he knows about sex from porn). The hot and heavy make out session eventually turns into sex.

Honey bends over the toilet and The Sex happens with Roland. He thrusts like he's dancing.

Honey kisses Roland, and he looks like he's about to finish. Oh, wait. He just did.

HONEY  
We need to start using condoms.

INT. CABRERA HOME - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Honey sneaks into her room via the window. She looks unrecognizable in all her make-up, big hair and tight clothes.

She quickly changes into UNICORN PAJAMAS, a testament to her true age.

She then brushes her hair out, and takes make-up remover to her face. Eventually, she looks like Honey again.

She quickly goes to bed. This is not her first time sneaking out.

BEGIN EGG-SPERM GFX SEQUENCE

While Honey sleeps, an EGG in her UTERUS sits all lonesome, but wait, ROLAND'S SPERM is ready to fertilize her egg.

Several of his sperm, Roland Juniors, try many times to penetrate the egg, all to no avail.

It looks like Honey won't get pregnant tonight, but one determined sperm is just that, and won't give up.

Roland Junior finally makes his way into Honey's egg, and there you go. This is what happens when hormones and abstinence only teaching collides.

HONEY (V.O.)

I wasn't a virgin that night. For a long while, I thought I could get away with being two different people. And of course, I was wrong.

END EGG-SPERM GFX SEQUENCE

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY

Honey looks at the pregnancy stick in her hands. Is that really blue?

TITLE CARD: JUNE 10, 1998.

TITLE CARD: PRESENT.

HONEY

That's not blue. Is it? I should compare it to something blue.

Honey looks at her clothing. Is she wearing something blue? Nope.

Just then, KNOCK KNOCK on the stall door. And from Honey's POV, we see Precious's shoes.

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

Honey, you in there?

HONEY

Go away, Precious. It's quiet time.

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

Does that mean you're pooping?

WEDNESDAY (O.S.)

Who is pooping?

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

Honey is. She doesn't want us to know.

WEDNESDAY (O.S.)

Well, you need to hurry it up.  
There's a dance competition in Los  
Angeles. Everyone will be there.  
Desire is already talking shit.

HONEY

Ugh, if you guys are going to stand  
there, do you have anything blue?

We hear shuffling and rustling as Precious and Wednesday pat  
themselves down for something blue.

Then, Precious hands over her PAGER. It has a BLUE COVER on  
it.

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

Here. What do you need it for?

HONEY

Don't worry about it. I'll give it  
back. It's nothing.

Honey takes the pager, and compares it to the pregnancy  
stick. She turns the stick upside down, and right side up,  
then sideways, but there's no denying it. It's blue.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Oh. Shit.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Honey walks through hallways filled with YOUNG GIRLS entering  
womanhood. Breasts just now filling in and big butts  
smiling.

Precious and Wednesday walk behind her, so they don't notice  
her panicked look.

All over the hallways are POSTERS ABOUT TEEN PREGNANCY. Most  
of them just preach that SEX IS BAD, SEX IS EVIL, DON'T HAVE  
SEX.

There is no real information around about teen sex or teen  
pregnancy. You know, because if you don't talk about  
something it won't happen.

PRECIOUS

It all started when Desire got a  
new dancer.

WEDNESDAY

Her name is Gorgeous.

PRECIOUS  
Filipino moms.

WEDNESDAY  
Basically.

PRECIOUS  
She's a better dancer than the one  
she replaced.

WEDNESDAY  
Satin? I heard she got pregnant  
and her parents sent her to the  
Philippines.

PRECIOUS  
Is that why I don't see her  
anymore?

WEDNESDAY  
Basically.

PRECIOUS  
We need to figure out a way to get  
to this dance comp, Honey.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Precious and Wednesday follow Honey into the library.  
They're still whining about Desire.

Honey looks over at all the COMPUTER STATIONS, and they're  
all taken.

Precious stops Honey in her tracks, and holds her by the  
shoulders.

PRECIOUS  
What is up with you?

HONEY  
Nothing, I need to do some research  
on the internet.

PRECIOUS  
Fine, come to my house after  
school. We just got AOL.

HONEY  
Today is Thursday though. We have  
to preach the gospel to heathens.  
Oh, wait.

EXT. TOYOTA COROLLA - NIGHT

The license plate reads: GODRMBRS. There are stickers about Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost all over the car. JESUS IS BEHIND THE WHEEL. GOT THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLY GHOST WITH ME. JESUS SAVES ALL.

This is obviously Maribel's car, and it winds and weaves through the suburban streets of Paradise Hills.

INT. TOYOTA COROLLA - NIGHT

Honey sits in the passenger seat. Her mother, Maribel, drives.

MARIBEL

And how did you meet these people?

HONEY

Precious is in a couple of my classes. She mentioned her mother was thinking about coming to our church.

MARIBEL

What are they? Catholic?

HONEY

I think so. I don't have very many details.

MARIBEL

Catholics. They only pick and choose when they serve. They'll have you backsliding. The only friends you should make are good Christians.

HONEY (V.O.)

I got into this habit of omitting the truth. It's not a sin because it's not actually a lie.

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joan is doing facial exercises from a DVD. It's called FACIAL EXERCISES FOR THE AGING WOMAN. BE VIBRANT, RELEVANT AND YOU.

Precious pretends to do the DVD with her mother.

JOAN

Are these people coming over even people I want to know?

PRECIOUS

Please, mom. Just listen to her. My friends and I have to work on a project, and it's the only way she can come over.

JOAN

Fine, but I hope they're not fat. I hate fat people. Remember, taba.

PRECIOUS

I know. And no, they're thin.

JOAN

Well, that's a start. You look bloated are you getting your period soon?

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Joan sits with Maribel, having hot ginger tea.

Maribel has her Bible out, and she's reading a verse from ECCLESIASTES 4:4.

Joan is not paying attention to Maribel at all because she's looking at her drab hair. Ugh, how does this woman leave the house?

MARIBEL

And I saw that all toil and achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

JOAN

I have to ask. Who does your hair?

MARIBEL

I do my own hair.

JOAN

Well, isn't that quaint? Of course you do.

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - PRECIOUS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's all fluff and princess pink. She has a treadmill in her room, and a weight set up, so she can work out when everyone is asleep.

There is a large painting of her in a bathing suit that hangs above her bed. It's the better version of her because she's thin and always happy.

Honey is on the computer, and waits patiently for a web page to open up. Oh, AOL, before high speed internet.

Precious and Wednesday are on her bed, and look over a YEARBOOK FROM A NEIGHBORING SCHOOL: SWEETWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Precious points out GORGEOUS, the dancer from DESIRE.

PRECIOUS

Ugh, even when she had no boobies she was pretty. I hate her.

WEDNESDAY

She's perfect, absolutely perfect.

PRECIOUS

Shut up, so am I. I mean, look at my butt. It's so round, the perfect butt. Right?

Precious gets up and shows Wednesday her butt. Like, seriously shows her. It's very uncomfortable, and Wednesday avoids answering.

WEDNESDAY

So what are you looking at, Honey? Let me see.

Both get behind Honey and watch the page she's looking at slowly download.

HONEY

Do you guys have to do this?

WEDNESDAY

What? Are you looking at porn?

PRECIOUS

You're acting weird. What is up with you?

WEDNESDAY

Is it up the butt porn? I watched  
a couple videos with my mom.

PRECIOUS

Gross.

WEDNESDAY

Oh, look it's almost done loading.

Honey stands, and blocks the computer screen.

HONEY

Why don't we go downstairs?

WEDNESDAY

No, move out of the way.

Honey knows she should say something, but she doesn't and instead reaches to shut off the computer. Wednesday and Precious tackle her, and they're all fighting WWF style.

They don't notice the page has loaded to a search for TEEN PREGNANCY.

HONEY

Get off me.

WEDNESDAY

What are you hiding?

PRECIOUS

I'm going to sit on you until you  
tell the truth.

HONEY

I'm pregnant! Okay. I'm pregnant.

INT. CABRERA HOME - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Honey is on the phone, a three way call with Precious and Wednesday.

THE SCREEN IS SPLIT THREE WAYS TO SHOW EACH GIRL IN THEIR ROOM.

HONEY

I'm sorry I didn't tell you guys.

PRECIOUS

Honey, you're like one of those  
posters at school.

HONEY

I wasn't thinking. It just felt so good not to worry about what's going to tear my soul apart.

WEDNESDAY

Well, what are you going to do now?

HONEY

I don't know. I don't even have my driver's license. What can I do? Have it? Then, I'll have to drop out of school, and become one of those moms.

WEDNESDAY

You mean, like mine?

HONEY

That's not what I meant.

WEDNESDAY

Yes, you did.

HONEY

Well, don't you think if your mom actually gave it some thought, she would've made better choices?

WEDNESDAY

You're a bitch, Honey.

Wednesday hangs up. Now the screen only shows Precious and Honey.

PRECIOUS

Was that called for?

HONEY

What? It's true. My mom says everyone in the neighborhood talks about her mother.

PRECIOUS

You know what, Honey? How about you deal with your teen pregnancy on your own.

And Honey is alone. She listens to DIAL TONE for a few seconds before she hangs up.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Honey sits alone at lunch. Precious and Wednesday sit a few tables away from her.

Wednesday angrily eyes Honey, while eating a sandwich.

PRECIOUS  
She looks so pathetic.

WEDNESDAY  
She deserves it.

PRECIOUS  
Oh, stop.

WEDNESDAY  
What she said was messed up.

PRECIOUS  
I know, but you know how she gets all judge-y when she's stressed.

WEDNESDAY  
Yeah, her shoulders must be so heavy from all that righteousness.

PRECIOUS  
Look, I know your mad. And maybe, Honey deserves it, but she's our friend.

WEDNESDAY  
Are you saying we help her?

PRECIOUS  
Duh.

WEDNESDAY  
Nope. I won't.

PRECIOUS  
She'd help you, even if you were being mean, which is most of the time.

WEDNESDAY  
I'm an acquired taste, and it's still no.

Honey sees Wednesday staring at her, but pretends things are fine. She gets up, heads to the bathroom.

Precious watches her go. She wants to help, but knows she can't help Honey on her own. She does what she knows how to do when things get hard: nothing.

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Wednesday cleans up her home the best she can, but it's an uphill battle. She basically places most things she finds in a large trash bag.

She finds her YEARBOOK from LAST YEAR, EIGHTH GRADE. She sits down, and looks through it. Not very many people signed it.

There's a SECTION ABOUT THEIR DANCE GROUP called SEXY AND HYPE. They showcase Honey, Precious and Wednesday, and there's a picture of all them smiling.

