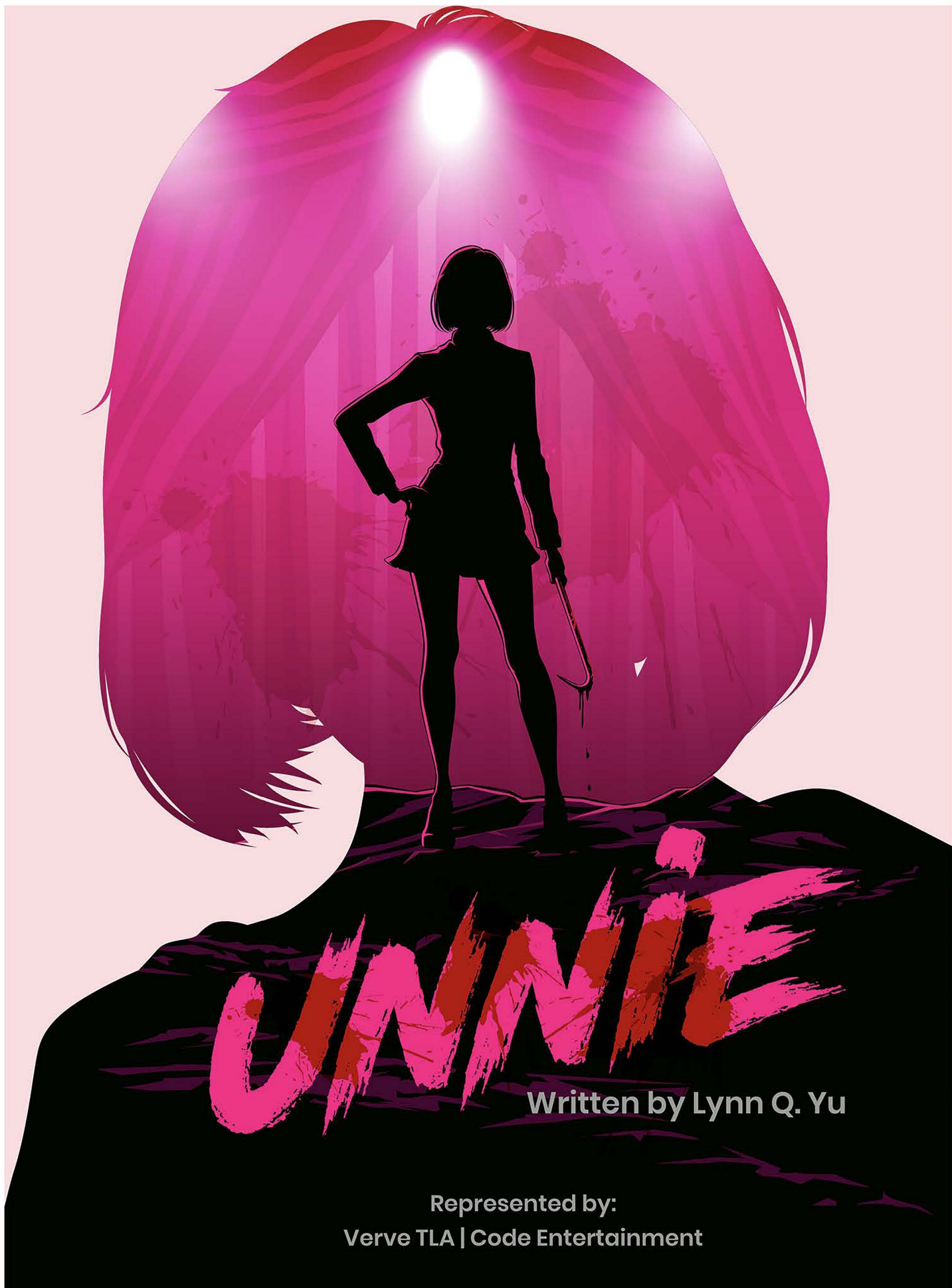


VERVE



Written by Lynn Q. Yu

Represented by:
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Note: Some of this film will take place in Korean. When the dialogue is unitalicized, it indicates the dialogue is in English. When the dialogue is *italicized*, it is in Korean.

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore – And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over – like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags like a heavy load.

Or does it *EXPLODE*?

EXT. LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD - VARIOUS

Over the opening credits, a MONTAGE plays out showing the cutthroat nature of the K-pop trainee system:

-Adolescent girls audition for trainee camps, giving their everything to impress panels of indifferent executives.

-**TITLE CARDS** tell us:

Thousands of teens enter the K-pop trainee system each year.

Less than one percent of them will make it to debut.

Of those who debut, less than one percent will become stars.

But for those who do ...

-Packed STADIUMS roar for their favorite K-pop idols. MOBS of people swarm the idols at airports, hotels, concert venues.

This isn't fandom. This isn't devotion. This is *worship*.

And just as the global scale of the K-pop music industry is made clear to us, we FADE TO ...

INT. JC DANCE STUDIO - NIGHT

Seven girls, between the ages of 18-26, perform "SONG."*

*For the purposes of this script, the track I'll be referencing is Blackpink's "HOW YOU LIKE THAT."

The girls dance and twirl through the room in unison.

They are *perfect*.

After all, they're K-pop idols in training. They have to be.

The track ends. The girls applaud each other, exhausted after a long day's rehearsal.

They pack and gather their things - tennis shoes, towels, sweat-soaked shirts and duffel bags.

EXT. JC ENTERTAINMENT HEADQUARTERS, LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

The girls exit from JC Entertainment headquarters, located at the Pacific Bank Plaza on Wilshire Ave. The iconic, tall buildings frame the square, where countless K-pop music videos have been filmed.

They walk past a billboard featuring **KLIQUE**, global K-pop superstars. The five members of Klique each wear a short, colored wig (pink, orange, blue, purple, and blonde), and matching schoolgirl outfits.

Think: Sailor Moon with a hard edge.

The billboard announces their comeback tour.

EXT. BOBA TIME - NIGHT

The girls stand around chatting and unwinding, sipping on boba tea. It's **HALLOWEEN NIGHT** in LA, and scores of costumed party-goers pass by on the street.

EXT. WILSHIRE/WESTERN METRO STATION - NIGHT

The girls trudge toward the Metro station. One of them, **CHAEYOUNG**, breaks away from the group.

CHAEYOUNG

You guys go ahead. I wanna walk.

A chorus of "NO!" and "Are you sure?!"

CHAEYOUNG

I'll be fine!

The rest of the group waves goodbye and tells her to "stay safe!", and Chaeyoung peels off in the other direction.

EXT. KOREATOWN - NIGHT

Chaeyoung threads her way through Halloween revelers.

Koreatown, Los Angeles - a neighborhood that was razed to the ground during the 1992 Rodney King riots, only to rise from the ashes, stronger than before. A place of rebirth.

Strip malls are packed in tightly next to squat apartment complexes next to Spanish-style churches.

Cars honk, bars echo, the night reverberates.

Chaeyoung walks past it all.

EXT. RAMPART STREET - NIGHT

Chaeyoung turns a corner onto Rampart Street. She mimes dance moves in the air, working through some ghost choreography.

In the distance, someone in a KLIQUE outfit waits under a streetlight, hands behind her back. The costume is *immaculate*, complete with a **PINK-HAIRED WIG, SCHOOLGIRL UNIFORM, WHITE GLOVES**, and black boots.

She even wears a mask with the lead singer's face on it.

Pink Schoolgirl cocks her head to get a good look at Chaeyoung. The movement is unsettling.

Besides the two of them, the street is residential and empty.

Chaeyoung nears Pink Schoolgirl and flashes her a smile.

CHAEYOUNG

Cute costume.

Pink Schoolgirl doesn't respond. Chaeyoung walks past ... and Pink Schoolgirl *turns to follow*.

Chaeyoung continues to practice choreography. The sound of Pink Schoolgirl's boots echo on the sidewalk behind her. Chaeyoung suddenly stops and turns. Pink Schoolgirl stops.

Chaeyoung frowns. She moves on ... and stops a few feet later. Pink Schoolgirl is still behind her.

CHAEYOUNG

(annoyed)

What are you doing?

No response. Chaeyoung turns around and picks up her pace.

ANGLE ON: A house up ahead, a little over a block away.

Chaeyoung hurries towards it. Every now and then, she looks over her shoulder. Pink Schoolgirl plods on behind her.

Chaeyoung breaks into a jog, crossing an intersection. She's just a half block away from her destination when suddenly ...

The lights go out in the house.

Chaeyoung pulls up short. She WHIPS around.

Pink Schoolgirl is nowhere to be seen.

Chaeyoung's breathing quickens as she scans the empty sidewalk before her - what the FUCK is happening?!

Chaeyoung turns, and finds herself INCHES AWAY from Pink Schoolgirl's masked face.

CHAERYOUNG
KAMJAGIYA! Okay who is it? Jae?
Hana? Cut it out.

Pink Schoolgirl advances towards her, forcing Chaeyoung to step backwards. She brings her hands out from behind her back ... revealing a CROWBAR in her white-gloved hands.

CHAERYOUNG
(scared now)
This isn't funny! I'm being
serious.

Pink Schoolgirl cocks her head to the side. And in a quiet voice we hear her say:

PINK SCHOOLGIRL
So am I.

She MOVES IN.

Chaeyoung screams and runs, but Pink Schoolgirl DRAGS her back by her hair. Chaeyoung KICKS Pink Schoolgirl in the shins - Pink Schoolgirl goes down briefly, yelping, before getting up again.

Pink Schoolgirl WACKS Chaeyoung across the head with the crowbar, knocking the young dancer onto the sidewalk, unconscious.

Pink Schoolgirl delivers a BRUTAL and TERRIBLE BEATDOWN. She systematically PULVERIZES Chaeyoung's legs, SHATTERING her kneecaps and CRUSHING her ankles.

Pink Schoolgirl rises, the crowbar slick with blood. Her uniform is splattered in red. She runs the crowbar across a gloved hand, wiping it down.

Pink Schoolgirl moves off and out of frame. An OVERHEAD SHOT reveals a prostrate Chaeyoung, bleeding out, legs crumpled.

She will never dance again.

Stillness on the street.

Moments later, the lights come back on in the house.

And we ...

SMASH CUT TO:

UNNIE

INT. JC DANCE STUDIO - DAY

The girls practice "HOW YOU LIKE THAT" without the backing track - **GRACE CHO (42)**, the dance instructor, calls out an eight-count as they move through the routine.

Grace is stern, no-nonsense. The bags under her eyes convey her exhaustion - at life, the universe, and everything in it.

TITLE: SIX MONTHS UNTIL DEBUT

We COME IN ON **HOYEON CHO (26)** as she focuses intently to hit her marks. For the rest of the film, she'll be referred to as **UNNIE**, the Korean word for "older sister."

Because it's clear how much older she is compared to the others, a clinger-on who's been around too long. Desperate to be let in the club, hurt they haven't done so yet.

As the girls twirl across the floor, two figures enter and watch. Grace notices them and calls the dance to a stop. The girls pant, out of breath as they take in the newcomers.

TOMMY PARK (45), the group's manager - a pig-eyed numbers man who operates with callous efficiency.

Unnie steps forward.

UNNIE
(in Korean)
One, two ...

The girls bow in unison and respectfully greet Mr. Park in Korean. They're completely in sync with each other.

MR. PARK
(in Korean)
Chaeyoung is in a coma.

The girls GASP and murmur to each other.

MR. PARK
She's going to be okay. But she won't be returning.

One of the girls chokes back a sob.

MR. PARK
The company is still investigating how something like this could have happened. The group will have a strict curfew going forward. No one leaves the dorm after 9 p.m.

Some of the girls grumble at this.

MR. PARK

*In the meantime, I'd like to
introduce a new member. Sara Chung.
From our New York headquarters.*

SARA (19) steps forward shyly. Her hair has been dyed blonde; she is arrestingly beautiful.

MR. PARK

*Chaeyoung was one of our best
dancers. We're hoping Sara can fill
in the gaps.*

The girls have been scrutinizing Sara, but shoot each other looks at this pronouncement.

Grace reacts, visibly surprised.

GRACE

*Evaluations are next week. I didn't
expect the company would send a
replacement.*

Mr. Park ignores Grace, a flicker of annoyance crossing his face.

MR. PARK

*Sara, this is "BLUE SKY." JC
Entertainment's first American K-
pop group. The whole concept is
they're like a blue sky, the
American Dream, anything is
possible. Cho sunsengnim is your
dance instructor.*

Sara bows deeply to Grace; Grace gives a curt nod back.

GRACE

Call me Grace ssem.

MR. PARK

*Sara is 19-years old. That's Jae,
she's 22-*

As Mr. Park introduces them, the camera goes around and lights on the individual members as they size up Sara and where she ranks in the Korean age hierarchy.

JAE (22) - butch with a pixie cut, a rapper.

MR. PARK

Raya is 20-

RAYA (20) - wisp thin, the only non-Korean of the group. Raya has a nervous Winona Ryder-esque energy. Vocalist.

MR. PARK
Nari is also 20-

NARI (20) - beautiful, spacey, and too good for this world. A cross necklace hangs around her neck. The visual.

MR. PARK
Hana is 21-

HANA (21) - loud and cynical, tells it like it is. Rapper/vocalist.

MR. PARK
Min-Ji is our youngest, 18-years old, the maknae of the group-

MIN-JI (18) - the only Korean actually from Korea - sheltered, rich, and spoiled. Dancer.

MR. PARK
And finally, last but not least, our group leader Hoyeon.

Unnie gives a friendly wave.

MR. PARK
She's 26-years old, the Unnie.

Unnie cringes at the mention of her age. Sara nods politely. She hasn't said a word since she entered.

MR. PARK
Okay Hoyeon, as older sister, please make sure Sara feels at home. Keep working hard.

UNNIE
One, two ...

ALL
Kamsahamnida!

Unnie notices Sara insert herself into the Thank You bow, sliding in smoothly.

EXT. KOREATOWN - EVENING

Establishing shots of LA's Koreatown - MacArthur Park, Quarters BBQ, BCD Tofu House.

A black SHUTTLE VAN arrives at a one-storey BUNGALOW on Rampart St. The girls pile out of the van and into the house.

INT. JC DORMS - EVENING

Unnie leads Sara through the JC Entertainment dorms, a small house designated for the girls. Sara rolls a black suitcase along with her.

The rest of the girls flood into their respective rooms, chatting and peeling off sweaty dance clothes. They speak to each other in English.

UNNIE

(brightly)

So this is home. Living room, kitchen, washer and dryer behind that closet. We have a rotating cooking and cleaning schedule on the fridge, although HANA NEVER DOES BATHROOM DUTY-

HANA (O.S.)

Sorry!

UNNIE

There's only two bathrooms for all of us so it's a bit of a nightmare. Shuttle comes to get us at 7 in the morning and first rehearsal starts at 8. You heard about the curfew today. Phone privileges on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Sara glances at the ceiling - cameras dot the living room and kitchen. Unnie waves at them cheerily.

HANA

(passing by)

Say hi to the company.

