

Before I Fall

by
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Based on the book Before I Fall
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First Studio Draft
October 8, 2010

Jon Shestack Company

FADE IN:

SAMANTHA KINGSTON'S (18) VOICE: clear, thoughtful, confident.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

Maybe for you there's a tomorrow.

--- A GIRL (13) big blue eyes, white blonde hair wears a crooked tiara and holds out a pink and white rose.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Maybe for you there's one thousand tomorrows or three thousand or ten.

-- SAMANTHA KINGSTON (18) kisses a TEENAGE BOY (unseen) as SNOW falls around them.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

*So much time you can bathe in it,
let it slide like coins through
your fingers.*

--- SAMANTHA, and her BEST FRIENDS, a quartet of attractive and happy teenage girls in pajamas, dance wildly on a couch and double over laughing.

-- The SAME GIRLS high five each other.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

So much time you can waste it.

--- UNKNOWN POV from the front seat of a car: a suburban road at night, the headlights illuminating the dark road, bits of ice and snow on the ground, the car moving very fast.

-- A CUTE GUY wearing a bowler hat (18) pretends to shoot a bow and arrow from the back of a classroom, an amused and affectionate look on his face.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

*But for some of us there's only
today. And in that today, no matter
how long it lasts, all the things
you do and all the things you wish
you hadn't done bounce off one
another.*

-- SAMANTHA gives her PARENTS a quick hug, leaving them surprised but happy.

-- Samantha and her LITTLE SISTERS () walk in the woods through tall trees illuminated by golden light

As Samantha's VO continues, the images start to smash together in QUICK CUTS, seconds long, bright and confusing:

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*Each small step adding up to
 millions of other steps, all of
 them connected, like the echo of a
 thousand voices, backwards and
 forwards into infinity.*

-- A TEEN GIRL(18), skinny, blonde and beautiful, stands in the middle of a dark road, crying.

-- A beat up CHEVY pulls into a parking space.

-- A GOTH-GIRL stands on the side of the road hitchhiking.

-- A CLOSE-UP of someone settling a necklace that says SLUT against her collarbone.

-- A PAIR OF DOC MARTENS stomp up some stairs.

-- Samantha running in the woods at night.

-- A WHITE VICTORIAN house, magical in the snow.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
And each step makes a difference.

-- A FLOCK of BIRDS cut a swathe across a dim morning sky.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*I didn't know any of this until the
 very last moment, in that before-
 instant, right before I fell.*

-- The SKY slowly changes from night into dawn, a slender strip of pink against a watery blue sky.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*And I wouldn't have found out if I
 hadn't suddenly opened my eyes.*

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING -

An upper middle class house, suburban Connecticut, early morning, late-winter. It's all very pretty, the lawn dotted with bits of left-over snow

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
*But all that came to the end. At
 the beginning, I didn't know
 anything.*

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - SAME

SAMANTHA KINGSTON (17), pretty, popular and far more intelligent than she knows on this particular morning, has her head buried in a pillow.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
*If you're like me, your last day
 starts like every other day.*

A BEEPING SOUND is heard.

SAM'S MOM (O.S.)
 Sam! Get up!

She opens her eyes and uncurls her hand where her cellphone is cradled. **6:45AM FEB 12.**

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
*You wake up seven minutes and forty-
 five seconds before your best
 friend is supposed to pick you up.*

Sam clicks it open. A text: HAPPY CUPID DAY, bee-atch! Sam smiles and jumps out of bed.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE -

Sam bolts down the stairs into the front hallway. Her PARENTS make breakfast in the kitchen.

DAD
 You want breakfast?

SAMANTHA
 Late!

Sam pushes out the front door trying to put on her coat and wrestle her binder into her bag at the same time.

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Her little sister, IZZIE (8) grabs the back of her coat.

IZZIE
 Sam!

It comes out "Tham" - Izzie has a pronounced lis.

SAMANTHA
 What?!

IZZIE

You forgot your gloves.

SAMANTHA

Iz, what did I tell you? Don't touch my stuff. Get back inside, it's freezing out here.

She grabs the gloves.

IZZIE

(giggling)

You're the one with no clothes on!

Izzie shuts the front door and Samantha walks towards the car. She wears a mini-skirt, a tank top, high heeled boots and a down jacket that's open. She smiles to herself: Izzie is right. She is half-naked.

Her BFF, LINDSAY EDGECOMBE (18) motions "hurry up" from inside a huge tricked-out RANGE ROVER.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Lindsay hands over a Dunkin Donuts coffee and puts the car in gear, peeling out. Sam is thrown against the seat.

SAMANTHA

Bagels?

LINDSAY

In the back.

SAMANTHA

Sesame?

LINDSAY

Obv.

Lindsay glances at Sam's outfit - it's the same as hers.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Nice skirt.

SAMANTHA

(smiling)

You too.

EXT. ALLY'S HOUSE -

Lindsay's car pulls up the driveway to an ENORMOUS HOUSE, the very definition of McMansion.

ALLY (17) exits the front door, flapping her hand over her head towards her mother who stands in the doorway.

ALLY
Yeah - whatever, mom! See you later!

She wears the same outfit as Lindsay and Sam.

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ally gets in and Sam hands over a coffee.

SAMANTHA
Cafe con leche with three splendas.
Ally wraps her hands around the cup.

ALLY
Mmmm. Bagels?
Sam points to the bag in the backseat.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Sesame?
LINDSAY
Obv -
SAMANTHA
Obv -
Ally looks out the window, contemplative.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Do you have insomnia or something Lindz?

LINDSAY
Hell, no.

ALLY
It's just so cute that you get up before us and go to Dunkin' Donuts.

SAMANTHA
Did she just call you cute, Lindsay?

LINDSAY
(smilin
Samantha, I believe she did

SAMANTHA
You better watch your mouth, Ally.

Ally snorts a laugh.

EXT. ELODY'S - LATER

Lindsay comes to a screeching halt in the gravel driveway just as ELODY (18) picks her way across the icy walkway in six inch heels - also in mini-skirt and tank top.

She goes to open the door but Lindsay has locked it. Elody motions "open the door!" but Lindsay gives her a blank look.

ELODY

Come on!!!

Lindsay laughs and unlocks the doors. Elody slides in, shivering.

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

ELODY

Brrrr...February is the cruelest month!

