

PALM SPRINGS

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EXT. CALIFORNIA DESERT - DAY

We're LOW TO THE GROUND, floating through a patch of Desert Marigolds swaying with the breeze, a stark contrast to their desolate, eerily silent surroundings. Until --

A TORTOISE trudges into frame, an imposing prehistoric beast from this angle. Three healed SCARS mar its shell -- remnants of a lifelong shitstorm. And it's about to get worse.

A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE HITS, the tortoise halts. A CRACK splinters in the earth's crust -- ORANGE LIGHT bursts up -- Mother Nature takes the tortoise, burying it alive. Or dead. Who knows? Who cares?

CUT TO:

A PERFECTLY CLEAR NIGHT SKY. Full moon, every constellation. As we PAN ACROSS, the muffled sound of Gram Parsons' "Return of the Grievous Angel" crescendos until we land on its source: A ROADSIDE BIKER BAR. A true desert dive lost in time.

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - NIGHT

PUSH IN on NYLES, 35 -- his head down on the bar, dressed in swim trunks and a Hawaiian shirt, a full glass of whiskey to the side. How he ended up here is anyone's guess, but what's clear is a faded self-regard and fatalistic outlook. A few BARFLIES throw darts and eat chili behind him.

DARLA, 60s, a crusty regular, rubs his leg. Nyles shoots up.

DARLA

You okay, sweetheart?

NYLES

I've felt everything I'll ever feel
so I'll never feel ever again.

Darla looks to TED THE BARTENDER --

DARLA

What're you pouring this kid, Ted?

TED THE BARTENDER

That's his first drink.

NYLES

I thought I knew how to live. But I
didn't. Or, I don't? You know what
I mean.

DARLA

Darlin', take a look around: whatever
you're after, it ain't here...

Nyles stares back at Darla -- for an uncomfortably long time.

Darla cocks her head. *What the fuck is this guy on?*

DARLA

(to Ted the Bartender)
You sure he didn't take something?

TED THE BARTENDER

He's sober. Kid's just moping there.

Nyles glares at Ted, defiantly shoots back his whiskey, and shatters his glass on the floor.

NYLES

I'm a fucking adult, Thaddeus.

TED THE BARTENDER

Talk to me like that and you'll be
pulling your teeth from the bar.

Nyles sizes up the barflies leering at him. He turns to Ted and holds a peace sign... and rotates it into a middle finger.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - NIGHT

We HEAR the sound of a FIGHT: SHOUTING, GLASS BREAKING -- The front door flies open and two GIANT BIKERS hurl Nyles face first onto the gravel parking lot, then go back inside.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

Nyles trudges up a moonlit road. He takes a Tecate from his pocket and drinks as he reaches the top of a hill, where another source of LIGHT illuminates his face. He gazes out with a look of recognition -- and resignation:

A LARGE ESTATE at the end of the road, 100 yards down, in this otherwise pitch black desert valley. The MAIN HOUSE in the center, with two large GUEST HOUSES, all connected through strands of twinkling lights extending down a long dirt driveway, packed full of hybrid cars.

Nyles continues toward the estate, passing a SIGN: "Tala & Abe's Wedding - November 9," stenciled on driftwood in white Futura font. Nyles SLAPS it down as he passes.

NYLES
 Nooooooooovember ninth.

PRE-LAP the sound of LAUGHTER FROM A CROWD --

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

A Pinterest board come to life: Under an intricately designed web of lights fixed to palm trees, FIFTY WEDDING GUESTS of all ages and dressed in all sorts of hip, eclectic attire sit at tables assembled around a DANCE FLOOR, where MISTY (28, a bridesmaid with face gems) is giving a drawn-out speech --

MISTY
 ... hashtag LifeGoals. So, this was supposed to be three minutes and I'm going on like ten. Sorry, not sorry.

TALA (28, bride, flower crown) WOOS to Misty, then cuddles up with her groom, ABE (28, dapper 'stache), high on marriage.

MISTY
 To wrap things up... Tala, girl, you're the sister I always wanted.

TALA
 Love you, babe!

AT THE BAR: SARAH HARRIS (32, cool tattoos, an emotional fortress, Tala's real sister), scoffs at this as she waits for her wine to be filled.

Luckily she's far enough away so no one heard her besides DAISY THE BARTENDER (30, droll) who fills her wine halfway.

SARAH
 Throw me a bone, this isn't the day for moderation.

After a brief staredown, Daisy fills the rest, letting it spill over the edges. Sarah smiles, tips \$10, GLUGS half the glass, and heads back to the tables.

Everyone clinks their drinks for Tala and Abe to kiss --

ABE
 That's my cue --

Abe, always the charmer, pulls Tala in for a long kiss while guests cheer. As he releases her, Sarah returns to her seat across from them, watching with quiet judgement.

Tala smiles at her sister, Sarah feigns one back.

Misty turns the page of her notes --

MISTY

Oh, wait, there's still another page. I'll make this quick.

The laughter is dying out. This is really dragging on.

MISTY

I decided to Google the two most important things about marriage. *Love and Commitment.*

SARAH

Jesus Christ.

Tala shoots Sarah a look: *Stop.* Sarah nods: *Yeah, sorry.*

MISTY

Love is "to feel a deep romantic or sexual attachment to someone." We know they're fine in that department.

Tala and Sarah's parents, HOWARD and PIA (50s), wince. Sarah lets out an unconvincing chuckle.

MISTY

And *Commitment* is "the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etcetera."

Silence. Crickets. Not the triumphant ending she hoped for.

TALA

Woo-hoo!

Tala and Abe stand and clap. Everyone else joins in applause.

MISTY

Without further ado, let me bring up the maid of honor, the *actual* big sister of the bride, Sarah.

All eyes land on Sarah -- caught mid wine sip.

SARAH

Uh...

Sarah doesn't move. Howard leans across the table.

HOWARD

Get on up there, peanut.

SARAH

No one told me I was supposed to give a speech.

HOWARD

Of course you're supposed to give a speech, you're the maid of honor. That's your main job.

PIA

She's been drinking, Howard.

Sarah looks at her sister and Abe apologetically. Tala struggles to hide her disappointment.

NYLES (O.S.)

(Subtitled Italian, Spanish, and French)
Bonsoir mi familia et amici!

Heads swivel to the dance floor. Nyles has commandeered a mic.

MISTY

(away from her mic)
What are you doing?

NYLES

Going in for the assist, babe. I'd like to share my thoughts on love.

MISTY

No, you wouldn't.

ON THE BRIDE/GROOM TABLE:

ABE

Who's this guy?

TALA

Misty's boyfriend.

DANCE FLOOR, Nyles addresses the guests:

NYLES

Here's what you want to hear, what I want to say, what you want me to say. What all this solipsistic horseshit means...

Sarah stifles a laugh. Nyles notices.

NYLES

You're born lost, then you're found... but we're all just lost, am I right?

Sarah watches intently. *Is he talking about me?* Other guests trade awkward glances.

NYLES

But these two. Tala Anne Harris and Abraham Eugene Trent Schlieffen, you proudly wave the middle finger in the face of all that negativity. Then you give it a thumbs up.

Some smiles begin to trickle through the crowd.

NYLES

Your optimism, your selflessness, it's in your blood. Just look at Nana and Papa Schlieffen. After narrowly escaping persecution in Nazi Germany, they devoted themselves to giving other refugees a safe passage to the U.S.

NANA and PAPA SCHLIEFFEN (90s) smile at the shout out. Papa pats his Sudanese son, JERRY (20), on the back.

NYLES

They found hope, purpose, and empowerment through love. And I see that same fire burning in you two. You'll use your love for good. To inspire. To change.

Tala leans into Abe --

TALA

How does he know all that?

Abe shakes his head -- he has no clue.

NYLES

Tala. Lovely, stunning Tala. Tonight's true beacon of altruism. There's something most people here probably don't know about you, but they should, so they can all appreciate the wealth of humanity on display. I hope it's okay?

Tala has no idea what he's about to say.

NYLES

It's not just time and money that Tala gives to so many charitable causes. She donated her physical self: bone marrow.

(MORE)

NYLES (CONT'D)

While we all gorge that shit, she gave hers up to Baby Brother Nico, saving his life.

Everyone is stunned by this revelation. Tala smiles at her hipster brother, NICO (23), through scattered applause --

NYLES

You should clap, it's scary! She gave so much. But now it's time we give to you.

Nyles locks eyes with Sarah, like he's addressing her now.

NYLES

Here you are. On the precipice of something much larger than any of us, facing that wide open road. It may seem frightening, filled with uncertainty. But remember: you are not alone.

Tala and Abe look at their guests, hanging on every word.

NYLES

Everyone here is your family. We are your world. We will bolster you up when you're low, and we will cheer you on with delight in our eyes as you fulfill your every dream. So, raise a glass.

Nyles takes a Tecate from the pocket of his swim trunks and holds it up, again looking at Sarah:

NYLES

We may be born lost. But you have been found.
(subtitled Arabic: "Welcome home.")
Marhabaan bik fi albayt.

CHEERS and TEARS ALL AROUND, as we PRE LAP the tropical disco beats of Brian Eno and Karl Hyde's "Daddy's Car."

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - LATER

A BACCHANALIAN DANCE PARTY. Guests bounce, groove, grind -- energized by the LOVE in the air. Tala *Bhangras* with her dad, Howard. Nana Schlieffen *shimmies* with Jerry from Sudan. Abe *Soulja Boys* with his new mother-in-law, Pia. Brother Nico makes out with ERIN (27, bridesmaid).

Sarah nurses her wine off to the side, watching Tala and Abe.
 RANDY (25, bolo tie, top knot), drunkenly dances up to her.

SARAH

I already told you *No* earlier. What makes you think I changed my mind?

RANDY

I dunno, you've had more to drink?

SARAH

You can't say that to me --

RANDY

Oh whatever, I don't have time for a lecture.

Randy dances away, one hand in the air. Sarah shakes her head, and as she takes another sip of wine -- she locks eyes with Nyles, across the dance floor, smiling back at her.

Nyles struts onto the dance floor, navigating the sea of partiers with a cool familiarity. He effortlessly anticipates each passing guest's dance moves and incorporates them into his own unique, complicated, and fucking bizarre routine.

He weaves his way over and presents himself in front of Sarah, holding out his hand: *Dance with me?*

She shakes her head. *Not a chance.*

He tucks in his Hawaiian shirt, slicks his hair back, licks his fingers and grooms his eyebrows, then pirouettes.

There's intrigue on her face at least. Her aloof facade may be dropping... But she still declines.

Nyles shrugs, then performs a flawless cartwheel back to the center of the floor, narrowly kicking multiple guests yet, somehow, missing each one by inches. He continues letting loose with Sarah's family -- high-fives to Howard and Abe, a twirl for Pia, an undeniable master of this universe.

Off Sarah, increasingly curious about this odd stranger.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - LATER

As Nyles waits patiently at THE BAR, something hits his senses. He looks around, suddenly alert... He squints --

OFF IN THE DISTANCE: behind some shrubs, shrouded in darkness, a silhouette, swaying side to side... *Is that a person?*

Nyles SNIFFS the air...

SARAH (O.S.)
What are you smelling?

Startled, Nyles spins to find Sarah behind him. Covering, he sniffs her hair.

NYLES
Viktor and Rolf Flowerbomb, right?

Sarah cocks her head.

SARAH
Uh, yeah. That's weird.

NYLES
I know my hair mists. Dated a girl who bathed in it.

SARAH
I hate it, but it was a birthday present from Tala last year and she'd kill me if I didn't wear it.

Daisy the Bartender returns with two COCKTAILS. Nyles offers one to Sarah.

NYLES
I always order two drinks at a time. Saves an extra trip.

SARAH
Or maybe you're an alcoholic?

Nyles shrugs: *Yeah, maybe.* She takes the drink, they cheers, then meander away from the bar.

SARAH
You're Misty's boyfriend, right? I don't think we met at the rehearsal last night. I'm Sarah.

NYLES
Nyles. So what's the deal, you don't like to dance?

SARAH
Plantar fasciitis.

NYLES
Respect.

Sarah smiles, just as Nana and Papa Schlieffen interject.

PAPA SCHLIEFFEN

Son, I've been to more weddings in my life than you could imagine --

NYLES

You'd be surprised.

PAPA SCHLIEFFEN

I have to say that your speech was the best wedding speech I have ever heard. *Shukraan.*

Papa Schlieffen pats Nyles on the shoulder and walks off.

SARAH

You don't actually believe any of that stuff you spouted, right?

NYLES

Not a word. We're all fucking alone.

An O.S. COUGH -- Nyles anxiously glances at the shrubs again, that swaying silhouette still there.

NYLES

Hey, uh, want to go somewhere we can be alone?

SARAH

Wow. That's a little forward. What's the rush?

NYLES

Your mom's about to sing and I can't handle that right now.

Nyles gestures to the DANCE FLOOR, where Pia and her two SISTERS are setting up to sing a song.

As Sarah looks over, Nyles glances back to the desert shrubs... then Randy emerges from behind, zipping up his pants. He was just peeing. Nyles exhales with total relief, and turns back to Sarah with a renewed ease about him.

SARAH

What would Misty think about us running off together?

CUT TO:

ANGLE THROUGH A WINDOW: Misty leans against the bathroom sink as TREVOR (25, groomed beard, Zara suit) goes down on her.

SARAH (O.S.)

Can't say I ever really liked her.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - SIDE YARD - THAT MOMENT

REVEAL: Nyles and Sarah squeeze next to each other, spying on the scene through a small window.

NYLES

She has her moments. But yeah. This one hurts.

SARAH

You know she tried to get Tala to make her the maid-of-honor because I missed the bachelorette party? Manipulative bitch.

(then)

Who's the guy?

NYLES

Ex-boyfriend. Trevor.

SARAH

Why don't you go in and stop them?

NYLES

There isn't a world where these two don't end up together.

Nyles stops looking, leans against the house, gazes out to the desert. He actually *does* seem a little affected by this.

Sarah slides down beside him. Misty's MOANS continue.

SARAH

Well, if it makes you feel any better, you gave a great speech and everyone out there loves you.

NYLES

That's true.

SARAH

On the other hand, they see me as a liability who fucks around and drinks too much.

NYLES

Why would they think that?

SARAH

Because I fuck around and drink too much.

NYLES

Mmm. Don't we all?

MISTY SQUEALS -- Nyles gestures behind him: *See what I mean?*

SARAH

And now they just worry and try to take care of me, but it's suffocating.

NYLES

Yeah, I was never great with unsolicited help. Like, don't tell me how to live my life.

SARAH

Exactly, I can fend for myself.

NYLES

Of course you can. You don't need a leg up --

Another MOAN, followed by --

MISTY (O.S.)

-- *hold my legs up* --

NYLES

That was weird.

SARAH

This is so fucked up.

NYLES

Soooo fucked up.

They both look back through the window.

SARAH

Kind of hot though.

They share a smile. Locked in. She feels it, he feels it, sparks fly, Misty climaxes, shit's getting real. Connection.

EXT. DESERT - ON TOP OF A BOULDER - NIGHT

Nyles and Sarah make out on top of a small boulder, not far from the party. Sarah keeps trying to untie Nyles' board shorts but they're double knotted.

SARAH

Okay, I give up. Take off your clothes.

NYLES

You got it.

Nyles stands up and seductively unbuttons the top button of his shirt, the second... then he RIPS it off.

Nyles moves to his board shorts, but they're tied too tight for him, too. His faux suave-ness on hold as he focuses in --

NYLES

Almost got 'em...

And... he gets it! He yanks them off, so he's down to just his boxer-briefs.

SARAH

You wear underwear *under* your bathing suit?

THWACK! AN ARROW FLIES INTO NYLES' SHOULDER.

NYLES

AGGGHH FUCK!!!

Some BLOOD sprayed onto Sarah's face -- SHE SCREAMS!

Nyles spots a MAN (50s) in army fatigues and a HUNTING BOW at the base of the boulder.

NYLES

I thought I smelled you, you piece of shit!

The Man fires another arrow, GRAZING Nyles' left love handle. He SCREAMS IN AGONY.

SARAH

What the fuck is going on?! Who is that?!

The Man begins to climb up to them. Nyles staggers away from Sarah, slides down the opposite face of the boulder, and runs off into the desert, the Man in pursuit.

EXT. DESERT VALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Nyles rounds a corner and pauses to catch his breath. He turns around. Looks like he lost the Man.

THWACK! AN ARROW FLIES INTO HIS THIGH. Nyles SCREAMS.

NYLES

You're a sick fuck, Roy!