Honey signed underneath the picture. Wednesday frowns and shuts the book. She tosses it in the garbage bag.

She tries to continue cleaning, but eventually sits down, takes the yearbook out of the trash, and reads what Honey wrote in her yearbook.

HONEY (V.O.)

I know you think I helped you pass eighth grade, but it was all you. I'm so proud of you, and even though you hate it when I say this: I love you.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - BATHROOM - DAY

Honey cries in the same bathroom stall where she found out she was pregnant.

Just then, KNOCK KNOCK. Honey can see Precious's and Wednesday's shoes. She doesn't answer, and stops crying.

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

We know you're in there.

HONEY

Leave me alone.

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

No, let us in.

No answer.

PRECIOUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
We're not leaving until you do.

Honey opens the door.

PRECIOUS (CONT'D)  
You look terrible.

HONEY  
Thanks.

PRECIOUS  
It took some convincing. Still,  
we're here. But, small but, I  
think you need to apologize to  
Wednesday.

HONEY  
I'm sorry.

WEDNESDAY  
For what?

PRECIOUS  
Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY  
Thank you. Apology accepted.

Silence. Teen Pregnancy isn't really a raging topic with the kids.

PRECIOUS  
Do you know what you're going to  
do?

Honey breaks down because she doesn't know how to answer.  
Precious and Wednesday gather around her.

PRECIOUS (CONT'D)  
Whatever you decide, we're with  
you.

WEDNESDAY  
All the way.

HONEY  
I don't want to have this baby.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. BLITHESOME TIDINGS CHURCH - DAY

On the sidewalk, Honey sits at a table with her mother, Maribel. There's a SIGN hanging over the table with the words: CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE FOR BIG BEAR, JUNE 30th.

TITLE CARD: JUNE 16, 1998. PRESENT.

On the table, an old catcher's mitt, gently worn baby clothes, old kitchen utensils, a blender-- all the things you toss for newer, shinier things.

A few PEOPLE peruse what they're selling, OTHERS just walk by without making eye contact with the two.

A BALD ELDERLY MAN walks by and smiles at Honey, and before Honey can talk to him, her mother steps in front of her.

MARIBEL

Hello, sir. We're raising money for a trip to Big Bear at the end of the month. We'll be baptizing a few people from our church. Would you like to contribute?

Bald Elderly Man takes a gander, but eventually decides that the crap out for sale is just that, crap.

Maribel turns to Honey to, of course, mention something she should fear.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

Honey, you can't just talk to anyone. You don't know what kind of men are out there. They always thinking of one thing, The Sex.

Honey's list of THINGS TO BE AFRAID OF BECAUSE IT WILL KILL ME gets an addition.

HONEY

Okay, mom.

INT. CABRERA HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Honey eats dinner with her mother, Maribel.

Her father is barely there because he's hiding behind a newspaper. He'll spend the whole dinner ignoring his family.

Maribel goes on about the list of things Honey should be afraid of, but Honey's inner monologue drowns out her mother's fears.

HONEY (V.O.)

It's two weeks until the 30th.  
It's been six days since I found  
out I was pregnant.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY

Honey sits with Precious and Wednesday at the COMPUTER STATIONS. Honey opens up a Netscape Navigator SEARCH ENGINE, and types in ABORTION.

She gets a list of web pages about how ABORTION IS BAD, a few images of PRO CHOICE signs, and some websites about TEEN PREGNANCY. There's no real information here.

When their ENGLISH TEACHER walks by, Precious or Wednesday COUGH so Honey can minimize her web browser.

Honey tries a different approach and tries: HOW DOES A TEENAGER GET AN ABORTION.

A few things come up, stuff she doesn't understand like an ARTICLE ABOUT AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS V. LUNGREN, 1997, and a link to a place called PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

Honey clicks on the Planned Parenthood link, and a page comes up with clinics. She sees a general 800 number, and silently says it to herself three times to memorize it.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD AREA - DAY

Honey, Precious and Wednesday wait for the only payphone available in the whole school.

Honey gets her turn on the payphone, while Precious and Wednesday guard her so no one can listen in on her conversation.

They actually push people back so they're a few feet away from Honey.

Honey calls the 800 number, then hangs up. STUDENTS waiting to use the phone GRUMBLE, HURRY UP.

Honey tries again, and this time she doesn't hang up. An OPERATOR answers on the other end.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Planned Parenthood. How can I help  
you?

HONEY  
Is this a hospital?

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
No, but if you give me more  
information I can direct you to one  
of our facilities.

HONEY  
Um, I'm ...

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Let's start with your age.

HONEY  
I'm fourteen.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Okay, and where are you calling  
from?

HONEY  
San Diego.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
California.

HONEY  
Yes.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
And how can I help you?

HONEY  
I'm ... it was a mistake and ...

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
It's okay. Take a breath. How can  
I help you?

Honey takes a deep breath, before--

HONEY  
I'm pregnant.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
I can direct you to a clinic, but  
what would you like to do?

HONEY

I don't know what I'm doing,  
actually. But what if, um, like,  
um, I don't want to keep it?

OPERATOR (O.S.)

Let's see, you're in California, so  
you don't need parental consent.  
It's 500 dollars for the service.

Honey is shocked.

OPERATOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hello.

Honey doesn't know what to do. She doesn't have that money.  
She hangs up.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

It's the end of the school day. STUDENTS wait for their ride  
home, or take the bus. A select few walk home.

Honey waits with Precious and Wednesday near the SCHOOL'S  
FLAG.

PRECIOUS

Maybe I can ask my mom for the  
money?

HONEY

You can't do that. Your mom knows  
my mom now. She'll say something.

PRECIOUS

What if I lie?

WEDNESDAY

You were never a good liar,  
Precious.

PRECIOUS

That's true.

WEDNESDAY

Well, I can't ask my mom. She's  
always broke.

PRECIOUS

What's gonna happen now?

WEDNESDAY

Are you gonna have it?

HONEY

I don't know.

INT. BLITHESOME TIDINGS CHURCH - NIGHT

It's Purity Night. All the TEENAGERS at Blithesome, including Honey, gather in front of the CONGREGATION.

Maribel leads the night, and prays for the Teenagers. CHURCH GOERS clap and encourage the Teenagers.

Honey looks mortified. She might throw up.

MARIBEL

Tonight, our kids will make a promise to Jesus Christ, and abstain from sex, oral, anal, fondling, dry humping, masturbation, and what the kids like to call motorboating. It won't be easy because Satan is always out there, luring you with their MTV, VH1 and BBD. But all of you will prevail because God is watching.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - GIRLS LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Honey looks defeated as she changes clothes. God is watching, remember.

GORGEOUS (O.S.)

Honey!

Honey looks around her, God? It's me, Honey.

Just then, Gorgeous, the dancer from Desire, shuts Honey's locker and stares her down.

HONEY

What do you want?

GORGEOUS

You hear about Girl Battle?

HONEY

Yes, I don't care.

GORGEOUS

So you're scared?

HONEY

Can you just leave me alone?

Gorgeous shoves a flyer for GIRL BATTLE into Honey's chest.

GORGEOUS

You guys aren't better than Desire.  
I can't beat you if you don't show  
up.

Gorgeous walks away, and Honey looks at the flyer.

GIRL BATTLE, ALL GIRL GROUP DANCE COMPETITION, 1000 PRIZE AND  
PHOTO SHOOT. JUNE 30th.

Honey is about to toss the flyer into the trash can, but then  
she doesn't. Hmmmm.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK FIELD - DAY

Precious and Wednesday watch Honey race out past the TRACK  
FIELD through to the QUAD AREA.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD AREA - DAY

Honey runs toward the PAYPHONE. She sees a MALE TWEEN  
rushing for it as well, and runs faster toward her goal. She  
steps in front of him, and picks up the handle of the phone.

HONEY

Go away.

Male Tween sulks, but leaves Honey alone. Honey dials a  
number she's memorized. The same OPERATOR answers.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

Planned Parenthood. How can I help  
you?

HONEY

Can you connect me with clinics in  
Los Angeles?

OPERATOR

One moment.

RECEPTIONIST #1 (O.S.)

Hi Planned Parenthood.

HONEY

I need ... an abortion.

RECEPTIONIST #1 (O.S.)  
 This location doesn't do abortions.  
 Let me direct you back to the  
 Operator, and she'll connect you to  
 a location that does.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
 Planned Parenthood--

HONEY  
 It's me again. The lady put me  
 back with you.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
 Did you want a different location?

HONEY  
 Well, it's just she said, you know,  
 they don't, like, do abortions  
 there.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
 Oh, I see. Yes, some of our  
 clinics perform that service, while  
 others don't. One moment.

And she waits and waits. Just then--

PAYPHONE AUTOMATED VOICE  
 You have two minutes left. Please  
 deposit 20 cents.

Honey looks through her pockets, but she doesn't have any  
 coins with her. She panics, and looks for someone she can  
 borrow money from when--

RECEPTIONIST #2  
 Planned Parenthood.

HONEY  
 I need an appointment for an abortion.

RECEPTIONIST #2  
 Okay, slow down. We don't have  
 appointments until July 1st.  
 Morning or afternoon?

HONEY  
 Morning?

RECEPTIONIST #2  
 What's your name? And how old are  
 you?

PAYPHONE AUTOMATED VOICE  
 You have one minute. Please  
 deposit 20 cents.

HONEY  
 Honey Cabrera. I'm 14.

RECEPTIONIST #2  
 And you know about the cost?

HONEY  
 I do. I'll have it.

RECEPTIONIST #2  
 I have you for July 1st at 10:00  
 a.m. You should bring someone with  
 you to drive you home after the  
 procedure.

And before the PAYPHONE GOES DEAD--

HONEY  
 I will.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Honey sits with Precious and Wednesday, and it definitely  
 looks like they're planning something. The crumpled FLYER  
 for GIRL BATTLE sits in front of them.

HONEY  
 You two will tell your moms you're  
 going to spend the night at my  
 house. Tell them you're doing a  
 dork outreach or something. I'll  
 tell my mom I'm going to the  
 Blithesome Church Retreat, but I'll  
 be riding with your mom, Precious.  
 I'll mention something about saving  
 the unfortunate souls on my own and  
 dedicating it to God. We'll have  
 at least a day or so before anyone  
 notices, and by then, who cares?  
 We'll destroy Desire at Girl  
 Battle, and celebrate before--

WEDNESDAY  
 Your abortion.

HONEY  
 Thanks, Wednesday. My appointment  
 is in the morning, so we should get  
 back by dinner.