SAMANTHA

April is the cruelest month--

Lindsay glances at Elody's tank top.

LINDSAY

Nipply, much, Elody?

ELODY

Whoever said April, they're wrong-- and my nipples are not showing.

Ally gives Elody her coffee and bagel.

ALLY

Actually. They are.

INT. CAR - LATER

Music blasts. The girls bop along with the music, rolling their shoulders in rhythm. They laugh and gossip underneath Sam's VO.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

If high school was a game of poker, Lindsay, Ally, Elody and I would be holding 80% of the cards.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*It's not like we're shiny perfect
or our breath always smells like
lilacs or something.*

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Lindsay's car races through the suburban streets, taking turns too fast, gunning the engine - a MAN shakes his fist at her, "slow down!"

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
*We're popular because we can get
away with everything. And we can
get away with everything because
we're popular. So it's circular.*

INT./EXT LINDSAY'S CAR

At a stoplight, a GOTH type girl - KATIE CARULLO - sticks her thumb out for a ride.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
*And I know what it's like to be on
the other side, the lowest of the
low. I spent the first half of my
life there.*

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
(glancing at Katie)
Guess Katie Carullo's mobile home
broke down.

ALLY
You know, I don't think she's taken
a shower since tenth grade--

ELODY
Are mobile homes actually *mobile*?

LINDSAY
Poor thing. Even White Trash have
to get to school.

As Lindsay's car speeds past, Katie locks eyes with Sam,
smiles and holds up her middle finger.

SAMANTHA
Oh my god! If you see that Katie
Carullo just gave the middle finger!

LINDSAY
Oh Sammy, she likes you!

The GIRLS bust out laughing.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT -

Lindsay whips towards an open parking spot just as another CAR, a beat-up Chevy, pulls into it at the same time.

Lindsay leans on the horn --

LINDSAY
No fucking way, Grundel! That's my spot!

It's obvious that the other girl had the spot first but Lindsay presses the accelerator and slams into it.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
(leaning out the window)
Sorry, sweetie! Didn't see you!

A jock type girl, JENNIFER GRUNDEL (17) sits in her car, shaking her head, then backs up and drives off.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
So now I'm at the top.
(beat)
Nobody ever said life was fair.

INT. CAR -

Ally watches Grundel drive away.

ALLY
(affectionately)
Lindsay. Sometimes you can be so mean.

Lindsay flips down the rearview mirror and checks her perfect face.

LINDSAY
Mother Teresa speaks.

SAMANTHA
Now that we have the best spot she's going to have to walk .22 miles to the front door--

F.O.Y
I feel bad 'or 'er --

Lindsay lets out a theatrical sigh.

LINDSAY

What is with you guys? I got the spot, fair and square--

ELODY

No...not that! I feel bad for her because her last name is Grundel.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT DOOR AREA

A TRIO of SOPHOMORES wearing red stockings, silver shoes and tutus under their coats shuffle past -- "CUPIDS".

ELODY

Look at those cute little cupids! Remember when we did that in sophomore year?

LINDSAY

No. Patrick better send me a rose today.

SAMANTHA

You know he will.

ELODY

Lindsay, you do so remember! You were a devil cupid!

ALLY

And Samantha was an angel...

LINDSAY

An angel in fishnet stockings and a mini-skirt. Whore.

Sam hooks her arm in Lindsay's.

SAMANTHA

Speak for yourself. You love us, you know you do.

LINDSAY

Yeah, yeah...I love you. Til' death do us part --

ALLY, SAMANTHA, ELODY

(a shout)

And even then!

The girls hang onto each other laughing as they enter school.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Sam sits at her desk as MR. DAIMLER (late 20s) walks through the rows of desks handing back marked papers. He's the school crush - dirty blonde hair, brown eyes, a hemp necklace.

MR. DAIMLER
Nice job, Sam.

SAMANTHA
(flirty)
Why thank you, Mr. Daimler.

In the back row, KENT MCFULLER (17), wearing baggy khakis, converse high tops and a jaunty hat observes this exchange. He rolls his eyes.

Suddenly the classroom door opens and a TRIO of "CUPIDS" enter, each girl holding a bunch of roses. As Sophomores they're excited and nervous.

CUPID 1
Hi...uhm -- uhm...

CUPID 2
(born showgirl)
Valogram delivery!

They deposit VALOGRAMS - roses with notes attached that students buy for each other as a fundraiser - to different people in the room. The STUDENTS eye each other, silently taking stock of who got how many roses.

Most eyes are on Sam.

An ANGEL CUPID with pale blonde hair, big blue eyes and glowy fair skin holds out an exquisite pink and white rose. She wears a crooked tiara and "wings".

ANGEL CUPID
That's the most beautiful rose of
all of them.

Sam looks at the girl sharply.

SAMANTHA
And since when did sophomores talk
to seniors?

ANGEL CUPID
(in a breathy whisper)
Uhm...sorry

SAMANTHA

Yeah. Exactly.

Mortified, the ANGEL CUPID backs off.

Sam looks at the rose. The petals are swirled white and pink, like it was made of out ice cream. She unfolds the note, a look of anticipation on her face.

Her face falls immediately.

It's a cartoon of a chubby Cupid passed out with an empty bottle of wine and his bow and arrow by his side. The caption reads: *Get drunk on love. Party at my house tonight!*

Samantha turns around and sees Kent smiling at her. He makes a motion as if he's pulling an arrow on a bowstring and shooting it.

Sam rolls her eyes and makes a big show of shoving the note into the bottom of her bag. Kent isn't bothered in the least. In fact, he looks amused.

She then opens a card attached to a simple red rose:

"Happy Cupid Day. Luv ya'. Rob. PS - Happy now?"

She smiles and tucks it in her bag as if it were the most precious note anyone had ever written.

Mr. DAIMLER pauses at Sam's desk.

MR. DAIMLER

Nine roses, already? And it's only eleven o'clock. Well done.

SAMANTHA

What can I say? The people love me.

MR. DAIMLER

I can see that.

He continues past, handing out homework assignments.

SAMANTHA

I still haven't gotten my rose from you, Mr. Daimler.

The class giggles. Mr. Daimler ignores Sam's flirtation and turns around to face the class. He starts his lecture --

MR. DAIMLER

Asymptotes and limits--

But his face is flushed and it looks as though he's suppressing a smile. Sam leans back in her seat - triumphant.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Sam walks down the hall when Kent catches up with her. He has the energy of a boy who thinks every day is an adventure.