Nyles sprints with everything he has around a bend. ROY (the man) scurries out of the shadows after him.

EXT. DESERT HILLSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

Nyles hobbles around the bend, losing blood, slowing down... and he collapses before a mound of boulders blanketing the side of a hill... *almost* at his destination:

A TRIANGLE-SHAPED CAVE in the hillside, twenty feet ahead.

But he can't make it in time -- Roy's grunting just around the bend. Quick decision -- Nyles army crawls to the other side of a nearby Joshua Tree, concealed by darkness. He holds his breath, remaining completely silent, just as --

Roy rounds the bend -- and stops before the cave. Roy looks around, but he can't see Nyles. It's too dark.

NYLES' POV: Roy's menacing silhouette, fifteen feet away. Roy shouts *into* the cave.

ROY
Keep running, shit bird. I'll
always find you.

Then, with a disappointed sigh, Roy marches forward -- *into* the cave. And after a few seconds... Roy vanishes. Weird.

Relieved, yet still in excruciating pain, Nyles uses his remaining strength to crawl into the cave, following Roy.

INT. TRIANGLE CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Nyles goes deeper, groaning and wincing with each movement.

SARAH (O.S.)
(a loud whisper)
Hey!

He turns his head to find Sarah, twenty feet back, standing at the mouth of the cave.

NYLES
Stop! No no no --

SARAH
Are you okay?

NYLES
Don't come in here --

A POWERFUL FORCE SUCKS NYLES DEEPER INTO THE CAVE -- FARTHER AND FARTHER FROM SARAH -- A BURST OF ORANGE LIGHT --

MISTY (PRE-LAP)

Wake up.

CUT TO:

INT. NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nyles wakes up in bed, shirtless, free from any injuries or scars. He rolls over with a yawn to find Misty wrapped in a towel, leg up on the bed as she moisturizes. Her hair and make-up are wedding ready.

NYLES

That's a good leg.

She gives him a cheeky smile.

INT. NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - BATHROOM - MORNING

Misty and Nyles have sex. And it's a struggle. (This is the same bathroom we saw Misty and Trevor in.)

MISTY

You close? I can't start sweating.

NYLES

Working on it, darling.

After a few more thrusts, Misty stops, frustrated.

MISTY

I have to get ready. Just finish on your own. Watch me, I don't care.

Misty heads to the bedroom.

NYLES

Cool, yeah, that's romantic.

Nyles tries masturbating, watching her dig in her suitcase...

But he catches his reflection in the mirror -- sweat beading on his chest hair, fat jiggling with each stroke. He grimaces back, full of shame, a weak man trying to feel something... So he strokes harder, faster, FASTER --

INT. NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Starfished on the bed, Nyles cycles through every channel on TV, never stopping. Misty pulls on her bridesmaid's dress.

MISTY

No offense, but you're the only guy
I've been with who's had a problem
coming. And don't say the age
thing. I've had older boyfriends.

Nyles keeps his eyes locked on the TV.

NYLES

It's not you, it's me.

MISTY

Yeah, no shit.

NYLES

I meant it's you, not me.

MISTY

Funny.

NYLES

I meant kill me.

MISTY

Look, I know weddings make you
super uncomfortable, but please
don't bring our drama here. This
day doesn't belong to us. It's Tala
and Abe's.

Nyles gives a thumbs up. Misty doesn't buy his sincerity, but also doesn't have time to argue. She escapes to the bathroom.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - FRONT - MORNING

Howard carries a driftwood sign down the driveway. At a fork in the road, he hammers it in the dirt with a mallet. REVEAL THE SIGN: "Tala & Abe's Wedding - November 9."

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - MORNING

IN SLOW MOTION: Nyles does a cannonball into the pool, soaking the pool deck with his splash.

MOMENTS LATER

Nyles floats on an inflatable pizza raft, beer in hand, a few in his pepperoni cup holders. Jerry (from Sudan) swims by on a KICKBOARD. Nyles offers him a beer from a BOX by the pool.

JERRY
 (accepting the beer)
Shukraan.

After a few moments:

JERRY
 Good day so far?

NYLES
 Today, tomorrow, yesterday, it's
 all the same. Yourself?

JERRY
 Today is young. Ask me again at the
 end. Anything can happen.

Jerry shoots Nyles some flirtatious side-eye.

NYLES
 Not today, sauce pot. Nice try,
 though.

Jerry laughs nervously.

SARAH (O.S.)
 YOU!

Sarah storms up to the side of the pool, almost slipping on
 the water. Nyles FREEZES --

SARAH
 (to Nyles)
 What the fuck did you do to me?

Jerry looks at Nyles, horrified.

Nyles sees Jerry, looks back to Sarah -- panics -- and
 submerges himself to escape.

UNDERWATER

Nyles dodges a bombardment of Tecate cans thrown from above.

We're with him for as long as he can hold his breath, while
 we hear Sarah's muffled shouts --

SARAH JUMPS IN THE POOL, grabs Nyles' hair, yanks him up --

Nyles surfaces with a GASP, arms FLAILING --

SARAH
 Tell me what the fuck is going on!

But before Nyles can come up with an answer:

TALA (O.S.)

Sarah!

Sarah turns: Tala, hair and make-up wedding-ready, is crossing the yard --

TALA

Oh my god, what are you doing?!

Tala reaches the pool deck -- and SLIPS ON WET CONCRETE -- her face SMACKS the ground.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT VALLEY - THE NIGHT BEFORE

SARAH'S FACE -- all horror and confusion -- hiding behind a bush as she watches:

THWACK! AN ARROW FLIES INTO NYLES' THIGH. Nyles SCREAMS.

NYLES

You're a sick fuck, Roy!

Nyles sprints with everything he has around a bend. Roy scurries out of the shadows after him.

Sarah waits. Listening intently...

It's quiet.

But she can't miss whatever the fuck this is so she follows after in a full sprint --

EXT. DESERT HILLSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

Sarah rounds the corner but no one is there. She hears a SOUND -- a faint groan. Coming from --

THE TRIANGLE CAVE. Sarah follows the groans -- until she's at the mouth of the cave.

She can faintly make out Nyles crawling twenty feet in.

SARAH

(a loud whisper)

Hey!

Nyles turns his head --

NYLES

Stop! No no no --

SARAH
Are you okay?

NYLES
Don't come in here --

-- Nyles vanishes into the cave. No sound, no orange light.
All goes silent.

SARAH
Hello?

Nothing.

But something about the cave draws her in. Some intangible urge she can't resist, this black hole of both curiosity and escape, and she has to know what's inside. She steps forward.

INT. TRIANGLE CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Sarah's hands trace the walls for guidance. The moonlight dims as she goes deeper... Until it's completely PITCH BLACK.

Then -- a faint sliver of an orange light appears in the distance, growing brighter the closer she gets. It lights up her face, revealing a mix of wonder and fear --

SARAH
What the fuuuuuck???

AN ORB OF ORANGE LIGHT SWELLS -- ENGULFS SARAH --

SHE LOSES CONTROL OF HER BODY -- THE ORB COLLAPSES --

-- A BRIGHT BURST OF ORANGE --

CUT TO:

SARAH'S CLOSED EYE LIDS

The SUN beats down on them. Her eyelids fly open --

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The harsh ray of sunlight slices through a gap in the curtains onto her face. She shoots up, assesses her surroundings, piecing things together...

This room is familiar. Shag carpet, black silk sheets, clothes scattered on the floor, someone in the shower. *Was that all a dream?*

She jumps out of bed, quickly dresses, peers out a WINDOW: Howard and Nico carry sections of the altar, wrapped in plastic; Pia talks to the FLORIST by the main house. *They're setting up for the wedding.*

SARAH
What the fuck?

She hears the shower turn off. PANIC. She has to leave --

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - SIDE YARD - MORNING

The taupe backside of the estate. Desert shrubs, a noisy AC unit, and, above it, a small window... which OPENS. Sarah wiggles out head first but gets stuck at her waist.

SARAH
Come on...

O.S. VOICES approach. She FREEZES, looking toward two large trash bins by the corner --

Howard and Nico appear with giant balls of plastic wrap. They don't see Sarah teetering out the window as they smash the plastic in the bin. Howard shuts it and they walk off.

Once out of sight, Sarah uses all her strength -- STRAINING -- and pushes OUT -- taking the entire window frame with her --

SLAMS onto the air conditioner, BOUNCES off, and lands on a CACTUS. A silent SCREAM --

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - FRONT - MORNING

Sarah hurries to her Kia rental car, parked among the others, and gets in the front seat.

INT. SARAH'S CAR - PARKED - CONTINUOUS

Sarah catches her breath, steadying herself. She checks her PHONE: **The date and time - 9:40am, November 9.**

She drops it. *What's happening?* She stares into the rearview mirror and SLAPS herself, again and again, sanity cracking --

SARAH
Wake up. Wake up.

BEHIND HER, we see Jerry in his swim trunks, towel over the shoulder, kickboard in hand. He stops to watch, weirded out.

JERRY
 (shouting)
 Are you okay?

SARAH
 Nothing makes sense.

They stare at each other for a moment -- helpless terror on her face, confusion on his. Too much for him to handle, he scurries off to the backyard.

She drops her head onto the steering wheel, giving up.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - FOYER - MORNING

ON SARAH as she quietly opens the front door, hoping to go unnoticed... but is hit by the mad rush of people bustling about to set up, the onslaught of wedding decorations, Tala and Abe's engagement POSTER before her. Nausea strikes --

PIA (O.S.)
 There you are!

Pia stands on a ladder tying photos of Tala and Abe to tweed string across the room.

PIA
 (shouting out)
 Tala! I found Sarah!

Pia waddles off the ladder and grabs Sarah --

PIA
 We were looking for you all
 morning, come on --

She leads Sarah into the --

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Where Nana Schlieffen ties ribbon around silverware and Nico blows up balloons. Howard cools off with a wet washcloth on his neck while drinking a glass of water.

HOWARD
 Sarah, peanut!
 (gives her a kiss)
 You must've gotten up early, I
 checked your room at six --

SARAH
 Yeah... I went on a hike.

HOWARD
You look exhausted. Stay hydrated.

Howard offers her his water.

PIA
Tala should be done with her make-up soon, so you need to be ready.

SARAH
I need a minute.

PIA
She made a specific order for you girls, and we already moved Misty up because we couldn't find you.

Sarah's gaze darts around the room, her mind racing.

SARAH
(to Howard)
This is really happening, right?

HOWARD
I don't understand the question.

SARAH
This day already happened.

Pia looks over at Howard with a concerned look...

HOWARD
What are you saying?

SARAH
It was real. It felt so real.

PIA
Are you on drugs again?

Sarah stops suddenly, staring out the window to the backyard.
IN THE POOL: Jerry... and Nyles.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - MORNING

Sarah storms up to the side of the pool, almost slipping on the wet pool deck. Nyles freezes at the sight of her.

SARAH
What the fuck did you do to me?

Jerry looks at Nyles, horrified. Nyles panics -- and submerges himself to escape.

Sarah grabs cans from the box of Tecate, firing into the water at Nyles while she berates him.

SARAH
Hey! Come back up here!

Jerry uses his kickboard to shield himself.

SARAH JUMPS IN THE POOL, grabs Nyles' hair, yanks him up --
Nyles surfaces with a GASP, arms FLAILING --

SARAH
Tell me what the fuck is going on!
But before Nyles can come up with an answer:

TALA (O.S.)
Sarah!

Sarah turns: Tala is crossing the yard --

TALA
Oh my god, what are you doing?!

Tala reaches the pool deck -- and SLIPS ON WET CONCRETE --
her face SMACKS the ground.

INT. BRIDAL SUITE - MORNING

Tala WAILS, claspings her bloody mouth. Sarah stands beside her, drenched and shellshocked -- Tala grabs her hand --

It's all out pandemonium; a mess of snot, tears, and streaks of mascara. Pia, Misty, and Erin (bridesmaid) dab Tala's eyes, Nico looks on with a morbid curiosity, Howard frantically paces around the bedroom on the phone.

HOWARD
Nico! Get me the teeth --

Tala WAILS some more. Nico hands Tala's TEETH to Howard.

HOWARD
(into phone, re: teeth)
The three front teeth are broken in half, one full canine... I'd guess two millimeters? ... Yes, the wedding is today... in six hours...

Sarah silently observes this nightmare... We go into her POV: BLURRY FACES coming into focus to scream at her:

PIA ERIN
Get ice, Sarah! Help! Help, Sarah! Do something!

... a nauseating nightmare... swirling pastels...

MISTY
Why were you in the pool?

SARAH
I can't be here. This doesn't make any sense. None of this makes any fucking sense!

PIA
You're making it worse!

Sarah flees to the door, flings it open, and STARTLES when she finds Abe listening in --

ABE
What happened? How is she?

TALA
Don't let him in! He can't see me!

ABE
I need to see you, baby!

TALA
Don't fucking come in here!

HOWARD
(covers phone; to Abe)
She'll be okay. I found a dentist in Cathedral City...
(into phone)
Yes, sorry. We'll be there soon!

Abe leans in close to Sarah, quietly asking:

ABE
How bad is it?

Sarah just stares back, trapped by this bizarre situation.

HOWARD
Everyone! I'm taking Tala into town. This dentist glues teeth!

Tala WAILS -- it's all too much -- Sarah VOMITS on the floor.
Abe leans back, grossed out --

HOWARD
No, Sarah, no!

Howard grabs a towel, tosses it to Sarah, commands the room --

HOWARD

Alright! Pia, keep setting up --

PIA

I am going with you.

Pia cradles Tala in her arms.

HOWARD

Okay. Girls, you're on table decor.
Jerry and Nico are here to help.
Your bride-slash-wedding planner
needs some emergency surgery so --

He looks at Sarah, but she's useless right now, so --

HOWARD

Misty, you're in charge. All hands
on deck! We can do this!

Off Tala's WAILING --

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - DAY

Nyles slouches in a lounge chair, but he's far from relaxed. He stares off, dwelling on the chaotic turn of events. Beer cans litter the pool bottom.

Sarah wanders out of the house, physically and emotionally drained, and collapses onto one of the chairs.

Nyles tries to bury any semblance of guilt... and smiles as he cracks open another Tecate.

NYLES

So I guess you followed me.

SARAH

What's going on?

NYLES

I tried stopping you.

(then)

Tecate?

SARAH

But *what* is this? *When* is this?

NYLES

This is today. Today is yesterday.
Tomorrow is today. And so on. One
of those infinite loops.

Sarah's mind is melting. Grasping for any help, or hope.

SARAH

How do I stop it? I don't want
tomorrow to be today. I want
tomorrow to be tomorrow.

NYLES

That's never going to happen.
Tomorrow will always and forever be
today.

He holds out a beer to her again, but she just sinks back
into her chair, approaching, if not already at, complete
hopelessness. Nyles feels... bad? A little.

NYLES

At least Tala's teeth will be back
tomorrow. So she'll still have her
dream wedding. That's good, right?

Ignoring this, Sarah looks to the canyon beyond the property.

SARAH

Which way is that cave?

Nyles sighs and points. Sarah walks off, determined.

Nyles sips his beer and attempts to continue his sky gazing,
but he's clearly bothered. His routine's been fucked with.

NYLES

Fuuuuuck.

EXT. DESERT CANYON - DAY

Sarah mutters to herself, scanning the boulders, searching
for the cave. From the edge of the canyon, we get a clear
picture of how big it is, and how small Sarah is within it.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER...

The afternoon sun blazes on. Sarah is completely lost, just
miles of boulders and hills that all look the same. She
passes an empty tortoise shell with three distinct cracks.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER...

Sarah, out of steam and hope, sits on a small boulder, waiting for something, anything. But there's only that eerie silence, that desert wind. She lies on her back. Giving up.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER...

The sun begins to set. Sarah hasn't moved, made evident by a festering sunburn. She stares dead-eyed at the sky. Then --

Nyles steps up, drinking a beer. He offers her a sip and she quickly takes it. Any liquid helps.

SARAH

Please. Where is it?

NYLES

You have to wait.

SARAH

Fuck you. Just tell me.

Nyles gives up... and points to the other side of the canyon. Almost directly across from them. But there's no cave.

SARAH

Where?

Nyles looks toward the horizon... watching... He takes a few steps back, to the left, like he's looking for his mark...

NYLES

Wait for it... Almost... Okay.
(dead serious)
I am the Antichrist.

Nyles SNAPS his fingers -- and an **EARTHQUAKE BEGINS**.

Sarah freezes, bracing herself --

Nyles casually drinks his beer as ROCKS TUMBLE out of place, careening across the canyon, landing all AROUND him.