UNNIE

(quickly)

Cameras only in the communal areas though, which is better than what they get in Korea. Any questions?

Sara shakes her head. Jae walks past, already showered.

JAE

Welcome to the house, Sara!

Sara gives a small smile. Jae and Unnie exchange glances - what is she, mute?

UNNIE

You're taking Chaeyoung's old bunk, above Raya. (whispering) She's a sensitive sleeper, so try not to be loud at night. (beat) Which I don't think will be a problem for you.

Sara wheels her suitcase to her shared room with Raya.

UNNIE

If you need anything, come find me at the end of the hall. Dinner's in an hour.

Sara ignores her.

INT. JAE/UNNIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Unnie enters her room, where Jae changes into loungewear.

JAE

Does the new girl talk?

UNNIE

She's borderline catatonic.

JAE

She's cute.

UNNIE

(warning)

Jae ...

JAE

Eh. I give her a month, tops.

UNNIE

(snorts)

I give her a week.

INT. RAYA/SARA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A small desk and a set of bunk beds are the main pieces of furniture in the room.

Everything about these dorms screams *in loco parentis*.

Raya sits on her bed, journaling. She looks like a Pedro Almodovar film - a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Raya glances up when Sara enters.

RAYA

Hi!

Sara flashes a quick smile. She opens the closet.

RAYA

They already cleared out
Chaeyoung's stuff. The bottom
shelves are yours and-

Sara gives her a look.

RAYA

Sorry, you probably want some alone
time. Ignore me.

Raya goes back to journaling. Sara watches Raya, holding her
stare a few beats longer than necessary.

The effect is disturbing.

INT. THE KITCHEN - AN HOUR LATER

The girls are changed into sweatpants and comfy clothes,
massaging aching joints and feet.

Unnie writes on a MAGNETIZED BOARD on the fridge - a chart of
chores assignments. Sara has been added to the rotation.

Unnie joins the others around a dining table, where a *banchan*
spread of appetizers has already been laid out.

Nari is on cooking duty tonight, and she serves up cold soba
noodles, starting from oldest and going to youngest.

NARI

Unnie first!

UNNIE

Thaaank you Nari.

A BUZZ goes off under the table. Min-Ji sneaks a look at
something in her lap.

UNNIE

(groaning)

Min-Ji, is that a burner?

MIN-JI

I need to talk to my boyfriend!

UNNIE
You know the rules.

Min-Ji looks at Unnie with cutesy, pleading eyes.

UNNIE
(relenting)
Just make sure the cameras don't
catch you.

Min-Ji smiles at Unnie gratefully.

HANA
(to everyone else)
So how fucked is it that they're
bringing in newcomers this late in
the game? No offense Sara.

Sara barely reacts. Jae loudly slurps her noodles.

NARI
Jae! We haven't prayed yet!

JAE
(mouth full)
If the Lord wanted to bless us,
he'd let us all debut.

RAYA
I WISH they'd let us all debut.

Unnie looks over and frowns - Raya hasn't touched her food.

HANA
They'd never. They have to keep us
at each other's throats until the
very end.

UNNIE
(kindly, to Sara)
Do you know what they're talking
about?

Sara shakes her head.

UNNIE
Blue Sky started with twelve girls,
then they cut us down to nine, and
now we're seven. But the thing is,
they only plan on debuting four.

The mood in the room grows somber.

UNNIE

And evals are next week. So ...
three to go.

HANA

Which is why it makes no sense why
they would bring in someone new so
last minute.

JAE

Well like Mr. Park said, Chaeyoung
was our main dancer. (to Sara) That
means you must be good.

Min-Ji looks up from her phone.

MIN-JI

It's not like any of us are bad.

NARI

Poor Chaeyoung.

The girls chorus a round of sympathies.

UNNIE

It's my fault. I shouldn't have let
her walk home alone.

JAE

No, don't blame yourself.

UNNIE

I'm *unnie*. I'm supposed to protect
all of you.

HANA

Poor Chaeyoung, but c'mon, don't
tell me you guys don't feel a *tiny*
bit relieved about your chances.

RAYA

Hana!

UNNIE

Jesus, Hana.

NARI

She's in a COMA!

HANA

She's not DEAD.

MIN-JI

*Her career is. What's the point of
living?*

NARI
You guys are so mean!

JAE
Look, we all feel terrible about what happened to Chaeyoung, but she was a shoo-in. One less spot for the rest of us.

UNNIE
The way you guys are talking, you might as well have planned the attack on her.

The girls make noises of protestation.

JAE
I'm just saying, the situation SUCKS, but it gives the rest of us better odds.

Unnie looks between Hana and Jae, consternated.

SARA
How long have you guys been trainees?

Sara speaks softly, almost faintly. Everyone starts. Jae jumps in, eager to change the subject:

JAE
Four years.

	RAYA		HANA
Me too.		Same.	

NARI
Three years.

MIN-JI
Two.

Sara turns her head to Unnie.

UNNIE
(reluctantly)
Ten years.

Sara's eyes widen.

SARA
(innocently)
Ten years? That's a really long time, isn't it?

Unnie is acutely embarrassed.

NARI

That just means she's worked twice
as hard as the rest of us!

Jae wraps Unnie in a side hug embrace.

JAE

And besides, she's our fearless
Unnie. Without her, none of us
would have made it through
training.

Unnie shoots a grateful glance at the girls, ever in her
corner. They clearly adore her.

SARA

That's nice they let you stay for
so long.

UNNIE

That just means they've believed in
me for that long.

SARA

I heard it's because Grace *ssem* is
YOUR *unnie*.

The other girls shift uncomfortably.

UNNIE

(bristling)

Just because *sunsengnim* is family
doesn't mean she goes easy on me. I
earned my place here.

Unnie's face darkens ... an awkward beat.

NARI

So can we pray now?

The tension breaks - Hana and Jae groan and give Nari shit.

UNNIE

(laughing)

Hey! Be respectful. Go ahead, Nari.

Nari begins a prayer. While everyone else bows their heads
and closes their eyes, Sara remains upright.

CLOSE ON: Sara, hawkishly studying the group. Calculating.

INT. JC DORMS - NIGHT

The girls gather in the living room, clearing the couch and coffee table out of the way. The day may be over, but practice isn't.

Unnie leads the girls in stretches, and then they launch into rehearsing the routine, step by step.

Sara watches to the side.

A TIMELAPSE of the girls practicing - a clock on the wall shows the hours tick by.

Here we see their personalities on display:

-Min-Ji being cutesy, the baby of the bunch.

-Jae, universally flirting with all of her members.

-Hana cracking jokes and being class clown.

At the end of the day, they're still just girls - laughing, dancing, and leaning into one another.

Unnie occasionally indulges in the goofiness, but exasperatedly tries to keep the group on task.

One by one, they each go to bed. First Min-Ji, then Nari and Raya, then Jae and Hana ...

Until it's just Unnie left, working harder than everyone else. Her shirt is SOAKED THROUGH with sweat.

Unnie glances over and notices Sara, watching in a non-blinking way. Unnie's step falters ...

The lights in the house GO OUT. Total darkness.

Unnie fumbles for a FLASHLIGHT underneath the coffee table ... she flips it on ... Sara is gone.

Unnie turns ... and gives a START when she finds Sara behind her, staring at her ...

Unnie relaxes when she realizes Sara is flicking the light switch on and off.

UNNIE

That doesn't work. Here lemme show
you ...

Unnie heads out of the house, flashlight in hand, Sara trailing behind her.

EXT. JC DORMS BACKYARD - NIGHT

A small grass lawn holds a lightly used **TOOL SHED** in the far corner. Unnie and Sara emerge into the backyard. Unnie indicates a small potted plant by the door.

UNNIE

There's a spare key there if you
ever get locked out.

She crosses towards the tool shed, Sara trailing behind.

UNNIE

The power goes out at least once a
week around here.

Unnie opens the door to the shed ...

INT. TOOL SHED - NIGHT

The shed is a jumble of junk. Unnie sweeps her flashlight over it. In one corner lies a pile of miscellaneous tools, the detritus of some previous owner.

Three tall shelves are stacked with boxes - Unnie shuffles behind the shelves, where a panel is built into a wall.

Unnie opens the panel to reveal a set of breakers. She shines her flashlight on them, searching for the right one. She flips a switch.

The single bulb in the shed flickers on.

UNNIE

(over her shoulder)
You just have to re-set this
breaker ...

Sara isn't behind her.

Unnie frowns. She emerges from behind the shelves and sees Sara staring at the pile of tools in the corner.

UNNIE

What are you looking at?

SARA

(too quickly)
Nothing.

UNNIE

C'mon, let's go to bed.

Sara ducks out of the shed and Unnie follows. On her way out, Unnie glances behind her at the pile of tools, curious.

She doesn't notice anything out of the ordinary and moves on.

But the camera lingers on the pile and slowly PUSHES IN ... amidst the shovels and hoses, we see a CROWBAR, tinged with dried blood.

INT. JC DORMS - THE NEXT MORNING, VARIOUS

An alarm clock BLARES at 6 a.m. A hand slaps it off.

Girls flurry about getting ready for the day:

-Jae tapes up her knees and stuffs a banana in her mouth.

-Nari painstakingly works her way through a twenty-step skin care routine.

-Hana glues on fake eyelashes while doing warm-up vocals to a metronome on her dresser.

-Unnie makes protein shakes for everyone. She carefully caters each shake to its specific girl, adding blueberries to one, chocolate to another.

Girls filter in and out of the kitchen and grab mugs with their names on them from the counter.

Unnie hands Raya hers and takes a mug for herself. Raya waits for the kitchen to empty, then pours her shake down the sink.

She opens the freezer door and pops a cube of ice into her mouth. This will have to do.

-Unnie comes out into the living room - Sara is ready before all of them, waiting patiently on the sofa.

UNNIE

Good morning! Did you sleep okay?

SARA

(softly)

You don't need to worry about me,
Unnie. Take care of yourself first.

There's something about the way Sara holds eye contact, the infrequency with which she blinks, that feels ... eerie.

UNNIE

(unnerved)

Okay, cool. Just checking in.

As Unnie turns her back on Sara, her expression shows how she really feels about the new girl: what a freak.

INT. JC ENTERTAINMENT HQ - VARIOUS

The girls file into headquarters, laughing and chatting.

-The girls stand on the scales for the daily weigh-in. Grace takes note in a meticulously well-kept ledger. Their weight has been recorded every morning for years.

Raya is especially anxious during weigh-in.

-The girls change into dance clothes in the dressing room, putting their hair up into buns and ponytails.

INT. JC DANCE STUDIO - DAY

The girls stretch and warm-up on the dance floor. Sara keeps to herself by the side, doing stretches alone.

Grace claps her hands for attention.

GRACE
Okay, on the floor!

The girls get in formation.

GRACE
Sara, just watch for today and see
how much you can pick up.

Sara nods.

GRACE
Just the chorus. 5, 6, 7, 8-

The girls dance the routine, Grace counting them off to the side. She shouts out corrections as they go.

GRACE
Stop!

They stop, everyone panting heavily.

GRACE
Hoyeon, more energy, more effort.

Unnie nods, exhaling hard.

GRACE
Tighten up your marks. It's like
you're not practicing.

Unnie fights to keep her expression under control.

UNNIE
Yes, *sunsengnim*.

GRACE
Okay, let's run it again.

Sara pipes up from the side.

SARA
Can I try?

The group looks at her, surprised. She blinks back at them.

GRACE
(huh, okay)
Hoyeon, switch out with her.

Unnie does so, grateful for a break. Sara takes Unnie's vacated spot. Grace counts them out and they begin again.

Sara fits in SEAMLESSLY. Unnie watches, jaw tightening at Sara's obvious talent. Jealousy is written all over her face.

The chorus ends. Sara hasn't missed a mark.

JAE
(impressed)
What the hell, Sara?! Are you some
kind of dancing savant?

Sara smiles, modest but pleased.

UNNIE
It's not like she picked it up in
one look. She watched us practice
all night.

The other girls look at Unnie - her expression is ugly. But before anyone can react, Mr. Park enters the studio with a few men in suits - the **C-SUITE**.

The suits - older Korean men charged with deciding the sexual viability of young women - settle in to observe practice.

A palpable tension permeates the air.

GRACE
Hoyeon, assume your position.

Unnie steps back into the line-up.

GRACE
Sara, Raya, Min-Ji - step out.

RAYA
Me?!

GRACE
We're only showing combos of four.

Sara, Min-Ji, and Raya come off; Raya looks shaken.

Unnie counts the group off-

UNNIE
One, two-

ALL
Ahnyeonghasayeo!

They bow in unison to the C-Suite.

Grace goes to the music player and hits play. The track comes over the speakers and the girls launch into their routine.

The C-Suite whispers to each other as the girls dance.

Noticeable SWEAT STAINS blossom under Unnie's armpits. The C-suite point them out. Unnie keeps a cheerful expression plastered on her face.

But don't worry. She notices.

INT. JC DANCE STUDIO - A LITTLE LATER

The girls pack up their things. Unnie towels off, sweat still running down her face and arms. She keeps an eye on Mr. Park and the C-Suite, who are conversing quietly with Grace.

Something Mr. Park says to Grace causes her to frown. But then she bows respectfully as the C-Suite leaves. Grace comes over to the anxiously waiting girls.

She gives it to them bluntly, delivering letter grades:

GRACE
Jae, grow out your hair. If you want to debut, you have to look like a girl. B minus.

Jae pouts, but accepts this.

GRACE

Raya, you're too tense. No one wants to see the insecurity on your face. C plus.

This feedback puts Raya on the verge of tears.

GRACE

Min-Ji and Nari, we want you to be bigger. Hana, less big. B.

The three of them react.

GRACE

Hoyeon, you're being outperformed by a new member. Embarrassing. C.

This CUTS Unnie deeply; she struggles not to let it show.

GRACE

And Sara, we like how you're looking so far. Good work today. A.

Sara smiles at receiving the only good grade. The others clench their jaws, cross their arms.

GRACE

You're dismissed.

The girls offer a Thank You bow and file out - Raya quietly cries. Nari and Jae go over to comfort her.

GRACE

Hoyeon, a word?

Unnie stays behind with her older sister. Grace waits until they're the only ones in the room.

UNNIE

You don't have to be so hard on me in front of the others.

Grace blinks.

GRACE

Of course I do. You're not even supposed to be here.

UNNIE

What do you mean?

GRACE

The company wanted you out during the last round of cuts.

I put my reputation on the line so
you could stay in.

Unnie is STUNNED.

UNNIE
Why didn't you tell me before?

GRACE
You didn't need the extra pressure.

UNNIE
And now I do?

GRACE
Don't give me attitude.

Unnie looks down at her feet, chastened.

GRACE
Hoyeon, you are far more talented
than I ever was at your age. And I
was *this* close to debuting. If I
could almost make it, you
definitely will.

Unnie looks up at her sister hopefully. Grace softens. She
moves the hair out of Unnie's face affectionately.

GRACE
You're doing this for both of us.
For *umma* and *appa* as well.