KENT

Did you like my valogram?

SAMANTHA

Oh. Was that from you, Kent?

She picks up her pace.

KENT

(undeterred)

My parents are away this weekend so I thought I'd indulge in a little high school banality, you know, keg, a couple of broken vases, too many people in too small a space, loud music, a girl crying in the bathroom because some other girl said something mean about her.

SAMANTHA

Good for you. It's about time you caught up with the rest of us.

She walks away quickly. From over her shoulder, Kent's confident voice rings out:

KENT

Great! So I'll see you tonight!

Samantha ignores him. Near the cafeteria, JENNIFER GRUNDEL (parking spot girl) is comforted by some friends.

They give Samantha an evil look but Sam waltzes past, not noticing.

ALLY (O.S.)

You got nine? I got nine too.

INT. CAFETERIA -

Ally and Samantha sit at a table near the window peering at their lunches and reviewing their valograms.

ALLY

But one doesn't count. It was from
Ethan Schlumpenheimer.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, well I got one from Kent
McWeirdo so one of mine doesn't
count either.

Across the cafeteria, Kent sits with the "artsy" crowd.

ALLY

You know, he'd be kinda cute if he
didn't wear that stupid hat.

SAMANTHA

(shrugging)

Doubt it. Mr. Daimler flirted with
me today.

ALLY

He did not!

SAMANTHA

He did. I swear.

Elody sits down, her tray full of junk food.

ELODY

I got twelve valograms already!

ALLY

Daimler flirted with Sam today.

LINDSAY (O.S.)

He flirts with everyone. I wouldn't
take it personally.

Lindsay slides into a chair. Elody lobs a french fry at her.

ELODY

Jealous! Hey, did you hear about
Grundel?

LINDSAY

Don't tell me. Forgot to take her
swim goggles off in class --

ALLY

She was late for a meeting and Coach
said she couldn't watch the
finals.

Boo-hoo. LINDSAY

Boo-hoo. SAMANTHA

ELODY
(to Lindsay)
She's telling everyone it's your
fault.

LINDSAY
Oh please. What a drama queen.

Sam's boyfriend ROB COCHRAN (18), lopes towards them. He's the resident hottie of the school - gorgeous, popular and charming.

He slides in next to Samantha and puts his arm around her.

ROB
Did you get my rose?

SAMANTHA
(flirty)
Did you get mine?

Rob opens his knapsack and shows off a few roses smushed at the bottom. Samantha peers in.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Who are the other ones from?

ROB
(teasing)
Your competition.

LINDSAY
Sam has no competition Rob and you
know it.

SAMANTHA
Thank you, Lindsay.

Rob throws his arm around Samantha's shoulder and leans in for a nuzzle.

ROB
You're cute when you're mad.

ELODY
Rob, are yo goin, to Kent
McFuller's a t'y c ni at. He's
getting a k g.

ROB

If I had to choose between Kent
McFuller and my sexy girlfriend
here, I think I'd go Team Kingston.

Sam smiles.

ELODY

Aww...sweet.

ROB

Anyway, we have our own special
date tonight, right babe?

SAMANTHA

(acting cool)
It's in my datebook.

Lindsay waves her hand at Rob.

LINDSAY

Outta here, horn dog.

ROB

(to Lindsay)
Look who's talking.
(to Sam)
I'll text you later.

He leans down and gives Samantha a kiss before departing.

LINDSAY

So. Tonight's the big night. Our
little girl Samantha Kingston
passes over into womanhood.

The girls GUFFAW.

SAMANTHA

Ewww!

ELODY

I was nervous the first time too,
Sammy.

SAMANTHA

I'm not nervous. Do I look nervous?

Ally cocks her head towards the door to the cafeteria.

F.L.

Freak alert

JULIET SYKES (18), a sylph-like girl with white blonde hair and pale skin enters the cafeteria. Her hair hides her face like silky curtains. She moves slowly as if she were drifting.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Psycho killer, *qu'est-que-c'est?*

As she passes by, STUDENTS whisper. She's obviously the school outcast.

LINDSAY
Did she get our Valogram?

The girls recite the note simultaneously.

GIRLS
"Maybe next year, probably not."

ALLY
Third period Bio.

They high-five each other as Juliet exits the cafeteria towards the parking lot.

SAMANTHA
Did she say anything?

ELODY
Does she ever say anything?

LINDSAY
I think she spoke once in freshman year.

ALLY
Oh yeah....I remember that! I think she spoke in tongues.

Elody claws the air with her hands and hunches her shoulders.

ELODY
*Gibblyjibbly - koro-koro-hocus-
pocus-dominocus!*

They bust out laughing.

INT. ALLY'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - THAT NIGHT

The girls have raided Ally's closet. Samantha sits in a chair while Lindsay does her make-up.

SAMANTHA

Maybe I should wear the black top instead?

ALLY

Sam, you look great.

ELODY

Do you have the condom I gave you?

SAMANTHA

Yes, mother.

ELODY

Just because it's your first time doesn't mean you can't get --

LINDSAY

(interrupting)

No glove, no love.

Elody pours vodka into little shot glasses.

SAMANTHA

I took that class too. But thank you pagan witches, for your concern.

Lindsay holds up her glass.

LINDSAY

A toast! To our beloved Samantha. Tomorrow you will be a different person.

They kick back their shots and bust out laughing.

EXT. ROAD -

Lindsay's Range Rover shoots down the ice-slicked road. The THUMP-THUMP of the stereo blasts and the bare trees shake, as if in rhythm to the music.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)

(laughing)

...seriously, you guys, Tara told her dad she wanted a painted portrait of .erse. as a graduation present --

INT. CAR - SAME

The car is filled with sloppy conversation, laughter, loud music and cigarette smoke.

LINDSAY
(stifling a huge guffaw)
A painted portrait...of...herself.

ELODY
Like, in a museum painted portrait?

SAMANTHA
She said...(laughing)...she told
Bethany that she thought she had a
noble face--!

The girls are almost spitting up they're laughing so hard.

LINDSAY
A...what? A noble--? I...can't even
believe what I'm hearing right now--
one of The Pugs thinks she has a
"noble look" --

SAMANTHA
She's going to wear...a gown.