The earthquake stops. Nyles, satisfied with himself, looks back at Sarah -- *what the fuck was that?*

NYLES

I'm kidding, there is no god, the
earthquake happens every day. But --

Nyles points across the canyon -- to the cave, right there in plain sight. Sarah heads over, intent on ending this day.

NYLES

You won't find what you're looking for in there. Once you go in the day will just restart, right back to wherever you woke up this morning.

Sarah pauses.

NYLES

Same thing if you stick around. The second you fall asleep it just starts over. Weird, huh?

SARAH

But will *this* day end if I go in there?

NYLES

Sure. For you.

Sarah continues into the cave and vanishes in the darkness.

All alone now, Nyles sips his beer, conflicted. He looks back toward the direction of the wedding, and all of its tumult. And into the cave, now with an entirely different feeling of dread. He hangs his head, unable to make a decision.

CUT TO:

SARAH'S CLOSED EYE LIDS OPENING UP --

-- but she immediately squints at a harsh ray of sunlight.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Sun through the curtains. Shag carpet. Black silk sheets. Shower running. She shoots up, peeks OUTSIDE: Howard and Nico carry the altar; Pia talks to the florist. It's all the same.

SARAH

No, no, no.

In a panic, Sarah turns around, scans the room: The bathroom door. The window to escape. Her keys on the bedside table.

MISTY (PRE-LAP)

Wake up.

INT. NYLES' AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nyles wakes up and finds Misty, in her towel, moisturizing her leg. She glances at him, as if expecting a comment.

MISTY
Good morning...

Nyles curls into a ball, not ready to face the day.

I./E. SARAH'S CAR - MOVING / HIGHWAY - MORNING

Sarah races down a desert highway. A blank look on her face.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - MORNING

Nyles cautiously steps up to the pool, lingering by the edge, anticipating Sarah's arrival. Jerry kickboards across.

NYLES
Have you seen Sarah around?

JERRY
No, sorry. Maybe she's with Tala?

Nyles, relieved, gives a thumbs up, then falls into the pool.

EXT. GAS STATION, MIDDLE OF NOWHERE - MORNING

Sarah downs three 5-Hour-Energy shots as she fills her car.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Still wet from the pool, Nyles pours every alcohol he can find into a blender, as the family prepares for the wedding.

HOWARD
She didn't leave a note or anything? Are you sure she didn't text back?

PIA
Check my phone if you don't believe me. Sarah realized the day wasn't about her so she left.

HOWARD
Don't say that.

Nyles flips ON the blender -- and it's LOUD. Pia and Howard both glare at him, but he doesn't take his eyes off the cyclone of booze. He flips it off and pours into his cup.

NYLES
Or she's scared.

HOWARD
Who, Sarah? Of what?

NYLES
Weddings, families, commitment,
people, death, intimacy, melanoma,
judgement. Sauce.

Pia and Howard stare back at him.

NYLES
(resigned)
She'll be back.

Nyles heads out to the pool.

I./E. SARAH'S CAR - MOVING / HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Sarah passes a SIGN: "Welcome to Texas." Windows down, Sarah SLAPS her face to stay awake.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

As the crowd laughs at Misty's speech, Nyles watches Daisy fill his wine. He drinks and looks at Sarah's empty chair, then over to Tala. She's staring at it too, missing her sis.

I./E. SARAH'S CAR - MOVING / HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Sarah is still driving. Wide awake. 32oz coffee in hand.

INT. NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Nyles stumbles in drunk and flops on the bed.

MISTY (O.S.)
-- hold my legs up --

EXT. HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Austin, TX. Sarah parks her car in front of a small home.

INT. SARAH'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Photo booth strips of Sarah with various friends cover the fridge, depicting a life full of partying and bars. Dishes are piled in the sink. A lone cup in the drying rack.

Sarah grabs the cup and fills it with water. She drinks, puts it back in the drying rack, then moves into her --

BEDROOM

And finds her two cats on an unmade bed. She shuts her blinds to block the early morning sun and crawls in. She stares up at the ceiling for a moment, mind still racing.

SARAH

This is all a dream. This is all a dream. This is all a dream.

She shuts her eyes.

CLOSE ON Sarah's face... Her closed eyes... Then --

A SLIVER OF SUNLIGHT STRIKES HER FACE.

Her eyes open. It's a new day. Shag carpet, black silk sheets. Someone in the shower. She's back. *Fuck.*

CUT TO:

INT. NYLES' AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nyles sleeps in bed. Just another day. Misty is in the bathroom. A KNOCK. Nyles doesn't flinch. The person outside tries to open the door but it's locked. KNOCK KNOCK.

Nyles snores through it.

MISTY (O.S.)

Are you getting that?

Nope. Misty hurries out of the bathroom and opens the door.

MISTY

Sarah?

Sarah barges in and sees Nyles in bed.

SARAH

Wake up.

Nyles moans. Too early for him.

MISTY

Uh... What are you doing?

Sarah ignores her. She spots Nyles' foot sticking out of the sheets, grabs his pinky toe and SNAPS it.

NYLES

OW!!

MISTY
What the fuck, Sarah?!

Nyles shoots awake, wincing in pain.

SARAH
Get dressed. I can't be here
anymore.

Sarah leaves. Misty, totally lost, looks at Nyles.

MISTY
Are you fucking cheating on me?

NYLES
(groggy)
No, you're cheating on me, ya goof.

Misty's stunned. Nyles grabs his clothes and follows Sarah.

INT. SARAH'S CAR - DRIVING - MORNING

Sarah turns onto the highway. Nyles sits shotgun.

NYLES
You have a destination in mind, or
are you just driving aimlessly?
Because if so, I'd much rather go
for a float.

SARAH
Stop talking. Let me think.

He offers her a beer and she swiftly accepts, pleasing him.

SARAH
What is this? I get that it's the
same day. But what is it?

Nyles inhales, gearing up to give what feels like a rehearsed speech, aimed at quashing any further questioning.

NYLES
(in one breath)
I have no idea what it is. This
might be life, this might be death,
might be a dream, I could be
imagining you, you could be
imagining me, might be purgatory,
or this might be a glitch in the
computer simulation we're in.

And in another breath:

NYLES

So, after a while I stopped caring altogether. The only way to actually *live* in *this* world is to embrace the fact that nothing matters. Disappointment, regret, guilt will just drive you bonkers.

Nyles exhales, sips a beer.

SARAH

Then what's the point of living?

Sarah presses down on the gas, the car accelerates.

NYLES

Well, you have no choice but to live, so I guess you gotta learn to suffer existence.

SARAH

So we can't die?

NYLES

No. The day just starts over. Or maybe we can, but I haven't figured out the proper way to kill myself and I've tried them all.

(sips his beer)

Slow down a bit.

SARAH

Why slow down if nothing matters?

Sarah's becoming unhinged. Nyles tries a softer approach.

NYLES

You have to find what brings you peace. For me it's floating in the pool with a beer. I think everyone can find peace in that. So why don't we turn this car around and hit the water?

Sarah stares ahead, picking up speed.

SARAH

No. I need to get out of this.

Sarah keeps a serious, dogged expression. She stomps down on the gas and the car quickly gains speed. 100mph -- 115mph --

Nyles grows irritated. He unbuckles his seatbelt and maneuvers into an odd, super unsafe crash position.

SARAH
What are you doing?

NYLES
Bracing for a quick death. We can't die, but pain is a very real thing. There's nothing worse than dying slowly in the ICU.

Sarah keeps gaining speed. But at another glance at Nyles in his crash position, she too unbuckles her seatbelt.

ON THE ROAD AHEAD, a truck drives in the oncoming lane. Sarah doesn't let up. She slowly drifts into the other lane.

Nyles peeks up to see. He still shows no sign of fear. More annoyed than anything.

NYLES
We can skip this whole phase and just have a drink at the bar.
(off her silence)
Or not. Whatever. See you tomorrow.

Sarah stares ahead -- the oncoming truck gets closer, flashes its lights -- but Sarah doesn't slow down. Closer...Closer...

HORN BLARING -- SARAH'S FACE --

NYLES takes one more sip of his beer --

SARAH'S EYES -- TRUCK HORN BLARES -- SCREECHING TIRES --

CUT TO:

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - DAY

Head in her hands, Sarah stares down at a double whiskey shot, still in a serious existential funk. Nyles leans against the bar, at home in this desert dive.

NYLES
As I was saying, you have to find peace. One thing that's nice is no one knows me at the wedding. Besides Misty, of course. You might have trouble with that.

SARAH
They don't want me there, I don't want to be there, so it's a win-win for all.

Sarah shoots back her whiskey and slams it down for a refill. Sore subject. Nyles notices. Sarah shifts course --

SARAH

I drove all the way back to Austin.
Still woke up here.

NYLES

That's the way it works. You can go
anywhere you want.

She looks at him: *Really?*

NYLES

As long as you're awake, you can
keep moving. I smoked a bunch of
crystal and made it to Equatorial
Guinea once. Big waste. They
detained me once I got off the
plane, I crashed within minutes,
back in the desert I found myself.

SARAH

(intrigued)

I can go anywhere...

NYLES

Yeah, but you don't want to.

SARAH

Don't fucking tell me what I want.

NYLES

Okay, then go. I don't give a shit.
I'm just saying that it's a hassle.

DARLA (O.S.)

WOOHOO!

At the DARTS BOARD behind them: Darla hits a bullseye. A
disgruntled BIKER hands her cash.

NYLES

Darla! You and me. Hundred bucks.

Darla looks at Nyles for a moment.

DARLA

Who the fuck are you?

MOMENTS LATER

Nyles demonstrates perfect dart throwing form and hits a
bullseye with his first dart. Darla's stunned by his skills.

DARLA
Don't you know how to hustle, kid?

NYLES
I'm an honest man, Darla. You are going to lose this game, but you can keep your money.

He smiles, readying the next dart. Sarah stands by, watching.

Nyles throws it -- and it goes in the same hole as his first dart, side by side, metal on metal. And it reminds Sarah of:

SARAH
Wait. Jesus. Who was that guy with the hunting bow?

Darla cocks her head, just as Nyles throws his final dart -- and misses the board.

NYLES
FUCK.

He collects himself, marks his score on the chalk scoreboard, and gives the darts to Darla, holding her hand.

NYLES
Your eyes and hand are one.

DARLA
My eyes and hands are one.

Nyles keeps watching Darla, Sarah keeps staring at him, waiting for an answer. He finally looks over.

NYLES
That was Roy. He was a guest at the wedding. Abe's dad's cousin, of the Schlieffen clan. Other than that, I know very little about the dude.

SARAH
But why was he trying to kill you?

Nyles sighs. Even thinking about Roy bothers him...

NYLES
One night, a very long time ago, I partied with Roy.

FLASH TO:

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

We follow a SERVER through the COCKTAIL HOUR with a tray of tuna tartare on wonton crisps. Guests clutching signature cocktails snag bites as she passes --

NYLES (V.O.)

This was back in the early days,
before I really became acquainted
with everyone. I was still feeling
my way through...

A HAND taps the server on the shoulder, and we turn around with her to find: ROY (50s), white hair, white teeth, grey suit, much less frightening in the light. He grabs a wonton --

ROY

This tuna?

SERVER

Yeah.

He takes a bite --

ROY

Mmm. Tasty.

The server holds the tray as he takes two more. She moves on, but we follow Roy meander away, smiling at guests he clearly doesn't know while he continues to eat, until he makes it to --

THE BAR

Where Nyles talks nonsense to Daisy the Bartender.

NYLES

I know you know. But you don't know
that I know. Or do you know?

Daisy stares back, unenthused.

ROY

You being a dick to Daisy? It takes
a patient soul to put up with
pricks like us.

(to Daisy)

A more beautiful barkeep I never
did see... Moscato, please.

NYLES

*"What might have been and what has
been point to one end, which is
always present."*

Roy considers Nyles, intrigued by this drunk prophet.

ROY
Actually Dais', two whiskey shots.

Daisy pours the shots, hating life. Roy flips through a massive wad of cash, puts a single dollar bill in the tip jar.

Roy hands Nyles one of the shots and holds his up --

ROY
To the struggle.

Nyles and Roy take their shots -- just as the guests APPLAUD around the dance floor. The WEDDING PARTY makes their grand entrance. There's Misty and Trevor, Erin and Nico, Sarah and Randy... And the guests go nuts as Tala and Abe stroll out.

ROY
Why do people clap? What's to clap about?

NYLES
People clapped when the Titanic set sail.

Roy chuckles.

ROY
Confucius said: Marriage is a seemingly bottomless pit of sorrow that makes you forget who you are.

NYLES
He did not.

Roy smirks at Nyles:

ROY
But there is a bottom, my friend.
And it's dark down here.

Nyles gives Roy the hang loose sign.

ROY
(leaning in)
You wanna dance a little?

Roy taps his nose.

ROY
The Officiant in the dumb suit --

Roy gestures to THE OFFICIANT (30s), a bearded guy in a hip Nudie suit (A rhinestone embroidered cowboy suit), who MCs the wedding party entrance.

ROY

Turd bird has a bag of sweets in his pocket. I tried to corner him in the bathroom, but he won't share --

But Nyles walks away from Roy before he can finish.

From ROY'S POV, Nyles walks across the dance floor up to the Officiant, reaches into his pocket, pulls out a bag of pills. The Officiant buries his shock and continues to MC as Nyles, ignoring quizzical looks, returns to an amused Roy.

NYLES

(holding up bag)
Got 'em.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Nyles and Roy grin at each other, swaying, nostrils caked in different colored powders. Roy keeps licking his lips wildly.

Nyles' gaze goes from watching this to the bathroom door handle jiggling. Someone tries to open it -- POUNDS on it --

THE OFFICIANT (O.S.)

Give me back my shit! Open up!

Nyles' eyes drift back to Roy -- but he's vanished.

ROY (O.S.)

(whispering)
Over here.

Roy crouches in the bathtub.

ROY

Hop in.

Nyles joins him. More POUNDING on the door.

THE OFFICIANT (O.S.)

Come on, I know you're in there.

Roy *Shhhhs* Nyles. Nyles *Shhhhs* him back. They escalate *Shhhhing*, on and on into GIGGLES --

THE OFFICIANT (O.S.)

You guys suck.

Roy grabs Nyles by the back of his neck and brings him close, sweaty forehead to forehead, real intimate --

ROY
I won't let him hurt you, friend.

NYLES
We're in the shit.

ROY
We are the shit. You and I, we're in this together.

Nyles stares back, eyes fully dilated, but he begins to look... scared. Not of Roy, but of everything happening. His eyes roll back, but Roy SLAPS him awake --

ROY
My boy, I got you. We're alive.

Roy holds Nyles head to his breast to comfort him as the POUNDING continues --

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

IN SLOW-MOTION: Nyles and Roy tango on the dance floor, tuning out the world around them, lost in this blur of life.

EXT. DESERT - ON TOP OF A BOULDER - NIGHT

Nyles and Roy lie on their backs, staring at the stars, out of their fucking minds, stoned, tripping.

ROY
This is the greatest night of my life. The Earth, the stars, the holy mother. Grace and love. Peace and personality.

NYLES
I'm not seeing it, Roy.

ROY
You'll find it. I know you will. Otherwise, what's the point?

They go silent for a moment, star gazing. We see Nyles' eyes dart as he stares up --

THE SKY: Nyles' creates his own constellations, connecting star to star with trails of light zig zagging into a shapeless, meaningless mess -- his new existence.

ROY
 Man, I wish I could just live out
 here forever.

Nyles looks over at Roy. A fucked up, sad man who seems truly
 at peace right now.

NYLES
 Follow me.

Nyles gets up and slides down the boulder.

EXT. DESERT HILLSIDE - NIGHT

Nyles and Roy stand before the CAVE. A quiet wind inside.

ROY
 What is it?

NYLES
 Your ancestors are in there.

ROY
 My ancestors?

NYLES
 Your answers. The answers you're
 looking for.

ROY
 Alright. I'm in.

Nyles wobbles, dizzy, while watching Roy walk in through
 blurred vision. Nyles' legs give out and he collapses onto
 his back, the toll of their binge catching up with him.

NYLES
 Roy... Wait...

Nyles dies. Roy continues forth -- then vanishes.

BACK TO:

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - DAY

Sarah throws darts as Nyles continues.

NYLES
 That was a mistake. Once Roy
 learned about his new life, he
 didn't take it lightly.
 (MORE)

NYLES (CONT'D)

Luckily he lives out in Irvine and wakes up there every day, so he only comes around every few... days? weeks? My concept of time is fuzzy.

SARAH

What does he want?