UNNIE
I know.

GRACE
They would be so proud if they
could see you now.

Unnie relaxes slightly, doubt still clouding her face.

INT. JC HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAYS - DAY

The rest of the girls wait in the hallway - Unnie and Grace
can be seen talking through the window of the door to the
dance studio.

While Jae and Nari continue to comfort Raya, Sara lightly
taps Hana's arm.

SARA
(indicating Unnie & Grace)
What's their deal?

HANA
You don't know the full tea?

Sara shakes her head.

HANA
Back in the day, Grace Cho was *the*
next big thing for JC
Entertainment. She was on track to
be one of their youngest debuts.

SARA
What happened?

HANA
It's super sad. *Sunsengnim* and
Unnie's parents died, and since
sunsengnim is like 16 years older,
she quit to take care of her baby
sister.

Sara raises an eyebrow, surprised.

HANA
Can you imagine having to give up
your career because of someone
else? I wouldn't have done it.

Sara continues watching Unnie and Grace through the window.

SARA
Me neither.

INT. JC DANCE STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

GRACE
One more thing. You're sweating too
much under your armpits. No one
wants to see that on an idol.

UNNIE
(come on)
It's SWEAT. I can't control it.

GRACE
You know how many girls would *kill*
to be in your position right now?

UNNIE
I know, I know.

GRACE
We've been working your whole life
for this.

UNNIE
I KNOW.

She's clearly been read the riot act before.

GRACE
So take care of it.

A beat. Unnie struggles with her emotions.

GRACE
Hey, what have we always said? (in
Korean) *Whatever it takes, yeah?*

Unnie seems momentarily overwhelmed. But then she nods.

INT. JC DORMS - THAT NIGHT

Unnie punches a code into a SAFE under the living room coffee table. She retrieves a set of phones and hands them out to the girls, most of them distraught.

UNNIE
I need to see everyone's phones
back in my hand by the end of the
hour. No exceptions, Min-Ji!

Min-Ji settles into a corner of the couch, eagerly texting away. Raya moves off to take a phone call - we can hear her talking to her mom.

Jae declines hers. She's trying on different wigs of varying lengths and colors.

JAE
Guys, which one of these makes me
look more "like a girl"?

HANA
I thought *sunsengnim* said to grow
your hair out.

JAE
It's not going to grow out by next
week. I don't need another B minus
on eval day.

NARI

This one.

Nari picks up a super girly wig with curls.

JAE

(disgusted)

I don't know how you do it, Nari,
it's so much work being femme.

NARI

(glum)

I still got a B.

HANA

At least *ssem* didn't tell you to be
"less big." Whatever that means.

Unnie turns to Sara:

UNNIE

Sara, did you not have a phone?

SARA

I don't have anyone to call.

UNNIE

What about family?

SARA

They're dead.

Unnie pauses.

UNNIE

Okay, well if you ever need to use
one, you can borrow mine.

SARA

There's no need.

Unnie's phone dings. She looks down, and looks back up at
Hana, standing behind Sara. They lock eyes.

Unnie wordlessly follows Hana to the bathroom. Sara clocks
this interaction.

INT. JC DORMS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Unnie sits on the bathroom counter. Hana, standing before
her, carefully prepares a syringe. A bottle on the counter is
clearly labeled BOTOX.

HANA
Just a few injections should clear
up your sweat problem right away.

UNNIE
(nervous)
You know what you're doing?

HANA
Oh yeah. Arm up.

Unnie raises her right arm. Hana positions the needle beneath her armpit.

CLOSE ON: The syringe PLUNGING IN.

Unnie's face is drawn in a silent grimace.

HANA
Okay?

UNNIE
Yeah.

As Hana prepares the syringe for the other arm:

HANA
It's nice that *sunsengnim* is always
looking out for you.

UNNIE
A blessing and a curse.

HANA
How come?

UNNIE
It's a lot to live up to.

Unnie raises her other arm and grimaces again as the needle goes in.

UNNIE
Like what if Sara makes it and I
don't?

Hana cleans up her makeshift cosmetics operation.

HANA
No way. She's new and you've been
here for ten years. Plus you have
ssem in your corner.

Unnie hops off the counter. She squeezes Hana's shoulder gratefully. The two open the bathroom door and ...

Sara is WAITING THERE, brushing out her hair, staring.

Unnie and Hana both give a start.

SARA
(innocently)
What's taking you so long?

Hana gives Unnie a look and slips past her, letting Unnie handle this.

Unnie looks at Sara's hair - so luscious and smooth. Unnie self-consciously runs a hand through her snarled roots.

UNNIE
Were you listening just now?

SARA
Yeah.

Unnie reacts, surprised at her brazenness.

CLOSE ON: Sara's hypnotic brushing. Unnie is mesmerized.

SARA
(shrugging)
I should get to know the people I'm debuting with.

UNNIE
(scoffs)
Assuming you make the cut.

SARA
I will.

Unnie raises her eyebrows at Sara's arrogance.

SARA
I'm not so sure about you.

Before Unnie can respond, Sara pushes past her into the bathroom, closing the door behind her.

Unnie moves on, a troubled expression on her face.

INT. JC DORMS - NIGHT

The house is asleep.

Raya, however, tosses and turns on her bottom bunk, wide awake. Her stomach GRUMBLES.

She gets up and heads to the kitchen. The camera lingers in the room ...

CLOSE ON: Sara, in the top bunk, her eyes WIDE OPEN.

INT. JC DORMS KITCHEN - NIGHT

Raya enters the kitchen and flips on the lights, crossing over to the fridge. She pulls open the freezer door and grabs an ice cube to suck on.

But she's too hungry for this. Raya tosses the cube into the sink and opens the fridge door.

POV: From the fridge, we see Raya get on her knees, scanning the leftovers.

Raya's face is tortured, craving sustenance. She caves in.

She TEARS open various Tupperware containers -

She grabs a handful of leftover bulgogi steak in one hand and a fistful of noodles in the other and stuffs her face.

She's in all-out binge mode, eating ravenously ...

When suddenly, the power goes out.

Raya GROANS.

With her mouth full, Raya puts her fistfuls of food back in their respective containers. Behind her, *someone scurries across the frame*.

Raya stands and wipes her hands on her pajamas ... thinks for a moment ... and goes to the trash can to SPIT OUT all the food in her mouth.

Behind her, completely unnoticed by Raya ...

Pink Schoolgirl stands in the kitchen corner, watching her.

EXT. JC DORMS BACKYARD - NIGHT

Raya emerges into the backyard and heads towards the tool shed. She crosses the lawn, annoyed.

Pink Schoolgirl exits the house, trailing behind her.

INT. TOOL SHED - NIGHT

Raya enters. Groans again. It's dark inside, hard to see.

She feels her way around the shelves, making her way slowly towards the power breaker unit.

Something makes a NOISE behind her.

Raya stiffens, turns.

Her eyes dart around, her breathing quickens. Nothing.

Raya continues slowly moving forward.

She hears movement again. Raya whips around.

RAYA
Who's there?!

Silence. Silence and darkness. And then-

Raya SCREAMS.

But it's just a COCKROACH, scuttling across the floor. Raya exhales, clutching her chest in relief.

POV: from the other side of the shelves, we can see Raya calming herself. We hear breathing from behind a mask.

A white gloved hand quietly picks up the crowbar from the pile of garden tools.

Raya returns her attention to the breaker box.

An OVERHEAD SHOT reveals Raya on one side of the shelf ... *and Pink Schoolgirl on the other*, crowbar in hand.

Raya opens the breaker box and squints.

A long beat as Raya stares at the panel. And just as she moves ... the shelf comes CRASHING DOWN and the crowbar is PLUNGED through!

INT. JC DORMS - NIGHT

Unnie startles awake.

She grimaces and scratches her armpits, irritated.

Unnie rolls out of the top bunk and heads to the bathroom. She hits the light switch. It doesn't come on.

UNNIE
You gotta be kidding me.

Unnie returns to the hallway and notices the backyard door is open ... that's strange.

And then - a shrill, piercing SHRIEK.

Unnie takes off RUNNING.

EXT. JC DORMS BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Unnie sprints towards the tool shed. The SHRIEKING continues.

INT. TOOL SHED - CONTINUOUS

Unnie BURSTS IN. The shrieking is coming from the corner.

A shelf has been pushed over and now lays collapsed on top of Raya. Unnie runs over and pulls the shelf off of her. She screams, AGHAST.

Raya lies against the wall, tears streaming down her face ... the crowbar has SPEARED her, coming out of her PUNCTURED and BLEEDING backside.

It's a gory, bloody MESS.

EXT. JC DORMS BACKYARD - LATER

Raya is wheeled out on a stretcher by paramedics.

Jae, Min-Ji, Hana, and Nari watch, shivering and whispering to each other. Mr. Park takes a call to the side.

A POLICE OFFICER takes a statement from Unnie. He points to the house's security cameras.

POLICE OFFICER
Those work?

UNNIE
Usually. But the power was out.

The officer scribbles this down. Unnie gives a start:

UNNIE
Do you think this was an inside
job?

POLICE OFFICER
Thanks for your time, miss.

He moves on. Unnie looks shell-shocked. Jae comes up from behind and puts her arms around Unnie.

JAE
I don't know what we would have
done without you, *unnie*.

Mr. Park gets off the phone and comes to the girls.

MR. PARK
Raya will survive.

The girls breathe out a sigh of relief.

MR. PARK
*But she'll be in the hospital for a
while.*

Grace appears at the entrance of the backyard. She pushes past officers and paramedics, concern etched on her face.

GRACE
*How is everyone doing?! I came as
soon as I heard.*

UNNIE
We're fine. Just traumatized.

Grace comes over and wraps Unnie in a hug.

GRACE
(breathing into her hair)
Thank God you're okay.

UNNIE
*Sunsengnim, Sajang-nim ... I think
someone is targeting us.*

GRACE
(alarmed)
What makes you say that?

UNNIE
Two girls in one week? Someone
pushed that shelf onto Raya.

MR. PARK
*Or Raya was clumsy and stumbled in
the dark.*

GRACE
*Sajang-nim, the company has to
 protect the girls.*

MR. PARK
*We don't know that this was
 anything more than an accident-*

GRACE
You have to believe them!

Mr. Park glares at Grace coldly. The girls stare tensely at mom and dad fighting.

Mr. Park's phone goes off. He glances down at it.

MR. PARK
*I have to get to the hospital. (to
 Grace) Are you coming?*

Grace looks at Unnie.

GRACE
Take care of everyone tonight.

Unnie nods at her sister. Grace departs with Mr. Park.

HANA
*Damn. I didn't know *sunsengnim*
 could go off like that.*

JAE
*Do you really think this was an
 attack?*

Out of the corner of her eye, Unnie catches movement ... Sara stands by the backyard door, watching.

Unnie's face darkens.

She stomps towards her. The others follow.

UNNIE
*And where the hell have YOU been
 this whole time?!*

Sara raises her eyebrows questioningly.

Jae hurries after Unnie and tries to pull her back. Unnie moves her arm out of reach.

Unnie pulls up right in front of Sara, their faces close.

SARA
(calmly)
I was asleep. Hoyeon.

Nari and Min-Ji GASP. The use of Unnie's first name is wildly disrespectful. Unnie flares.

UNNIE
You were *conveniently* asleep when
all of this was going down?

SARA
I wear ear plugs at night.

Sara crosses her arms.

UNNIE
You arrive days after Chaeyoung is
attacked. Then Raya gets hurt.

SARA
What are you trying to say?

UNNIE
Don't be stupid.

Unnie glares at Sara; Sara holds her stare.

And then she gives a short LAUGH.

SARA
You're INSANE.

She turns back into the house. The other girls don't really know how to react.

NARI
I'm ... I'm going to sleep in the
living room tonight.

MIN-JI
Me too.

JAE
We all can. Together.

They head back inside. The others give Unnie careful glances. She keeps an eye on Sara's blonde head, her jaw clenched.

INT. JC DORMS - LATER

The girls have spread pillows and blankets on the floor and couches of the living room. Jae and Min-Ji cuddle together; Nari prays profusely.

Hana has placed a kitchen knife on the living room table.

Unnie scans the group, doing a headcount.

UNNIE
Where's Sara?

JAE
She's sleeping in her room.

Unnie gets up from her spot on the couch and crosses the living room.

JAE
(warning)
Unnie.

Unnie ignores her.

INT. RAYA/SARA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Unnie rounds her way into the bedroom ... and STARTS.

Sara lays on the top bunk, her eyes WIDE OPEN, staring out.

Unnie moves closer. She waves her hand in front of Sara's face; Sara breathes evenly, asleep.

Unnie peers at her open eyes a few seconds more ...

UNNIE
Psycho.

She backs out of the room, disturbed.

The camera STAYS ON Sara, who blinks at us. Asleep, or not?

INT. JC ENTERTAINMENT HEADQUARTERS - THE NEXT DAY

The girls exercise in the JC Entertainment GYM, a large, state-of-the-art training facility.

On the walls of the gym hang inspirational posters and banner images of JC's biggest stars: A-Team, 7 Heaven, and Missfits.

But the biggest star of them all, with an enormous poster over the entrance, is KLIQUE.

THE PILATES MACHINES

Nari, Hana, Min-Ji, and Sara PULL and HEAVE on side-by-side pilates machines.

MIN-JI

*I can't believe we have to work out
after last night!*

HANA

Evals are next week.

MIN-JI

We barely slept! This is cruel.

Nari has had it with Min-Ji's whining:

NARI

At least we're not in the hospital.

That shuts her up.

THE ELLIPITCAL MACHINES

Unnie and Jae exercise next to each other on the ellipticals.

UNNIE

So I found out last night that Sara
sleeps with her eyes open.

JAE

You REALLY don't like her, huh?

UNNIE

Don't you think her timing is
fishy?

JAE

I mean, she's kinda weird, but
she's not like ... homicidal.

UNNIE

(panting)

You just think she's hot.

JAE

If anything, I'd think the attacker
would be someone like Hana.

UNNIE

Hana?!

JAE

She's always joking about how she'd
"cut a bitch" to debut.

Unnie thinks.

INT. JC DORMS KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

The girls eat around the dinner table.

HANA

Poor Chaeyoung, but c'mon, don't
tell me you guys don't feel a *tiny*
bit relieved about your chances.

INT. JC HEADQUARTERS, GYM - PRESENT

As before.

JAE

And I wouldn't discount Min-Ji or
Nari either.

Unnie looks at Jae, shocked.

JAE

They seem innocent, but they all
want this just as much as the next
girl.

UNNIE

You seriously think Nari would do
someone in to have a spot?

JAE

I don't know Unnie. We're almost at
the end. People get desperate.
Especially the ones who have been
around for longer.

UNNIE

No one's been around longer than
me. You don't see me sabotaging
people.

Jae shrugs.

JAE

Maybe you don't want this badly
enough.

Unnie can't believe her ears. She STARES at a seemingly calm Jae. A CRY goes up from the other end of the gym.