(MORE)

HONEY (CONT'D)

Our moms might be a little mad, but we can deal with it, right?

PRECIOUS

How are we going to get there?

HONEY

The train at Old town.

PRECIOUS

Where are we going to stay?

HONEY

I have some money I've tucked away in a piggy bank. We only need to be there for two nights.

WEDNESDAY

I thought you didn't have any money. And now you have money for all this stuff, and for you know ... how'd you get all that money so fast?

HONEY

Don't worry about it. I'll have the money by then. Are you guys in?

WEDNESDAY

Yes. I hope you use condoms next time.

PRECIOUS

I'm definitely in. I want to drop bows on Gorgeous.

Wednesday gives Precious a look. Really? All the GIRLS LAUGH.

HONEY (V.O.)

My friends were excited, and I was, too, but there was a part of me that knew I had to get an abortion, like, a real one, not a TV one or a movie one ... and it just didn't feel like it would actually happen.

INT. CABRERA HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The house is empty because they're at church. They're always at church. The phone rings several times until the answering machine picks up.

MARIBEL (ON ANSWERING MACHINE)

Hello, praise Jesus in all his glory. We are not home to answer the phone, but please leave us a message.

ROLAND (O.S.)

Hey Honey. Wat up, baby girl! Where you been? Hit me back this time, okay?

INT. BLITHESOME TIDINGS CHURCH - DAY

It's Sunday Service, and everyone is wearing their best clothes.

Honey sits with her mother, Maribel. A PASTOR leads the CHURCH GOERS as they sing praises and wave their hands in the air.

PASTOR

God is so good, so good. Does anyone here want to give testimony, tell us how God is working in your life?

Of course, Maribel, raises her hand.

MARIBEL

Praise Jesus, praise Jesus. I'm a sinner, and I raised a sinner. With Christ, though, we remain steadfast and faithful. She is getting baptized in a week at our retreat. Praise Jesus we raised money for our stay that weekend.

PASTOR

Let's all stand, lead us Maribel in a song, while we pass around the tithe basket. Remember, God is watching all of us.

CHURCH GOERS hand over their money as TITHE BASKETS get passed around.

Honey is at the end of the line, and she's supposed to hand it to the Pastor. However, everyone has their eyes closed because they're praying and speaking in tongues.

No one is watching her, well, besides God. She grabs a handful of money from several baskets, and stuffs it in her pocket.

She rearranges the money left in the baskets she pilfers, and leaves it at the Pastor's feet. She looks above her and mouths the words I'M SORRY.

HONEY (V.O.)

I wasn't actually telling the truth, but I wasn't lying either. I don't have any money at all, so I'm stealing money from church. I mean, I'm already going to hell, so I might as well break all the commandments.

INT. CABRERA HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone is asleep, except Maribel. She's cleaning up a bit, and checks the answering machine.

She hears Roland's message and deletes it. She looks like she's a master at that.

The phone rings again, and Maribel answers it.

ROLAND (O.S.)

Is Honey home?

MARIBEL

She is.

ROLAND (O.S.)

Can I talk to her?

MARIBEL

No, I don't think that would be good. Why don't you stop calling here? You're not right for my daughter.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD AREA - DAY

Honey, Precious and Wednesday eat together and people watch. They look like the girls they are, laughing and enjoying their friendship.

Precious's hair is frozen with aquanet gel and hairspray. It's a mane teased to perfection.

HONEY

I dunno. You kinda used a little too much aquanet, Precious.

PRECIOUS

Well, how am I supposed to get this  
thin mane to look like Paula  
Abdul's?

WEDNESDAY

I think that's the point. You're  
not Paula Abdul.

PRECIOUS

I take two steps forward. I take  
two steps back.

HONEY

You're lucky you're not her. She's  
dating a cat. I mean, c'mon.

Just then, ROLAND walks into the quad. He's looking quite  
the handsome young man.

PRECIOUS

Ohmygod. Ohmygod. Ohmygod.

HONEY

He's probably listening. You don't  
have to say his name three times.

PRECIOUS

No, look.

Before Honey can turn around, she hears--

ROLAND (O.S.)

Honey! Honey!

HONEY

He's not.

WEDNESDAY

Oh, yes, he is.

Honey turns to find Roland standing in front of their group.

It's awkward times a thousand because Honey doesn't look like  
the temptress he knows. She's wearing a sweater set and her  
entire body is covered.

ROLAND

Woah. That look is ... sumthin'.

HONEY

Why are you here, Roland?

ROLAND  
You haven't called me back. Did I  
do something?

WEDNESDAY  
You can say that.

HONEY  
Shut up, Wednesday.

ROLAND  
So is that it? You're gonna blow  
me off?

HONEY  
No, I just ... my mom.

ROLAND  
Yeah, she's kinda scary. I called  
and she told me not to call ever  
again.

There's now a GROUP OF STUDENTS gathered around them, and  
they're staring. Thankfully, the BELL RINGS.

HONEY  
Can we just talk about this later?  
I'll call you tonight.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Honey doesn't look back as Roland watches her walk away.  
Precious and Wednesday wave to him.

PRECIOUS  
He's totally feenin'.

WEDNESDAY  
Yup. Are you going to tell him?  
You know, about the ...

HONEY  
No.

PRECIOUS  
Why? What if he can help?

HONEY  
No. This is not about him.

WEDNESDAY  
So you're gonna leave him hangin'?  
Not call him back.

HONEY

Yup.

PRECIOUS

Well, if you're not into him  
anymore can I step to that?

HONEY

Shut up.

EXT. CIRCLE K - NIGHT

Roland and his best friend, Conrad, hang out with another B  
BOY GROUP in the parking lot. They're showing off, and  
trying to one up each other.

Roland just sits on the curb, moping. He keeps checking his  
pager.

CONRAD

Dude, can you just get over it?  
Stop looking like a sad ass bitch  
over there.

ROLAND

Man, kiss my ass. She's gonna page  
me.

CONRAD

(mocking)

She's gonna page me. You're  
sprung, spring chicken. Bach bach.

All the GUYS laugh at Roland, but he doesn't pay attention to  
them and checks his pager again. Nothing from Honey.

INT. CABRERA HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Honey reads Bible passages with her mother. Maribel reads  
the verses theatrically from Corinthians 6:10.

HONEY (V.O.)

We all had a week to talk to our  
mothers, so my plan could work.

MARIBEL

... nor thieves nor the greedy nor  
drunkards nor slanderers nor  
swindlers will inherit the kingdom  
of--

HONEY

Mom.

MARIBEL

Honey, we're reading the word of God.

HONEY

I know, but remember that person we visited who wanted to have a relationship with Christ?

MARIBEL

The woman with all the plastic surgery?

HONEY

Yeah, well, she wants to go to the retreat. Her daughter wants to go, too.

MARIBEL

That is great. Her mother is so worldly. I'm surprised one visit helped at all.

HONEY

Right? Well, I figured since it's important, you know, to help those who do not know Christ, well, maybe I could ride with them. I figured I could read passages to them on the way, feed their love for Christ.

MARIBEL

I don't know about that.

HONEY

But you always said that I need to help others who do not see his path.

MARIBEL

True.

HONEY

And her mother has a cellphone. So, you know, I could page you if anything happens.

MARIBEL

You really want to do this? For Christ?

HONEY

Oh, I live to bring people to his light. Please, please, mom.

Maribel takes a second to think about, but Honey keeps begging her the whole time, until finally--

MARIBEL

Okay. You do good works in his name. I'm proud of you, anak.

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Precious talks to her mother, Joan, while she's using the THIGH MASTER.

Joan squeezes the contraption between her legs, open-close, open-close. Her eyes are closed because she's trying to really master her thighs.

She agrees to everything Precious says without really listening to what she's saying. She finally just waves her away.

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Wednesday doesn't even ask her mother if she can spend the night at Honey's house because her mother works most nights. She spends the night watching TV alone.

HONEY (V.O.)

My friends had an easier time than I did, and everything was in motion. We just had to wait.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD AREA - DAY

Honey, Precious and Wednesday sit together having lunch.

Just then, GORGEOUS along with the other FOUR MEMBERS of Desire step out into the center of the Quad. They form a circle, and begin CLAPPING THEIR HANDS.

Desire saunters to and fro, dancing right in front of Honey's group. It's a dance off. Will So Seductive answer the call?

Honey looks to Precious and Wednesday. Desire CLAPS again.

PRECIOUS

That's a challenge.

WEDNESDAY

Bitch.

HONEY

C'mon, guys. Let's shut Gorgeous  
down.

Honey, Precious and Wednesday perform the same dance they did  
at World Beat Center. STUDENTS CHEER.

Desire is here to play, though, and they show off a new  
routine that includes somersaults and upping their wannabe  
sexy goddess moves.

All the STUDENTS in the area SCREAM and HOOT. It's no  
contest Desire just won.

Honey, Precious and Wednesday look around and are really  
intimidated. They try to do another routine, but everyone is  
still cheering for Desire.

GORGEOUS

See you at Girl Battle, guys.  
Hopefully, you'll have better moves  
that day.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - TRACK FIELD - DAY

Honey, Precious and Wednesday walk slowly while the rest of  
their GYM CLASS runs ahead of them. STUDENTS BOO them as  
they run past.

HONEY

What just happened?

PRECIOUS

We got our asses handed to us.

WEDNESDAY

Seriously.

HONEY

Desire was never this good.

PRECIOUS

Or maybe, we're not as good  
anymore?

WEDNESDAY

I hate it when you're smart.

HONEY

Ditto.

PRECIOUS

What are we going to do?

WEDNESDAY

We can't go to Girl Battle and come  
in second or third ... or last.

HONEY

No, we have to win.

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Honey eats popcorn, while Precious and Wednesday drink wine coolers. They're watching MTV. It's 1998 so we see Brandy and Monica's "The Boy Is Mine," Usher's "My Way," and K-Ci + JoJo's "All My Life."

PRECIOUS

You remember that one song we  
killed by Zapp & Roger?

WEDNESDAY

(sings)

Computer loooove.

HONEY

You wouldn't stop dancing like a  
robot. I think we danced to that  
all through seventh grade. Then,  
we got boobies and wanted boys to  
like us.

PRECIOUS

Speak for yourself. I already had  
boobies.

Wednesday digs through all her CDs, and finds Zapp and Roger, the Greatest Hits. She plays it and they all dance like they did when they didn't have an audience.

Wednesday does the robot, while Precious and Honey pop lock behind her. They eventually all dance in unison, and end up in a pose that looks like they're looking at a computer.

They look at each other and bust out laughing. Those were the times.

HONEY

This is it.

PRECIOUS

What's it?