NYLES

You got a taste the other night. I think *he thinks* it's revenge?

FLASH TO:

INT. DARK ROOM

A shirtless, sweaty Roy cracks a whip as he SCREAMS at Nyles, gagged and tied to a chair under a single swinging lightbulb.

BACK TO:

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - DAY

Nyles stares ahead, reflecting on the memory.

NYLES

He may have some anger issues.

FLASH TO:

INT. DARK ROOM

Roy waterboards Nyles.

EXT. DESERT VALLEY - DAY

A fully naked Nyles sprints for his life through the desert, running zig zag patterns... He looks back, and UP: An ARROW flies through the air -- hits his shoulder, takes him down.

BACK TO:

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - DAY

The darts game is over. Now both Sarah and Darla listen attentively to Nyles' story.

NYLES

He even stopped for a while. I thought I was safe. I settled back into a routine. I felt good.

FLASH TO:

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - MORNING

IN SLOW MOTION: Nyles does a cannonball into the pool.

NYLES (V.O.)
But then he hit me where it hurt.

Nyles surfaces with a gasp, spitting up water --

NYLES
What the fuck's that smell??
(looking around)
Jerry?

But he's not there. Nyles SNIFFS again, then --

ROY (O.S.)
How's the water?

Roy walks up smoking a cigar, holding an empty gas can.

ROY
Looks a little cold.

Before Nyles can react, Roy tosses his cigar in the pool, engulfing Nyles in flames.

Roy, fire reflected in his eyes, just watches.

BACK TO:

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - DAY

Nyles shoots back a shot of tequila, numbing his PTSD.

NYLES
So I vowed to never bring anyone
else into this life again. Not
everyone is cut out for it.

DARLA
Amen to that. I tied my tubes at
forty.

Despite his nonchalance, Sarah senses Nyles is still troubled.

SARAH
You need to confront him. You can't
keep running from this guy forever.

NYLES
What're you talking about, yeah I
can!

Nyles gets up and opens the door, the desert sun floods in.

EXT. DESERT TACO STAND - DAY

A hole-in-the-wall taco stand. Nyles and Sarah finish up burritos. A MEXICAN BOY, 8, walks up with a box of candy.

BOY
Chocolate? For charity...

Nyles takes \$100 out of his wallet and hands it to the kid. The kid's eyes go wide. Nyles speaks to the kid in *Spanish*.

NYLES
One Kit Kat, a Snickers...
(to Sarah)
What candy do you like?

SARAH
Twix.

NYLES
Good choice.
(to the boy)
*One Twix. Keep the change, friend.
And make sure you spend it all
today. Buy flowers for that girl
Ignacia you have a crush on.*

BOY
Thank you!

The boy walks off, staring at the money.

SARAH
You know that's a scam. Notice how
he didn't say which charity?

Nyles turns to the kid, now selling to another table.

NYLES
What's the name of your charity?

The boy turns, panics, then sprints down the road.

NYLES
I know there's no charity. I give
back when I can. I have no interest
in material matters.

Sarah watches in disgust as he douses his burrito with hot sauce, then takes a huge bite.

SARAH
Other than beers, burritos,
designer drugs, and candy.

NYLES
(chewing through)
Obviously. I'm not a Puritan.

SARAH
What about sex?

NYLES
I'm not *not* into sex. But it's been
in a steady decline.

SARAH
Because Misty's cheating on you?

NYLES
Nah, I don't care about that. We
have sex all the time. But no
matter how you feel about someone,
physically or emotionally, the
novelty is bound to fade.

Sarah studies him. *Is he being serious? Hard to tell.*

SARAH
But to have to live with that over
and over again, to experience that
level of betrayal every day, that
might really fuck a person up.

Nyles studies her.

NYLES
Yeahhh, but it'd be pretty pathetic
of me to hold a grudge.

Nyles finishes off his beer. Sarah reaches under the table
and grabs two more from the box of Tecate.

SARAH
What about fucking other people?

NYLES
Oh I have. It just takes a lot of
work and I put very little effort
into my life.

A thought strikes Sarah.

SARAH
We've never had sex, right?

NYLES

No. At least not that I recall.
Memory is another thing that fades
with time, but that may also just
be alcoholism.

SARAH

Yeah, you said that already.

NYLES

See my point?

SARAH

Okay... Who, then? Besides Misty.
Just curious.

NYLES

Daisy. The barkeep.

FLASH TO:

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Nyles lies on a boulder while Daisy rides him, berating him --

DAISY

You are a prop. You are my little
fucking dildo.

NYLES

Oh my goodness.

BACK TO:

EXT. DESERT TACO STAND - DAY

SARAH

I can see that. Who else?

NYLES

Darla.

FLASH TO:

INT. DARLA'S TRAILER - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nyles and Darla lie on the bed, caressing each other. She
grabs his head and brings it to her bosom.

DARLA

You make me feel illegal.

Nyles kisses her belly tenderly... He looks at her and locks
eyes. He nods. She guides him down further, between her legs.

BACK TO:

EXT. DESERT TACO STAND - DAY

NYLES

I need to be put in my place sometimes. But it's great because I always get to wake up alone. Or, ya know, emotionally.

SARAH

That's something an asshole says.

NYLES

Guess I have no choice but to be an asshole.

Nyles takes another bite of his burrito.

SARAH

What about Tala?

NYLES

HA. No. Tala *actually* is a Puritan. But I have tried.

FLASH TO:

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Tala and Abe slow dance, gazing into each other's eyes. Nyles, dressed in a tux, taps on Abe's shoulder.

NYLES

Ahem. May I cut in?

ABE

It's the first dance.

REVEAL: All of the guests watch. It is indeed the first dance.

NYLES

Please. The one dance. And possibly some over-the-clothes stuff.

TALA

No!

BACK TO:

EXT. DESERT TACO STAND - DAY

SARAH

Yeah. That's Tala. Anyone else?

NYLES

Jerry.

SARAH
You fucked Jerry Schlieffen?

NYLES
He fucked me.

Off Sarah's bewildered look --

NYLES
He stuck his penis in my butthole--

SARAH
Yeah, I got it.

FLASH TO:

NYLES FACE -- He looks nervous...

NYLES
I'm ready...

He WINCES as he's penetrated. But after a moment, he settles into it, nodding. He looks back to Jerry --

NYLES
You know, it's not that bad.

BACK TO:

EXT. DESERT TACO STAND - DAY

NYLES
I'm glad I tried it. Turns out I'm not really into dudes.

Nyles gathers their burrito wrappers and tosses each of them over his shoulder across the patio, directly into the trash.

SARAH
That's it?

NYLES
Yeah.
(then)
Oh, and your dad.

FLASH TO:

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - LATE NIGHT

IN A HOT TUB: Nyles and Howard are forehead-to-forehead --

HOWARD
What are we doing?

NYLES
I don't know.

Howard goes in for the kiss.

BACK TO:

EXT. DESERT TACO STAND - DAY

Sarah processes, confused. Nyles stares back. For a long time.

NYLES

Okay, fine, that one didn't happen.
(continuing casually)
What about you? Solid sex life?

SARAH

I'm not going to fuck you, so don't even try. Maybe would have the other night. Not now, though.

NYLES

Girl, I was thinking the same thing.

Sarah squints, studying him...

SARAH

You promise we've never hooked up?

NYLES

Again, my memory is shot, but I don't think so.
(looking up at the sun)
Party's about to start. Head back?

SARAH

Uh. No. Why would I do that?

NYLES

Eat, drink, dance. Bask in looove.

SARAH

That's not love.

NYLES

Sure it is! Tala's in love.

SARAH

HA! For someone who knows everything, you really have no idea what you're talking about.

Nyles sees he struck a bad chord there.

SARAH

Tala and Abe are like 95% of all couples.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

They hit the point in their relationship where they got bored, but are so emotionally stunted they can't be alone. So, they fall victim to the most archaic patriarchal scam of all time: marriage. Weddings: An industry designed to turn you against the one you 'love.'

Nyles tries to chime in, but Sarah gets passionate --

SARAH

How any woman with an ounce of self respect is okay spending tens of thousands of dollars so their father can 'give them away,' AND calls it the fucking high point of their life... it's one of society's greatest tragedies.

Nyles opens his mouth again, but --

SARAH

Why, when anyone tries to simply start a dialogue is it always suppressed? Because *we*, you and me and everyone, are weak. We can't stand the idea of being alone, so we buy into the pageantry and celebrate its bullshit.

A long beat.

NYLES

And the other 5% of couples?

SARAH

They have a relaxed no-frills celebration without any friends or family, just free booze and their own mutual respect. They party like it's their last night on earth, have incredible sex, and then -- they get divorced. We aren't built to spend our entire lives with another person.

Nyles sips his beer.

NYLES

Okay. So, no wedding I guess. What do you want to do?

Sarah sits back, moving on.

SARAH
Maybe it's a karma thing?

NYLES
What is?

SARAH
Maybe that's how I get out of this.
Be selfless and you're free.

NYLES
I just bought you a hundred dollar
Twix, and I'm still here.

SARAH
No, real acts of selflessness. The
bone marrow shit Tala does.

She looks around at the various people at the taco stand.

SARAH
Maybe life goes on for everyone
else here, just not us, until we've
earned our way out. So, tomorrow,
that kid will still have a hundred
bucks to spend.

NYLES
And there's a world where Tala is
missing her teeth.

SARAH
But there are millions of worlds
where she isn't. Have you really
never thought of this before?

Of course he has. Still, he humors her --

NYLES
Okay. Maybe you're right. Then what
is the most selfless act you could
do? Something that would absolutely
guarantee an end to this day.

Sarah thinks for a brief second. She knows what to do.

CUT TO:

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - WEDDING CEREMONY AREA - SUNSET

TRIBAL MUSIC begins and the guests quiet down for the ceremony. Two DANCERS in green leotards dance down the aisle, weaving between hay bales, tossing glitter on guests.

From here we catch brief snapshots of the wedding:

- Abe and his MOM stroll down the aisle to CHEERS.

- The WEDDING PARTY walks down... Misty and Trevor, Erin and Nico, Sarah and Randy. Nyles gives her two thumbs up.

EVERYONE STANDS to watch Tala walk with Howard. As Tala and Abe meet at the altar, their faces stretch into the greatest smile of their lives. Abe's eyes well up, Tala starts crying.

The Officiant wipes a tear. Howard sobs, Pia comforts him. We pan the audience: EVERYONE feels the love.

And then there's Sarah. She steps forward --

SARAH

Hold up!

Puzzled looks fill the crowd. Nyles, too. At this point he has no idea what her "selfless act" actually is.

HOWARD

What are you doing?

Sarah ignores him and takes the mic from The Officiant.

She holds it up to her mouth, words on the tip of her tongue... but looking out at audience, and then to Tala... she reconsiders, and lowers the mic.

She walks up to Tala, pulls her into a tight hug and says something inaudible into her ear. The onlooking crowd waits.

JERRY

(quietly to Nyles)

What is she doing?

Nyles shrugs. *No clue.*

Sarah releases the hug, tears fill her eyes. She hands the mic to The Officiant, the flowers to Pia, and walks away.

Everyone turns to Tala for an explanation. She's in shock. Speechless. She looks at her parents, a silent cry for help. At Abe. At everyone. Heavy breathing, the world is ending --

-- THE EARTHQUAKE HITS --

EVERYBODY PANICS. Pia holds Tala. Howard holds the altar steady. One guest sprints away. A baby cries.

Nyles remains calm, but confused --

THE EARTHQUAKE STOPS. The guests glance around with relief.

THE OFFICIANT

Look at that. The gods have spoken
and they approve this marriage!

But Tala is now SOBBING into Pia's shoulder.

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - NIGHT

Sarah's far more relaxed, with an almost celebratory vibe as she takes shots and plays pool with a couple barflies.

The front door swings open, Nyles steps in --

NYLES

What the hell did you say to her?

SARAH

Doesn't matter, sister stuff. But I
think I'm good. Karma's fucking
great. Selflessness is fantastic.

Sarah hits two balls in at once.

SARAH

Pay up boys.

The barflies she was playing each hand her \$20.

SARAH

(to the Ted the Bartender)
Two shots of your finest whiskey.

Ted pours the shots. Sarah holds one out for Nyles --

SARAH

Well, Nyles, it's been great. Or,
interesting, at least. If this ever
happens again, please keep me out
of the cave. Good luck with the
psychopath. Deal with him. Maybe
that's your way out.

They clink their glasses and take the shot.

CUT TO:

INT. NYLES' AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nyles sleeps in bed. Just another day. Someone POUNDING on the door. Misty wraps a towel around her body --

MISTY
Hold on, I'm coming!

She unlocks it and Sarah barges in, straight to Nyles --

MISTY
What the hell, Sarah?

Nyles jolts up.

SARAH
Didn't work. Life is meaningless.
Let's get the fuck out of here.

She heads out. Misty looks at Nyles as he rolls out of bed --

MISTY
Are you --

Nyles jumps in --

NYLES
-- fucking cheating on me? MISTY
-- fucking cheating on me?

Nyles pulls on his swim trunks --

NYLES / MISTY
(in unison)
What? ... This isn't funny.

Nyles puts on his Hawaiian shirt, Misty is freaking out --

NYLES / MISTY
Okay, stop... I'm serious... Don't
copy me... Stop pretending like you
know everything... I hate, agh --

And this back and forth takes us into --

A SERIES, THE DAYS AND NIGHTS OF NYLES AND SARAH - SET TO THE CONGA + SYNTH DANCE GROOVES OF ALEX CAMERON'S "THE CHIHUAHUA":***I/E. - SARAH'S CAR/HIGHWAY - DAY***

Sarah speeds down the open road, her hair blowing in the wind, Nyles stands out her sunroof with a beer.

EXT. BOUTIQUE HOTEL - POOL - DAY

A HIP POOL PARTY alive with dancing, cornhole, bocce ball, and a photo booth. And in the middle of it all: Nyles and Sarah float in the pool with neon cocktails.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Sarah wakes up. Glances at the bathroom, shower running. The weight of the real world returns. She fights through --

NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM

Nyles wakes up and jumps out of bed with pep in his step.

EXT. GUN RANGE - DAY

A BULLET STRIKES FIDEL CASTRO (on a poster/target) in the forehead, blowing out cloud of dust and hay --

Nyles lowers his sniper rifle, smoke swirls from the barrel.

NYLES

Kill shot.

Sarah steps up with an AK-47 and scans the targets. Castro, Osama Bin Laden, and some guy with a handlebar mustache.

SARAH

Who's the mustache?

SPUDS (50), the owner, stands by with a bazooka. A GOAT grazes in a PEN behind him.

SPUDS

The prick my wife ran off with.

SARAH

How'd you get such a good picture?

SPUDS

Facebook.

SARAH FIRES -- DESTROYING THE MUSTACHE MAN'S HEAD.

I/E. SARAH'S CAR/HIGHWAY - DAY

Nyles drives, Sarah surfs on top of the car. Nyles hits a POTHOLE and SARAH FALLS OFF --

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Sarah wakes up, morning dread --

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Sarah (not dressed for the wedding) walks to the edge of the dance floor. Randy drunkenly dances up to her.

RANDY

What up, Sarah? We missed you earlier. Tala's pissed.

SARAH

I missed you.

RANDY

What?

Sarah leans in to his ear --

SARAH

Meet me in the bathroom in ten minutes... And you better be naked.

RANDY

You're messing with me, right?

Sarah grabs his crotch --

SARAH

Use your shirt as a blindfold... And film me when you walk in.

Off Randy's bewildered smile --

INT. OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM - NIGHT

Randy is naked, blindfolded by his shirt, holding his iPhone out to record. He takes a deep breath, then opens the door --

REVEAL: Trevor going down on Misty --

MISTY

Randy! Fuck!

And just behind them we see Nyles and Sarah watching the scene through the bathroom window, loving it.

EXT. OPEN DESERT - DAY

Sarah's car -- fifty yards up -- EXPLODES!

Sarah, Nyles, and Spuds pop up from a DITCH, high-fiving. Nyles points to Sarah's ears -- they're bleeding -- but she LAUGHS about it.

EXT. JOSHUA TREE CAMPSITE - AFTERNOON

Nyles tries setting up a tent but can't because Sarah keeps WHIPPING him with one of the poles, really fucking hard.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Nyles and Sarah lie in their own sleeping bags, facing away from each other.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Sarah wakes up, looks at the empty space next to her in bed.

NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM

Nyles wakes up, looks at the empty space next to him in bed.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Abe and Tala are about to cut the cake when Nyles runs up, CROSSBOW in hand --

NYLES

Don't! There's a bomb in the cake!