Unnie and Jae turn their heads -

Min-Ji has COLLAPSED from exhaustion on her pilates machine. Unnie rushes over.

UNNIE
What happened?!

HANA
Maknae overworked herself.

UNNIE
(snapping)
Someone get water and a towel.

Unnie fans a hand in front of Min-Ji's face.

UNNIE
Min-Ji. *Maknae*. Come on.

Min-Ji slowly rouses and comes to. Jae comes back with a wet towel. Unnie sets to work taking care of Min-Ji.

UNNIE
(sharply)
Was no one else watching her?

Sara, Hana, and Nari shake their heads.

Unnie glares between them, suspicious.

Her eyes narrow. Who among them could be the attacker?

INT. JC DORMS - EVENING

The girls trudge back into the house that evening, exhausted. Min-Ji falls onto the couches, visibly haggard.

MIN-JI
I need a shot of soju or something.

UNNIE
You know we can't, Min-Ji.

MIN-JI
This sucks! We need SOMETHING to relax.

HANA
Let's go to WiSpa.

Super down. JAE

MIN-JI
Yes! *My dad can pay for it.*

UNNIE
We have curfew.

HANA
We can be back before then.

MIN-JI
Please, please, please, Unnie!

UNNIE
We only get one field trip per
quarter.

SARA
And they want to use it on this.

The room stills and attention swivels to Sara, her arms folded, standing casually by the door. Sara cocks her head.

SARA
Unless you decide otherwise,
Hoyeon?

Unnie glares at Sara's challenge to her authority, at her blatant lack of respect.

MIN-JI
Unnie, please! We can have
massages, hot stone bibimbap-

NARI
The clay ball sauna-

Use the Internet-
JAE

Unnie perks up at the mention of "the Internet." She keeps her gaze on Sara, coolly staring back at her.

UNNIE
Okay. Let's do it.

Yay! The girls burst into cheers and run to their rooms to get ready.

Unnie gives Sara a cold smirk. Sara doesn't blink.

Jae clocks this silent power struggle between Sara and Unnie. Sara catches her looking - she WINKS at Jae.

Jae's not quite sure how to take that.

EXT. WISPA - NIGHT

Establishing shot of WiSpa, a Koreatown institution. A stringed light canopy is visible on the rooftop.

INT. WISPA - VARIOUS - NIGHT

-The girls check in at the lobby, buzzing with excitement.

-They don bathrobes in the locker room. Jae can't help herself from eyeing Sara as she strips down.

-In a bathroom stall, Unnie gingerly undoes her robe and frees her left arm, raising it to look at her armpit.

CLOSE ON: a bright, scarlet RASH runs across her armpit. Small sores have begun to sprout.

Unnie touches the rash and inhales sharply through her teeth. She takes a deep breath, and re-ties her robe.

INT. HOT TUB AREA - NIGHT

The girls relax in the hot tub, jet streams bubbling. Unnie sits on the edge of the jacuzzi, dangling her feet in. She self-consciously wraps her robe tighter around her.

NARI

I feel so bad for Raya. I hope she's okay.

HANA

Seriously. Such bad luck.

UNNIE

It wasn't bad luck.

HANA

The police said it was an accident!

Unnie is suspicious of Hana's denial. They get into an argument. Meanwhile ...

UNDER THE WATER -

One hand reaches over and rests itself on another's leg.

IN THE HOT TUB -

Jae looks up sharply. Sara smiles over at her. Jae blinks. Does this mean what she thinks it means?

NARI

Guys! Stop arguing, please!

Unnie and Hana drop it. Min-Ji puts her head back.

MIN-JI

I can't believe by this time next week, there's only going to be four of us.

UNNIE

Hey. If we show them we're good enough, they'll have no choice but to debut all of us.

MIN-JI

You really think so?

The other girls look at Unnie dubiously. Unnie launches into mama bear mode.

UNNIE

We're all talented. We've all worked so hard. They'll have to respect that. (in Korean) *Fighting!*

SARA

That's cute.

Heads turn towards Sara.

SARA

You think the company cares?

UNNIE

(defensive)

We're JC's first American K-pop group. We're not in Korea, we have rights here.

HANA

Don't delude yourself, we're just a product to them.

UNNIE

Oh now you're on her side?

HANA

(shrugging)

Sara has a point.

UNNIE

(to Sara)

Why do you even want this?

SARA
I want to be famous.

Some of the girls laugh.

HANA
At least someone's honest.

Hana is beginning to warm to Sara.

UNNIE
(snorts)
That's so shallow. If you want to
be admired, go be an influencer.

SARA
Oh no, Hoyeon. I don't want to be
admired.

Sara rises from the hot tub. The water drips off her lithe figure; Jae and Hana crane their necks to look at her, the others avert their eyes.

SARA
I want to be *worshipped*.

Sara leaves. Some of the girls are disturbed, others in awe. Unnie rolls her eyes.

UNNIE
O-kay, who's hungry? Let's eat.

INT. THE FOOD COURT - LATER

The girls are gathered around a low table, sitting on warmed mats on the floor, hair drying.

A variety of Korean dishes and *banchan* are arrayed on the table - *bibimbap*, *soon dobu*, beef stew. An impressive spread, far more than you would expect of 100 lb Asian women.

DANIEL (20), classic Korean fuckboi, enters the food court.

Min-Ji SHRIEKS and waves. The others groan.

UNNIE
So *this* is why you wanted to come
to WiSpa.

Min-Ji runs over and KISSES Daniel.

UNNIE
How did she ...?

JAE
Computers.

Jae points - a COMPUTER STATION is visible through the doors.

Min-Ji leads her boyfriend over to the group.

MIN-JI
(innocently)
None of you will tell on me, right?

UNNIE
Min-Ji, you know this goes against
our contract-

MIN-JI
I promise we won't get caught!

Min-Ji looks at her with pleading eyes. Unnie sighs.

UNNIE
Just meet us in the lobby at eight.
Without him.

Min-Ji claps her hands excitedly and leads Daniel away.

SARA
You shouldn't have let her get away
with that.

UNNIE
Her dad is like vice president of
Hyundai. What am I supposed to do?

SARA
You're supposed to be in charge.
Cut out the weak links.

Unnie glares at her sharply. Jae tries to cut the tension:

JAE
Well, I'm gonna sauna it up.

SARA
I'll join you.

They depart.

NARI
(intense)
I'm gonna KILL Min-Ji. She always
leaves me to do *maknae* duties.

With Min-Ji gone, Nari is now the youngest – she's in charge of cleaning and busing all the trays for the group.

Unnie frowns at the "kill" comment. Nari looks like she has murder in her eyes.

HANA
(to Nari)
Meet you in the clay ball room when
you're done?

Nari nods. She takes Unnie's tray from her. For the first time, Unnie notices how sharp Nari's nails are. They're filed to a point.

Unnie shakes her head, trying to clear away the paranoia. She thanks Nari and heads for the computers.

THE COMPUTER STATION - CONTINUOUS

Unnie opens up a browser. After a moment, she types in "Sara Chung, JC Entertainment, New York" into the search bar.

Unnie scrolls until she lands on a write-up for Sara on the JC Entertainment website.

She clicks on it.

THE SAUNA ROOM - AT THE SAME TIME

Sara and Jae find the steam saunas on the bottom floor. They enter one, removing their robes and hanging them on a rack.

Jae pours water on the steamer, letting steam fill the room. They sit on opposite benches facing each other.

Jae gives Sara the elevator look, a little less discreet than she should be. Sara notices.

Sara spreads her arms out on the bench behind her, and as the steam rises ... she spread her legs too.

THE COMPUTER STATION - CONTINUOUS

Unnie scans the article – it's a news story on the death of Sara's parents. Unnie's eyes light on "died in a tragic house fire in Palisades Park."

The rest of the article sings Sara's praises – a "talented junior," "destined for superstardom," "unstoppable force."

Unnie goes back to the search bar, types in "Fire, Palisades Park," and the date.

THE SAUNA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jae can't see Sara - steam clouds the sauna. As it begins to slowly thin out ... Sara crosses the room, STRADDLING Jae and KISSING HER.

Jae responds enthusiastically, running her hand through Sara's luscious hair, their tongues working furiously.

Sara pushes Jae down onto the sauna bench. She sprinkles kisses down the length of Jae's body ... and then disappears below the waistline.

Jae MOANS with pleasure.

THE COMPUTER STATION - CONTINUOUS

Unnie finds articles on the fire. She clicks on one - the pictures are ghastly, a suburban house burnt to a crisp.

THE SAUNA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON: Jae's face as she climaxes.

As Jae catches her breath afterwards, Sara goes to put more water on the steamer. Jae sits up.

JAE

I didn't know you were ... like me.

Sara comes back to her and sits in her lap.

SARA

You put seven hot girls in a house together, what do you think is going to happen?

They KISS DEEPLY.

SARA

Well now six.

Jae gives a short laugh.

JAE

You are not at ALL what I was expecting.

Sara pushes Jae back down on the bench.

THE COMPUTER STATION - CONTINUOUS

Unnie clicks on an article about the fire. A particular quote sets her on edge - "SUSPECTED ARSON."

THE SAUNA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sara leans into Jae's ear and whispers:

SARA
Would you go to the ends of the
Earth for me?

THE COMPUTER STATION - CONTINUOUS

The article shows "police have been unable to identify a suspect."

THE SAUNA ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A slow, strange grin crosses Jae's face as steam fills the room once more. She closes her eyes.

JAE
Yes ma'am.

THE COMPUTER STATION - CONTINUOUS

Unnie's breathing quickens as she scans the story. She LEAPS UP from the desk and takes off RUNNING.

Unnie takes the stairs two at a time, nearly bowling over old Korean ladies. They call after her, scolding her.

THE SAUNA ROOMS - CONTINUOUS

Unnie enters the bottom level of the spa, rushing as fast as she can across the slippery floor.

A SCREAM emanates from one of the sauna rooms.

Unnie HURRIES towards it, pulls open the door, and finds-
Sara and Jae, *in flagrante*.

UNNIE
WHAT THE FUCK?!

Jae yells and pushes Sara off of her, alarmed.

JAE
UNNIE!

All of them shout at once. Unnie grabs their robes from the rack and tosses them at Jae and Sara.

UNNIE
Get dressed, party's over.

Sara and Jae pull on their robes; Jae is embarrassed, Sara calm. Unnie bats away the steam in the room.

UNNIE

(to Jae)

What the hell are you thinking?!

JAE

(defensive)

You let Min-Ji have Daniel.

UNNIE

Daniel's a nobody, *she's* a trainee!

SARA

I'm right here, you can talk to me.

UNNIE

As group leader, I have to report-

SARA

Nothing. Just like you said nothing about Min-Ji and Daniel.

Sara is steely, cool. Unnie glares at both of them.

UNNIE

This is fucking unacceptable.

THE CLAY BALL ROOM - AT THE SAME TIME

Hana and Nari relax amongst the red clay balls, soaking in the heat from the room. Towels lay over their eyes.

HANA

Do you think Unnie is starting to crack?

Nari lifts the corner of her towel and peeks over.

NARI

What do you mean?

HANA

Just a feeling. She seems off.

NARI

She's our *keun-unnie*, she probably feels like Chaeyoung and Raya are somehow her fault.

HANA

Can you even imagine what it's like
to be that old and still a trainee?

Nari shudders. She replaces her towel and leans back.

HANA

I would kill myself.

EXT. WISPA ROOFTOP - NIGHT

On the outdoors rooftop, under the canopy string lights, Daniel and Min-Ji canoodle on a loveseat. A beautiful WATER FEATURE – a stone fountain carved with turtles – burbles romantically nearby.

A partitioned wooden screen marks off an area for employees. Between the slats ... we can see the wisps of a pink wig, the hint of white gloves ...

Pink Schoolgirl stands behind the partition.

Daniel and Min-Ji, completely oblivious, make out.

Daniel comes up for air. He says something that makes Min-Ji giggle. Daniel rises from the loveseat.

MIN-JI

(teasing)

Come back!

Daniel sticks his tongue out and leaves the rooftop area. Min-Ji is all alone.

She leans her head back on the loveseat and sighs, contented. She blissfully closes her eyes.

A shadow looms over her ...

A white-gloved hand CLAPS a towel over Min-Ji's face!

Min-Ji's eyes fly open – Pink Schoolgirl holds her tightly from behind. Min-Ji struggles briefly, scrabbling her hands at the white-gloved arm, before it's lights out.

Pink Schoolgirl stands over Min-Ji's slumped body.

DANIEL

THE FUCK?!

Pink Schoolgirl looks up – Daniel has returned, holding two cups of water. His mouth is AGAPE.

Pink Schoolgirl strides over to him. Daniel drops the cups, backing away in fear.

Daniel backpedals, putting his arms out. Pink Schoolgirl also puts her arms out.

Every action that Daniel makes, Pink Schoolgirl mimics.

She's *MOCKING* him, taking her time.

Daniel grows angry, and then takes a good look at Pink Schoolgirl's petite form.

He straightens up.

DANIEL
(haughty)
What the hell? You're just a girl.

Daniel CHARGES for Pink Schoolgirl, attempting a TACKLE.

Pink Schoolgirl easily sidesteps him and Daniel flies past her onto the floor.

Pink Schoolgirl grabs Daniel by the hair and DRAGS him towards the water feature.

Daniel gets a hand on her wrist, but before he can loosen her grip, Pink Schoolgirl DUNKS his head into the water feature. She puts her other hand on his neck, forcing him down.

POV: Daniel struggles underwater, bubbles streaming from his mouth.

Daniel KICKS back - Pink Schoolgirl deftly avoids him, but it's enough for her to lose her hold on his head.

Daniel SHOOTS up from the fountain, gasping for air, hacking up water.

In the background, Min-Ji's unconscious body remains slumped on the love seat.

As Daniel continues coughing and catching his breath

Pink Schoolgirl reaches overhead and grabs a hold of a string of canopy lights.

She PULLS one down towards her, and before Daniel can turn around-

She WRAPS a string of lights around his neck, GARROTING him.

Daniel CHOKES, face turning bright red.

His hands go for his neck, but Pink Schoolgirl is too strong.

She roughly drags his body towards the water feature again, aiming to dunk him in ...

But she misses.

Oops. Nobody's perfect.

Daniel's forehead hits the edge of the water feature, on the head of one of the turtles. He CONKS OUT.

Pink Schoolgirl drops him to the ground. She pants heavily. Daniel BLEEDS from a huge gash across his forehead.

INT. WISPA LOBBY - NIGHT

Unnie waits in the lobby impatiently, glancing at the clock. It's ten past eight. No one else from the group is there.

A pair of PARADEMICS rush into WiSpa with a stretcher, pushing past patrons.

Unnie's brow furrows in concern.

Suddenly, Jae appears in the lobby.

JAE
(harried)
Unnie. Come quick!

EXT. WISPA ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Unnie and Jae rush to the roof. A small crowd has gathered.

The paramedics tend to two unconscious figures.

Unnie pushes past people and sees ...

Daniel and Min-Ji, tied up together with a string of lights, leaned up against the water feature.

And before them ... in slick red lettering ...