HONEY

We're gonna to dance like we did  
before we wore daisy dukes and tube  
tops, before we wanted boys to  
notice it. We're just gonna to  
dance.

WEDNESDAY

We're so going to lose.

INT. CABRERA HOME - HONEY'S ROOM - DAY

Honey's mother, Maribel, checks in on Honey while she's  
sleeping. She sits on her bed and pulls her blankets up.  
Honey wakes up, and looks up at her mother.

HONEY

Is something wrong?

MARIBEL

No, I'm just ... you're growing up.

HONEY

That tends to happen.

MARIBEL

I am so proud of you.

Honey is filled with guilt, and she takes a minute before--

HONEY

I need ... I need to tell you  
something ...

MARIBEL

Oh, why don't we just pray about  
it? God's word will give us  
strength.

HONEY

But this--

Maribel recites lines from Psalm 51, ignoring Honey's  
urgency.

MARIBEL

I have been evil from the day I was  
born ...

Maribel waits for Honey to finish, but she doesn't.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

I have been evil from the day I was  
born ...

Honey knows if she doesn't finish the line, her mother will  
just keep repeating it, so finally--

HONEY

... from the time I was conceived,  
I have been sinful.

EXT. OLD TOWN - DAY

Old buildings, western museums, and gift shops galore.

Wednesday mom's, Claudia, drops Honey, Precious and Wednesday  
off. It's a busy day as other schools visit Old Town on  
field trips.

Claudia gives all three girls a bear hug. Before they all  
leave, Claudia manages to get Honey into a last minute  
conversation.

Precious and Wednesday wait near the car, while Honey sits  
half in the car and half out it, talking to Claudia.

CLAUDIA

And you're going to a retreat after  
this?

HONEY

Yes, we'll be in the woods and at  
one with nature. We'll be back in  
a couple days. My mom will be  
there.

CLAUDIA

Okay, can I have her number?

HONEY

She doesn't have a cellphone.

CLAUDIA

Does she have a pager?

HONEY

Don't worry about us. We'll be  
fine.

CLAUDIA

Well, can you have Wednesday call  
me? Check in.

HONEY

I'm sure I don't have to remind  
Wednesday to do that. She's so  
responsible.

Wednesday shoves Honey in the stomach because she's  
overselling.

HONEY (CONT'D)

We should go. We might be late.

INT. AMTRAK TRAIN - DAY

Honey, Precious and Wednesday board the train. The HEADER on  
the train reads LOS ANGELES. Honey hands Precious and  
Wednesday their tickets.

They all take a seat near a window. A TICKET CONTROLLER  
checks tickets, and reaches out for Honey's ticket.

TICKET CONTROLLER

Tickets please.

Wednesday and Precious are frozen. Honey takes the lead, and  
hands her ticket over. She motions to Wednesday and Precious  
and they do the same.

Ticket Controller checks all their tickets.

TICKET CONTROLLER (CONT'D)

You going to Los Angeles? You guys  
are a bit young to travel alone.

Oh, no. Precious and Wednesday looked panicked. He knows.

HONEY

I don't think we're so young.

TICKET CONTROLLER

What are you guys doing in Los  
Angeles?

HONEY

Wanna guess?

Ticket Controller looks at Honey. This is a sassy one.

TICKET CONTROLLER

All right. I don't think your  
mothers would let you go out there  
all by yourself.

HONEY  
Ding. Ding.

TICKET CONTROLLER  
Are you visiting a relative, an  
Aunt or Uncle?

HONEY  
Winner!

TICKET CONTROLLER  
Well, which is it?

Precious and Wednesday finally relax.

PRECIOUS  
It's her Aunt. She'll be waiting  
for us in LA.

TICKET CONTROLLER  
Hmmm. Well, have fun, girls.

WEDNESDAY  
Thanks. You're doing a great job.

Awkward, but still, Ticket Controller is satisfied, and he  
walks away.

All three breathe a sigh of relief. Precious and Wednesday  
give Honey a nod. That was good.

Honey watches as the train station becomes smaller. She's  
really headed to Los Angeles.

HONEY (V.O.)  
I'm headed to Los Angeles. In two  
days, I'll be back to being just  
Honey, not Honey the incubator. I  
was so busy waiting for this  
moment, and now that it's here,  
well, the person I want the most to  
be here can't be here ... my mom.

INT. CABRERA HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The house is empty, but in the BG the PHONE rings. The  
answering machine picks up.

MARIBEL (ON ANSWERING MACHINE)  
Hello, praise Jesus in all his  
glory. We are not home to answer  
the phone, but please leave us a  
message.

SCHOOL RECORDING (O.S.)  
 Hello. You're daughter, Honey  
 Cabrera, was absent from school  
 today. Please call the school to  
 confirm.

The phone rings again, and the answering machine picks up.

ROLAND (O.S.)  
 Hey Honey. If you're going to  
 Girl--

And the answering machine cuts him off because it's now full.

EXT. BLITHESOME TIDINGS CHURCH - DAY

Maribel's car is packed, and she's helping CHURCH GOERS fill  
 a van with camping gear.

CHURCH GOER #1  
 Where's Honey?

MARIBEL  
 She's doing God's work, spreading  
 the gospel to those that are lost.  
 She'll join us at the retreat.

CHURCH GOER #1  
 You must be so proud. You raised  
 her well.

MARIBEL  
 Do you need anymore help? We  
 should all get going if we want to  
 be there by tonight.

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - NIGHT

Precious's mother, Joan, works out while cleaning the house.  
 You know, she's a woman of the 1990s, multi-tasking. She's  
 wearing a leopard leotard with matching leg warmers.

She checks messages on their answering machine. The tape  
 plays, and then rewinds and makes a terrible grinding sound.  
 She ejects the tape, and it's ruined.

She doesn't really care because she's busy checking out her  
 butt in the reflection of a mirror. You guessed it, her butt  
 looks great.

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Wednesday's mother, Claudia, is passed out on the couch. Her answering machine is full, but she never checks it, so it doesn't really matter.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - ESTABLISHING

The HOLLYWOOD SIGN, HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME, CHINESE TLC THEATRE. A dirty, smog-filled, stone garden. Hopes and dreams are abound in the air.

It's crowded, streets spilling over with the young and the old.

INT. YELLOW CAB - DAY

Honey, Precious and Wednesday look out the windows, pointing at landmarks. Honey rolls down the window, and gets a whiff of Los Angeles.

TITLE CARD: JUNE 29, 1998.

Their CAB DRIVER ignores them because they're giggling, and speaking in high pitched voices.

HONEY

Wow, I didn't think it'd smell ...  
like pee.

PRECIOUS

That's not pee. It smells  
glorious.

WEDNESDAY

I'm pretty sure it's pee.

CAB DRIVER

Where you guys heading?

HONEY

Can you drop us off at a motel near  
The Palladium?

EXT. MOTEL 6 - DAY

Rundown with a sign that says it offers free HBO. There are FLYERS plastered on the walls about GIRL BATTLE: THE DANCE COMPETITION OF THE DECADE. ALL AGES.

It lists all the groups competing: SO SEDUCTIVE, DESIRE, EXPLIZIT, SENSUAL DREAMS, RISQUE, INDECENT PROPOSAL, RAUNCHY, CAPTIVATING, BODY ROCK, AND ALLURE.

Honey, Precious and Wednesday walk up to the Motel 6 with their backpacks.

The Motel 6 has now been transformed to a sorority house. All the DANCE GROUPS competing in GIRL BATTLE are staying here for the competition.

INT. MOTEL 6 - FRONT DESK - DAY

Precious and Wednesday wait behind Honey as she pays for a room.

The FRONT DESK CLERK takes Honey's money without looking at her.

HONEY

Sorry all the bills are crumpled.  
I kinda was in a hurry.

FRONT DESK CLERK

You get one key, check out time is  
at 3:00 pm.

INT. MOTEL 6 - HALLWAYS - DAY

It's like the 90's threw up all over the place.

All the GIRL GROUPS are either lounging about or sitting near the dirty pool. Every girl here is no older than 16, boobies out and about, skin yelling to be looked at and admired.

They're all flirting with idea of womanhood, but don't have the wisdom yet to understand it.

Honey, Precious and Wednesday take it all in.

Just then, a 90's MEDLEY plays: "Too Close" by Next, "No, No, NO" by Destiny's Child, "Ghetto Superstar" by Ol' Dirty Bastard and Mya, and "You Make Me Wanna" by Usher.

The members of ALLURE wear skin tight MINI SKIRTS. They whip their hair around.

The members of BODY ROCK wear BAGGY PANTS AND TANK TOPS. They kick their legs up, and move into the splits.

The members of CAPTIVATING wear SLIP DRESS. They delicately spin around on their toes.

The members of RAUNCHY wear LEATHER PANTS. They don't really dance as much as dry hump each other.

The members of INDECENT PROPOSAL wear tight HIP HUGGER JEANS. They perform a strip tease, which includes the group taking off their tops to reveal BRAS GILDED WITH BEADS.

EXT. MOTEL 6 - POOL SIDE - DAY

The members of RISQUE wear BODY CON DRESSES. They fan themselves with flyers, while slithering on the chairs they're sitting on.

The members of SENSUAL DREAMS wear TUBE TOPS AND SHORTS. They lie along the side of the pool, and splash each other with water before they dive into the water.

The members of EXPLIZIT wear HOT PANTS. They bend over so we can see their butt cheeks in all their glory.

The members of DESIRE march like they're soldiers before using the tables near the pool as dance props.

The MEDLEY comes to a complete stop, as the members of SO SEDUCTIVE discover the POOL AREA.

Honey, Precious and Wednesday don't know what to do because so many eyes are staring at them.

Gorgeous breaks rank with Desire, and steps to Honey, Precious and Wednesday. She's waiting for them to challenge her.

GORGEOUS

Nice to see you, Honey.

HONEY

Gorgeous.

GORGEOUS

Oh, I know.

HONEY

Eww, whatever.

GORGEOUS

You ready for tomorrow?

HONEY

We are.

GORGEOUS

Well, I hope you guys don't choke again. Actually, I hope you do.

WEDNESDAY

You're a bitch.

All the GIRL GROUPS OOOHH and AHHHH.

GORGEOUS

At least I'm not a loser.

And Gorgeous has the last laugh as Honey, Precious and Wednesday have to walk away to CHEERS and JEERS.

INT. MOTEL 6 - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Honey, Precious and Wednesday sit in their pajamas with face masks on. If they weren't at a Motel 6, it'd look like a teeny bopper sleeping party.

HONEY

I hate Gorgeous.