Nyles DIGS into the cake, GASPS throughout the crowd, and he finds a BRICK OF C4.

PIA

Oh my god!

NYLES

It's okay, I used to be a bomb guy.

Nyles takes an arrow and STABS it into the C4, cocks the crossbow, and FIRES it into the air --

It EXPLODES above the party, a bizarrely beautiful fireworks display, interrupted by --

SARAH, riding up on a motorcycle. She stops by the pool.

TREVOR

Hey, that's my motorcycle --

SARAH

(to Nyles)

You son of a bitch! You ruined my plan to kill everyone!

NYLES

Sarah! The sister of the bride! I should've known it was you!

(MORE)

NYLES (CONT'D)

(then)

Howard, I'll take her alive, if
it's the last thing I do.

HOWARD

Son, please, put the weapon down --

Sarah TACKLES Nyles into the pool --

INT. SMALL PROP PLANE - CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nyles (helmet and goggles on) feigns a confident smile and thumbs up to Sarah as he's led to the open door by his tandem skydiving INSTRUCTOR --

Sarah pushes by and leaps OUT of the plane, without her parachute, turning back at Nyles with two middle fingers --

INSTRUCTOR

NO NO NO NO NO!!!

EXT. OPEN DESERT - DAY

Wide shot, brutal sun, clear blue sky, A FIGURE rockets TOWARD the Earth -- it's SARAH -- in FREEFALL, dive-bombing --

THUMP!!! A mini mushroom cloud where she hits the ground.

ON THE GROUND - LATER

Nyles and the instructor hurry out of the prop plane -- Nyles laughs maniacally while the instructor frantically sprints to Sarah's body. The instructor checks her pulse, then looks back to Nyles, still laughing as he marches INTO THE PROPELLER --

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nyles wakes up, looks at the empty space next to him in bed.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Sarah wakes up, looks at the empty space next to her in bed.

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - NIGHT

Nyles, giddy with excitement, leads a blindfolded Sarah into the bar... He takes off her blindfold to REVEAL:

The entire bar is filled with decorations -- STREAMERS, BALLOONS, and giant 'HAPPY MILLIONTH BIRTHDAY, SARAH' sign. The unenthused BARFLIES all wear PARTY HATS, Darla claps --

Sarah covers her smile, truly touched and surprised --

SARAH
Have I really been here that long?

NYLES
You're asking the wrong guy --

Nyles lifts up a CONFETTI CANNON and blasts her face --

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Nyles, Sarah, and five other DESERT HIPSTERS party -- drinking, dancing, snorting blow. A couple of them make out.

LATER

Everyone is passed out. Four packed on the bed, including Sarah, eyes closed, nuzzling into Nyles' arm.

ON NYLES' FACE, watching Sarah fall asleep, weighing something in his head... He drifts to sleep.

INT. NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nyles opens his eyes. An empty space next to him, as always.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

END MONTAGE ON: Sarah and Nyles drive away from us down a dirt road deep in the desert...

EXT. DESERT PLATEAU - SUNSET

Nyles and Sarah sit by a small fire, empty desert vista behind them. Sarah holds a cheeseburger. Nyles chews a Twix.

NYLES
Think of it like this --

Nyles holds up his half-eaten Twix and gestures to the area that's gone.

NYLES
Everything in this void here, where the Twix once was but is now in my stomach, is the past.

He gestures to the remainder of the Twix bar --

NYLES
And everything that's left to eat is the future, encased in chocolate.

Sarah keeps listening... Nyles gestures to the void again.

NYLES

None of this concerns me. The who, what, why of your past. You got here, that's all that matters. You ate some Twix and pooped it out. No need to sift through the shit.

SARAH

But if you really want to know someone deeper, it does matter. You have to know the whole package.

NYLES

Packages suck. Does what you said to Tala at the altar concern me? Nah. All that matters is it convinced you to let it go. *This* --

He shows his next bite -- layers of crunchy cookie, caramel --

NYLES

-- the next bite is all that matters.

(takes another bite)

Devote all of your energy to what's happening in this precise moment.

(another bite)

Now. And again --

(another bite, chewing)

Passing.. Now...

With every 'Now,' Nyles watches an imaginary figure drift away - from the Twix - off into the distance.

Sarah stares back at him, unimpressed.

SARAH

I was married for two years.

NYLES

You don't need to tell me about that.

SARAH

I still am, technically. Divorce takes a while.

(then)

My family hated him. My dad's the kind of guy who desperately tries to see the good in everyone, and even he hated the guy.

NYLES

Good thing none of that matters anymore.

Sarah ignores Nyles' attempt to keep her from opening up.

SARAH

I knew it wasn't going to work out when I said 'yes,' I knew it wasn't going to work out when I moved to Austin for him, I knew it wasn't going to work out as I walked down the aisle. But I went through with it. And it didn't work out. And ignoring all of that would make me destined to repeat it.

Nyles stares in the middle distance as his chewing slows.

Like he's short circuiting.

Silence. For a long time.

NYLES

These are fantastic mushrooms.

Sarah stares at her burger. *It's so juicy...*

Nyles digs through his memory... it's fading fast... then snaps back into it, momentarily --

NYLES

You could be dead tomorrow...

SARAH

Except I can't be dead tomorrow.

NYLES

But if you could, all that energy spent focusing on the past and future will have been wasted... Energy is everything. Energy is...

SARAH

Everything.

NYLES

Everything.

Sarah processes... Losing her grip... She puts up a finger -- *hold on*. She walks behind some bushes and pukes O.S., then returns, wiping her mouth. Reengaged --

SARAH

What if I want to invest some *present energy* into my *future*? Like my burger.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

I have maybe one bite in me, but I also know the center is going to be the tastiest part. So what if I go straight for the center and skip the edges.

NYLES

Don't ever skip the edges.

SARAH

I hate the edges.

NYLES

I feel sorry for you then.

A beat. Sarah begins to smile...

SARAH

If you feel sorry for me, that means you care about me, Nyles.

NYLES

(deflecting)

When I say "I feel sorry," it's in the same way that I feel slightly annoyed when I finish a beer and need to open a new one.

(he opens another beer)

It's a fleeting feeling. It drifts away, like everything else.

Nyles watches the imaginary 'It' drift away. Sarah studies him as he sips his beer...

SARAH

What else has drifted away?

Nyles goes silent, his thoughts take him somewhere else.

SARAH

Nyles?

NYLES

Everything.

(smiling, holding up his beer)

Cheers.

He's burying something, but she's not in the right headspace to push him further.

SARAH

To *pretending* not to care.

NYLES
To pretending --

Nyles FREEZES, drops his beer, eyes wide, staring at something in the distance. A child-like grin takes shape as he's fully entranced by what he's looking at.

Sarah turns her head to see --

MILES AWAY: SILHOUETTES TRAVERSING THE SUNSET. **DINOSAURS**. A BRONTOSAURUS MOTHER LEADS HER TWO SMALLER DINO CUBS.

Sarah's face glows with pure joy.

SARAH
Oh my god.

NYLES
You see them, too?

SARAH
Are they real?

NYLES
Who cares?

As they watch the dinosaurs, Sarah moves to the other side of the fire and sits down next to Nyles.

SARAH
They're beautiful.

She smiles and grabs Nyles' hand. He squeezes back.

THE EARTHQUAKE HITS -- but Nyles and Sarah don't react. They're locked onto the dinosaurs. Off this tableau --

CUT TO:

LATER

Nyles pisses on the fire to extinguish it. The light of the lantern shines through the tent behind him.

INT. TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Nyles crawls into his sleeping bag. Sarah's still awake.

NYLES
Au revoir, mi amigo.

Nyles shuts his eyes. Sarah watches him drift into sleep...

SARAH
Nyles.

NYLES
Mmmhmm...

SARAH
Let's just get it over with and
fuck.

NYLES
(caught off guard)
Okay.

Sarah straddles him and starts kissing him, taking charge. She takes off his shirt. Then her own. As she goes back in --

NYLES
Wait.

SARAH
What?

Nyles, though drunk and still coming down from the mushrooms, is quite taken by Sarah, by her body, by the whole situation. It's intense and real and complicated. To the point where Sarah feels uncomfortable by the vulnerability. So --

She skirts past it, pulls him toward her, and they go at it.

EXT. DESERT PLATEAU - NIGHT

Locked on the tent, the lantern casts shadows, subtle moans merge with the desert sounds -- creaking insects, the smoldering fire, a coyote's howl. We MOVE AWAY from the tent, through the smoke of the fire, and float UP --

Off the plateau, drifting into the night, moving on from this moment... And now the tent is merely a spec, a dot of light, in the distance.

CUT TO:

SARAH OPENS HER EYES, WAKING UP...

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

But her face wears conflicted emotions, more like a bad hangover than the post-coital elation one might expect. She considers sitting up, but it's all too heavy for her right now. She gives up and lies there, listening to the shower run.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - HALLWAY - MORNING

Sarah walks through the house to wake up Nyles, but she stops at the BRIDAL SUITE. The door is ajar. She peeks INSIDE:

Tala sips on a mimosa while Erin does her hair, both smiling.

Sarah watches, longing for this happiness she can never share with her sister.

PRE-LAP: The sound of a beer can opening.

INT. SARAH'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Sarah sips her beer, driving. In the passenger seat, Nyles has a fresh glow and a twinkle in his eyes.

NYLES

I gotta say, I felt different this morning. Like... goooooood. In a good way though, ya know?

Sarah's off in another world.

NYLES

Because of last night?

SARAH

Oh. Yeah.

She glances in the rearview mirror, noticing a dark car a ways back. Is this guy following her?

NYLES

Is that a "Yeah" of regret? Or...?

SARAH

Yeah, it was fun. Tension relief. It's fun to relieve tension.

She's still looking at this car. It's a little closer now. Close enough to see that it's a POLICE CAR.

Nyles doesn't notice, more concerned by her response.

NYLES

Should we talk about it?

SARAH

What's to talk about, it's all meaningless, and technically that happened tonight.

Nyles sits back, put off by the cold turn she's taken.

Sarah throws her beer out the window, and checks the mirror for the cop's reaction.

NYLES
So we're littering now?

SARAH
(re: the cop)
Nothing still, Jesus. This cop's
been following us for miles. What's
this fucker's deal?

Sarah presses the gas to pick up speed. 90mph and climbing.

NYLES
Are you trying to get pulled over?

ON NYLES... thinking... he turns around and squints at the cop car, still following at the same distance. Nyles seems to be piecing something together in his head...

100mph. The cop turns the sirens on.

SARAH
Finally!

Sarah starts slowing down.

NYLES
What are you doing?

SARAH
Believe it or not I've never been
arrested before. Curious to see
what it's all about.

Nyles looks back one more time. His eyes go wide.

NYLES
No.

Dead serious, he slouches in his seat, out of view.

NYLES
I think it's him.

SARAH
Him?

NYLES
Roy.

SARAH
Oh! That fucker.

Sarah screeches to a halt. The cop car stops right behind. We only see the cop's silhouette, his sheriff's hat...

NYLES
Keep driving.

SARAH
No way. If you aren't going to deal with him, someone has to.

Sarah gets out of the car and throws her arms up --

SARAH
Help! He's trying to kill me!

Sarah runs back toward the cop car as Nyles sinks deeper into his seat -- *what the hell is she doing?*

NYLES' POV: Sarah reaches the cop car, frantically shouting.

COP'S VOICE (O.S.)
(on the microphone)
Sir, step out of the vehicle!

Nyles freezes. *Maybe it isn't Roy. Now what?*

COP'S VOICE (O.S.)
(on the microphone)
If you don't step out, I have no choice but to remove you by force.

Nyles peeks back again: the cop slowly approaches Sarah's car. Still backlit, but it doesn't look like Roy. This guy has a mustache. Nyles breathes a sigh of relief.

NYLES
Okay! I'm coming out!

Nyles opens the door, puts his hands up, still holding his beer, and slowly stands, his back to the officer.

NYLES
Sorry Mr. Policeman, I thought you were someone else.

COP
Oh yeah, who's that?

Nyles turns and locks eyes with the cop, who's now at the trunk of Sarah's car... And Nyles' relief drains.

It's Roy, wearing a huge grin -- and a fake mustache.

ROY
Howdy, stranger.

Roy raises a SHOTGUN --

SCREECH -- ROY TURNS JUST AS SARAH HITS HIM WITH THE COP CAR,
PINNING HIM BETWEEN THE TWO VEHICLES.

ON SARAH, surprised by the mix of pleasure and horror she's
feeling. She shakes off those thoughts, backs the cop car up.

Roy collapses, broken in half, held together by skin.

SARAH
(on the microphone)
You called for back up?

Nyles stares at Roy twitching on the ground, gasping for life.

BWOOP BWOOP -- Sarah messes with the cop car sounds.

ROY
... Who... is that?

Nyles shakes his head, conflicted. This asshole's caused him
so much pain, but it's hard to watch someone die.

BWOOP BWOOP.

SARAH
(on the microphone)
Please step inside my vehicle, sir.

As Roy wheezes, Nyles steps back to the cop car, maintaining
eye contact with Roy the whole way.

INT. COP CAR - DRIVING - DAY

Nyles chugs beer in the passenger seat, dazed, even
remorseful, but trying to stay composed while Sarah drives.

SARAH
Lighten up, dude. Look what he was
planning to use on you.

Sarah gestures to the backseat where there's an aquarium with
a COBRA SNAKE. It hisses, spitting venom against the glass.

SARAH
Let's do something crazy.

Nyles looks around at their stolen cop car.

NYLES
Isn't this crazy?

SARAH
Let's rob a gas station. Ooh, what
about a bank?

Nyles doesn't share in her excitement.

NYLES
What's with the sudden blood lust?

SARAH
It's not blood lust. It's about
trying something new.

NYLES
You just killed a guy.

SARAH
Yeah, a fucking sadist, dude.
You've had forever to play around
in this world but I haven't. You
can't expect me to take your word
for everything.

NYLES
What about the karma?

SARAH
Yeah, I don't believe in that
anymore.

NYLES
(disappointed)
Oh. Really?

SARAH
Of course not. That's what you've
been telling me from day one. "The
only way to *live* is to embrace the
fact that nothing matters." Right?
So I'm embracing it.

Nyles sits back. She's right. But he doesn't want to admit
it. He glances out the window, searching for an answer, a
distraction, and notices a BILLBOARD for a local casino.

NYLES
What about the casino?

SARAH

Ooo, good call. That's even better than a bank.

NYLES

I don't mean rob the place. Being a source of terror isn't fun and isn't fulfilling. It doesn't matter that everything resets and people forget. *WE* have to live with what we do. I draw a line at cruelty.

SARAH

For a guy who supposedly cares about nothing, you seem to have a lot of lines you won't cross.

Nyles drinks his beer, done debating this.

SARAH

Whatever, fine. We'll go to the casino and *not* rob it.

(then)

Pussy.

NYLES

Thank you.

Nyles raises his beer in *cheers* -- as Sarah stomps on the gas and accelerates down the highway --

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

Sarah slams her hands down on a half-full BLACKJACK table as she takes a seat. Nyles sits beside her --

SARAH

(to the DEALER)

I'm gonna count cards. Cool?

DEALER

Please don't.

The Dealer starts dealing out the next hand. Sarah counts cards out loud, albeit completely incorrectly.

SARAH

King, nine, ace, three. Nyles, wanna jump in here?

Nyles lightens up, glad to get back to the innocuous fun --

NYLES

Sure thing. Three, four, three. Lot of threes.

A GRUMPY PLAYER groans, then takes a bite of his HOT DOG.

Sarah adds a few \$100 BLACK CHIPS to her bet --

NYLES

Bold move, I dig it.

DEALER

You can't bet during your hand.

GRUMPY PLAYER

These fucking kids --

SARAH

Don't call me a fucking kid. I didn't know I couldn't bet more.

(to Dealer)

Apologies.

Sarah kisses her fingertips and makes a peace sign -- and rotates into a middle finger aimed at the Grumpy Player.

Nyles clocks this as the Dealer looks at him for his turn.

NYLES

I'll stay...

Sarah's turn, but she's still shooting angry eyes at the Grumpy Player. He stares back at her, dead-eyed.

SARAH

I want more.

NYLES

You already have nineteen.

GRUMPY PLAYER

You don't want to hit, sweetheart.

SARAH

Don't tell me what to fucking do.

(to Dealer)

Hit me. Hard.

The Dealer lays down a QUEEN on her TEN/NINE. BUST.

GRUMPY PLAYER

You took my card, bitch.