ALLY
Stop, oh my god, you have to stop,
I'm going pee in my pants--!

LINDSAY
Shut up. No way. Shut up! Oh god, I
can't wait to spread that one
around --

Lindsay takes a turn so sharply, the girls are all thrown
back in their seats.

SAMANTHA
Lindsay! Watch it!

LINDSAY
Hey, who taught you how to drive?
Anyway, I'd never let you die a
virgin!

EXT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

The driveway is dark and windy. It goes on and into the
misty woods.

The dull light from the headlights bounces off the twisting, gravelly path.

ALLY (O.S.)
This is how horror movies start...

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR - SAME

LINDSAY
Are you sure this is his house?

SAMANTHA
(unsure)
Yeah. Number 442...

ALLY
Weren't you guys friends in elementary school?

SAMANTHA
Uh. No.

The woods press closer to the car.

LINDSAY
Man, these trees better not scratch my car --

Elody takes a swig of vodka and passes it to Ally --

ALLY
Did you slobber on this?

ELODY
Closest you'll ever get to my spit.

ALLY
Uhm. Yuck?

All of a sudden the woods open up:

EXT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE

At the center of a VAST SLOPING LAWN is a WHITE VICTORIAN HOUSE. There are porches on either side, beautifully carved shutters lining all the windows, balustrades and a widow's walk on top. The effect is magical.

INT. CAR - SAME

The girls stare.

SAMANTHA

It looks like it's made out of frosting.

ALLY

Now you're making me hungry.

LINDSAY

Let's go make a scene--

INT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE - DOWNSTAIRS

The house is packed and LOUD. Blinking Christmas lights are looped around a stair railing and as some KIDS come downstairs with beer in their hands, OTHERS make their way up.

As the GIRLS make their way into the party everyone parts to let them through. Their presence creates a stir.

A trio of girls AKA the "PUGS" smile at Samantha.

TARA

That shirt is awesome, Samantha.

SAMANTHA

(barely a glance)

Thanks, Tara.

The GIRLS bust out laughing as they pass. A confused look flashes across Tara's face.

INT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS

The upstairs hallway is crowded with people. Lindsay is immediately swallowed up. Elody waves at a GUY down the hallway.

ELODY

Steve!

Just as Samantha is about to follow, ROB is putting his arms around her.

ROB

Hi.

Samantha turns around. Rob's hand is on her shoulder. Samantha reaches up and touches his hand, aware that they're the most popular couple in the school.

SAMANTHA

Hi.

ROB

You know you're the cutest girl
here, right?

Sam blushes. They're about to kiss when Ally pops up.

ALLY

Save it for later, perverts.

Ally grabs Samantha and some beer from Rob's cup sloshes onto
Samantha's shirt.

SAMANTHA

Rob!

He starts to dab her shirt with his.

ROB

Aw shit, sorry babe.

SAMANTHA

(sweetly)

You're a spaz.

She kisses him on the cheek just as Ally pulls her away.

ALLY

Sam, you have to see this house. It
has like a hundred magical rooms!

Samantha notices Kent. He's talking to another GIRL, laughing
and looking like he's having a great time. He's not wearing
his hat. He sees Samantha and his eyes light up.

KENT

Hey! You made it!

Samantha pushes Ally up the stairs.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, sure did!

(under her breath)

McWeirdy...

INT. DIFFERENT ROOM - LATER

On the couch, Lindsay sits on top of her boyfriend - a
again boyfriend PATRICK, a good looking, ROCK

Elody bumps and grinds against STEVE (18) who uses one hand to keep Elody steady and while carrying on a conversation with another GIRL.

Samantha and Ally drink beer.

SAMANTHA
(watching Elody)
Poor Elody. She's too nice.

ALLY
(sweet, matter-of-fact)
Elody's a slut.

Samantha looks at her.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Lindsay's a bitch and a
bullshitter. I'm rich and have OCD.

SAMANTHA
Oh please, Al. You're just rich.

Ally lets out a laugh.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
And what am I?

ALLY
(thinking)
You're anti-social. And a Poet.

SAMANTHA
What?! I've never written a poem in
my life. You're so full of shit--
and I am so not anti-social!

Lindsay suddenly shouts across the room.

LINDSAY
Sammy!!! Ally!

She stumbles off Patrick and pulls Ally and Sam onto the couch next to her.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)
(to Patrick)
Honey...can you go get us some
beers?

Patrick salutes and departs .

Samantha notices that the window behind them is open. She turns towards it, closing her eyes and letting the misty rain hit her face.

SAMANTHA

Do you think we'll remember any of this? Like two years from now?

Ally swigs from the now empty vodka bottle.

ALLY

I won't even remember tomorrow.

SAMANTHA

(dreamy)

Will it even matter?

ALLY

Poetical. Just like I said.

LINDSAY

(chuckling)

You're drunk, Kingston.

SAMANTHA

Friday night, baby.

Samantha turns around but Lindsay is staring at the doorway.

Standing at the door is JULIET SYKES. She has her hair pulled back into a ponytail, her face pale and her eyes very blue.

ALLY

What the...?

Elody has now joined the girls. She too looks at Juliet.

ELODY

I can't believe it --

As the rest of the room registers that the school outcast is standing in the doorway giving the most popular girls the stink eye, voices lower and activity seems to slow down.

Juliet leaves the doorway and slowly but confidently walks towards Lindsay and the others. Automatically, the girls all stand up.

Juliet stops right in front of Lindsay. Her voice is surprising - strong and self-assured.

JULIET

You're a bitch.

Lindsay's face drains of color.

LINDSAY

Excuse me?

JULIET

You heard me. I said, you're a bitch. A mean girl. A bad person.

Juliet then turns to Ally.

JULIET (CONT'D)

You're a bitch.

And Elody.

JULIET (CONT'D)

You're a bitch.

And finally to Samantha, who blinks as if she can't see straight.

JULIET (CONT'D)

And, you're a bitch.

The room goes completely quiet, everyone's nerves tensed in concert.

SAMANTHA

How. Dare. You.

Lindsay grabs Juliet's shirt --

LINDSAY

I'd rather be a bitch than a psycho!

She SHOVES Juliet stumbling backwards just as Elody grabs a beer out of someone's hand and pours it on Juliet.