걸레. *Guhl lae. The Korean word for "SLUT."*

Written in Daniel's blood.

Unnie's expression is HORRIFIED.

But wait ...

UNNIE
(sharply)
Where are the others?

As if on cue, Sara emerges from the stairs onto the rooftop.

SARA
(innocently)
What's happening?

Sara sees the sight before her and STARTS. Behind her, Nari and Hana emerge. They all GASP and react.

Unnie's eyes narrow. Suspicious. Unconvinced.

INT. JC DORMS - LATER

Mr. Park and Grace are in the living room with the shaken girls. Hana has her arms wrapped around a shivering Nari, who nervously bites on her cross necklace.

Jae and Unnie sit on another couch, shell-shocked.

Sara stands, arms crossed, leaning against the wall.

MR. PARK
*Going forward, the company will be
providing the group with around-the-
clock security.*

GRACE
(testily)
Finally.

MR. PARK
(ignoring Grace)
*The important thing is ... none of
you are to speak with the
authorities or the press until the
company has decided on its
messaging. We want to present a
united front.*

The girls look up at him incredulously.

GRACE
*THAT'S what you care about right
now? What about their safety?!*

MR. PARK
*The company will release a
statement in the morning. We won't
let this guy hurt anyone again.*

Unnie raises her hand.

UNNIE

*Sajang-nim, can we visit the girls
in the hospital?*

MR. PARK

We'll see what the board decides.

GRACE

This is inhumane.

Mr. Park frowns.

MR. PARK

*This is the company's decision.
Remember who you work for.*

Mr. Park opens the door. Outside, we can see a SECURITY GUARD has already been posted to the dorm.

Mr. Park sternly signals for Grace to follow him. Grace looks around at the girls.

She's exhausted, heartbroken.

GRACE

*Stay safe everyone. Call me if you
need anything.*

They go. The air in the room DEFLATES.

JAE

(sullenly)

And then there were five ...

HANA

Jesus Christ. Who the hell is doing
this to us?!

NARI

Don't take the Lord's name in-

HANA

Jesus Christ, Nari, I don't give a
shit right now.

SARA

Min-Ji *did* break the rules.

Unnie snaps her head up, flaring in anger.

UNNIE

She's just a kid.

SARA

We all signed the same contract.

Unnie's face darkens. She stands to face Sara.

UNNIE

What the FUCK is wrong with you,
you SOCIOPATH?!

SARA

What did you just call me?

The others leap to their feet as Unnie and Sara shout at each other. Jae and Nari put their bodies between them.

UNNIE

You're the company's little bitch,
aren't you?!

JAE

Hey hey hey- STOP!

NARI

Guys! We're supposed to be a
group!

UNNIE

(points at Sara)

I swear to God, if they don't cut
you next week, I will find a way to
finish your career myself.

JAE

Guys, seriously! STOP.

Unnie indicates the others.

UNNIE

(to Sara)

I am their *unnie*. Theirs. You're no
sister to me.

SARA

That's fine, Hyeon. It's not like
you protect us anyway.

Unnie looks like she's about to explode, but Jae puts a restraining hand on her arm and gives her a look. Unnie storms off ...

INT. JAE/UNNIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

And into her room. Jae follows, closing the door behind them.

JAE

Hey. I know you don't like her but-

UNNIE

I found out something at WiSpa tonight. Her parents died in a fire. It was *arson*.

JAE

So you're saying what? That Sara killed them?

UNNIE

Maybe!

Jae studies Unnie carefully.

JAE

You really have it out for her.

UNNIE

(incredulous)

Am I the only one who sees through her?

JAE

You think Sara did all this?!

UNNIE

Who else?!

JAE

Do you have any proof?!

Unnie is equally shocked by Jae's reaction.

UNNIE

Great, she's seduced you to her side-

JAE

This has nothing to do with that.

UNNIE

What were you thinking Jae?!
Sleeping with the enemy?!

JAE

She's not the enemy!

UNNIE

You seem to be really in her corner for someone who barely knows her.

Jae takes a step back and puts her hands up.

JAE

Unnie. I'm saying this as a
dongseng and as a friend - you
sound like you're losing it.

UNNIE

Can you blame me? With everything
going on?

JAE

Come here.

Jae comes forward and gives Unnie a hug.

JAE

I know everything sucks right now.
But it's okay. We're going to be
okay. The company'll sort it out.

Unnie's eyes show her suspicion as she returns the embrace.
Her eyes land on the open closet door behind Jae's back.

In the closet, we can see Jae's row of wigs ... we recognize
the ones she was trying on before. Some are new.

One of them is pink ...

INT. JC HEADQUARTERS - DAY

THE DRESSING ROOM

The girls do their make-up and hair. Each of them wears a
skirt and blouse that's a different shade of blue.

TITLE: EVALUATION DAY

Unnie applies mascara to her eyelashes. Her hand shakes.

Nari curls her hair; Hana straightens hers. Jae adjusts a wig
that gives her a markedly femme appearance - she's gone with
the curly one Nari picked out for her.

Sara, as usual, is ready before the rest of them. She gets up
and goes to the bathroom.

THE DANCE STUDIO - AT THE SAME TIME

The C-Suite files into the dance studio, the same suits we
saw earlier. They're accompanied by Mr. Park. Grace leads
upper management to their chairs.

THE DRESSING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jae and Hana run vocal warm-ups; Nari rolls out a crick in her neck. Unnie heads for the bathroom door.

Sara emerges from the bathroom and the two nearly collide.

UNNIE

Oh sor-

Unnie cuts short her apology when she sees who it is. She and Sara exchange cold glares with each other as they pass.

THE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Unnie turns to the counter. Various cosmetic bags are sprawled out.

She locates her bag and retrieves the bottle of botox and syringe. She loads up her syringe and unbuttons her blouse.

Unnie raises her left arm ... her armpit is covered in FESTERING SORES, pus oozing out of some of them ...

CLOSE ON: a syringe being PLUNGED into an infested sore.

Unnie bites down hard on her lip, fighting back a scream.

Unnie slams the syringe down on the sink, shaking. She looks in the mirror at herself.

UNNIE

Whatever it takes.

THE DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Unnie gathers the girls in a HUDDLE, arms around each other, heads bent together.

UNNIE

We've worked so hard for this and we're so close. We *survived*. No matter what happens today, I'm so proud of all of you.

Unnie looks at each of them during her pep talk. She pointedly avoids Sara.

NARI

Can we pray, Unnie?

UNNIE

Sure. Wanna lead?

Nari closes her eyes; the other girls follow suit. She begins a prayer in Korean, asking for God's protection for those they've lost and those that are still here.

As Nari prays, Unnie opens her eyes to peek at the others. The camera slowly pans around the group ...

Sara STARES at her.

Unnie's brow crinkles and she closes her eyes hastily. But she won't be intimidated. She opens them again but-

NARI

In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

ALL

Amen.

Sara's eyes are downcast, demure. Did Unnie imagine it? She shakes it off-

UNNIE

This is for Chaeyoung, Raya, and
Min-Ji. Blue Sky on three.

The girls stick their hands in the middle of the circle:

From Unnie's POV: her vision momentarily blurs.

UNNIE

One, two, three!

ALL

Blue Sky!

They head for the dance studio, Unnie bringing up the rear. She pulls up short, woozy.

Unnie steadies herself, and continues on.

INT. DANCE STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

The girls filter in, buzzing with nervous energy. The C-Suite watches them, impenetrable poker faces on.

Unnie leads them to the middle of the floor. She seems unwell. Grace frowns. She catches Unnie's eye and gives her an encouraging smile.

UNNIE

One, two-

ALL
We are Blue Sky!

UNNIE
*We've been working very hard for
 you, producers. Thank you for the
 opportunity, and-*

Unnie looks like she might throw up. She keeps it together.

UNNIE
Enjoy the show!

Unnie steps to the side; Sara takes the Main Dancer role as the girls arrange themselves in their opening position.

Unnie leans heavily against the wall. Grace gives her a concerned glance.

Grace steps forward and gives a deep bow to the C-Suite.

GRACE
*I have been with this group since
 day one. These girls have something
 very special. (beat) They've been
 through a lot recently. We thank
 the company for doing everything
 they can to protect them.*

Grace looks like she wants to say more, but Mr. Park impatiently signals for her to get on with it.

GRACE
This is combo one.

UNNIE
 (clapping)
Let's go!

Grace moves to the side and hits start on the audio player - the song begins.

SARA
*Boran deusi
 muneojyeosseo/Badageul ttulko
 jeo jihakkaji.*

SARA
 (English translation)
 I crumbled before your
 eyes/Hit rock bottom and sunk
 deeper.

NARI
*Dasi kamkamhan igose light up
 the sky/Ne du neneul bomyeo
 I'll kiss you goodbye.*

NARI
 Again in this dark place,
 light up the sky/While
 looking in your eyes, I'll
 kiss you goodbye.

HANA
Silkeot biuseora
kklojeounnikka ...

HANA
 Laugh all you want while you
 still can ...

JAE
Ije neohui hana dul set!

JAE
 Because it's about to be your
 turn, one, two, three!

The music swells and the girls STOMP into the English chorus:

ALL
 Ha, HOW YOU LIKE THAT?!

The chorus is a taunt, and they're experts.

ALL
 Look at you, now look at me. Look
 at you, now look at me - how you
 like that?!

Unnie watches from the side, her face sinking. Sara is
 fucking GOOD. Unnie struggles to breathe.

From Unnie's POV: the dancers blur before her.

Unnie shakes her head, trying to clear the fog.

Near the end of the song, Sara has a solo spot ...

SARA
Nalgae ileun chaero
churakaetdeon nal/Eodun nanal
soge gatyeeo itdeon nal.

SARA
 The day I fell without my
 wings/Those dark days where I
 was trapped.

Sara performs with undeniable charisma and swagger.

SARA
Geuttajjeume meon nal
kkeunnaeya haesseo-

SARA
 You should've ended me when
 you had the chance-

And then Blue Sky assembles into a line and shouts:

ALL
 Look up in the sky, it's a bird,
 it's a plane!

They finish out the final dance sequence together, in perfect
 sync. When the music ends, the C-Suite doesn't clap, just
 murmurs amongst each other.

GRACE
Combo 2!

Sara and Unnie switch places. Sara smirks at Unnie as she heads for the wall.

From Unnie's POV: the room comes in and out of focus.

She takes her position.

NARI
(whispers)
Hey Unnie, are you ok-

Unnie waves her off and plasters on a smile for the C-Suite.

The music starts, and the girls launch into their routine again, this time with Unnie as Main Dancer.

Something's very wrong.

Unnie struggles to hit her marks, behind on the beat. Jae, Nari, and Hana glance at her in concern.

From Unnie's POV: the music sounds like she's underwater; her vision is hazy and unstable.

Sara watches from the side, impassive.

Mr. Park and Grace frown; the C-Suite shake their heads.

Unnie sees it all - sees the future she's worked so hard for crumbling before her.

As they reach the chorus, Unnie finds a burst of energy.

ALL
Look at you, now look at me! Look
at you, now look at me! Look at
you, now look at me!

Except Unnie is just screaming, over and over again:

UNNIE
LOOK AT ME!

Mr. Park signals for Grace to cut the music. The song stops and the dancers grind to a halt but Unnie keeps going:

UNNIE
LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT
MEEE!

The C-Suite watches Unnie's mental breakdown with revulsion. Grace rushes forward and grabs Unnie's arm.

Unnie PUSHES her away and tries to continue-

UNNIE
 Look up in the sky, it's a bird,
 it's a ... pla ... it's a plane-

Unnie COLLAPSES and everything CUTS TO BLACK.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - LATER

Unnie slowly blinks awake. She's lying on a row of chairs in the dressing room. The other girls wait nervously, still in their uniforms and make-up.

They react as Unnie sits up.

HANA
 Unnie, are you okay? How do you
 feel?!

UNNIE
 (wincing)
 What happened?

JAE
 Unnie, you ...

Realization and horror dawn on Unnie's face.

UNNIE
 SHIT! They need to give me a do-
 over. I can't-

NARI
 Unnie. Did you ... eat today?

Unnie stares at Nari incredulously.

UNNIE
 What, are you saying that was *my*
 fault out there? I'm not Raya!

The others exchange glances with each other.

UNNIE
 Yes, I ATE! This doesn't make sense-

Unnie catches a glimpse of Sara, standing against the wall, apart from the others. We FLASHBACK TO:

THE BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

-Sara, exiting the bathroom as Unnie heads in. They pass each other coldly.

-Unnie, injecting the botox into her festering armpit.

THE DRESSING ROOM - PRESENT

Unnie stands up, shakily, and points at Sara.

UNNIE

You. You poisoned me.

JAE

What?!

Sara merely blinks at her.

UNNIE

You tampered with the botox.

SARA

I didn't touch your stuff.

Unnie walks towards Sara.

UNNIE

You just HAD to take me out, just like the others-

SARA

I didn't *DO* anything. It's not my problem if you can't keep up.

Unnie spins around to Hana.

UNNIE

Then it was you. You gave it to me. You got me infected.

HANA

Whoa, Unnie, what the hell-

UNNIE

Is she sleeping with you too?!

JAE

(sharply)

Hey, uncalled for-

UNNIE

I cannot believe this! She has POISONED all of you!

SARA

I haven't done anything to anyone. This is all in your head.

UNNIE

Don't try gaslighting me-

The door opens. Mr. Park and Grace step in.

The girls come to attention.

MR. PARK

Hoyeon. How are you feeling?

UNNIE

I'm fine, sajang-nim. I'm ready to go again as soon as the board will see me.

Mr. Park clears his throat. Grace gives Unnie a worried look, on the verge of tears.

MR. PARK

Hoyeon ... I want to start by saying you've been a great group leader all these years.

UNNIE

(hesitantly)

Thank you.

MR. PARK

Without you, this group wouldn't be where it is today. This is very hard, because you've been with us for so long.

Shit. The other girls glance at each other.

CLOSE ON: Unnie's eyes, WIDE and fearful.

MR. PARK

But unfortunately ... we're going to have to cut you from Blue Sky.

Unnie is DEVASTATED. A RINGING fills her ears as she struggles to breathe.

Nari, Hana, and Jae all GASP in surprise.

UNNIE

I'm sorry, sajang-nim, but what you saw today wasn't my best. If you give me another chance-

MR. PARK

The board has made its decision.

Grace can't hold back her tears any longer ... she quietly cries next to Mr. Park. The sight of her sister crying sends Unnie into a tailspin.

UNNIE

(pleading)

But - sajang-nim. I've been with the company for ten years. You can't just cut me because of one bad performance.

MR. PARK

The board's decision is final.

Unnie glances at the other girls - Jae, Hana, and Nari all look sympathetic, pitying. Sara, the little shit, smirks.

Unnie flares.

UNNIE

Sara and Hana poisoned me!

HANA

What the hell, Unnie?!

SARA

I did no such thing.

Mr. Park pauses, surprised by this turn of events.

UNNIE

I-

She switches to English.