PRECIOUS

Ditto.

WEDNESDAY

We need to show her up tomorrow.

HONEY

We will.

There's a pause in the conversation because all of them know that after the competition, Honey has an appointment.

They can't say the word abortion right now because it'll make it too real.

HONEY (CONT'D)

I wish my mom were here.

WEDNESDAY

Really? She'd probably pray over all of us, and tell us we're all going to hell.

HONEY

She would, but still ...

WEDNESDAY

Why do we do that?

HONEY

What?

PRECIOUS

Love our mothers even though we know they're bat shit crazy? Why do you think I'm always on a diet?

WEDNESDAY

Your mom has problems.

PRECIOUS

I think all of ours do.

WEDNESDAY

True dat.

HONEY

It's just whenever I get scared I think about when I was in third grade, and I didn't want to go to school, so I hid in the closet. My mother didn't say a word, and she sat in the closet with me. She just held me. I've never felt so safe. I just wish I could talk to her now so ...

Honey cries, and her friends wrap their arms around her to comfort her.

PRECIOUS

You're going to be okay. We're here.

WEDNESDAY

Ditto.

EXT. BIG BEAR - NIGHT

There's so much green, and it's the opposite of the smog-ridden Los Angeles.

There's a BANNER on the CABINS: WELCOME BLITHESOME CHURCH!

Honey's mother, Maribel, unpacks her car, and looks around for her daughter. She's no where to be found.

CHURCH GOER #1 waves hello to Maribel.

MARIBEL

Where are the teenagers?

CHURCH GOER #1  
They're three cabins down. They're  
all here, settling in.

MARIBEL  
I want to check on Honey.

CHURCH GOER #1  
There's an adult prayer circle  
happening in the next five minutes.  
We all need to bless the food  
before we have dinner.

MARIBEL  
Okay, but after that, I need to  
check on my daughter.

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Precious's mom, Joan, eats celery and carrots. She switches  
the channel of the TV to infomercials about weight loss.

She calls Precious's pager, and inputs 6000171647. In pager  
speak this translates to GOODNIGHT.

INT. TORRES APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Wednesday's mother, Claudia, is getting busy with MALE #1.  
They're on the couch, and it's a lot of heavy petting and  
breathing.

CLAUDIA  
Don't worry. My daughter is away  
on a school thing.

EXT. MOTEL 6 - DAY

It's the day of Girl Battle, and there's a buzz in the air.  
Everyone has their game face, and their push up bras on.

AT HER ROOM WINDOW

We see Honey looking out into the world while she brushes her  
teeth.

INT. MOTEL 6 - HONEY'S ROOM - DAY

Honey walks back to the bathroom where Precious and Wednesday  
are getting ready. Without make-up, they look their age.

That changes though, as gradually we see each layer a young girl puts on to convince the world to take her seriously.

First, it's hair, every girl needs to make sure her hair is thick and voluptuous. Honey, Precious and Wednesday each take at least a bottle of aquanet to tease, heat and curl their hair, so they can add a couple years to their faces.

Next, it's underwear. They adorn push up bras and g-strings. And over their underwear, they wear clothing that showcases all the things they've pushed up and tucked in. Each of them wear tube tops and daisy dukes.

Finally, they put make-up on their faces to hide their youth. It's the 90's so they do the 90's favorites: smoky eye, body glitter, and brown lipstick with a darker lip liner.

What do they see in the mirror now? They're still there, but now pose as women.

HONEY  
You guys ready?

EXT. HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM - DAY

A CROWD OF PEOPLE make their way into the building, and it's an ocean of ACID WAS JEANS, COMBAT PANTS, KNEE HIGH FUCK ME BOOTS, and SEE THROUGH MESH TOPS WITH BRAS.

On the MARQUIS, WELCOME TO GIRL BATTLE: ALLURE, BODY ROCK, CAPTIVATING, RAUNCHY, INDECENT PROPOSAL, RISQUE, SENSUAL DREAMS, EXPLIZIT, DESIRE AND SO SEDUCTIVE.

INT. HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM - DAY

The DJ is on STAGE playing a medley of Mary J. Blige's "REAL LOVE," the REMIX of Brandy's "I WANNA BE DOWN," the REMIX of Destiny Child's "No, No, No," and TLC's "Baby, Baby, Baby."

The dance floor is CROWDED. The music is loud, and it shakes the walls.

All the GIRL GROUPS take up different areas of the dance floor, trying to psyche each other out.

Just then, a spotlight on the DJ, and he gets on the mic.

DJ  
Hey, hey, hey, ladies and gents.  
How's everyone feelin' tonight?

A ROAR and CHEERS from the CROWD.

DJ (CONT'D)  
Y'all ready for Girl Battle?

The CROWD reacts, but DJ is not satisfied.

DJ (CONT'D)  
Oh, c'mon now. Are y'all ready for  
Girl Battle?

The CROWD fills with FRENZY.

DJ (CONT'D)  
That's better. As y'all know we  
have ten girl groups competing  
today for bragging rights, a 1000  
dollars, and the chance to go down  
as the greatest in history.

The CROWD parts to clear room on the dance floor.

DJ (CONT'D)  
Tonight's competition will be  
different than most. It's all  
about spontaneity. I'm going to  
play a song, call out a group, and  
you need to all dance to it on the  
spot. You ready?

Complete silence. Really? The DJ plays Missy Elliot's "The  
Rain (Supa Dupa Fly).

The CROWD bops their head to the sick beat.

DJ (CONT'D)  
Body Rock!

The GIRLS from BODY ROCK push their competitors out of the  
way, and apparently the members of Body Rock have seen the  
music video. They copy the dance moves.

The Crowd CHEERS. Still, it's not innovative enough just to  
copy choreography from a music video.

The DJ switches music in the middle of the song, and he plays  
Ghost Town DJs "My Boo."

The music change catches Body Rock off guard. They look at  
each other, and try to come up with something, but it all  
looks disjointed. The Crowd BOOS them off, and they leave.

DJ (CONT'D)  
Looks like that's it for Body Rock.  
Let's give it up for them.

WITH HONEY, PRECIOUS AND WEDNESDAY

They look freaked out because this is not what they expected.

DJ (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Raunchy! You're up!

In the BG, we hear the DJ playing Xscape's "Just Kickin' It" the remix. The song barely gets to the chorus before we hear Raunchy BOOED OFF.

PRECIOUS  
Oh god. Oh god. Oh god.

WEDNESDAY  
Body Rock was up there for what, a minute. Raunchy didn't even last longer than them. This is like some dance to the death shit.

HONEY  
Stop it. We can do this. We have to do this.

MONTAGE OF DANCE BATTLES

-ALLURE dances off to Jodeci's "Come and Talk to Me." They actually do well and get through a second song, TLC "No Scrubs." Unfortunately, one of the members tries to do the splits in the middle of the dance floor, but she totally fails and can't move.

-RISQUE moves to Blackstreet's "No Diggity." They barely make it to the chorus, and the DJ shakes it up by calling out INDECENT PROPOSAL. The two groups step to each other, and try to out dance one another. Indecent Proposal for the win, and they shove Risque out of the away.

-The DJ calls out CAPTIVATING, and they challenge RISQUE. The DJ plays Digable Planet's "Rebirth of Slick (Cool Like That)." The two groups adapt to the song smoothly, and it looks like a draw. The DJ switches to Jon B's "Don't Talk, " and it's still a draw. Neither group will let up. The battle goes into overtime, and the DJ plays Wu Tang's "C.R.E.A.M." Captivating can't get it together fast enough, so they get BOOED off stage.

-RISQUE battles SENSUAL DREAMS, as the DJ plays Notorious B.I.G.'s "Big Poppa." Risque steps to Sensual Dreams, but they can't out dance them, and they get BOOED off stage.

-SENSUAL DREAMS goes head to head with EXPLIZIT to LL COOL J'S "Around The Way Girl." A member of Explizit gets stage fright and runs off stage. Sensual Dreams laugh their asses off.

-SENSUAL DREAMS go against DESIRE, and they lose because they're waiting for the DJ to play music. DESIRE dances without it, and manages to hit the beat when the DJ plays Da Brat's "Funkdafied." There are only two groups left.

END MONTAGE OF DANCE BATTLES

The CROWD calls out DESIRE's name again and again. Desire steps to SO SEDUCTIVE, but Honey, Precious and Wednesday are frozen in place.

DJ

So Seductive, show us what you got!

WITH HONEY, PRECIOUS AND WEDNESDAY

PRECIOUS

We can't go out there.

WEDNESDAY

I'm with her. Gorgeous is on point right now. We're going to embarrass ourselves.

PRECIOUS

Seriously, that crowd is out for blood.

HONEY

Stop it, both of you. We are going to go out there and win this. We have to win this.

PRECIOUS

Honestly, I'm okay with being mediocre.

WEDNESDAY

Ditto.

HONEY

I need the money okay! I need it for tomorrow.

Precious and Wednesday look at each other, then at Honey. They didn't realize.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Please.

Honey doesn't look so confident now. She looks completely defeated.

PRECIOUS  
Why didn't you tell us?

HONEY  
I don't know. I thought ...

WEDNESDAY  
We're your friends.

HONEY  
I know.

WEDNESDAY  
You can trust us.

Precious and Wednesday wrap their arms around Honey. They look at each other. They have to do this ... for Honey.

WEDNESDAY (CONT'D)  
Let's get out there before I throw  
up.

ON THE DANCE FLOOR

The DJ plays BBD's "Poison." Desire slithers about, but So Seductive steps to them, and pushes them back into the Crowd.

Desire and So Seductive continue their dance off to TLC'S "Creep," and both groups do not skip a beat. The Crowd is in an UPROAR. This is crazy.

It's all a blur, song after song, there's always a stalemate. We hear 112's "Only You" the Bad Boy Remix, Destiny's Child's "Jumpin', Jumpin'," Arrested Development's "Tennessee," and finally New Edition's "Hit Me Off."

Both groups are exhausted. They're clearly out for this title. The GIRLS from Desire and So Seductive are resting.

Gorgeous yells at her dance mates.

GORGEOUS  
Get up!

The Girls from Desire are beat. They can't get up.

So Seductive catches their breath, but things look hopeful on this end. Honey says a silent prayer to herself.

HONEY (V.O.)

God, I know you're probably not listening to me right now, and I don't have any right to ask you for anything, but could you please help me?

DJ

All right let's mix it up for a minute.

Just then, the DJ plays Zapp & Roger's "Computer Love."

Gorgeous steps forward, but none of the members of Desire follow her lead. She dances, but it looks sloppy.