ELODY

(at the top of her lungs)
Get away from us! You fucking psycho!

This sets off another person and soon people are throwing beer all over Juliet, who holds her arms up to cover her face.

CROWD

Juliet's a psycho! Juliet's a psycho! Psycho!

Samantha grabs a liquor bottle and empties it on Juliet's head.

SAMANTHA

Never, ever insult my friends!
Never!

Drenched and slipping on the beer-soaked floor Juliet grabs onto Samantha.

Horried, Samantha tries to unclench Juliet's hand and as she does Juliet looks at her as if to say: "*I feel sorry for you*".

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

(terrified, wild)
Get off me!

But Juliet keeps holding on. She tries to stand and Sam pushes her -- Juliet slams against the doorway where a crowd has gathered to watch.

Kent shoves his way in just as Juliet escapes, running past him. He scans the room, his eyes blazing.

KENT

What the hell was that about?

SAMANTHA

You okay, Lindz? Lemme get you some water--

She pushes past Kent who follows her out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

KENT

What the hell did she ever do to you?

SAMANTHA

So, I guess you're friends with Psycho. Is that why you invited her?

KENT

Cute nick-name. Did you come up with it or did your friends help?

SAMANTHA

No one diss s r f i e n d s. No one.

KENT

Right. So, it's all about loyalty.

Sam starts down the crowded stairwell.

SAMANTHA

I don't know what your problem is, okay?

Kent jumps over the railing, facing her.

KENT

I don't know what *your problem* is either--

SAMANTHA

Look, I'm not going to go out with you, I would never go out with you in a million years. You don't know me, okay? So you can stop obsessing over me and sending me valograms -- I shouldn't even know your name --

Kent backs off mumbling something under his breath.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

What did you just say?

KENT

I said, you're right. I don't know you! *Thank god.*

Samantha spins around and starts down the stairs. She has to grab the banister with both hands to steady herself.

KENT (CONT'D)

Oh. And your boyfriend is downstairs puking in the sink!

INT. KITCHEN -

Sam stands in the doorway and watches as Rob and ANOTHER GUY chug one beer after another. All around them a BUNCH OF GUYS scream, CHUG IT! CHUG IT!

SAMANTHA

Rob?

Startled, Rob turns towards Samantha, his eyes bright.

ROB

Hey babe...you okay?

SAMANTHA

Oh Rob--

He reaches towards her but bumps against a chair and suddenly lands on the floor. He rolls over laughing as the other GUYS in the room join in.

ROB

Aw shit!

Lindsay, Elody and Ally are now in the doorway. Samantha turns towards them, tearful.

SAMANTHA

I can't believe this!

LINDSAY

We're outta here. This party officially blows.

EXT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Freezing rain falls. Some BOYS laugh and throw bottles into the woods.

Samantha, Lindsay, Ally and Elody stand under the eaves of the porch clutching themselves in the cold.

Lindsay pushes Elody playfully.

LINDSAY

You run first, Elody! You're the skinniest!

ELODY

What does that have to do with anything?

ALLY

Skinny legs run faster --

Ally suddenly dashes out from under the porch eaves waving a vodka bottle.

ALLY (CONT'D)

(to the tune of "Singin'
in the Rain!")

*I'm drinkin in the rain...I'm
drinking in the rain..!*

Sam leans into Lindsay.

SAMANTHA
My whole night is ruined.

LINDSAY
(softly to Sam)
Don't worry about Rob honey.
There's always tomorrow.

Elody jumps off the porch and stumbles through the mud.

ELODY
Shotgun! I get shotgun!

SAMANTHA
No way!

Lindsay grabs Samantha's hand.

LINDSAY
RUN FOR IT, SAMMY!

EXT. ROAD - SAME

The road is velvety black. The patches of ice under the streetlights, glowy white gumdrops.

The RANGE ROVER comes THUNDERING past, a shot of silver lightning.

LINDSAY (O.S.)
...I cannot believe Juliet Sykes
tonight! I'm still in shock.

INT. CAR - SAME

Samantha is shotgun.

ALLY
It's like she suddenly got cojones
or something.

ELODY
She just proved again how psycho
she is.
(to Sam)
I can't believe she grabbed onto
you like th .

SAMANTHA
I can't believe Rob ruined our
special night by getting drunk.

ELODY

I think Kent has a crush on you.
Maybe you can have a special night
with him.

SAMANTHA

You guys, shut up. Puh-leeze--

LINDSAY

Eew. You touched Psycho.

SAMANTHA

(playful)
You're the one who pushed her,
wench!

U2's *With or Without You* comes on.

LINDSAY

(at Sam)
Oh, sweetie...it's "our song".

They sing with the chorus:

GIRLS

*"With or without you! With or
without yooooooooo...."*

ALLY

You guys! Come on! You know this
song reminds me of Matt!

Lindsay cracks the window to flick her cigarette ash it dumps
itself in her lap. She frantically tries to brush the embers
off.

LINDSAY

Dammit!

The car SWERVES.

Ally unbuckles her seatbelt and leans into the front seat to
grab the ipod. Elody pushes in next to her and tries to grab
it back.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Elody! You hit me with your elbow!

ELODY

No I didn't

Samantha suddenly starts laughing to herself

LINDSAY

What? What's so funny?

SAMANTHA

Portrait. Of. Pug. In gown.

This makes everyone crack up.

HEADLIGHTS from an oncoming TRUCK illuminate the car and swing past.

ELODY

(whipping her head around)

Whoa! Did you see how fast that guy was going?

SUDDENLY, SOMETHING FLASHES in front of the car - A deer? A dog? Lindsay tries to swerve - *but it's too late--*

Samantha's POV:

The car RAMS into the BLACK MOUTH OF THE WOODS at 65 mph like a roller coaster that's gone off the rails - Branches scrape against the windshield at warp-speed - Metal screeches on metal --

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

I was the only one who found out. I found out that the moment of death is full of fire and sound and pain bigger than anything, a funnel of burning heat splitting me in two, searing and scorching. Only me. I was the only who didn't make it.

-- The windshield shatters, the car feels like it's folding in on itself, flipping upside down --

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

If screaming were a feeling it would be this.

A SUDDEN SILENCE. The Range Rover is a mangled mess in the woods. Snow falls, smothering everything in white.

CUT TO BLACK!

A soft BEEPING sound comes up....