UNNIE

I was doing Botox injections before the performance-

MR. PARK

You know self-administering is against company policy-

UNNIE

I know. But I was doing them. And Hana gave them to me.

HANA

Wow, way to throw me under the bus, real big of you-

UNNIE

They spiked my dose. Get someone to test the bottle!

Mr. Park frowns.

MR. PARK

Show me.

Unnie pushes past Hana towards the bathroom.

HANA
(whispered, angry)
Traitor.

Unnie ignores her and barges into the bathroom. She rifles around her cosmetics bag ...

The botox bottle and syringe are GONE.

Unnie DUMPS OUT the contents of her bag, of everyone's bags. She SWEEPS through the cosmetics on the counter frantically.

She throws lipsticks, mascaras, palettes and compact mirrors over her shoulder, looking, searching ...

Clack clack clack - cosmetics clatter to the ground.

No luck.

Unnie comes out of the bathroom, her face dark.

UNNIE
What. Did. You. DO.

She LUNGES for Sara-

Mr. Park and Grace come forward and hold Unnie back. The other girls shout at her to stop.

UNNIE
Where did you put it?!

SARA
Nobody touched your stuff!

UNNIE
(screaming)
WHERE?! WHERE IS IT?!

Mr. Park and Grace have to actively restrain Unnie as she tries to launch herself now at Hana. Mr. Park yells over his shoulder for security.

HANA
YOU'RE INSANE!

UNNIE
WHERE DID IT GO?!

Two GUARDS come rushing in and roughly handle Unnie.

Unnie, Hana, and Sara continue yelling at each other while Nari and Jae try to shout them down.

INT. THE HALLWAYS - CONTINUOUS

The group spills into the hallway as Unnie is dragged kicking and screaming out of the building. Unnie yells at Sara:

UNNIE
CRAZY BITCH!

Nari is openly SOBBING at the situation. Jae looks shocked; Hana is angry. Mr. Park speaks to Grace, who looks like she's going to be physically ill.

Sara stands slightly to the side, behind them all.

Unnie calms down for a moment, catches her breath, and locks eyes with Sara.

Only Unnie sees it as Sara mouths at her, inaudibly:

SARA
Look at you, now look at me.

Unnie's PRIMAL SCREAM echos through the hallways.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Unnie lies on her bed in her childhood bedroom, catatonic.

Grace enters - we hear the dulled sounds of someone speaking to her in Korean. Unnie isn't listening.

Somewhere offscreen, Unnie's phone rings. She ignores it.

INT. JC DANCE STUDIO - DAY

And then there were four.

Sara, Jae, Nari, and Hana continue prepping for their debut, Grace counting them off in the background. Sara is ELATED.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Unnie sits in the bathtub, arms curled around her legs, letting the water jets from the shower head run over her.

Her phone rings on the bathroom counter. Unnie ignores it.

INT. JC DORMS - NIGHT

With Unnie gone, Sara has taken over as group leader. She doles out family dinner – gone is the facade of the once-shy girl. She's head bitch in charge now.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Unnie lies on the couch in front of the television.

-The media covers the slew of attacks on the girls of "Blue Sky." The attacker is still at large.

-JC Entertainment unveils the official four members of their first American girl group. Sara, Hana, Jae, and Nari wave to the crowd.

-Unnie scrolls on social media:

The fact that Blue Sky has survived a harrowing string of attacks has only increased interest in the group. Twitter, Tik Tok, and Instagram explode with support for the girls.

Unnie's expression is dead, unmoving, hollowed out.

EXT. JC DORMS - VARIOUS

News crew and press swarm the girls outside their dorm house. A full SECURITY TEAM now escorts the four of them to a tinted-out ESCALADE.

Sara enjoys the attention.

INT. JC DORMS - VARIOUS

Sara goes about ingratiating herself with the group:

-She and Nari sit on the living room couch, watching old KLIQUE videos and LAUGHING together.

-Sara has taken over Unnie's bunk in Jae's room. She pushes Jae against the bunk bed's ladder, BITING Jae's lip.

Jae grins, pulling Sara in for a deeper kiss.

-Sara allows Hana to brush out her luscious hair. Hana handles it admiringly.

HANA

Ugh, it's so unfair. You're so *kkoo*
ahn kkoo.

Sara smiles in response. And then:

SARA
You got rid of the botox, yes?

Hana stills her hands and looks up. They make eye contact in the mirror.

HANA
I flushed it down the toilet as soon as she passed out.

Sara nods. Her eyes gleam.

SARA
Good girl.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Unnie and Grace sit at the dining table, bowls of noodles in front of them.

Unnie stares into the middle distance, depressed. She hasn't touched her food. Grace eats in silence, watching her. Finally, she can't take it any longer.

GRACE
I gave up everything for you. Dance classes since you were four. TEN YEARS as a trainee. And you still failed.

UNNIE
You don't need to rub it in.

GRACE
I trained you. Raised you. You know how bad you made ME look?

UNNIE
Oh so this is all about you.

Grace throws her chopsticks down.

GRACE
This is about US. The shame you cast on both of us.

UNNIE
I'm sorry I embarrassed you, but what about ME?! I'm 26-years old. I don't have ANY other skills. What am I supposed to do now?

GRACE

You wouldn't be in this position if
you hadn't choked-

UNNIE

I was POISONED!

GRACE

You're in denial and making up
excuses. If you hadn't shot up
right before your performance, you
wouldn't have been dizzy-

UNNIE

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID TO TAKE
CARE OF IT!

GRACE

And YOU couldn't HANDLE IT-

UNNIE

Maybe if I had a sister who cared
about ME and not my career! Maybe
I'm not-

This is hard for Unnie to get out:

UNNIE

Maybe I'm not cut out for this.

A long beat.

GRACE

You're not getting any sympathy
from me. You ruined my career, and
now you've ruined your own.

Unnie snaps.

UNNIE

At least I'm not some sad 42-year
old who TEACHES because she
couldn't make it herself-

Grace leaps up from the table, screaming furiously at Unnie.
The two viciously and verbally tear into each other.

Unnie goes to her bedroom and SLAMS the door. On the other
side, we can hear Grace scream:

GRACE

YOU'RE WORTHLESS! I NEVER WANTED
YOU AS A SISTER!

Unnie slides to the ground, wracking sobs shaking her body.

INT. UNNIE'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Unnie opens her eyes. She lays in bed, exhausted.

Unnie rolls out of bed. She walks down the hallway, disheveled, looking for her older sister.

UNNIE

Unnie?

Grace emerges from her office with her work bag in tow. She glances at Unnie coldly and closes the door behind her.

UNNIE

Hey. I'm sorry, okay? I didn't mean what I said last night.

Grace heads for the front door, putting on her shoes.

UNNIE

Can we please talk?

GRACE

I have work. With the girls who made it.

UNNIE

What about Sara? And the attacks?

GRACE

They haven't found anything out of the ordinary amongst the girls.

UNNIE

I thought you believed me.

GRACE

I believed *in* you. Until you fucked it all up.

Grace exits, leaving a crestfallen Unnie behind.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - TIMELAPSE

Unnie tries to occupy herself:

-She Googles on her phone: "What to do when you're a failure." She scrolls through psychology articles.

-She reads Instagram poetry. Langston Hughes' "Harlem" comes on her feed ... "What happens to a dream deferred?"

-She applies an ointment on her festering armpits. Unnie winces and breaks down crying in the bathroom.

-On TV, a Korean channel announces the upcoming debut of BLUE SKY at K-CON, the LA K-pop convention.

The report shows controversy swirling around JC Entertainment - families are suing the company for the attacks.

-Unnie watches a Netflix series titled "Losers." She reads a self-help book - "How To Make the Most of Your Twenties."

-Unnie's phone shows Jae, Nari, and Hana trying to contact her. She ignores them all.

-A calendar on the wall shows DAYS pass ...

-Unnie spends her days lying on the couch, in a deep depression. On social media, Blue Sky promo photos swarm the Internet. The girls look fabulous.

Social media is also abuzz with reports of the company's negligence over the K-Pop Stalker's attacks.

Unnie clicks through every news item. She's miserable.

-A calendar on the wall shows WEEKS pass ...

-Unnie binge eats a comforting bowl of cheese *ttekbokki*, no longer caring about her weight or diet.

Her phone buzzes. She clicks on it with a greasy finger. Her eyes widen and she sits up straight.

UNNIE

Holy shit.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Unnie sits at the base of Chaeyoung's hospital bed; the room is filled with flowers and condolence cards.

Chaeyoung, heavily bandaged, speaks to Unnie. Her dialogue is inaudible as Unnie surveys Chaeyoung's injuries.

CLOSE ON: Chaeyoung's two giant leg casts.

Unnie's eyes flit back up to Chaeyoung's gaunt face. The sound comes back in as Chaeyoung angrily says:

CHAEYOUNG

I'm sorry, Unnie. That's ridiculous. I can't believe they cut you of all people.

UNNIE

It's okay.

CHAEYOUNG

It's not okay! We gave them years of our lives and this is how they treat us?

A beat of silence as Unnie sadly considers this.

UNNIE

I was reading this book ... It talked about this psych study where there are a bunch of jars of jam at the grocery store. One table had four jars of jam and another table had sixteen jars of jam. People were a lot less likely to buy from the one with sixteen jars, because too many options makes it hard to make choices. The author was saying in life, you shouldn't assume you have endless career options to choose from. Narrow your focus to four and pick from there.

Unnie looks at her hands.

UNNIE

I never had four. I've only ever wanted one jar of jam. But the cap is screwed on tight, it's impossible to open, and there are a million other girls who want the same thing.

Unnie looks back up at Chaeyoung.

UNNIE

But now I'm starting to wonder if it was MY jar to begin with.

They both fall silent, sullen.

CHAEYOUNG

Have you seen Raya or Min-Ji?

Unnie shakes her head.

UNNIE

They went home. Min-Ji's back in Korea and Raya's in Houston. Their parents are joining yours in the lawsuit.

CHAEYOUNG

So much for the American Dream.

UNNIE

I guess this is what they mean by *mi-gook byung*. American Fever. It makes you crazy.

A sad beat.

CHAEYOUNG

Do you think the others are safe?

UNNIE

They have so much security and media attention these days, they can't blink without someone noticing.

Chaeyoung frowns. She indicates for Unnie to come closer and speaks softly:

CHAEYOUNG

But ... I think it was one of us.

Unnie leans forward.

UNNIE

What?!

CHAEYOUNG

She knew where I was going to be. The lights went out in the dorms. It was too timed out.

UNNIE

What makes you think it was a she?

CHAEYOUNG

She was dressed up in a Klisque costume. And she moved like a girl.

UNNIE

Why haven't you told the police?!

CHAEYOUNG

Because if I talk, she might come back for me! I don't trust them or the company to protect me.

UNNIE

Then why tell me?

CHAEYOUNG

Because you're *unnie*. You've always taken care of us.

A determined look settles across Unnie's face. She stands.

UNNIE

I'm not letting her get away with this.

CHAEYOUNG

(startled)

You know who it is?

UNNIE

I have a hunch.

CHAEYOUNG

What are you going to do?

Unnie raises an eyebrow.

UNNIE

I'm gonna smash the jar.

EXT. JC DORMS - DAY

An array of paparazzi and reporters are stationed outside the JC dorm house. Unnie stands among the crowd with a baseball cap pulled low.

She watches the entrance intensely.

The door opens, and cameras spring into action, SHUTTERING away. Reporters shout questions as the girls emerge, escorted by bodyguards.

The girls look GLAMOROUS, in full make-up and dress.

They are hurried to their waiting car.

Unnie keeps an eye on Sara -

Sara suddenly looks in Unnie's direction, forcing Unnie to turn her head away.

The group's car pulls out; the crowd follows.

EXT. LA HISTORIC RIVERBED - DAY

A section of the LA HISTORIC RIVERBED has been set up for a **MUSIC VIDEO SHOOT**. A slowed-down instrumental version of "How You Like That" is played over the following sequence:

Mr. Park shouts directions as crew members assemble lights, cameras, and set.

EXT. THE ALLEWAY - DAY

Unnie approaches the JC dorms's back wall from the alleyway. She makes sure no one is around, and then heaves herself up and over, using nearby trash cans as leverage.

EXT. LA HISTORIC RIVERBED - DAY

The girls, now changed into costumes, are shown to their blocking and miced up.

Above them, the Los Angeles sky is as blue as it gets.

EXT. JC DORMS BACKYARD - DAY

Unnie crosses the backyard lawn. She locates the spare key under the potted plant. Still there.

She lets herself in. The instrumental track swells.

EXT. LA HISTORIC RIVERBED - AT THE SAME TIME

The girls are ready to go. The instrumental version of the song cuts out.

Quiet is called for on set.

And ... ACTION.

The trap pop mix SLAMS in as the girls begin the dance.

INT. JC DORMS - AT THE SAME TIME

Unnie enters the dorm house. With everyone at the music video shoot, she has the place to herself.

She starts first in her old room, where Sara has supplanted her. Unnie rifles through desks and closets.

Unnie flips through Sara's things, flinging them everywhere. She throws Jae's wigs out of the closet ... the pink one is noticeably missing.

Unnie does Nari and Hana's room next. Her searching becomes increasingly frantic as she tries to find some evidence, any evidence, of wrongdoing.

EXT. LA HISTORIC RIVERBED - VARIOUS

The music video shoot in progress:

-Hana stands on top of a car, twirling a baseball bat.

-Jae looks up at the camera as FLAMES burst behind her. *She wears the pink wig for the music video.*

-Nari blows a huge bubble with her bubblegum and POPS it with a sharp, long nail.

-Sara LEADS Blue Sky, standing in the middle of the group as Main Dancer. Terrifying, fierce.

INT. JC DORMS - DAY

In SLOW-MOTION, we follow Unnie as she TEARS APART the dorms, searching for answers, for proof, for closure.

EXT. LA HISTORIC RIVERBED - AS BEFORE

Blue Sky finishes out the end of the song. Someone yells CUT and the girls drop their final poses, breathing hard.

They clap and hug each other, knowing they crushed it.

INT. JC DORMS - DAY

Unnie sits in the middle of the living room floor, now an absolute MESS. Couch pillows have been ripped open, the coffee table overturned, plant vases smashed.

She breathes hard, a dark cloud of anger.

Unnie glances at the kitchen. She notices the magnet board on the fridge. Unnie gets up from the floor and approaches it. She sees someone has scrawled out -

"Don't forget the Unnie surprise!" Her eyes go WIDE.

INT. BLUE SKY ESCALADE - AT THE SAME TIME

Sara and Jae sit in the first row of the Escalade, Hana and Nari behind them. The car is on its way somewhere.

HANA
Are we ready to do this?

Sara smiles wickedly. She hands a phone to Jae.

SARA
You do the honors.

INT. JC DORMS - DAY

Unnie's phone RINGS, causing her to jump. She sees it's Jae and picks up angrily.

UNNIE
(tense)
What's the Unnie surprise?!

A beat.

JAE (O.S.)
How did you find out?

UNNIE
You're all in on this together?!