Honey, Precious and Wednesday look at each other. They love this song.

HONEY

(looks up)

Thank you.

WEDNESDAY

Oh shit!

PRECIOUS

Come on, Honey. Let's win this!

And So Seductive dances like they did when they were little girls. No overt sexuality, or come hither looks, just the joy of being with your friends when you were young and naive.

The CROWD goes CRAZY. They STOMP THEIR FEET and CLAP THEIR HANDS.

CROWD

So Seductive! So Seductive! So Seductive!

DJ

It looks like we have a winner!

Honey looks relieved for the first time since this journey began. She hugs Precious and Wednesday. They did this together.

EXT. BIG BEAR - YOUTH CABINS - DAY

Honey's mother, Maribel, knocks on the door of one of the three cabins looking for Honey. She's not there. She moves onto the second and the third, and no one has seen Honey since they got there.

Maribel calls the house, listens to the messages, none from Honey. She erases the messages as she listens to them. She hears one from Roland about something called Girl Battle, and then finally, from Honey's school, Bell Jr. High.

MARIBEL

What? She didn't go to school?

EXT. BIG BEAR - PICNIC AREA - DAY

Maribel along with CHURCH GOER #1 gathers the TEENAGERS OF BLITHEsome to question them about Honey and her whereabouts.

TEENAGER #1

I haven't seen her since Tuesday.

MARIBEL

It's Thursday. None of you have seen Honey since Tuesday?

There's conversation amongst the Teenagers, but no one saw Honey at school on Wednesday.

TEENAGER #2

The last time I saw her was when you picked her up from school Tuesday.

MARIBEL

She said after school on Wednesday, she was riding with her friend and her mom to the retreat. Her name was something ... Precious.

TEENAGER #1

Those two are probably together, along with Wednesday. They're best friends. Did you call Precious's mom?

MARIBEL

What? They're not best friends. My Honey never said anything like that.

All the Teenagers look at each other. They can't believe Honey never told her mother about Precious or Wednesday.

TEENAGER #1

They've all been best friends since seventh grade.

## CHURCH GOER #1

Maribel, do you need help? We can help you.

Maribel looks like she's about to cry, but instead she heads for her cabin, and emerges with her purse. She gets in the car without talking to anyone.

## INT. TOYOTA COROLLA - DAY

Maribel drives as fast as her conscious will let her, which is five over the speed limit. She recites Bible verses to herself because she's so afraid and confused about the situation.

## MARIBEL

Proverbs 13 verse 5: The righteous hate what is false, but the wicked make themselves a stench and bring shame on themselves.

## INT. BAUTISTA HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Precious's mother, Joan, gets home from a day of shopping, and checks her machine for messages. Her ex-husband called. Blah, blah, blah. She fast forwards that message.

The next message is another recording from Bell Jr. High.

## SCHOOL RECORDING (O.S.)

Hello. You're daughter, Precious Bautista, was absent from school today. Please call the school to confirm.

Joan's brows wrinkle, and she immediately stops and checks the mirror. Yes, her face still looks flawless.

She pages Precious: 911. No call. She pages her again and again. Still no call.

## INT. BAUTISTA HOME - UPSTAIRS - DAY

Joan heads for the bathroom, and pages Precious one last time. This time, she hears buzzing coming from Precious's room.

INT. BAUTISTA HOME - PRECIOUS'S ROOM - DAY

Joan finds the source of the buzzing: Precious's pager in her room inside a desk drawer.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - COUNSELING OFFICE - DAY

DEGREES FROM SDSU AND UCSD are on the wall. A bookshelf full of books about TEENAGERS and TWEENS. A wilted potted plant sits on the desk.

Wednesday's mother, Claudia, sits with a SCHOOL COUNSELOR. The School Counselor points to his computer screen.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

This is serious. Wednesday is failing most of her classes. She is constantly truant. In fact, she missed school on Wednesday.

CLAUDIA

No, no, she didn't. She went to that field trip, you know, at the place with the great margaritas and that haunted house, Whaley something.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Old Town?

CLAUDIA

Yeah, that's it. I dropped her off with her friends right at the front. She wasn't absent on Wednesday, and about her grades, we'll get them up.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

You say this every time I meet with you. You need to stop being her buddy, and start being her mom, or she won't move on this year. And, hold on ...

School Counselor gets on his COMPUTER and brings up Wednesday's ATTENDANCE RECORD.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

See, yes, she was absent on Wednesday. There was no field trip to Old Town. Your daughter lied to you.

CLAUDIA

Well, that's impossible. She tells me everything.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

Claudia walks out to the front of the office with School Counselor. She looks really confused.

Meanwhile, Joan waits to see SCHOOL COUNSELOR because she can't find her daughter.

CLAUDIA

Well, where is she, then?

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

We don't know.

CLAUDIA

You don't know. She goes to this school.

School Counselor ignores Claudia, and says hello to Joan.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

I'm sorry for the long wait. We're a bit understaffed. Budget cuts.

JOAN

I'm looking for my daughter.

CLAUDIA

Where's my daughter?

Just then, Maribel walks in, and sees Precious's mother, Joan, and a woman she doesn't know.

MARIBEL

Joan?

JOAN

Oh, thank goodness. Where's Precious?

MARIBEL

I thought she was with you?

CLAUDIA

Wait, wait, wait. Your Honey's mom? And you're Precious's mom? This is a trip.

JOAN

Let me guess, you don't know where your daughter is either?

Maribel and Claudia shake their heads in the negative, and all three woman suddenly realize they've all been conned. Where are their daughters?

INT. HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM - NIGHT

It's a celebration. The VICTORS of GIRL BATTLE sit on the stage, smiling. Honey waves the money they won to the CROWD. The Crowd CHEERS.

Precious and Wednesday are with the DJ, dancing with him as he plays Ginuwine's "Pony."

Honey watches a CROWD OF YOUNG GIRLS, scantily clad, dance provocatively with MUCH OLDER GUYS around them. No one seems to question why these older guys are hanging out with such young girls.

Just then, Roland jumps on stage and sits next to Honey.

ROLAND  
Hey, congrats!

HONEY  
Oh ... hey.

ROLAND  
Look, what did I do?

HONEY  
Nothing. You did nothing.

ROLAND  
Then, why are you trippin'?

HONEY  
Really, Roland? I'm trippin'?

ROLAND  
That's what I said.

HONEY  
Your parents have money. You go to a private school. I'm not trippin'. I'm ignoring you.

Honey gets up, and Roland grabs her arm, but Honey pulls it away.

HONEY (CONT'D)  
Just leave me alone.

WITH THE DJ

Honey dances with the DJ, while Precious and Wednesday are on the turn tables. The DJ leans in to kiss Honey, and she pulls back. He does it again, and she pulls back yet again.

The DJ then grabs Honey's head and makes her kiss him. Honey knees him in the balls.

Roland jumps in, and pushes DJ. They're about to start fighting, when--

HONEY (CONT'D)

Just stop it! Stop it!

ROLAND

Honey, you saw what he did.

HONEY

I don't need your protection!

ROLAND

Calm down.

DJ

Yeah, little baby, it was just a kiss.

HONEY

Screw you! I am not your baby or your Honey. I'm not yours or his. And you can't protect me, not from every look, every glare. Every time I step out in the world, you can't protect me!

Honey stops SCREAMING long enough to see that EVERYONE in the building is STARING AT HER. Her face turns red, and she RUNS OUT. Precious and Wednesday follow her.

Roland tries to follow, but--

PRECIOUS

We got this. We'll take care of her.

INT. MOTEL 6 - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Precious and Wednesday get Honey ready for bed. They take off her make-up, comb her hair out, and put her in the unicorn pajamas she brought for the trip.

When they're all done, she looks like a little girl again, like Honey.

HONEY

Can you guys stay with me?

PRECIOUS

Of course. We won't go anywhere.

WEDNESDAY

Yeah, we're here, Honey.

Precious and Wednesday hug Honey and she cries.

HONEY

I'm really scared.

WEDNESDAY

We know. We're here.

PRECIOUS

We love you. We won't let anything bad happen to you.

Honey cries herself to sleep, while her friends stroke her hair and hold her hand.

EXT. MOTEL 6 - DAY

Roland waits for Honey, Precious and Wednesday to emerge from their room. When he sees Precious coming toward him, he waves. She looks serious though, grim.

PRECIOUS

Look, you won't leave Honey alone. I know it's because you care about her, but if I let you come along with us this morning, you have to promise not to speak or judge her. Can you do that?

ROLAND

Where are you guys going?

PRECIOUS

That's not what I asked you. I asked you not to speak or judge her. Again, can you do that?

Roland doesn't know why Precious is acting this way, but finally--

ROLAND

Sure.

A CAB PARKS near the Motel 6, and HONKS ITS HORN.

PRECIOUS

There's our cab. Remember what I said.

Wednesday and Honey emerge from their motel room holding hands. She sees Roland with Precious, and glares at Precious.

PRECIOUS (CONT'D)

I know. He promised he won't ask questions.

INT. YELLOW CAB - DAY

Honey sits in the cab with Roland on one side, and Wednesday on the other. Precious sits in front with the driver.

Honey looks at Roland. She notices he's barely growing facial hair. He has a little acne, and his face is shiny probably because he didn't take a shower. He looks as young as she does.

HONEY

(to Roland)

I'm sorry.

ROLAND

For what? You didn't do anything.

HONEY

Not yet.

ROLAND

What's going on, Honey? You can tell me.

HONEY

I just ... we're both not ready. Remember that I'm sorry, okay?

ROLAND

I still don't know what you're talking about, but sure, I will.

HONEY

I wish we had did the whole talking thing, then that turned into boyfriend and girlfriend. You know, like kids.

ROLAND

We can still do that.

The cab comes to a stop because they're at their destination.

HONEY

No, we can't.

EXT. PLANNED PARENTHOOD - DAY

It's weird how one building can look so intimidating. The name PLANNED PARENTHOOD looks larger than life on the outside of the building.

Honey, Precious and Wednesday exit the cab. Roland follows. He looks to Honey, and wants to talk to her more, but Precious gives him a look.

INT. PLANNED PARENTHOOD - DAY

It's a dull room with pastel colors. There are the usual suspects, magazines, fake plants, and the low hum of elevator music in the background.

An OFFICE RECEPTIONIST stands behind a high desk. Honey has to tip-toe to see her.

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Can I help you?

HONEY

I-I have an appointment today.

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Name please?

HONEY

Honey Cabrera

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Date of birth?

HONEY

December 16th, 1984.

## OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

All right, why don't you have a seat, and someone will call you.