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sam startles awake as if from a very bad dream. Her cellphone is beeping...she looks at it:

FEBRUARY 12 6:45 am.

She pushes some hair out of her face but pulls her hand away quickly. Her hair is damp. Her hand is damp. Her whole body is wet with sweat.

The phone buzzes again. She hesitates, confused, nauseous.

A text: Happy Cupid Day beeatch!

Izzie runs into the room and jumps on the bed.

IZZIE

Thammy! Mommy says you have to get up!

SAMANTHA

But...it's Saturday--

IZZIE

(giggling)
It's not Saturday!

SAMANTHA

Yes it is...it's Saturday--

Izzie jumps off the bed and runs down the hallway.

IZZIE (O.S.)

Mom! Sammy won't get up!

SAMANTHA'S MOM (O.S.)

Don't make me come up there,
Samantha!

Sam gingerly puts her feet on the floor. She wiggles her toes then firmly taps her feet on the floor, as if testing to see if she'll fall through.

The room seems fuzzy and distorted for a second before the light shifts and everything looks normal again.

The phone buzzes. A text: *"I'm outside. Where r u?"*

INT. BATHROOM

Sam throws cold water on her face. She grips the side of the sink as if to steady herself and then looks in the mirror.

Everything is tinted in a blue light, an eerie no-nir twilight.

SAMANTHA'S MOM (O.S.)

Sam!

SAMANTHA

WHAT?!

Sam swings the door open.

LINDSAY

Hey -- it's me.

Lindsay stops.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

What's wrong with you? You're all
sweaty and freaked out looking.

SAMANTHA

Uh...I think I had a bad
dream...what happened last night?

Lindsay turns and starts walking into Samantha's room --

LINDSAY

Oh, yeah...sorry about that hon'. I
stayed on the phone with Patrick
until like three a.m.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lindsay pulls Sam's clothes from the closet. Sam stands in
the doorway, staring.

LINDSAY

I meant to call you back but you
know how it goes--

SAMANTHA

I...I have to take a shower.

Lindsay throws Sam's clothes at her.

LINDSAY

No time. It's Cupid Day!

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR - LATER

Lindsay hands over theunkn' f'one's before she pulls
out of the driveway. Samantha then it in her hands trebling.
She looks over her shoulder to the backseat. Bags s.

Out the window, Samantha's POV:

A FLOCK of BLACK BIRDS cut a swathe across the horizon.
Samantha flips down the visor to block out the view.

SAMANTHA
Thanks for the coffee.

LINDSAY
Something wrong?

SAMANTHA
What? No. No, why?

LINDSAY
You never say "thank you for the
coffee". And you never have to --
it's a given.

INT. CAR - A BIT LATER

Ally and Elody have now joined the team. The girls CHATTER as
Sam looks out the window. The whole landscape seems drained
of color.

On the side of the road, KATIE CARULLO hitchhikes.

Samantha looks at Katie as if she's never seen her before:
beat-up Doc Martens, messenger bag with political buttons all
over it, semi-dreded out hair.

SAMANTHA
Does Katie Carullo look the same
every day or is it my imagination?

LINDSAY
Same everyday. Let it be a lesson
to you.

As Lindsay's car speeds past, Katie again locks eyes with
Sam, smiles and holds up her middle finger.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Lindsay zooms towards an open spot just as Jennifer Grundel's
beat up Chevy tries to angle in. Lindsay wins the spot.

Just like "yesterday" Sam watches Grundel shake her head as
she backs her car out

EXT. SCHOOL

The GIRLS walk towards the school passing the SAME CUPIDS as before.

SAMANTHA

Have you guys...have you ever had like a really bad dream and then the next day it seems like it hasn't gone away?

ALLY

Oh my god, totally.

Samantha looks at her --

ALLY (CONT'D)

Like when Matt and I broke up? It seemed like every day was the same as the day before.

LINDSAY

Doofus, that's because you wouldn't change out of your sweatpants for a week.

SAMANTHA

I feel weird today --

Lindsay throws her arm around Sam's shoulder.

LINDSAY

(affectionately)

Aw...poor baby. Nervous about tonight?

SAMANTHA

Tonight?

LINDSAY

Your big night, baby girl!

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Samantha is staring at Rob's RED ROSE. The Angel Cupid interrupts.

ANGEL CUPID

This is the most beautiful rose of them all.

Sam looks up. The ANGEL CUPID smiles, her big blue eyes blinking slowly. She holds out Kent's pink and white rose.

Sam plucks it out of the girl's hand.

SAMANTHA

(sharp)

Did you just say something to me?

The Angel Cupid backs off.

ANGEL CUPID

Yes...no...sorry.

Sam slowly turns around. Kent grins and makes the motion of pulling an arrow on a bowstring.

Samantha snaps her head back to the front.

PRE-LAP:

LINDSAY (O.S.)

So, McWeirdo's having a party.

INT. CAFETERIA

Lindsay clicks her cellphone shut.

ALLY

I'll go as long as Matt isn't there.

ELODY

He's going to have a keg.

From across the cafeteria Rob smiles at Samantha. He tips his chin as if to say "hey babe". Lindsay notices.

LINDSAY

Oooh, looks like Rob knows what night it is!

Ally and Elody snort with laughter. Across the cafeteria Sam notices JULIET slipping out the door.

SAMANTHA

I don't know...I feel--

LINDSAY

Yeah, yeah. You feel weird, you already said that. Don't worry, we've got you back.

INT. ALLY'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM

Lindsay tries to put mascara on Sam's eyes but they twitch uncontrollably.

LINDSAY

Stop blinking so much!

SAMANTHA

I can't help it! My eyes are just twitchy --.

ALLY

You know, I was just thinking...

LINDSAY

Everyone stop what they're doing, Ally was thinking!

ALLY

Ha, ha. I was just thinking about how everything spirals out from everything else. Like, if Lindsay hadn't stolen Grundel's parking space this morning --

LINDSAY

I didn't steal it!

ALLY

Okay fine but since you did get the parking space, Grundel was late for class and then Coach said she couldn't swim in the finals.

LINDSAY

And? Your point is?

ALLY

Everything's connected.

SAMANTHA

I read an article once that said that if a bunch of butterflies take off from Thailand, it can cause a rainstorm in New York.

ALLY

(to Elc...)