Nyles and Sarah keep running -- almost to the car --

NYLES
(to the Guard)
It's not worth it, man! Back off --

The Security Guard FIRES HIS TASER into Nyles' neck -- Nyles YELPS and tumbles onto the asphalt, writhing.

LATER

A COP sits a handcuffed Nyles on the curb beside Sarah, also handcuffed. Nyles' face is scraped and bloodied from the fall. Sarah seems... excited. Almost manic.

SARAH
Not quite what I had in mind, but
glad we did it, ya know? This world
is too small for dicks like that.

She gestures to the Grumpy Player giving his statement to the cops. But Nyles looks at her, blank-faced. We now see his right eyeball is completely red and draining bloody tears.

NYLES
You're a fucking lunatic.

SARAH
Oh shut up. No one got "harmed."

NYLES
I DID. I'm crying blood.

Sarah chuckles, but Nyles is really pissed.

SARAH
You'll be fine tomorrow.

NYLES
PAIN IS REAL. Why can't you
understand that?

SARAH
It doesn't matter. Nothing matters.
Those are your words.

NYLES
Pain matters! What we do to other
people matters! We were having fun.
Then you killed Roy.

SARAH

You were never going to deal with him. I did you a favor. So, fuck you.

NYLES

No, Sarah fuck you. You act like a child, which is exactly what led to you being stuck in this shit in the first place.

This strikes a nerve with Sarah. So, she KICKS him.

NYLES

Ow! See?! A child!

COP

Knock it off, over there!

SARAH

I'm stuck in this shit because YOU got me stuck in it.

NYLES

HA! I told you to stop, but nope, can't tell you what to do because you've got it *all* figured out.

SARAH

I followed you because I liked you and someone was trying to hurt you. Because I GIVE A SHIT, which you clearly know nothing about. But had I known I'd be stuck with a pretentious, wannabe nihilist for the rest of my fucking life I'd have stayed far away, and I sure as hell would never have slept with you.

NYLES

Oh please, we've fucked a thousand times.

A beat...

SARAH

What do you mean?

Nyles looks to the Cops --

NYLES

Can you move this along, guys?

COP

Shut up!

SARAH

Answer me.

Nyles looks at her with a cold stare --

NYLES

I lied. Yes, we've hooked up. So many times. All I had to do was bail you out with that ridiculous speech at the wedding. That easy. And it was always nice because I never had to deal with it the next day. But now I do.

They stare at each other for a moment, letting it all sink in. Sarah's lip begins to quiver, but she fights it back.

NYLES

I'm an awful person, whatever, but you're that predictable.

She turns away. Nyles does the same.

MISTY (PRE-LAP)

Wake up.

INT. NYLES' AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Nyles wakes up in bed. Another day. Misty moisturizes. She glances at him, expecting a comment. But he offers nothing.

He looks at the door, waiting for Sarah's knock. Silence.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - POOL - DAY

Nyles drinks on his pizza, but he can't get comfortable. The sun is too bright, the beer too warm, the pizza isn't inflated enough. Everything is off. Sarah is gone.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - KITCHEN - DAY

Nyles pours himself a tall glass of tequila while Howard and Pia chat nearby.

HOWARD

She didn't leave a note or anything? Are you sure she didn't text back?

PIA
 Check my phone if you don't believe
 me. Sarah realized the day wasn't
 about her so she left.

HOWARD
 Don't say that.

NYLES
 No, Pia's right.

Howard and Pia look over at him. *Who is this guy?* Nyles downs
 his tequila and walks off with the bottle.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Nyles lies on a hay bale, drinking by himself, watching the
 wedding reception unfold, Misty and Trevor flirting by the
 bar. He shifts his gaze up to the sky, to the stars.

EXT. DESERT HILLSIDE - NIGHT

Nyles stands before the cave. He turns around and scans the
 desert, one final check. He downs a bottle of wine, shatters
 it against a rock, then walks into the cave.

MISTY (PRE-LAP)
 Wake up.

CUT TO:

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - HALLWAY - MORNING

Nyles wanders down the hall in his underwear, passing people
 setting up for the wedding. He stops in the living room when
 he sees Pia putting up photos of Tala and Abe.

NYLES
 Pia, what room is Sarah staying in?

Pia turns, she doesn't recognize this odd man.

NYLES
 Misty's boyfriend, come on.

PIA
 (playing it off)
 Oh. Yeah, of course. Her room is
 the second to last down the hall.
 (as Nyles turns)
 But she isn't there.

NYLES

Where is she?

PIA

No one knows, we haven't seen her since last night. Howard went to wake her up this morning but she wasn't in there.

Nyles walks down the hall, second to last room, and opens --
It's empty. The bed perfectly made, untouched.

NYLES

What the fuck?

He walks back to the living room. Howard, The Officiant, and Randy are all there now...

NYLES

Did anyone actually see her stay in there last night?

Pia cocks her head. The others are just as confused.

NYLES

She wakes me up every day, so she has to be somewhere. She has to be.

Nyles looks out the front window for Sarah's car. It's gone.

Misty steps out, still in her towel, worried that her boyfriend might be having a breakdown.

MISTY

What are you doing, Nyles?

Nyles stares back at the onlookers. Maybe he's lost his mind.

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

Nyles zones out on the bed amidst an intimate cocaine party with Randy, The Officiant, and Jerry. An alt-country record plays. The Officiant cuts the coke on the mirrored coffee table and rambles about the record:

THE OFFICIANT

Frederick Dougless, spelled L-E-S-S instead of L-A-S-S like the slave.

JERRY

But he's white?

THE OFFICIANT

Yeah.

RANDY

That seems fucked up.

THE OFFICIANT

No, man, it's a commentary. He's
the second coming of Gram Parsons.

Abe enters --

RANDY

Ayyy! Married man!

THE OFFICIANT

There's the fuckin' guy!

ABE

Mind if I partake? Need a breather.

Abe snorts a line off the coffee table. He notices Nyles --

ABE

Misty's boyfriend, right? Maybe
don't mention this to her, cuz
it'll be a thing.

Nyles zips his lips shut, locks them, and throws the key. We
frequently cut back to Nyles as the coke babble accelerates:

THE OFFICIANT

(to Abe)

Remember when Frederick Dougless
opened for me at the Bootleg.

The Officiant does a line.

ABE

The next Gram Parsons.

JERRY

Who is this Gram Parsons?

Abe, Randy, and the Officiant all look over, judging him.

Nyles lies back, his head on the pillow, staring up.

THE OFFICIANT

Flying Burrito Brothers? The Byrds?

JERRY

I'm from Sudan, dude.

(off their looks)

Of course I know the fucking Byrds.

THE OFFICIANT

Well, Gram Parsons was in The Byrds
for their best record --

RANDY

-- Sweetheart of the Rodeo.

THE OFFICIANT

And then he moved out here, did a
ton of drugs with Keith Richards,
wrote his solo albums --

ABE

-- GP and Grievous Angel.

THE OFFICIANT

Then he OD'd, but he practically
drank himself to death by then.

ABE

The dude just couldn't hang.

Abe snorts another line.

JERRY

I don't really like country music.

The three guys hang their heads and groan in disappointment.

Nyles turns to his side, his face sinks into the silk pillow.

ABE

(to Nyles, re: coke)
Misty's boyfriend, you in?

Nyles doesn't move... his face changes... *something* about
this pillow. He inhales and recognizes the scent.

ABE

Whatever.

Abe does another line, then heads for the door --

ABE

Feel free to join the party --

Abe exits. Nyles takes another breath into the pillow -- then
sits up with some pep. His detective hat is on.

NYLES

Is it just you two staying in this
room?

THE OFFICIANT

Yeah...

Nyles' suspicious stare bounces between the two guys.

RANDY

You okay, dude?

NYLES

Were you both here last night, too?

THE OFFICIANT

Nah, Tala is all serious about the whole no-sleeping-together-before-the-wedding thing, so Abe took it.

NYLES

Abe slept here last night?

THE OFFICIANT

Yeah... What's up?

Nyles grabs the pillow and heads outside --

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Nyles races to the dance floor as Abe sits down next to Tala.

NYLES

Abraham, you slick fuck! I get it!

Abe turns, confused.

ABE

Excuse me?

NYLES

You and Sarah. It all makes sense!

Abe's stomach sinks. Other guests turn to watch...

TALA

(to Abe)

What's he talking about?

NYLES

Your sister and Abraham were boning each other. She spent last night in his room, that's why no one could find her. She wakes up with him everyday and probably sneaks out in the morning. No wonder she hates herself.

(MORE)

NYLES (CONT'D)

(then)

Here, smell this. From Abe's bed.

Nyles tosses Tala the pillow. She holds it, piecing things together in her head...

ABE

Shut up, you're drunk.

NYLES

No, you shut up. How did no one notice this before?

(then)

I mean, it took me a long time. A really long time. Jesus... How did I miss this?

Nyles pauses for a moment of self-reflection. He shakes it off just as a pissed-off Misty steps in --

MISTY

What are you doing?

NYLES

Shut up and go fuck Trevor.

Misty's jaw drops. Tala focuses her attention on --

TALA

Abe. That isn't true, is it?

ABE

Of course not. This guy's been drunk all day.

NYLES

That may be accurate, nevertheless --
(to Tala)

If you smell the pillow, you will recognize the distinct scent of Viktor and Rolf Flowerbomb, the hair mist you gave Sarah on her birthday.

Quizzical looks all around. *Why, and how, would he know this?*

Tala slowly brings the pillow to her nose. It's Viktor and Rolf Flowerbomb alright.

NYLES

(to the crowd)

Is there anyone else here who uses Viktor and Rolf Flowerbomb?

The crowd is silent. Tala's face sinks with the realization.

NYLES

(to Abe)

Never underestimate the scent of a woman.

ABE

Get the fuck out of here.

HOWARD

(off Tala's realization)

Abe, let's take a walk.

ABE

You don't actually believe this guy?

Abe looks at all the faces judging him. Tala, Howard, Pia, the Schlieffens, Trevor, Erin -- all stare at Abe in shock.

ABE

Come on. Guys, really. That's not me.

But Tala knows it is. It makes sense to her. Time for him to leave. Abe begins to walk away... but Nyles won't let it go --

NYLES

You sad, pathetic fool.

MISTY

Nyles.

NYLES

(to Abe)

You cheated on your fiancé, at your wedding, with her sister...

MISTY

Stop it, Nyles.

Nyles turns to Tala. Her world is falling apart.

NYLES

And fuck, Sarah, doing that to you? Even I wouldn't stoop that low.

(turns to the guests)

And all of you --

ABE TACKLES NYLES. A FIGHT BREAKS OUT BETWEEN THE TWO.

Nyles and Abe sloppily wrestle on the dance floor, Nyles on the losing end. Nyles manages to get up, then TACKLES Abe into a table -- place settings and succulents go flying.

FACE SLAPS, BITING, KNEES TO THE GUT, SPITTING --

Pinned down, Nyles spots a FORK and reaches for it... His fingers are almost on it... And he gets it --

And STABS ABE IN THE CHEEK WITH THE FORK.

HORRIFIC SCREAMS ALL AROUND --

Abe gets up in a state of shock. Fork stuck in his face. He pulls it out, stares at it. Blood drains from his cheek.

Nyles even seems stunned.

Abe STABS NYLES IN THE EYE WITH THE FORK. EVERYBODY SCREAMS --

CUT TO:

ABE'S SMILING FACE, unscathed, as he goes to kiss Tala --

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - THE NEXT NIGHT

Everything is back to normal. No mess, no blood, no horror.

Nyles slouches in his chair at another table, bearing the heavy reality of his world. He refills his glass of wine, spilling over the brim onto the white table cloth.

Jerry watches him, concerned.

DANCE FLOOR: The Officiant takes the mic.

THE OFFICIANT

I'd like to invite the mother of
the bride up for a little surprise.

Pia and her two sisters walk out. Pia takes a breath to compose herself. One of her sisters rubs her back, smiling.

Tala gives Abe a look: *What's she doing?* Abe shrugs.

PIA

Tala. You know that I'm not great
with words. But I do love you more
than anything.

TALA

Love you too, Mom!

Nyles watches with dead eyes, nursing his wine.

PIA

And Abe, the beautiful bridegroom,
you are now my son.

Tala kisses him. Nyles gives a loose wrist clap.

NYLES

Great man, great man!

Abe notices, but shrugs it off.

PIA

When I was a little girl, me and my sisters found beauty in music. It's how we communicated and bonded.

Abe rubs Tala's back. Tala smiles wistfully, missing Sarah.

Nyles watches this and drinks more.

PIA

So we're going to perform a song we learned as little girls. It's a song I want you two to remember when you run into hard times. Love can get you through anything. This is "A Lover's Concerto."

The Officiant presses play on the laptop, cueing "A Lover's Concerto" by The Toys. Pia TRANSFORMS into a whole new person, a true performer, hamming it up with PURE JOY --

PIA

*How gentle is the rain that falls
softly on the meadow...*

Tala's hands cover her grin, tears welling up.

Nyles' breathing gets heavier. He downs the rest of his wine.

PIA

*... Some magic from above made this
day for us just to fall in love...*

Pia and her sisters do a little choreographed step-and-shimmy as they sing back ups. The guests all CHEER.

Nyles stares off, lost in a thought or memory. And he begins to cry. Some guests notice.

PIA

*... Oh, don't ever make me cry
through long lonely nights without
us. Be always true to me, keep this
day in your heart eternally...*

Tala grabs Abe's hand and pulls him up to dance.

As the INSTRUMENTAL BREAK in the song hits, the sound of a grown man's GUTTURAL MOANS spread. Heads turn to the source:

Nyles is a bawling, blubbering mess. It's truly an ugly cry.

The backing track of the song continues on, but Pia and her sisters stop singing, joining everyone as they just watch Nyles in bewilderment. At a loss, Tala and Abe look over to --

Misty, by the bar with Trevor, shaking her head, embarrassed.

Finally, Jerry puts his hand on Nyles' shoulder, bends down and whispers into his ear. Nyles nods and rises. Jerry puts his arm around Nyles and leads him away.

INT. NYLES AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nyles and Jerry sit on the bed. Nyles is hunched over, head in his hands, but he's done crying. Jerry rubs his back.

JERRY

It's okay, my friend.

NYLES

It's painful. I don't get it.

JERRY

What is painful?

Nyles turns to Jerry, snot dripping from his nose, blood shot eyes, and asks with full sincerity:

NYLES

Do you want to fuck me? I'll let you do it.

Jerry smiles.

JERRY

Not right now, but I appreciate the offer.

Nyles pats Jerry on the leg, then continues hanging his head.

NYLES

I miss her, Jerry.

JERRY

Who?

NYLES

Sarah.

JERRY

Harris?

Nyles nods, still buried in his hands.

JERRY

I didn't know you knew her. We all wish she could've been here.

Nyles shakes his head.

NYLES

I love her.

JERRY

Oh. I see. That's interesting.

Off this image of a kind dude consoling a heartbroken man...

MISTY (PRE-LAP)

Wake up.

INT. NYLES' AND MISTY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nyles wakes up in bed. Another day. Misty moisturizes.

Nyles GROOOOANNNS --

I./E. PRIUS / DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Nyles drives down the road with a look of defeat on his face.

I./E. PRIUS / 91-FREEWAY - SUNSET

The Prius blends in with the weekend traffic in Orange County, side-by-side with hundreds of dead-eyed drivers.

EXT. IRVINE SUBURB - NIGHT

Identical tract homes. Nyles parks the Prius by the curb in front of one. He checks the number: **742**. He checks the address on the GPS: **742 Woodflower St, Irvine**.

He gets out of the car and stands on the front lawn.

NYLES

ROY! I'm turning myself in! Torture me, fuck me, I don't care!

(MORE)

NYLES (CONT'D)

I've felt it all and there's
nothing left but this pit of
sorrow! You were right, it's dark
down here!

He lies on his back, sprawled on the crisp grass. Some
NEIGHBORS pop their heads out.

The front door opens. Roy hurries out to him.

ROY

(harsh whisper)
What are you doing here?!

NYLES

I surrender. You win.

Roy helps Nyles up, smiling at his neighbors as he does.

ROY

Everything's okay, nothing to see.
My brother-in-law, PTSD, Fallujah,
9/11. Real war hero.
(quietly to Nyles)
I'm not letting you ruin family
day, so keep your mouth shut.

Roy drags Nyles into his house.

INT. ROY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Pleasant, portrait of Jesus. TWINS (boy and girl, 6) on
tricycles. A TEEN watches TV. Not what Nyles expected.

ROY

You can't be here.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Who was that man?!

ROY

Goddammit.