JAE (O.S.)
Of course we are.

Unnie glances out the window. A flash of PINK goes by.

UNNIE
Since when?!

The power GOES OUT in the house. Unnie swivels around slowly.

JAE (O.S.)
For a long, long time now.

Unnie hangs up the phone, terrified.

Because there, standing by the back door at the end of the hallway, is PINK SCHOOLGIRL in full outfit and mask, hands behind her back.

Unnie's heartbeat THUDS. Pink Schoolgirl moves her hands to reveal ... a shiny new crowbar.

Unnie TAKES OFF for the front door; Pink Schoolgirl FOLLOWS.

Just as Unnie reaches the door, Pink Schoolgirl THROWS the crowbar. Unnie ducks as it - BLAM!- hits the wall.

It's enough of a delay for Pink Schoolgirl to catch up.

Pink Schoolgirl LOCKS Unnie in a chokehold - Unnie ELBOWS Pink Schoolgirl in the stomach, knocking the wind out of her.

Unnie throws off the chokehold and tries to open the door, but her hands are shaking too much to manage the lock.

Pink Schoolgirl pulls Unnie back by the hair and BODIES her to the ground. She STRADDLES Unnie and pins her arms down.

UNNIE

NO! NOOO!

Pink Schoolgirl CHOKES Unnie - Unnie's hands scrabble at her neck, trying to break Pink Schoolgirl's grip. But Pink Schoolgirl is too strong.

Unnie SHOOTS a hand up - she gets a hold of Pink Schoolgirl's mask, but before she can rip it off, Pink Schoolgirl knocks her arm away.

Unnie PUNCHES Pink Schoolgirl in the boob, causing Pink Schoolgirl to GASP in pain.

It's enough for Unnie to PUSH her full weight up and dislodge Pink Schoolgirl. Unnie launches up and runs for the door.

But Pink Schoolgirl catches Unnie by the ankle. Unnie comes CRASHING down.

Pink Schoolgirl picks up her crowbar ... and uses it to put Unnie into a headlock.

Unnie's CHOKES, losing oxygen fast.

In a last ditch effort, she BITES HARD into Pink Schoolgirl's right forearm, drawing blood.

Pink Schoolgirl screams and lets go.

Unnie KICKS Pink Schoolgirl in the chest, sending her tumbling backwards.

EXT. JC DORMS - CONTINUOUS

Unnie rushes out the front door and TRIPS ...

Her knees come CRASHING onto the concrete path, and we hear a SICKENING CRUNCH.

Unnie YELLS ... her left kneecap is clearly dislocated.

Everything RINGS AND VIBRATES as Unnie fights to stay conscious ... Unnie forces herself to her feet, SCREAMING and almost collapsing in pain - her left leg can't take weight.

Pink Schoolgirl slowly gets to her feet. Unnie HOPS ON HER RIGHT LEG towards the street.

UNNIE
HELP! Somebody help me!

Unnie unlatches the front gate and hops into the street ...

A car's HEADLIGHTS shine on Unnie's face. She turns in horror-

The car SLAMS INTO Unnie and EVERYTHING GOES BLACK.

INT. JC DANCE STUDIO - DREAM SEQUENCE

Sara, with her perfect hair framing her face, smiles sinisterly at the camera.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Unnie's eyes slowly blink open.

A nurse SHOUTS for doctors to come-

Unnie groans and closes her eyes again ...

INT. JC DORMS - DREAM SEQUENCE

Sara slips on the Pink Schoolgirl costume. She looks at the camera and giggles, coy and creepy.

SARA
Surprise!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The next time Unnie opens her eyes, she can hear the doctor saying something about "surgery."

An anesthetic mask is placed over her face and Unnie knocks out ...

INT. BLACK SPACE - DREAM SEQUENCE

Pink Schoolgirl stands in a dark room, tapping the crowbar against her black boots.

Unnie stands before her, injured and fearful.

Pink Schoolgirl motions with her index finger to "come here."

Unnie's breathing quickens and she-

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

OPENS her eyes in the hospital.

Grace sits in a corner, the signs of an overnight vigil visible. She notices Unnie stirring and comes over.

GRACE
(whispering)
Hey!

UNNIE
(wincing)
Hey. What happened ...

GRACE
You cracked some ribs. Massive
concussion. Knee surgery.

UNNIE
Did they get her?

GRACE
What?

UNNIE
Did they catch Sara?

GRACE
What are you talking about?

UNNIE
She was there! She attacked me!

GRACE
(slowly)
Hoyeon. You ran into the street and
got hit by a car.

UNNIE
She was dressed as-

GRACE
The girls had a surprise planned
for you.

UNNIE
(on edge)
What surprise?

GRACE
It was your birthday.

This stills Unnie.

GRACE
They were on their way to our
apartment to surprise you when you
had your accident. What were you
doing at the dorms anyway?

UNNIE
I was ATTACKED! Did you check the
security footage?!

GRACE
We saw you trashing the dorms
before the power went out. You
looked ... unwell.

UNNIE
I'M NOT CRAZY! Ask Chaeyoung! She
knows about the costume!

Grace pauses, worry etched on her face.

GRACE
Chaeyoung is in a coma.

UNNIE
I JUST talked to her.

GRACE
That's not possible. She never woke
up.

Unnie is finding it hard to breathe again.

GRACE
Hoyeon ... the doctors think you're
having a psychotic break.

UNNIE
I'M NOT LOSING MY MIND. SHE WAS
THERE, I CAN PROVE IT-

NURSES come in at the commotion - Unnie fights them off.

UNNIE
SHE FUCKING KILLED HER PARENTS AND
ATTACKED CHAEYOUNG AND RAYA AND MIN-
JI AND ME-

GRACE
(worried)
You need help, Hoyeon-

Unnie lets out a GUTTARAL SCREAM - even Grace backs away from her, worried.

A nurse INJECTS something into Unnie's shoulder, and she collapses into darkness once more.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Unnie sits in her childhood bedroom in sweats and comfy clothes. Blue Sky enters, carrying flowers and gifts.

They sit around the bed gingerly. Unnie smiles at them sadly.

UNNIE
Hey guys. Thanks for visiting your
resident lunatic.

Jae takes Unnie's hand comfortingly. Unnie closes her eyes and inhales deeply.

JAE
Hey. We're here for you.

NARI
We tried calling but *sunsengnim*
said you're not using your phone
anymore.

UNNIE
It's bad for my mental health.

HANA
So what's gonna happen now?

UNNIE
Psych evals. Antipsychotic meds.
The whole she-bang.

The girls murmur a round of sympathies.

UNNIE

It's okay. I'm fully cooperating now. I feel like such an idiot.

NARI

You're not an idiot. You're family.

HANA

We'll miss you on tour.

SARA

Are you going to watch our debut tomorrow?

Sara's voice is back to being soft-spoken and shy, like she was when we first met her.

UNNIE

Of course. I wouldn't miss it.

Jae gives Unnie a side hug, rubbing her arm.

JAE

Get better sis. We're all rooting for you.

Unnie nods, surveying the loving faces around her.

UNNIE

God, I feel so terrible about everything. And Sara, I'm really sorry about the way I treated you.

SARA

(it's okay)
You were sick.

Unnie shakes her head.

UNNIE

That's not an excuse. You're already dealing with so much trauma in your life and for me to accuse you like that- it's awful.

SARA

Thank you for apologizing.

JAE

That's big of you, sis.

Unnie cries softly. This causes Jae and Nari to cry too. Even Hana sniffles. Sara watches sympathetically.

UNNIE

Did they ever catch the attacker?

JAE

(shakes head)

No. *Sajang-nim* said if the lawsuits drag out, it could ruin the company.

HANA

They basically need us to save them.

UNNIE

Screw them, do this for yourselves. For each other.

NARI

I'm scared.

Nari shivers. Hana puts an arm around her.

HANA

We're all nervous for tomorrow.

UNNIE

(fiercely)

Pressure is a result of expectations. And expectations mean people believe in you. I do.

They all smile.

JAE

Forever our *unnie*.

Grace pokes her head in.

GRACE

Time's up. We need to get you guys to the next event.

The girls all give kisses and hugs to Unnie and get up to go.

UNNIE

Sara, wait.

Hana, Jae, and Nari look at Unnie curiously, but they leave first. Unnie waits until they're out of the room.

UNNIE
Let me see your arms.

SARA
What?

UNNIE
Roll up your sleeves. Please.

Sara does so reluctantly.

INT. JC DORMS - FLASHBACK

During the attack, Unnie BITES DOWN on Pink Schoolgirl's arm.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - AS BEFORE

Sara has rolled up both her sleeves. Her arms are smooth, no trace of any bite marks.

Unnie sits back, disappointed, crying.

UNNIE
I really *am* losing it.

Sara regards her.

SARA
The girls really care about you,
you know. They're really protective
of you.

Unnie looks Sara in the face.

UNNIE
And what about you?

SARA
I ... I can be really cruel when I
want something badly. I don't like
that about myself. But I do it
because ... I don't have family, I
never had friends growing up ...
this is it.

Unnie considers her.

SARA
(fidgeting)
I'm just as insecure as the rest of
you. I just hide it by being ...
really mean.

UNNIE

And come on. You're kinda creepy.

Sara laughs. Exhales.

SARA

Maybe. I know I seem intense and cutthroat but this career is ... everything to me. I don't have anything else.

UNNIE

Didn't you say you wanted to be "worshipped"?

SARA

(softly)

I want to be ... a god. So I would have power. So nobody could ever take anything from me again.

A beat. Unnie softens.

UNNIE

You know you're not just your accomplishments, right? Your self-worth shouldn't be tied up with your career. It's just a job, at the end of the day. And your job is never going to love you back.

SARA

Have you been reading self-help Instagram?

UNNIE

(laughing)

Something like that. We're *worthy* ... regardless of what happens onstage.

SARA

You should take your own medicine sometime. *Unnie*.

It's the first time Sara has used an honorific to address her. The two rivals smile at each other.

EXT. LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER - THE NEXT MORNING

Thousands of fans flood into the LA Convention Center for **K-CON**, the premier convention for all things K-pop.

Fans are dressed to support their favorite bands, from BTS to BLACKPINK. They wave signs, light sticks, and foam fingers.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Unnie watches the press coverage of K-CON on TV.

REPORTER (O.S.)
Today, K-pop fans flock to the LA Convention Center for the opening day of K-Con, the country's largest K-pop convention.

The Blue Sky music video plays. Unnie cheers from the couch.

INT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Grace is in the DRESSING ROOM with Blue Sky as make-up and hairstylists flurry around, getting them ready.

REPORTER (O.S.)
An estimated 10,000 people are in attendance at this morning's sold-out event, which will mark the debut of JC Entertainment's first American K-pop group, Blue Sky.

Mr. Park enters to observe the proceedings. He regards Blue Sky as if they're his prize chattel.

Grace notices, and her expression curdles. She leaves.

INT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - AT THE SAME TIME

Fans file into the GIANT CONVENTION HALL. Booths sell K-pop paraphernalia, merchandise, and fan art.

A HUGE POSTER of Blue Sky hangs from the ceiling.

REPORTER (O.S.)
But the company has been plagued with scandal in recent months after a series of mysterious attacks on former Blue Sky trainees.

On the main stage, a "BLUE SKY" set piece has been erected, complete with "floating" clouds, dangling from the ceiling.

The group's name is written out in giant block lights, hanging from the rafters.

REPORTER (O.S.)
Now, all eyes are on the four girls
who have survived. Will their debut
live up to the hype and controversy
of the last few months?

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

The broadcast plays B-roll of attendees streaming into the convention hall.

Unnie suddenly bolts upright and hits pause on the remote.

She squints at the screen.

There amongst the attendees ... is Chaeyoung in a wheelchair.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - FLASHBACK

UNNIE
I'M NOT CRAZY! Ask Chaeyoung! She
knows about the costume!

GRACE
Chaeyoung is in a coma.

UNNIE
I JUST talked to her.

GRACE
That's not possible. She never woke
up.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - PRESENT

Unnie leans in closer. Yep, that's definitely Chaeyoung.

Unnie's face shows her confusion.

She glances at the closed door to Grace's office.

Gets up and crosses over to it.

INT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Grace saunters along the backstage hallways of the convention center. Crew members hurry about, prepping for the event.

Grace has changed outfits - she now wears a baseball cap and a jacket zipped all the way up.

She smiles serenely ... a little off-kilter.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Unnie opens the door to Grace's office.

Along one wall are trophies and pictures from various dance competitions in Unnie's youth, always with Grace by her side.

A line of four closet doors takes up the other.

She glances around, not quite sure what she's looking for.

Unnie opens one of the closet doors ...

The wall is COVERED in memorabilia of Grace as a trainee.

We realize Grace was once supposed to be in KLIQUE. A young Grace can be seen in photos with the girls from the billboards, laughing and carefree.

Unnie opens the next door ... and GASPS.

The wall is PLASTERED with newspaper clippings and Internet print-outs of KLIQUE as they achieve superstardom.

ANGRY RED MARKS have been drawn on all their faces, various vulgarities written across the clippings.

It's the work of a deranged, obsessive madwoman.

INT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

In the dressing room, Blue Sky does its final series of warm-ups. Nari shakes out her hands; Jae cracks her neck; Hana runs vocal warm-ups; Sara drinks water.

They're ready - they were born to do this.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Unnie opens the third door ... this closet is stuffed with shelves of make-up supplies and beauty products. On one shelf sits ... a PINK WIG.

Horror dawns on Unnie's face ...

Unnie unsteadily reaches for the last door ... she opens it ... and her breath CATCHES.

INT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - AT THE SAME TIME

Grace rolls up the sleeves of her jacket. BITE MARKS can be seen on one arm.

She slips into the Blue Sky dressing room.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - AS BEFORE

Unnie surveys the scene before her, in utter SHOCK.

UNNIE

Oh no, no, no ...

She RUSHES out of the room.

The camera pans around to face the closet and we see ...

A row of BLOODY SCHOOLGIRL COSTUMES!

INT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - AS BEFORE

Blue Sky stands with Mr. Park, ready to head to the stage.

They all turn when Grace enters.

JAE

Just in time, *sunsengnim*!

GRACE

(to Mr. Park)

Hello, Tommy. We need to talk.

Immediately, everyone can tell something's off.

SARA

Sunsengnim ... are you okay?

GRACE

(to Mr. Park)

You owe me an explanation.

A STAGEHAND pokes her head into the room.

STAGEHAND

Ten minutes.

Grace smiles at Mr. Park. It looks unsettling, unwell.

MR. PARK

(warily)

Walk them. I'll handle this.

Blue Sky shuffles out, the girls giving Grace weird looks.
Mr. Park waits for the girls to leave. He crosses his arms.

MR. PARK
*If you're trying to argue for
Hoyeon's place-*

GRACE
This isn't about my little sister.

Grace removes her baseball cap - she's wearing a KLIQUE-style
CRIMSON RED wig.

She unzips her jacket and underneath, we see ...

Grace is wearing a schoolgirl outfit.

We realize it's HER original debut outfit.