That means that on of your faces could cause a mess ve... it... Portugal.

ELODY

Ha! Your morning breath could cause
a stampede in Africa. (beat) And I
do not fart.

LINDSAY

Yeah. Ya' do--

They start laughing -- But Samantha laughs harder than
anyone. She doubles over, clutching her stomach she's
laughing so hard.

Lindsay, Elody and Ally look at each other.

ELODY

(re: Samantha)

Nerves.

INT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

The party is LOUD and CROWDED. The GIRLS walk up the stairs.

Sam's POV:

The Christmas lights blink on and off more psychedelic than
"before".

Faces look distorted, like in a funhouse mirror.

Jennifer Grundel is in a corner with some of the swim team.
Jennifer stares at her, an angry look on her face. Sam
registers: *the parking space...*

Kent laughs and talks to a girl. His hair falls over his eye
for a second and he brushes it back.

Samantha notices that his eyelashes are dark. His hands look
strong, the tips of his fingers stained with ink. Samantha
stares at him. He suddenly sees her and waves.

KENT

Hey! You made it!

Sam pushes Ally up the stairs.

SAMANTHA

Yeah--

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM - LATER

Ally, Samantha and Lindsay are squished on the couch holding
beers.

Like "yesterday", Elody bumps and grinds against Steve who holds her steady with one hand while carrying on a conversation with another girl.

SAMANTHA

I really don't think I want to be here right now.

Ally opens her bag and hands over the vodka.

ALLY

Here. This makes everything better.

Samantha takes a long swig.

LINDSAY

Whoa there, cowgirl! You don't want to be blotto the night you pass over into womanhood. Gimme a sip.

Lindsay gulps it down and wipes her hand across her mouth.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Well, well. Here comes your lov-ah.

Sam stands up as Rob nears them.

SAMANTHA

Kiss me. I'm drunk.

ROB

Pleasure.

He leans in but Lindsay swats him.

LINDSAY

Alright, alright. Don't get ahead of yourselves. Some of us would like to get through the evening without throwing up.

Sam looks into Rob's face, searching. He suddenly seems like the best idea she ever had.

SAMANTHA

Maybe we should leave early? You know, just you and me --

F , ,

Sure, babe. Let's just get a topper, oka ?

SAMANTHA

I can come with you.

ROB

Hey. We're going to have all night together. Right?

Lindsay pulls Samantha back down on the couch.

LINDSAY

Sam. Let the boy get a drink. I'll keep my eye on her Cochran, don't worry.

SAMANTHA

I'll text you, okay? And then we can go?

ROB

Sure babe.
(to a guy across the room)
Hey! Hamilton, wait up!

Elody walks over and plops down on Lindsay's lap.

ELODY

I just farted on you.

Lindsay pushes Elody off, laughing. Samantha pulls out her phone and starts texting.

LINDSAY

Please don't tell me you're texting Rob. He just left the room--

SAMANTHA

So?

ALLY

Oh. My. God.

JULIET stands in the doorway.

SAMANTHA

I'm going to go find Rob--

Samantha jumps up. Lindsay pulls her back down.

Juliet slowly but confidently walks straight towards Lindsay.

This time Sam notices something amazing: Juliet is beautiful. Her eyes are calm and steady, a sharp blue. Her skin is fair and unblemished.

JULIET

You're a bitch.

LINDSAY

What did you just say to me?

JULIET

You heard me. I said, you're a bitch. A mean girl. A bad person.

(to Ally)

You're a bitch.

(to Elody)

You're a bitch.

And finally to Samantha, who is now gripping Lindsay's arm to both steady herself and to keep Lindsay from lunging at Juliet.

JULIET (CONT'D)

You're a bitch.

The room goes completely quiet. Samantha's mouth opens but no sounds comes out.

Lindsay SHOVES Juliet.

LINDSAY

I'd rather be a bitch than a psycho! You're a psycho!

Elody grabs a beer out of someone's hand -- Samantha tries to stop her.

SAMANTHA

Elody, no, don't!

But it's too late. Elody dumps the beer on Juliet.

Other people join in, spraying Juliet with beer. She holds her arms up to cover her face.

CROWD

Juliet's a psycho! Juliet's a psycho! Psycho!

Juliet slips on the beer-soaked floor and grabs onto Samantha to gain her balance. The room chants: *FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!*

Juliet stares into Samantha's face again, as if she knows something.

SAMANTHA

(desperate, in teary)

What are you doing? Get off me!

Samantha unclenches Juliet's hand and bolts out as Kent shoves his way in.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Get out of the way, I need some
air! I feel sick.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Samantha stumbles down the stairs, weaving in and out of the crowd. Kent is behind her, taking two steps at a time.

KENT

What did she ever do to you?

SAMANTHA

(tearful, frightened)
Just butt out--

Juliet comes running down the stairs, pushing Sam and Kent out of the way. Kent looks torn between running after Juliet and confronting Sam.

KENT

Why? Just tell me why--

SAMANTHA

I don't know! I don't know why!

He puts his hand on her arm. It sends an unexpected bolt of electricity through Sam's whole body. They look at each other with an intensity that surprises both of them.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Leave me alone!

Sam pulls away quickly and rushes down the stairs.

INT. KITCHEN -

Samantha runs into the kitchen where Rob is doing shots. She looks terrified.

SAMANTHA

Rob? Can you take me home? I mean,
can we go?

Rob smiles, drunkenly.

F . .

You bet Sam y you be .

Lindsay, Ally and Elo y row i the coo-way b hi d S m.

LINDSAY

Sam, come on, I have your coat.

SAMANTHA

No! I have to go with Rob!

Rob takes a swig of beer, walks towards Sam, burps and then promptly falls down on the floor.

One of the BOYS pumps his fist and screams with laughter.

GUY

DUUUUUUUUDE!

ELODY

(to Samantha)

Oh, you are so not getting a ride with Rob, honey.

INT./EXT. LINDSAY'S CAR

Quick cuts:

The car doors slam.

Seat belts buckle.

Gearshift in reverse.

Ipod glows.

Windshield wipers on.

Dashboard clock: 12:31am

The tires squeal against the muddy driveway.

Samantha in the front seat.

EXT. ROAD -

Dark and rain-slicked. Lindsay's Range Rover takes the curves too fast.

INT. CAR -

"With or Without You" blasts on the stereo.