Honey takes a seat with her friends. Roland has an idea of what's going on, but he keeps his mouth shut because everyone looks so solemn.

Honey doesn't wait very long before her name is called. She unceremoniously stands and heads for the NURSE who called her name. Just as the door closes behind her, she turns to look at Roland. He looks at her with compassion and sadness. He knows.

## INT. PLANNED PARENTHOOD - SURGICAL ROOM - DAY

Honey is in a gown, sitting in a chair with her feet up in stirrups.

She closes her eyes as they examine her before the procedure. So many images go through her head.

We don't see who is examining her. They're masked by her legs.

## HONEY (V.O.)

I spent so much time trying to prove to people that I wasn't a little girl. I just wanted people to take me seriously, to look at me, to listen to me. It's weird though because when they do finally pay attention to you, well, you don't want them to anymore.

Honey's exam is over, and now they're starting the procedure. She winces.

CUT TO:

## INT. CABRERA HOME - HONEY'S ROOM - FLASHBACK

The room looks like a TWEEN'S ROOM. It's pink with posters of BANDS from the 90's: THE BOYS, HI-FIVE, 112.

TITLE CARD: SEPTEMBER 5, 1993.

## MARIBEL (O.S.)

Honey, are you getting ready for school? We're leaving in ten minutes!

THIRD GRADE HONEY hides in her closet, and shuts it. MARIBEL comes looking for her, and doesn't find her.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)  
Honey. Honey?

Third Grade Honey moves around in the closet, and Maribel opens it to find her sitting there.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)  
Oh, Honey. What are you doing?

Honey doesn't answer. She just holds her arms out to her mother.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)  
Come here, anak.

Maribel takes Honey into her arms, holding her. The two just sit there. They don't talk for the next five minutes, or worry about being late for school. They just hold onto each other like it's the most common thing to do.

CUT TO:

INT. PLANNED PARENTHOOD - PATIENT ROOM - DAY

The walls are decorated with POSTERS of WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE PARTS.

Honey wears a paper thin robe, and she sits on a bed. Her clothes are on a chair.

Near her bed, there's a heating pad, maxi pads, juice and crackers.

A NURSE comes in, holding two pill bottles.

NURSE  
Hello.

Honey doesn't answer. She just stares blankly at the Nurse.

NURSE (CONT'D)  
Take your time getting dressed. Do you have someone to drive you home?

No answer.

NURSE (CONT'D)  
I think I saw you come in with some friends. Do you want me to get them?

No answer.

NURSE (CONT'D)

I'll go do that, but I also want to give you these, pain killers and antibiotics. Make sure you finish the antibiotics.

No answer.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Are you okay, dear?

Honey just looks at the heating pad and maxi pads in front of her.

Just then, Precious and Wednesday come into Honey's room.

PRECIOUS

Honey?

WEDNESDAY

What's wrong with her?

NURSE

She just needs some time.

Wednesday picks up Honey's clothes. Precious gathers Honey's possessions. Honey is still unresponsive.

WEDNESDAY

Here, let's get you dressed.

INT. MOTEL 6 - HONEY'S ROOM - DAY

Honey is no longer staring blankly at the floor. She's curled up in a fetus crying.

Honey can hear voices outside of her room. She knows her friends are worried about her, but she can't help it. She can't stop crying.

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

We have to call a grown up now.  
It's time.

WEDNESDAY (O.S.)

Are you crazy? Do you know what Honey's mother will do to her?

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

I don't care. We're just kids.  
She won't stop crying. How are we  
going to get her home?

WEDNESDAY (O.S.)

Just give her time okay. She just  
had someone reach into her hooha  
and play tug of war.

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

Oh, stop it. Stop acting like what  
happened to her is like going  
through a drive through. She had  
an abortion, okay. Say the word.

ROLAND (O.S.)

Stop! You two. This is not about  
any one of us. Precious is right.  
We need to call her mom.

Honey burrows her head into her shoulder, crying harder.

INT. CABRERA HOME - HONEY'S ROOM - DAY

Honey's mother, Maribel looks through Honey's things to find  
an answer to where she went.

Precious's mom, Joan, doesn't help, and just sits on Honey's  
bed staring at her face in a compact.

Wednesday's mom, Claudia, looks through Honey's closet.  
There's a lot of sweater sets and long sleeves.

She looks in the back of Honey's closet, and finds  
provocative clothing bundled up together. It's an assortment  
of tube tops and booty shorts.

CLAUDIA

I guess your Honey is not the good  
girl you thought.

MARIBEL

I don't understand. Honey is a  
Christian girl. She prays, and she  
goes to church. She probably got  
it from your daughters. They're  
bad examples.

CLAUDIA

Excuse me? I'm a good mom. At  
least I knew she had friends.  
She's very comfortable with me.

(MORE)

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Did you know they come to my house every week?

MARIBEL

And you probably give them drugs and such. This is why my Honey is gone.

CLAUDIA

I don't give them drugs. Pizza and some wine coolers maybe, but that's all.

JOAN

Pizza? You gave my daughter pizza? What is wrong with you?

CLAUDIA

You're worrying about pizza? Our daughters are missing.

JOAN

I knew it. She wasn't losing weight. She had to be sneaking food somewhere.

CLAUDIA

Oh, go stare at yourself in the mirror some more. Your daughter hates you. She didn't want to be on a diet.

JOAN

At least I parent her, and don't act like her best friend.

Maribel looks through the closet at Honey's secret stash of clothing. She finds a pushup bra and a thong. She's shocked.

MARIBEL

We didn't know any of our daughters.

Just then, the phone rings. Maribel rushes to the phone. Joan and Claudia follow.

INT. CABRERA HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maribel doesn't reach the phone in time, and the answering machine picks up. Maribel hears a GIRL'S VOICE on the machine, and picks up the phone.

Claudia and Joan watch Maribel on the phone, anticipation on their faces.

MARIBEL

Hello? Honey. Where are you?

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

Mrs. Cabrera? It's Precious Honey's friend. She really needs you.

EXT. CABRERA HOME - DAY

Maribel, Claudia and Joan get into Maribel's TOYOTA COROLLA. They're all so frantic.

CLAUDIA

That's all she said?

JOAN

Yeah, she didn't give you details?

MARIBEL

She just said Honey is in trouble, and gave me the address to pick her up.

JOAN

And they're in Los Angeles? How?

CLAUDIA

I did drop them off in Old Town the other day. Maybe, they took the train?

JOAN

You what? And you think to mention that now?

CLAUDIA

Well, I thought it was a field trip.

JOAN

Were any other students there joining them?

CLAUDIA

No, but still ...

MARIBEL

We're wasting time right now. Get in the car. Now!

EXT. 405 SAN DIEGO FREEWAY - NIGHT

A TOYOTA COROLLA speeds down the freeway, weaving in and out of traffic. The car is going way above the speed limit.

INT. TOYOTA COROLLA - NIGHT

Maribel drives like the devil is chasing her. Joan and Claudia give each other scared looks, but don't say anything and brace themselves.

Maribel prays as she drives. Joan and Claudia are so scared they silently join her, mouthing the words to Psalms 51:1.

MARIBEL

Be merciful to me, O God, because  
of your constant love. Because of  
your great mercy wipes away my  
sins!

INT. MOTEL 6 - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Honey has calmed down a bit, but she won't let anyone touch her. She's still curled up in a fetus on the bed.

Precious and Wednesday keep watch near the window, looking for their mothers.

Roland sits on the floor near Honey's bed, watching her. He's waiting for the moment Honey reaches out and needs someone.

MARIBEL (O.S.)

Honey! Where are you? I'm here!

Precious and Wednesday see Honey's mother in the hotel's COURTYARD followed by Joan and Claudia.

EXT. MOTEL 6 - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Precious and Wednesday walk out to the COURTYARD, and Honey's mother sees them.

MARIBEL

Where's Honey? What happened?

PRECIOUS

She's okay. She's okay. We have  
to tell you something.

In the BACKGROUND, we see ROLAND watching Precious with Maribel. He knows she's telling Maribel what happened. Honey got pregnant, and had an abortion.

FROM ROLAND'S POV

Maribel YELLS. Precious only repeats herself. Maribel cries. Precious looks to her mother, Joan. Please help.

Joan holds Maribel until she calms down. She holds her by her shoulders and points to the room where Honey is in. She looks like she's trying to calm her down.

BACK TO SCENE

Roland steps out of Honey's room. Maribel sees him, and walks toward him.

EXT. MOTEL 6 - POOL SIDE - NIGHT

Precious sits with her mother, Joan, at the pool. They both have their feet in the water.

PRECIOUS

This pool probably hasn't been cleaned in months, years even.

JOAN

You know you're going to be grounded for a year.

PRECIOUS

I know.

JOAN

Why didn't you come to me? From the start?

PRECIOUS

I dunno.

Joan and Precious are silent for a beat, then--

JOAN

It's like I don't know you anymore.

PRECIOUS

You never did.

JOAN

That's not fair.

PRECIOUS

All you talk to me about are calories.

JOAN

I just want you to be thin. My mother she wasn't there for me, and that's because my dad left her. If she was--

PRECIOUS

I've heard this story already. Still, have you ever asked what I want?

JOAN

You're just a little girl. What you want is what I tell you to want.

PRECIOUS

That's why I never told you.

EXT. MOTEL 6 - COURT YARD - NIGHT

Claudia sits with Wednesday who will not talk to her. Her mother tries different tactics, like making faces at her so she'll laugh. It doesn't work.

CLAUDIA

Maybe when we get home we can make brownies and veg out in front of the TV?

Wednesday doesn't respond.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Or we can order pizza?

WEDNESDAY

Stop!

CLAUDIA

Chill out.

WEDNESDAY

Chill out? Chill out? When will you get it?

CLAUDIA

What? We tell each other everything. Well, until recently.

WEDNESDAY

You're my mom! You're not my buddy or bestie. Stop acting like you're my age.

CLAUDIA

Wednesday Adams Torres. Do not speak to your mother like that.

WEDNESDAY

Oh, now you're my mother. Now you pick the time to be my mom.

CLAUDIA

I'm sorry. It's just my mother was so strict, and I went behind her back and did what I wanted anyway.

WEDNESDAY

And you had me. Your life is so tough.

CLAUDIA

Let me finish. I just wanted to be the opposite of my mom. I didn't think it'd make you hate me.

WEDNESDAY

I don't hate you, mom.

CLAUDIA

I'm sorry. I'm sorry, okay. I'm trying. I'll try harder.

WEDNESDAY

I know you will.

Wednesday and Claudia sit together silent for a beat, then Wednesday takes Claudia's hand into hers.