Recognition dawns on Mr. Park's face.

GRACE
This is about me.

INT. UNNIE'S CAR - DAY

Unnie drives frantically, weaving through traffic. She calls
Mr. Park.

INT. BLUE SKY DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Park's phone lies on the counter. He can see Hoyeon
calling. But Grace has his attention. She circles, predatory.

GRACE
All these years, my little sister
believed I gave up my idol career
to take care of her ... but it was
YOU who wouldn't let me debut.

Grace walks through the dressing room, trailing one hand
along the make-up counter.

MR. PARK
*I don't have time for this. We're
glad you were able to raise Hoyeon
so exceptionally. She's a talented
young woman-*

GRACE
I was talented. I was hungry. I had
that "it" factor.

I could have let Hoyeon rot in
foster care while I had a career.
But YOU ... cut me.

Grace picks up a pair of scissors and snips the air.

MR. PARK
(impatient)
We have a show-

GRACE
Do you know what happens to a dream
deferred? Does it dry up like a
raisin in the sun? Does it fester
and sore?

Grace points the scissors at her neck. Mr. Park freezes.

GRACE
Or does it EXPLODE?

Mr. Park stares at the scissors at Grace's neck, pressed up
against her jugular, waiting to puncture skin.

GRACE
Sixteen years. I waited sixteen
years for my sister to do what I
could not ... And then you denied
her too.

MR. PARK
We could only debut four.

INT. TOOL SHED - FLASHBACK

Grace, dressed up in the Pink Schoolgirl costume, shuts off
the breakers in the JC Dorm tool shed. She puts on the mask
and picks up her crowbar.

GRACE (O.S.)
And I was prepared to give you the
four you needed ...

INT./EXT. JC DORMS - VARIOUS, FLASHBACK

-Grace as Pink Schoolgirl attacking Chaeyoung.

-Grace as Pink Schoolgirl pushing the shelf and plunging the
crowbar into Raya.

GRACE (O.S.)
I cleared them out of the way, one
by one ...

-Grace jumps over the backyard back wall, just as Unnie emerges.

-She changes out of the schoolgirl outfit in her car ... and comes running back to the backyard, showing fake concern.

INT./EXT. WISPA - FLASHBACK

-Grace checks in to WiSpa; she sees the girls in the locker room and ducks out of sight.

-Grace changes into the Pink Schoolgirl outfit, going up to the roof to do in Min-Ji and Daniel.

GRACE (O.S.)
And you didn't even care about what
happened to them. You did exactly
what I thought you would.

-Grace draws out the word "slut" in Korean, dipping her fingers in the blood from Daniel's head wound, and using them as a paintbrush.

GRACE (O.S.)
You used it for publicity.

-The media circus does extensive coverage of the attacks.

INT./EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - FLASHBACK

-During the music video shoot, a security officer pulls Grace aside. A small monitor shows Unnie trashing the JC dorms. Grace indicates to him "I'll handle this."

GRACE (O.S.)
I made them bigger stars than they
ever would have been on their own.

-She approaches the JC Dorms in her Pink Schoolgirl outfit. Unnie can be seen inside, panicking on the phone.

-Grace shuts off the power in the tool shed.

GRACE (O.S.)
I eliminated threats to them. And
you ... didn't care.

-Grace ATTACKS Unnie as Pink Schoolgirl.

EXT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Unnie comes panting up to the back entrance, hobbling from her recent injuries. An overweight SECURITY GUARD stops her.

SECURITY GUARD
Only authorized personnel back here.

UNNIE
The girls are in danger!

The security guard comes forward, pushing Unnie back.

SECURITY GUARD
You need to leave the area-

Unnie breaks out of his grip and limp-runs through the door.

SECURITY GUARD
HEY!

The security guard gives chase.

INT. BLUE SKY DRESSING ROOM - AS BEFORE

Mr. Park's phone buzzes - he glances over and notices the time. Mr. Park turns his attention back to Grace, to the scissors at her neck ...

GRACE
I did *everything* for this company.
I gave my LIFE to this company. And
what have I gotten in return?
Nothing.

Mr. Park's expression changes to one of scorn.

MR. PARK
You want the truth? We make pop music for idiots. You're all just numbers on a sheet. Blue Sky is on track to be the biggest debut for a K-pop group in the US. And after Blue Sky, there will be another one, and another one. It doesn't matter who you get rid of, it doesn't matter who sues ... there are thousands of girls willing to sign up for more.

Mr. Park takes one last look at the scissors at Grace's neck.

And he calls her bluff.

MR. PARK

*Go ahead and kill yourself for all
I care. You're all replaceable to
me.*

Mr. Park turns and heads for the door.

Grace is momentarily stunned ... and then her face DARKENS.

She comes forward and STABS HIM IN THE NECK with scissors.

Blood spurts EVERYWHERE. Mr. Park reaches for his neck,
pained and confused.

Grace spins Mr. Park around and continues stabbing him - in
the neck, in the face, in his EYES.

GRACE

YOU. Mean nothing. TO ME! YOU.
RUINED. ME.

She pushes Mr. Park away; his body collapses to the ground.

Grace looks at herself in the mirror - her outfit is
splattered with blood.

She grins.

INT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Unnie RUNS through the backstage halls of the convention
center, heavily limping, the security guard close behind.

SECURITY GUARD

Stop! You can't be back here!

Unnie locates the dressing room and BARGES IN. She PULLS UP
SHORT. The security guard breathlessly catches up to her-

SECURITY GUARD

OH SHIT.

Mr. Park's BLOODY BODY is propped up on the couch ... BOTH
EYES HAVE BEEN TORN OUT.

Unnie turns and runs-

SECURITY GUARD

Hey! Where are you going?

But Unnie is already out the door. The security guard speaks into his walkie talkie-

SECURITY GUARD

I'm gonna need some back-up here.

Meanwhile ...

ON THE STAGE

Blue Sky is now backstage behind the curtain.

The girls are in a group huddle, arms wrapped around each other. Their eyes are closed - Nari prays for them.

Amen. The girls grip each other's hands one last time, and then assume their positions behind the curtain.

The ROARING of the crowd can be heard from the other side.

IN THE HALLWAYS

Unnie limps through the hallways and makes her way to the wings of the stage, scanning all the while for Grace.

ON THE STAGE

The curtain rises. The track begins.

The girls raise their heads, lights shining down on them.

10,000 fans ERUPT into cheers as the girls come into view.

Blue Sky dives into their routine. As they perform, they see their faces on posters, their names spelled out in blinking lights, fans CRYING tears of joy.

This is what worship feels like.

IN THE WINGS

While Blue Sky dances onstage, Unnie panics, frantically looking around.

ON THE STAGE

Blue Sky NAILS their choreo.

BLUE SKY

*Karam come and get
some/Ttakajiman eojujeol su
eopjana.*

BLUE SKY

Karma come and get some/I
feel bad but there's nothing
I can do.

The C-Suite can be seen in the audience, nodding approvingly, excited for their next global sensation.

Chaeyoung sits beside them in a wheelchair, sullen.

BLUE SKY	BLUE SKY
<i>Ne du nuneul bomyeo I'll kiss</i>	While looking into your eyes,
<i>you goodbye.</i>	I'll kiss you goodbye.

BEHIND THE SET

Unnie arrives at the scaffolding supporting the "Blue Sky" floating clouds set.

And that's when she sees a flash of crimson red.

Across the way, Grace climbs. Unnie begins climbing her side.

She struggles through her injuries, pain written on her face.

Grace makes it onto an upper landing that supports a bank of clouds. Unnie arrives at the same time.

FROM THE AUDIENCE

The clouds swing back and forth with movement.

It looks like it's part of the act.

BEHIND THE CLOUDS

Grace is surprised to see Unnie.

GRACE
You're supposed to be in bed.

UNNIE
How could you do that to your own
sister?! You made me think I was
insane!

GRACE
(furiously)
You FAILED US. You don't deserve to
be here for this.

UNNIE
What the hell is wrong with you?!

GRACE
I've given THREE DECADES of my life
to this system. If we can't have
this, no one can.

Unnie reaches out for her.

UNNIE

Unnie, stop. Please. Let go. We're more than just our accomplishments.

Grace draws back, but Unnie grips her shoulders.

UNNIE

You're talented, you're an incredible dancer and musician, and you don't NEED them for that. You're ENOUGH! I'M enough!

GRACE

Don't therapize me.

UNNIE

It's you and me. We have each other. Like we always have.

Grace momentarily wavers.

ON THE STAGE

Blue Sky gets to the chorus of their song-

BLUE SKY

Look at you, now look at me! Look at you, now look at me! Ha, how you like that?

BEHIND THE CLOUDS

The lyrics of the song turn Grace's expression sour.

GRACE

Do you hear that?! They're TAUNTING us.

UNNIE

That's part of the song!

GRACE

They're MOCKING us.

Grace moves to get onto the RAFTERS.

Unnie attempts to pull her back, but Grace pushes her off and WRESTLES her down.

IN THE AUDIENCE

The clouds swing violently just as the song crescendoes.

BEHIND THE CLOUDS

Grace has Unnie pinned beneath her.

UNNIE
Why are you doing this?!

GRACE
What's the point of living when all
your dreams have been denied?

Grace moves off the cloud and climbs onto a separate bank of lights that spell out "BLUE SKY." Unnie sits up, coughing.

ON THE STAGE

The girls below are oblivious to the action taking place above their heads. All they see is their dreams come true.

BLUE SKY
The day I fell without wings/By the
time you had to end me-

IN THE RAFTERS

Grace looks back at Unnie and tells her, kindly:

GRACE
It's okay Hoyeon. I'm your *unnie*.
Unnie knows best.

Grace PULLS on a latch connecting the lights to the rafters-

UNNIE
NO NO NO-

ON THE STAGE

The group comes to their final position, in a straight line, arms raised to the metaphorical sky. They look up and shout-

BLUE SKY
LOOK UP IN THE SKY, IT'S A BIRD,
IT'S A-

The lights come CRASHING DOWN.

SMASH TO BLACK.

Let the audience marinate in the shock and the darkness for a few moments ... before we ...

FADE IN:

INT. LA CONVENTION CENTER - NIGHT

Unnie, wrapped in a blanket, sits backstage in shock.

Onstage, a mess of lights, stagecraft, and blood.

Paramedics and authorities swarm the area.

We HEAR reports from various broadcasts:

-*"Tragedy has struck a K-pop convention in Los Angeles-"*

-*"An instructor from JC Entertainment released a bank of lights onto a debut K-pop group in a case of murder-suicide-"*

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Unnie sits in a chair, being interviewed by police officers, in an almost catatonic state.

The broadcasts continue, in Korean:

-*"The Korean media giant JC Entertainment has folded in light of recent events-"*

-*"She's survived by her sister-"*

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Investigators bag and tag evidence in Grace's office. Unnie stands in the hallway watching, numb.

The broadcasts continue:

-*"The K-pop world is reeling from these tragic events-"*

-*"The K-pop industry is having a reckoning-"*

-*"Only one of the group's members has survived-"*

At this, Unnie looks up at the camera, at us.

CUT TO:

EXT. JC HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The JC Entertainment building in Pacific Bank Plaza is now shuttered and dark. The entrance is boarded up and TAGGED with graffiti.

A franchise GROCERY STORE has opened in one corner of the plaza. A table is set up outside dispensing free samples.

We COME IN ON Unnie, standing behind the small table showcasing samples of jam. Her hair has been cut short and dyed blonde; she wears the grocery store's uniform.

TITLE: ONE YEAR LATER

There's only one flavor - BLUEBERRY - presented in plastic white cups.

SHOPPERS come and go - Unnie catches TWO TEENS whispering and glancing her way. Finally, one of them drags the other by the hand and approaches her:

SHOPPER #1

Hi, I'm so sorry, but you look so familiar ... do you happen to know-

UNNIE

(flatly)

No.

The girls are taken aback by her brusqueness.

SHOPPER #2

It's kinda wild, but you look SO MUCH like that crazy lady who murder-suied the Blue Sky group.

UNNIE

I don't follow K-pop.

SHOPPER #1

But you HAVE heard of this, right? It was all over the news.

SHOPPER #2

You realize you're standing right by their old building?

UNNIE

Well it's a good thing they're no longer in business.

Unnie smiles, bitter and hard.

UNNIE

Would you like a free sample?

The girls glance down at her table distastefully.

SHOPPER #1
Do you have any other flavors?

UNNIE
It's not good to have options.

SHOPPER #1
Are you SURE you're not related-

UNNIE
I'm not who you're thinking of.

SHOPPER #2
(to her friend)
Dude, come on. How could she be?
She's just a free sample lady.

The girls give her another once-over and leave. Unnie exhales slowly. She unclenches her fists, relaxes her jaw.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Unnie sits in a therapist's office. She fidgets.

A THERAPIST addresses her. We never see her onscreen.

THERAPIST (O.S.)
How are you feeling Hoyeon?

UNNIE
I'm fine, honestly. I started taking courses, like we talked about. So I can be a counselor and help girls like me. I'm volunteering at the clinic.

THERAPIST (O.S.)
Good. And are you practicing healthy habits?

Unnie pauses.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Unnie kneels in front of Grace's gravestone. She performs a tea ceremony for the dead.

UNNIE (V.O.)
I'm getting out more these days.

Grace's gravestone has been vandalized and defaced. Unnie's expression is mournful, bitter.

INT. GRACE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Unnie lets herself into Grace's apartment. It's been re-done – minimalist, spartan, devoid of personality.

UNNIE (O.S.)
I'm cooking for myself again.

Unnie prepares toast.

She opens the kitchen cupboard to reveal a line of BLUEBERRY JAM. She grabs a jar.

UNNIE (V.O.)
I'm returning to the things that
bring me joy. I'm listening to
music.

Unnie sits on the couch eating her toast, watching a music video on TV ...

It's SARA, singing a sad ballad, performing as a solo artist. The video shows that Sara is with new management.

UNNIE (V.O.)
I forgot how much I loved music. I
won't allow what happened to take
that away from me.

A visible scar runs across Sara's face, but this somehow adds to her mystique and beauty.

Unnie watches intently.

INT. GRACE'S OFFICE - DAY

Unnie enters Grace's office. It's been cleared since the police raid. The only things in there now are a sewing machine and a speaker.

UNNIE (V.O.)
And I started a new hobby. Working
with my hands. It feels good.
Soothing.

Unnie disappears offscreen.

When she returns, she has something in her hands that we can't see. She sits at the sewing machine and starts it up.

UNNIE (V.O.)
 So really, I'm great. I'm not going
 to let myself make my sister's
 mistakes. And soon, once I get my
 credentials ... I'll get to be an
unnie again.

Unnie reaches behind her and turns on the speaker. A K-pop
 song plays ... we recognize it as Sara's song.

Unnie hums along quietly.

UNNIE (V.O.)
 I can't wait to be an *unnie* again.

The camera PUSHES IN on the piece she's sewing ...

It's a schoolgirl outfit, in blue and white.

Unnie continues humming as she works away.

And we ...

CUT TO PINK.

THE END