JAMIE (45), Roy's wife, appears at the top of the stairs in a
bathrobe, drying her hair.

JAMIE

Oh, hi, sorry, just got out of the
shower.

ROY

Hey, sorry hon', this is ...

It just now dawns on Roy that he doesn't know Nyles' name.

NYLES

Nyles.

ROY

Nyles is an old friend.

NYLES

We're not friends, we're enemies.

(to Jamie)

You married this piece of shit?

JAMIE

Excuse me.

ROY

He's a ball buster, hon'. Nyles just stopped by to say hi. Tuna will be ready soon. We'll be out back.

Roy pulls Nyles away.

EXT. ROY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Nyles blankly takes in Roy's yard. Idyllic suburbia. Pool, Golden Retriever, BBQ and a smoker. A twin BOY (6) waters the grass with a hose. His twin SISTER calls out from a swing set.

GIRL

Push me!

Feeling powerless at the moment, Nyles pushes the girl on the swing. Roy walks up with beers, slightly calmer now.

ROY

(re: his twins)

Can you believe I made these? If I had one less Mai Tai that night I'd have put the rubber on right and they wouldn't be here.

(then)

Here's to Mai Tais.

Roy sips his beer, watching his kids with fatherly pride. He and Nyles trade off pushing the swing.

NYLES

This is your life?

ROY

Not bad, huh? Beautiful wife, three beautiful kids.

(MORE)

ROY (CONT'D)
(pointing to his boy)
Little retard is watering dog shit.
It's weird and beautiful.

The boy scoops up a piece of dog shit, dumps it onto a pile in middle of the grass, and continues watering it.

NYLES
What about marriage being a
"bottomless pit of sorrow?"

ROY
Shit, man, I'm not without my
demons. Don't crucify me. Things
change. Priorities... change.

Nyles stares at the kid, unpacking all of this. Roy picks up on Nyles' troubled mental state.

ROY
So what are you doing here? You
have two minutes to drink that beer
before I slit your throat and throw
you in the smoker.
(off Nyles' look)
I'm kidding. This is a PG house.
Get on with it though. You're
scaring my wife.

Nyles notices Jamie watching him through the blinds from the second floor bedroom window. She shuts the blinds.

NYLES
I haven't seen you in a while.

ROY
Yeah, no shit. A bunch of rock
climbers found me on the road that
day and brought me to the hospital.
Nurses wouldn't let me sleep
because they thought I'd fall into
a coma. Died a slow, painful death.

NYLES
There's nothing worse than dying
slowly in the ICU.

ROY
Alzheimer's. Way worse. Runs in my
family. At least I don't have to
deal with that.

Roy sips on his beer, suppressing some memory.

ROY

I had a lot of anger for you, man.
I'm never gonna see my kids grow
up, I'm never gonna walk Madison
down the aisle. But you wouldn't
know shit about that, would you?

Roy glares at Nyles, then takes a more enlightened approach.

ROY

I admit, my head may have been up
my own ass, I might not have fully
grasped what I put you through, but
that little hospital stint opened
my eyes. Today was always a good
day here. Matty tending his dog
shit, Jamie in the prime of her
womanhood at forty-five. Madison's
gonna draw a family portrait later
where we're all animals. I'm a
goddamn grizzly. I don't have to
watch my family grow up to hate me.
Can't beat that.

Roy glances over at Nyles, sensing that the dude is a lost
soul at the moment.

ROY

You gotta find your Irvine.

NYLES

I don't have an Irvine.

ROY

We all have an Irvine.
(then)
Who was that looney bitch that
blindsided me, anyway?

NYLES

(defensive)
Don't call her that.

Roy shakes his head at Nyles while drinking his beer.

ROY

You brought her to the cave, didn't
you? Goddamn, didn't you learn
anything?

Nyles stares ahead, still pushing Madison.

NYLES

She followed me in.

ROY
 Hey. At least you have each other.
 Can't imagine anything worse than
 going through this shit alone.

Nyles stops pushing, hit with the reality that they *don't*
 have each other anymore... He *does* have to go through this
 shit alone.

Madison looks back at Nyles.

ROY
 Okay, you gotta go now.

NYLES
 Can I stay for dinner?

ROY
 It's probably best if we don't see
 each other again.
 (then)
 It's not you, it's me.

A moment as Nyles absorbs this. Even Roy is done with Nyles.

NYLES
 Kill me?

Roy takes him in -- this defeated shell of a man.

NYLES
 The traffic.

ROY
 Side yard.
 (to Madison)
 Daddy'll be right back, honey.

EXT. ROY'S HOUSE - SIDE YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Roy leads Nyles to the side yard and shuts the gate behind
 them so that they're out of view from the kids.

ROY
 (quietly)
 K, uh... Get in the recycle bin.

Roy unlocks a storage bin and pulls out the HUNTING BOW.

Nyles climbs into the empty recycle bin and faces Roy.

NYLES
 You actually own that?

ROY
 It's my eldest's. Caught him
 hunting cats. At least I don't have
 to see him grow up to be a serial
 killer.

Roy cocks the arrow into place -- AIMS at Nyles' HEAD...

ROY
 I hope you find it, man.

Then AIMS at Nyles' HEART -- and FIRES --

Nyles collapses into the bin -- the lid shuts closed.

We HOLD ON the recycle bin for a few more seconds as Roy
 leaves the side yard...

TILT UP to the NIGHT SKY --

All the stars, all the constellations -- and BACK DOWN to:

EXT. CASINO - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Where Nyles and Sarah sit handcuffed on the curb as the
 Grumpy Man gives his statement to the Cop. Back to the last
 time Nyles and Sarah saw each other.

NYLES
 I'm an awful person, whatever, but
 you're that predictable.

She turns away. Nyles does the same.

The Cop finishes taking the Grumpy Man's statement and heads
 to Nyles and Sarah. Just before he reaches them --

Sarah turns back to Nyles, determination in her eyes:

SARAH
 I'm getting the fuck out of here.

Nyles doesn't understand...

COP 1
 Okay, up we go --

The Cop helps Nyles up, and as his back is turned, Sarah,
 hands still cuffed behind her back, manages to grab his GUN --

COP 1
 Whoa whoa whoa!

COP 2
 Drop the weapon!

Sarah starts FIRING at NYLES, everybody SCATTERS --

But the Grumpy Man, Mr. Hot Dog Man himself, is fearless. He pulls out a .44 MAGNUM, aims it at Sarah -- BANG!

CUT TO:

INT. CALMADA ESTATE - GUEST HOUSE - MORNING

Sarah shoots awake, sits up, fucking done with this day.

She goes straight to the BATHROOM --

She flings open the steamed shower door to find Abe --

ABE

Hey you.

SARAH

No. This is done. This never should've happened. We both deserve every awful thing that's coming to us because we are shitty people. But I'm done being shitty.

ABE

Uhh, okay. You're not going to tell Tala though, right?

SARAH

I already fucking told her and it doesn't make a difference.

And with that Sarah SLAMS the shower door, cracking it.

INT. SARAH'S CAR - MOVING / HIGHWAY

PUSH IN on Sarah behind the wheel, a woman on a mission.

EXT. PALM SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY - MORNING

Sarah's car screeches into the EMPTY parking lot.

LATER

Sarah paces back and forth at the ENTRANCE, waiting for the library to open. BEHIND HER we see the LIBRARIAN (40s) inside, unlocking the glass doors and opening them.

LIBRARIAN

Off to an early start --

Sarah slips right by and we follow her INSIDE --

INT. PALM SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

SARAH
Science. I need the science section.

LIBRARIAN
What type of science?

SARAH
Time loops? Time travel?

LIBRARIAN
Try aisle six...

The Librarian follows slowly behind Sarah --

Sarah turns down aisle six, scans titles: Quantum Mechanics,
In Search of Schrödinger's Cat, The Infinity Puzzle...

LIBRARIAN
What are you looking for exactly? I
can help narrow it down...

SARAH
I walked into a cave that sucked me
into some type of hellish wormhole
and now I've been stuck living the
same day over and over again and I
need to find a way out.

The Librarian gives her a blank stare.

LIBRARIAN
Maybe try the Internet?

Sarah stops. Looks over. *That's it.*

INT. COMPUTER LAB - MOMENTS LATER

From behind the computer, ANGLE ON Sarah as she sits before
this machine which may hold all the answers. As she gets to
work typing we slowly PUSH IN on her face --

TIME SPEEDS UP BEHIND HER -- library guests pass by in a blur
-- but Sarah never moves, her eyes just rapidly scanning
every page she reads, absorbing every video she watches --

-- FLASH TO diagrams of WORMHOLES, BLACK HOLES, EQUATIONS,
COSMOLOGICAL DIAGRAMS --

-- FLASH TO various entries typed into GOOGLE: *cosmology, magnetic vortex, quantum suicide, parallel universes* --

PUSHING IN on Sarah, her face fills the frame, pupils shrink --

-- FLASH TO Sarah waking up -- she hops out of bed -- Her CAR speeds away in a dust cloud -- OVER and OVER again --

-- FLASH TO a Stephen Hawking TED Talk -- Sarah furiously takes notes --

-- Sarah's eyes grow heavy as she watches a dated TV special on time travel... until she falls asleep at the computer --

-- Sarah WAKES UP -- back at the guest house -- *FUCK* -- and jumps out of bed -- Her car speeds away --

PUSHING IN on Sarah's face -- on her EYE --

-- As Howard assembles the ALTAR, Sarah swipes a TAPE MEASURE from Howard's tool box and walks off, but STOPS when --

NYLES (O.C.)

Sarah! I see your car! I know
you're here!

She hides up against a wall as Nyles passes by, then runs off.

-- Sarah exits a Superstore carrying a bunch of TOOLS and CHEMICALS. The same young BOY selling candy from before approaches. She ignores him. Then stops. Goes back and gives him a 100 DOLLAR BILL.

SARAH

(Subtitled Spanish)

Make sure you spend it all today.

-- FLASH TO Sarah at the mouth of the CAVE, measuring it, pacing back and forth, pouring weird chemicals in the dirt. She strides in, staring at a stopwatch, the ORANGE ORB engulfs her into a BLACK VOID --

We PULL OUT from Sarah's PUPIL -- she rubs her weary eyes as she SKYPES with a PROFESSOR:

PROFESSOR

... we're kind of circling
determinism, so there's really only
one possible future given the laws
of our universe --

SARAH

-- BUT. Wait. You're wrong. Hintz argued that a Reissner-Nordstrom-de Sitter black hole would allow an observer access to the indeterministic universe on the other side of the Cauchy horizon.

The Professor stares back.

PROFESSOR

Okay. Sounds like you don't need my help. Take care --

The Professor signs off.

-- FLASH TO Sarah, face-to-face with SPUDS' GOAT. She pets it endearingly, apologetically, then walks her INTO the cave. WE SEE the ORANGE FLASH and hear the goat bleat.

-- FLASH TO Sarah leaning over the fence at Spuds' GOAT PEN, weighing something as she looks at the goat, who stares back.

-- Sarah, outside the cave, straps a PACK FULL OF C4 onto the same goat's back. She walks the goat into the cave, out of view... but after a moment Sarah RUNS OUT -- without the goat -- takes cover behind a boulder, detonator in hand -- and CLICK -- AN EXPLOSION IN THE CAVE --

-- FLASH TO a VIDEO depicting a theoretical journey through the UNIVERSE, through a WORMHOLE -- leading us to:

BLACKNESS, NOTHINGNESS -- except for a SINGLE, DISTANT STAR...

... THE STAR EXPLODES, filling a PERFECTLY CLEAR NIGHT SKY --

Now we're BACK TO the starting ANGLE -- behind the computer.

Sarah stops reading, stops typing, and sits back in her chair. She looks to The Librarian, cataloguing books at the counter.

SARAH

I think I got it.

The Librarian smiles politely, then goes back to her work.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - THAT MOMENT

Nyles, dejected and back in the lounge chair, stares at the pool. Pure misery and emptiness. The guy just can't move on.

SARAH (O.S.)

Still here, huh?

Nyles turns his head to see Sarah approaching -- and falls out of his chair. He blinks to be sure he isn't hallucinating.

NYLES
Hey! You're here.

SARAH
Yup.

NYLES
Wow, you look great.

SARAH
Yeah. Well I can't age.

NYLES
Right.

It's awkward... She looks down at him, still on the ground.

SARAH
So, how you been?

NYLES
Bad.
(stands up)
I mean, yeah bad, look, can I just say something... I am SO sorry, for everything, for lying, for not telling you about our "previous encounters." All of it, it was not cool. And I don't blame you for being mad at me. But, I've been thinking about it, we had a really good thing going before I screwed it up. So, do you think we could just start over? I feel like we owe that to ourselves.

SARAH
Are you done?

Nyles thinks for a moment. *Am I done?*

NYLES
Yes.

SARAH
Good. I think I found a way out.

Off Nyles --

INT. BRIDAL SUITE BATHROOM - DAY

TIGHT ON Sarah as she explains her theory to Nyles.

SARAH

... all lying entirely within a Cauchy horizon, and though the chronology protection hypothesis and quantum fluctuations theoretically don't allow for traveling back in time, it really comes down to nature always inhibiting us. So, the general consensus is eradicate the energy source and all should reset.

She looks at Nyles, preoccupied and clearly not following.

SARAH

Nature prevents time travel. The earthquake broke nature.

NYLES

(unconvincing)
Right. I hear that.

SARAH

No, listen, this is serious.

Sarah leans forward and grabs her PURSE from the vanity --

ERIN (O.S.)

Please, don't move --

WIDE TO REVEAL: Erin, thoroughly annoyed as she tries to do Sarah's hair for the wedding.

ERIN

I don't know what you're talking about, but we only have half an hour until photos and I still need to get ready.

SARAH

Then get ready. I'll finish up.

Erin puts her hands up, glad to be done, and leaves.

Sarah takes out LIPSTICK and draws a DIAGRAM on the mirror, starting with a LONG TUBE --

SARAH

This is the cave. It's also life, birth and death, our consciousness, the timeline we all live on, but it's simpler to think of it solely as the cave. We enter here --

She circles the left entry --

SARAH

-- and what's supposed to happen in life is we just walk through this tube to the other end, continuing on this regular timeline. But, much like an earthquake can break pipes underground, it broke *our* pipe.

She circles a section of the tube --

SARAH

This is the part where it all turns orange, where we're sucked in. For exactly 3.2 seconds we lose control of our bodies, and what's happening is we're being sucked down into this fissure caused by the earthquake, back to the moment we wake up.

Sarah draws a line down from the fissure, back to the start.

NYLES

(trying to follow)
Okay... I really missed you.

SARAH

Nyles, focus. It's really not that hard to understand. Here --
(circling the fissure again)
This is a highly concentrated energy source. Remember, you said it yourself. Energy Is Everything. We're trapped in a box of energy.

Sarah draws a BOX around the entire graphic.

SARAH

That's all this day is. A box of energy.
(pointing to the fissure)
We destroy the energy source in that 3.2 second window, we break the box. At least I think.

Sarah goes back to applying her make-up, pleased with herself.

NYLES

And then what, there's like more boxes outside the box?

SARAH

I don't know, maybe we wake up and it's today, maybe it's twenty years from now, or we're dead under a pile of rocks. I can't be sure of any of it, that's why it's a theory. But we have to try.

Sarah's making somewhat of a convincing argument, but Nyles remains skeptical.

NYLES

Okay. And by "break the box," you mean...?

SARAH

We blow up ourselves *and* the cave in that 3.2 second window. Then we're out.

Sarah moves onto her mascara, so confident in her plan.

NYLES

I dunno, I mean, we've killed ourselves so many times already and we're still here, in "this box," right? I mean, I don't wanna shit on your idea, you've clearly spent a lot of time learning all about this stuff --

SARAH

Well, technically, I've spent no time on it, since this isn't real time, it's all time spent outside of time, but go on.

NYLES

I just think you might be setting yourself up for disappointment again. Remember your karma experiment?

SARAH

This is different.

She puts down her mascara and looks him in the eyes.

SARAH

I tested it.

Sarah moves into the BEDROOM and starts changing into her DRESS. Nyles is stuck on her last line though...

NYLES

How did you test it?

SARAH

I tried it with Spuds' goat. I sent her into the cave, blew her up, and... she's gone. I don't know where she went, but she isn't here anymore.

(then)

Zip me up.

Nyles zips her dress, still unsure...

NYLES

The goat's gone?

SARAH

Yeah. Crazy, right? So, get through today, don't do anything too crazy, and tonight, meet me at the cave so we can peace the fuck out of this shithole.