CLAUDIA

I wish you had told me.

WEDNESDAY

I do too.

EXT. MOTEL 6 - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Roland reaches out to shake Maribel's hand, but that doesn't happen, and she slaps Roland instead.

MARIBEL

How dare you!

Roland recovers and moves his jaw around. Ouch.

ROLAND  
You definitely are Honey's mother.

MARIBEL  
This ... this is all your fault.

ROLAND  
I'll take that. If you want to blame me for what happened, you can do that. I don't care.

MARIBEL  
Get out of my way. I need to see my daughter.

Maribel pushes Roland out of the way, and before Maribel enters the room--

ROLAND  
I will, but I want you to know that Honey is good. No matter what she did. She's good.

MARIBEL  
I know who my daughter is.

INT. MOTEL 6 - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Maribel slowly opens the door to Honey's room. Honey still lies on the bed. Her back is to the door.

Maribel takes a seat next to Honey.

MARIBEL  
Honey, I don't know, Honey. I really don't know.

Honey doesn't turn around, but speaks for the first time since Planned Parenthood.

HONEY  
I'm sorry.

MARIBEL  
What about your purity ring?

HONEY  
Obviously, I can't wear it.

MARIBEL

Why? Why did you do this to yourself?

HONEY

I don't really have an answer. I just felt so small, so insignificant. I wanted that to change.

MARIBEL

So you have The Sex with that boy, get yourself in trouble, then break God's law.

HONEY

I made some mistakes. Can't you just forgive me?

MARIBEL

Let's just pray about it. C'mon. I know the perfect verse. Galatians. The acts of the flesh are obvious: a sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery ...

Maribel notices Honey isn't reciting the Bible verse with her.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

Honey, you have to say this. You have to swear to God that you are sorry, and you will never disobey his law again.

HONEY

No, I won't.

Maribel moves, kneels in front of Honey. She's desperate.

MARIBEL

Please, Honey. You need God's forgiveness. Galatians, Idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord ...

Maribel grabs Honey's hands.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

Please say it.

HONEY

No, no! I don't want God's forgiveness.

Maribel grabs her daughter by the shoulders and shakes her.

MARIBEL

Don't say that.

HONEY

I want your forgiveness, mom! I want you to look at me, the real me.

MARIBEL

I do. I do, Honey.

HONEY

No, you just recite some Bible verse and that's it. You think that's being my mom? It's not.

MARIBEL

I'm sorry. I think I'm being a good mother, but I'm just messing it all up.

Maribel sits on the bed with Honey.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

I just don't want you to make the same mistakes I did. I didn't go to college. I had a baby. I want more for you.

HONEY

How come you never told me?

MARIBEL

I feel ashamed. Your Lola arranged my marriage to your dad to protect the family name.

HONEY

Do you ... do you regret me?

MARIBEL

No, no. Don't you ever think that.

Honey hugs her mother, and Maribel holds her. They both cry.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

I forgive you. I forgive you.

HONEY

I love you, mom.

INT. CABRERA HOME - HONEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Honey is back at home. She is freshly showered and sleeping in her bed. Her friends, Wednesday and Precious are sleeping in her bed with her.

Honey wakes often and cries. Wednesday and Precious both calm her down until she falls back asleep.

HONEY (V.O.)

It's weird, the friendships you have when you're a kid. You think they're never gonna change.

INT. OCAMPO HOME - NIGHT

It's wealthy, high-end furniture and appliances. Roland sits on the couch, while his MOTHER AND FATHER YELL him.

HONEY (V.O.)

Roland's parents found out about us, and freaked out. They eventually decided to move his entire family to the Philippines.

MOTHER

What is wrong with you?

FATHER

He's stupid, that's it. I told you not to drink wine when you were pregnant.

MOTHER

It was one glass the whole time.

FATHER

Well, look at him. He thinks he should stick his dick into every hole he can find.

MOTHER

What are we going to do with you, huh?

EXT. CABRERA HOME - DAY

Wednesday sits with Honey in front of her house. They're drinking soda on her porch. Somehow they both look older.

HONEY (V.O.)

Wednesday's mother decided to move their family to San Francisco. She promised Wednesday she'd get her act together, finish school and get a real job.

WEDNESDAY

I'll miss you.

HONEY

Me too. Have you talked to Precious?

WEDNESDAY

No, she's too busy with her new friends.

HONEY

At least, she's happy.

WEDNESDAY

Ditto.

HONEY

I can't believe we're all splitting up.

WEDNESDAY

Oh, don't say that. That's not what's happening. We're going to keep in touch, even Precious. We'll all still be friends.

Honey doesn't respond. She just smiles at Wednesday, and they both sit together silently.

EXT. OCAMPO HOME - DAY

A VAN is packed with THE OCAMPO'S BELONGINGS AND CLOTHING. Some of the boxes are labeled: BALIKBAYAN, PHILIPPINES.

Roland sees Honey and waves to her.

ROLAND

Hey. You made it.

HONEY

When does your plane leave?

ROLAND

Tonight. My parents and I have a red-eye straight to the Philippines.

HONEY

I can't believe they're doing this.

ROLAND

They say I'm spoiled and soft. I need to see how kids really live. They're making me get a job.

HONEY

Oh man.

ROLAND

Yeah, I know.

The two just stare at the van filled with Balikbayan boxes.

ROLAND (CONT'D)

Funny thing is, I'm kinda happy I'm leaving.

HONEY

I'm not. So ... friends?

ROLAND

Always.

EXT. SWEETWATER HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Precious waits near the FLAG POLE. She's laughing and chatting with a NEW SET OF FRIENDS.

They're all eating CHIPS and JUNK FOOD. There's no calorie counter, or guilt because she ate food that might make her gain weight.

A CAR PULLS UP and we hear a HORN. It's PRECIOUS'S DAD. Precious waves goodbye to her friends.

HONEY (V.O.)

Precious ended up living with her dad, and going to a different school. We tried to stay in touch, but you know how it is.

PRECIOUS

Hi Dad!

DAD  
Hey how was your day?

PRECIOUS  
I ate carbs.

DAD  
Woah, walk on the wild side, don't  
you. What do you want to eat for  
dinner?

The two take a beat, then look at each other and--

|       |          |       |              |
|-------|----------|-------|--------------|
|       | PRECIOUS |       | DAD (CONT'D) |
| Pizza |          | Pizza |              |

INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY

A bland office with THERAPIST BOOKS, and IKEA furniture.

A THERAPIST takes notes, and nods while Joan talks.

HONEY (V.O.)  
Precious and her mom go to therapy  
every week, but not much has  
changed.

Precious sits with her mother, Joan. They're getting  
counseling, but Joan seems to want to do all the talking.

THERAPIST  
Why don't we let Precious talk?

JOAN  
Why?

THERAPIST  
Joan, we talked about this.  
Listening.

JOAN  
Okay, fine.

THERAPIST  
Precious, what do you want from  
your mom?

PRECIOUS  
I want you to stop working out so  
much.

JOAN  
But how will I lose weight?

EXT. TORRES APARTMENT - DAY

Wednesday helps her mother, Claudia, with moving boxes. Wednesday gets a pager message from Precious, then one from Honey: 6000843. Goodbye.

INT. HONDA CIVIC - DAY

Claudia and Wednesday share snacks for the road. They roll down the windows, and take in the air as they drive.

CLAUDIA  
We have a good nest egg saved up.  
We're going to find our purpose.

WEDNESDAY  
I'd be happy if you just graduated college.

CLAUDIA  
And I will, and you'll get a new start, stay out of trouble.

WEDNESDAY  
Mom.

CLAUDIA  
I'm sorry. But you'll see your friends still. Don't worry.

EXT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD AREA - DAY

Honey walks through the area at lunch time, and STUDENTS stare at her. A few point and whisper.

TITLE CARD: JULY, 1, 1999.  
TITLE CARD: ONE YEAR LATER.

Honey looks virtually the same, but carries herself differently. There's a confidence there. She's definitely grown a lot in the last year.

HONEY (V.O.)

Today is my anniversary. Most people would think it's weird that I remember the day I set foot in a Planned Parenthood, and all that happened after that. I don't though.

INT. BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

STUDENTS sit at tables that are set up throughout. Honey sits with OTHER STUDENTS. A TEACHER hands out GED booklets and pencils.

TEACHER

You will have an hour to get through the first half, a ten minute break, then another hour to finish the test. If you need anything, please make sure you raise your hand.

Honey opens her booklet, starting her test.

HONEY (V.O.)

When I got back to school, it was really difficult. People wouldn't stop staring or talking about me. Well, they still do. I eventually decided to take the GED, so I could start over.

INT. CABRERA HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Honey's house is changed a bit. There are still religious items in the house, but a lot of the religious SCRIPTURE on the WALLS are gone.

Honey is back home, and waits near the phone. She looks at the clock. It's 11 am.

HONEY (V.O.)

We all thought we'd remain friends, that nothing could split us up, not after what happened. But life just happened. Every year, though, they call me at the same time, and we don't talk about what happened. We just talk.

Just then, the phone rings. Honey answers.

PRECIOUS (O.S.)

Honey?

HONEY

I'm here. Hold on, my other line  
is ringing. It's probably  
Wednesday. I'll three way.

Honey switches to the other line.

HONEY (CONT'D)

Wednesday?

WEDNESDAY (O.S.)

That's me.

HONEY

Hold on.

Honey clicks the phone again, and all of them are on a three  
way call.

THE SCREEN IS DIVIDED INTO THIRDS, SO WE SEE ALL THREE  
CHARACTERS.

PRECIOUS

It's our yearly call.

WEDNESDAY

Well, if you returned messages, we  
could talk more.

PRECIOUS

Oh, stop, Wednesday.

HONEY

How is your boyfriend?

PRECIOUS

We broke up.

WEDNESDAY

I'm dating a girl now.

PRECIOUS

What?

WEDNESDAY

It's true.

HONEY

Hey, before we get into it, thanks  
for calling.

INT. CABRERA HOME - HONEY'S ROOM - DAY

Honey hides in the closet, crying. She still has crying fits. Her mother, Maribel, looks for her.

MARIBEL

Honey, are you here?

HONEY

I'm in here.

Maribel opens the closet door, and finds Honey sitting there. Maribel kneels and extends her arms out to her daughter. The two embrace. They sit with each other for a beat.

HONEY (V.O.)

I actually have real conversations now with my mom. No Bible verses. She really sees me now. I'm not good or bad. I'm just Honey. And to her, that's beautiful. Despite all that's happened, I know one thing: I couldn't have survived it all without her.

FADE OUT.