Sarah checks her dress in the armoire mirror. Nyles sits on the bed, processing. *Did she actually find a way out?*

NYLES

You sure you don't wanna run a few more tests first?

SARAH

What? No. What are you talking about?

Sarah sits on the bed and begins lacing up on her shoes.

NYLES

The cave will still be there tomorrow... I just don't wanna rush into anything, you know, in case something actually *does* happen.

SARAH

Rush? Nyles, we've been stuck in here for an eternity.

NYLES

Yeah, no, I know. I guess I just really saw this conversation going differently, y'know?

She looks at Nyles. The same dude she once had a fling with, may have even loved, but who remains unchanged. Same wrinkled Hawaiian shirt, same dirty swim trunks...

SARAH

Holy shit. You're scared to leave.

NYLES

No, I'm not. I just don't WANT to leave. There's a difference.

SARAH

What's the difference?

NYLES

I wanna stay with you.

SARAH

Everything we're doing in here is meaningless. You know that, right? This isn't real.

NYLES

It's real to me. Look...

(takes a breath)

I love you. How about that?

Sarah continues with her other shoe, deflecting --

SARAH

You don't love me. I'm literally the only other human being stuck in here with you.

NYLES

No, what about Roy? I don't love him.

Sarah looks at him: *Come on.*

SARAH

So, you're saying that *out there*, in the *real world*, with millions of choices, you'd still want to be with me?

Nyles hesitates for a second too long... Sarah clocks it.

NYLES

Yeah. Absolutely.

SARAH

Bullshit. You can't possibly know that.

NYLES

Well, would you want to be with me?

SARAH

Fuck no.

Sarah heads back into the bathroom --

NYLES

Right, see, we "can't possibly know that." Your words. But what I DO know is that we're good together, *here, in this world.*

SARAH

You've lost your mind.

Nyles stands --

NYLES

That's what love's all about! Sane people don't fall in love, don't be so afraid of it. I'm not going to fuck you over. And if you get mad at me again, just take a few years off and then come back. We'll still have our youth.

SARAH

I want my life back, Nyles!

NYLES

Why? It's not like things were working out so great for us out there. I mean, I know you're screwing Abe, so if your plan works you'll have to deal with that whole mess.

The color drains from Sarah's face.

SARAH

How do you know about that?

He sighs.

NYLES

Viktor and Rolf Flowerbomb.

She is livid, ashamed, as she packs her purse --

NYLES

But it doesn't matter. I don't judge you for the past, that's kind of my whole thing.

SARAH

Wow, YOU don't judge ME? That's rich coming from the guy who lied about us fucking "thousands of times."

NYLES

I said I was sorry!

SARAH

Yeah, well apology not accepted. Good talk, Nyles. Don't come with me, I don't care.

She turns to leave -- but he's in the way.

SARAH

Can you move? If this is my last day, I'm not wasting it with you.

Nyles stares back, he wants her to stay... but she won't back down. He steps aside and she leaves.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - FRONT - DAY

Nyles wanders out the front door in a daze. He stops and stares up at the sun, like he's trying to blind himself...

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Nyles trudges down the dirt road, AWAY from the estate, as guests drive toward the wedding.

He passes the sign for "Tala & Abe's Wedding - November 9."

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - DAY

Sarah, all dressed for the wedding, straight-faced as the PHOTOGRAPHER positions the family members around Tala and Abe in front of a cactus. Sarah forces a smile for the photo.

EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY

Nyles walks in the middle of the road, head hanging, looking pathetic. A passing CAR blares its horn. Nyles doesn't react.

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - WEDDING CEREMONY AREA - SUNSET

MOS: Tala and Abe share their vows as family tears up. Sarah smiles, standing by Tala in full support. She glances out at the audience -- everyone falls for the love on display.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - SUNSET

Nyles turns up another dirt road, the sun descends below the mountains behind him -- and **THE EARTHQUAKE HITS**.

Nyles pauses for a moment. A thought crosses him, he looks west: *The cave is open. Maybe Sarah's heading in.*

He sighs, then keeps walking forth into the darkness.

MISTY (PRE-LAP)

And *Commitment* is "the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etcetera."

EXT. CALMADA ESTATE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Misty looks out at the silent guests.

TALA

Woo-hoo!

Tala and Abe stand and clap. Everyone else joins in applause.

MISTY

Without further ado, let me bring up the maid of honor, the *actual* big sister of the bride, Sarah.

All eyes land on Sarah, seated across from Tala. She takes a breath... and heads onto the dance floor. She takes the mic --

SARAH

Thanks Misty, that was great.

Sarah looks directly at Tala throughout.

SARAH

Tala. My baby sister, Tala. What can I say that hasn't been said? Heh... Even from this angle, I can see a very faint halo of light around your head -- hovering just above those angelic cheekbones.

Tala' cheekbones radiate. Sarah sighs to herself, *this is ridiculous...* But sees Tala beaming at her... and actually gets a little choked up. *What are these feelings I'm feeling?*

SARAH

This world is bizarre... things happen, life happens, and it's easy to bear down and just go through the motions day after day, after day... But, my sweet little sis', you are so open to the wonder of it all. You have this hopefulness that's special and rare. Every morning you get up and you confidently charge forth toward the life you've dreamt up for yourself. Your joy, *this joyous energy*, it's contagious and it's just...

FLASH TO:

SARAH AND NYLES

Staring at each other across the campfire --

NYLES

... Everything.

SARAH

... Everything.

BACK TO:

SARAH - MID SPEECH

SARAH

... it's *everything*.

Sarah pauses, struck by the warmth of this memory. She swallows her vulnerability, and looks back at Tala --

SARAH

Big sisters are supposed to teach baby sisters, but I will today and forever, and ever and ever, be learning from you.

The two sisters share a blissful, teary smile.

SARAH

So, now, Abe...

Abe leans forward, expecting some kind words...

SARAH

You fucking hurt her and I'll stab your little fucking dick with a fork, I swear to god.

Stunned reactions from the crowd.

Sarah smiles, drops the mic, and walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - NIGHT

Nyles sulks at the bar, swirling a glass of whiskey. PUSH IN on that empty mug of his... Until he DROPS his face down on the bar. As we first met him. Gram Parsons' "Return of the Grievous Angel" plays throughout.

Darla slides up and rubs his leg. Nyles shoots up.

DARLA

You okay, sweetheart?

NYLES

I've felt everything I'll ever feel
so I'll never feel ever again.

Darla looks to Ted the Bartender --

DARLA

What're you pouring this kid, Ted?

TED THE BARTENDER

That's his first drink.

NYLES

I thought I knew how to live. But I
didn't. Or, I don't? You know what
I mean.

DARLA

Darlin', take a look around: whatever
you're after, it ain't here...

But now TIME SLOWS for Nyles... and we see this moment differently than before as he locks eyes with Darla --

He turns back to the bar, digesting this odd profundity, staring into the MIRROR behind dusty liquor bottles --

FROM OVER NYLES' SHOULDER, REFLECTED IN THE MIRROR, WE WATCH:

A giddy Nyles leading a blindfolded Sarah into her surprise shindig filled with decorations and a giant 'HAPPY MILLIONTH BIRTHDAY, SARAH' sign... that joyous tableau from their early days together. He removes her blindfold --

SARAH

(touched, beaming)

Have I really been here that long?

NYLES

You're asking the wrong guy --

Nyles lifts up a CONFETTI CANNON and blasts her face --

FROM NYLES' POV, CLOSE UP AND DIRECT INTO SARAH'S GRIN --

Confetti pieces flutter around Sarah, radiant with an unbridled joy we haven't seen. She leans in and squeezes Nyles in a hug, then lets go and steps back, bringing us

BACK TO THE BAR, IN THE PRESENT

ON NYLES, lost in this memory as Gram Parsons SWELLS:

"...Twenty-thousand roads I went down, down, down, and they all lead me straight back home to you..."

Darla, weirded out, looks to Ted the Bartender --

DARLA

You sure he didn't take something?

TED THE BARTENDER

He's sober. Kid's just moping there.

Nyles turns to them, quickly piecing together a haphazard plan. He JOLTS up and defiantly shoots his whiskey, shattering the glass with a glare for Ted --

NYLES

I'm a fucking adult, Thaddeus.

TED THE BARTENDER

Talk to me like that and you'll be pulling your teeth from the bar.

Nyles sizes up the barflies leering at him. He turns to Ted and holds a peace sign... and rotates it into a middle finger.

Nyles LUNGES over the bar and latches onto Ted's shirt as some BIKERS grab Nyles' legs -- the place erupts into CHAOS --

EXT. ROADSIDE BIKER BAR - NIGHT

We HEAR the sound of a FIGHT: SHOUTING, GLASS BREAKING -- The front door flies open and the two bikers hurl Nyles face first onto the gravel parking lot then go back inside.

Nyles looks into his clenched hand: TED'S CAR KEYS.

Nyles pushes himself up -- with a bloody, broken nose -- and RUNS to Ted's PICK-UP truck, gets in, REVS the engine --

INT. SARAH'S CAR - NIGHT

Sarah drives her car along a rough dirt road, deeply focused --

INT. TED'S PICK-UP - NIGHT

Nyles presses down the gas -- SPEEDING DOWN THE HIGHWAY --

He CRACKS his nose back into place, then --

He hits a POTHOLE -- POP!!! -- he blows a tire --

-- and SKIDS TO A STOP on the shoulder.

Nyles jumps out of the truck, checks the tire: torn to shreds and bent in on itself.

NYLES

FUUUUCK!

Nyles looks down the road -- and takes off RUNNING --

EXT. DESERT VALLEY - NIGHT

Sarah gets out of her car at the dead end of a dirt road. She pops the trunk and pulls out a DUFFEL BAG, throws it over her shoulder, and powers forth into the desert -- on a mission.

EXT. SPUDS' HOUSE - GUN RANGE - NIGHT

Spuds FIRES a shot at the Mustache Man target. As he nods with pride at his perfect shot --

NYLES (O.S.)

Don't shoot, Spuds!

Spuds turns and aims the gun at this mysterious man running out of the darkness and into the flood lights -- a lunatic drenched in sweat, caked in dirt, and out of breath --

NYLES

I need help! A ride... Anything...

SPUDS

Who the fuck are you?

Spuds doesn't flinch. Nyles plays his only card:

NYLES

Thirty years ago you met a woman named Tracy Holmes at a bar in Aberdeen, and after she popped your cherry in the little boy's room, she left town and you never saw her again.

Spuds' hands tremble at the memory, still raw, while maintaining his aim.

NYLES

Spuds. I'm your son.

Spuds sheds a tear. He lowers his gun, totally buying Nyles' story. He walks up to Nyles and pulls him in for a tight hug.

SPUDS

I always had a feeling.

Mid hug, Nyles glances at the GOAT PEN and considers checking to see if Sarah was telling truth, if the goat is really gone. But the clock's ticking. He gets out of the hug --

NYLES

I love you, Dad. But I really need your help. The love of my life might be leaving forever.

Spuds wipes his nose and looks at Nyles with fatherly eyes.

EXT. DESERT HILLSIDE - NIGHT

THE CAVE. Open and ready.

SARAH. Calm. Resolute. She stands just beyond the mouth, staring at it. She takes a deep breath and pulls on a VEST LINED WITH C4. She walks toward the cave.

Just as she's about to cross the threshold --

NYLES (O.S.)

Wait!!! Sarah!!!

Sarah turns to see a DIRT BIKE weaving through the valley, Spuds is driving, Nyles holds on tight to his waist.

Spuds skids to a stop. Nyles jumps off and runs toward Sarah.

SARAH

Goddamnit. What is it, Nyles?

NYLES

I blew it again! You were right, I was scared, but I'm not anymore! We're all lost, but somehow we found each other. And yes, I'm quoting myself, but I hope you can look past that, because I know you feel it, too.

SARAH

You don't know what I feel. You don't know me.

NYLES

But maybe I do!
(composes himself)
Sarah, from the moment I saw you --

SARAH

I don't want another one of your fucking speeches, Nyles...

She looks toward the cave.

SARAH

You get one more sentence.

NYLES

Okay, okay, okay --

Nyles thinks for a moment...

NYLES

Even though I pretend not to be, I've realized I'm completely co-dependent, but now I'm cool with it because life is meant to be shared... *semi-colon*... I need you for survival --

SARAH

That's your one sentence --

NYLES

WAIT!

She stops.

NYLES

... I need you for survival, *comma*, but this is so much more than that... *colon*...

(MORE)

NYLES (CONT'D)

I know you better than anyone knows you, and that day we saw the dinosaurs, you said to really know a person you have to see their entire package, the good and the bad, well you've see mine, and I've seen yours, and you have an excellent package. *Ampersand* you're my favorite person I've ever met, and yes, it seems like crazy odds that a person I'd meet stuck in a time loop would end up being my favorite person, but you know what else has crazy odds? Getting stuck in a fucking time loop... *Dot dot dot --*

SARAH

Ellipses.

NYLES

Yes, ellipses, thank you. *Ellipses*, I hope blowing ourselves up works, but if it doesn't, it's irrelevant for me, as long as I'm with you. And if it kills us... well... Sarah Isabel Harris, I'd rather die with you than live in this world without you, *emphatic period*.

Sarah's speechless for a moment.

SARAH

That was a grammatical nightmare.

NYLES

Yeah, hopefully that didn't distract from my point.

Nyles locks eyes with her, letting his declaration of commitment linger for as long as he needs to.

Sarah finally breaks the silence:

SARAH

What if we get sick of each other?

NYLES

(smiling)

We're already sick of each other. It's the best.

A beat...

SARAH

I can survive just fine without you. But there's a chance that life can be a little less mundane with you in it.

NYLES

Yes, less mundane. That's a very low bar, great place to start.

She cracks a smile.

SARAH

Then I'll try it for now.

Nyles beams. Spuds CLAPS, watching from his bike.

SPUDS

And that is love.

INT. CAVE - MOMENTS LATER

From the inside looking out, Sarah and Nyles stand at the mouth of the cave. Her in her C4 vest, him with a broken nose, in his swim trunks and Hawaiian shirt. A perfect engagement photo. They begin their walk in.

NYLES

So did that goat thing actually work or was that bullshit?

SARAH

Too late, you already committed.

NYLES

Son of a bitch.

Sarah takes his hand.

NYLES

Hey, where do you wanna go on our first date when this for sure works?

The orange light BRIGHTENS on their faces.

They look at each other, still walking forward...

SARAH

In case I don't see you again --

Sarah kisses Nyles, the ORANGE ORB SWELLS --

IT DWARFS THEM -- THEY LOSE CONTROL --

ENGULFED BY ORB --

MAKING OUT --

SARAH'S HAND ON THE DETONATOR -- CLICK --

**** A BURST OF WHITE LIGHT ****

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Yesterday, last year, today, tomorrow... Sarah and Nyles float on an extra large pizza raft in a pool, burritos in hand, horchata in the pepperoni cupholders.

SARAH

There's one thing I still really don't understand?

NYLES

Only one thing?

SARAH

How did you find the cave in the first place? You had to find it that first day at the wedding, but it's like two miles from the party, not by any roads. What were you doing out there?

Nyles takes a big bite of his burrito.

SARAH

Seriously. Honesty and communication are key to a healthy relationship.

NYLES

But is there any answer that'll be satisfying to you?

SARAH

Yeah, because an answer is inherently satisfying. It satisfies the pursuit of truth. And I like truth. I get off on truth.

Nyles stares directly at Sarah.

NYLES

But does it not run the risk of disappointment if I tell you what happened? By this point your mind is made up about me, whether you love me, hate me, or anything in between. And if I tell you how I found the cave, that might give you a sense of *truth*, but will it be *satisfaction*? Our energy should be focused on pursuing what gives us --

Sarah SLURPS her horchata loudly, growing peeved.

NYLES

Isn't it more exciting to live your life always having some sense of mystery?

SARAH

No. That's pretentious. And dumb.

Nyles ponders this for a moment. A small raft with the box of Tecate on it floats by.

NYLES

Yeah. I guess it is.

Sarah smiles. She stops the Tecate box and grabs a beer.

SARAH

Beer?

NYLES

I'm good. Watching my figure.
(then)
Look. A turtle.

Nyles points to the scarred TORTOISE walking toward them from the other side of the backyard. As they gaze at it --

"Forever and Ever" by Demis Roussos kicks in...

We FLOAT UP AND AWAY from Nyles and Sarah... And as we get farther away we see they're in this pool by themselves, in the backyard of a secluded desert house...

Scattered civilization, farther away, dinos in the distance, up into a cloud, until we can't see shit anymore.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END