Sam's eyes dart back and forth, back and forth as the landscape whizzes past. She grips the seat. Her face is pale and sweaty.

SAMANTHA

Change the music.

ALLY

Yeah you know that song reminds me
of Matt!

LINDSAY

But Sammy, it's "our song"!

SAMANTHA

I know...I'm just--

ELODY

Don't worry Sam! You and Rob can do
it tomorrow night!

The rain sounds like knives on the roof of the car.

SAMANTHA

Elody, are you wearing your
seatbelt?

ELODY

(happy, drunk)
Huh? I think so!

Samantha turns around.

SAMANTHA

Al, put your seat belt on--

ELODY

(to Ally)
Yeah. Listen to your mother!

ALLY

I'm changing the music--

Ally unclips her seatbelt and reaches for the ipod. Elody
follows suit.

ELODY

Gimme that!

SAMANTHA

You guys! Stop it!

The trees look like skeletons. The branches little hands
waving. Everything in hyper-slow motion, vibrating.

Lindsay flicks her cigarette as out the window a dead branch
falls on her lap.

LINDSAY

Dammit Elody! You hit me with your elbow!

The car is suddenly illuminated by headlights. Sam notices the dashboard clock: **12:38am**

ELODY

Whoa! Did you see how fast that guy was going?

SOMETHING RUNS INTO THE ROAD, A FLASH OF WHITE-- Lindsay swerves. Samantha braces herself.

LINDSAY

What the...?!

It's JULIET - Juliet is in the middle of the road. Her face is ghostly white, she looks surprised. But not afraid.

SAMANTHA

No...no...no...no...no...no...no...!

This time, WE ARE THE WOODS - The CAR ZOOMING TOWARDS US, a turbo-speed vacuum sucking us in, every SOUND EARSPLITTING - and then suddenly:

BLACKNESS.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Beep! BEEP! BEEP!

Samantha's eyes are puffy from crying. She opens them slowly. The light in the room is a sharp white.

She's holding her cellphone in her hand. She slowly uncurls it -- the date glows: **6:45am. Friday February 12.**

SAMANTHA

No!

She pitches the phone across the room just as Izzie comes bouncing in.

IZZIE

Thammy!

SAMANTHA

Izzie --

IZZIE

Hey! How'd your phone get over there?

Izzie picks it up and holds it out to Sam.

SAMANTHA

I don't feel well. Tell mom.

Izzie drops the phone on the bed and puts her little hand on Samantha's forehead.

IZZIE

You just don't want to go to school!

Samantha is about to swat Izzie's hand away when she suddenly clasps it. She looks at Izzie's little girl hand. It's cute and chubby.

IZZIE (CONT'D)

What? Let go! MOM! Samantha's says she's sick!

She runs out. Samantha notices the light coming through the curtains, spilling onto the floor. It's too bright. She shuts her eyes.

Samantha's MOTHER comes to the door.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Lindsay will be here any second. Are you really sick? It's Cupid Day. You don't want to miss it, do you?

SAMANTHA

I just need to sleep awhile. Can you drive me later?

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Did something happen? Did you and Rob have a fight?

SAMANTHA

(impatient)

Mom. No. I just need to sleep. Seriously.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Suit yourself. I'll be in bed. But I have to work by ten.

Sam rolls away towards the wall, holding her pillow.

SAMANTHA

Can you shut the door, please?

The door closes. Samantha buries her head in the pillow silently screaming.

INT. SAMANTHA'S MOTHER'S CAR - LATER

Sam sits in the front seat as her mother pulls into the parking lot of the high school.

As they pass the "senior section" Sam sees **Jennifer Grundel's car, parked where Lindsay's had been before.** Her eyes laser in...

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Okay. Here we are. I'm sure you'll get lots of roses and feel much better once you get inside.

Samantha shrugs, still taking in Grundel's car.

SAMANTHA'S MOM (CONT'D)

Come on! You love Cupid Day.

Sam sees KATIE CARULLO exiting across the parking lot to the "smoking section" near the football field.

SAMANTHA

What does it matter, really? It's just a stupid popularity contest. It doesn't really prove that you have real friends.

Sam's mom looks at her.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Somebody's in a bad mood today.

SAMANTHA

No, I'm not. Well, maybe I am--

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Sam. You're lucky you're popular.

Sam looks at her.

SAMANTHA

Oh really? No way is that?

SAMANTHA'S MOM

You don't need to use that tone of voice with me. I'm just trying to help.

SAMANTHA

Sorry.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

When I was a senior I still had braces. And spent every Friday night alone studying.

SAMANTHA

So?

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Braces? In senior year? Come on.

Samantha looks at her mother's face. It's a pretty face, with some crow's feet around her eyes and still soft skin. Her hair is dark with just tiny bits of gray.

SAMANTHA

Well. You do have perfect teeth.

Sam's mom laughs.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Okay. I have to get to work. Giddy-up.

She leans over and opens the car door on the passenger side.

SAMANTHA

Mom.

Sam's mom looks up.

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Yes, dear?

SAMANTHA

I'm --

SAMANTHA'S MOM

It's cold, honey. Don't keep the door open.

Sam gets out. Before she shrugs the door slams shut. "I love you" under her breath

SAMANTHA'S MOM (CONT'D)

What?

SAMANTHA

Nothing.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Elody pops a curly fry in her mouth and blinks.

ELODY

Really, Sam? You sure? He's getting
a keg.

Samantha sits with Lindsay, Ally and Elody. Across the cafeteria she sees Grundel and her friends jumping around.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, I'm sure.

(beat)

What's the deal with Grundel?

ALLY

Swimming in the finals. Woo-hoo, go
team, get wet, wear goggles, be a
nerd.

Sam's eyes flicker. Lindsay sighs and hands over Rob's valogram.

LINDSAY

Well, I've given it a thorough
analysis and it's not *that* bad.

SAMANTHA

It's not that great either. "Luv
'ya"?

ELODY

Maybe he's just waiting to say
it...you know, like tonight.

SAMANTHA

Look. I'm not going to have sex
with him just so he'll say he loves
me, okay?

LINDSAY

Is that why you made us late this
morning? Because you're freaking
out about R.?

SAMANTHA

I'm not freaking out.

ALLY

So understand. If you're not ready,
you're not ready. I don't know why
everyone feels like they have to do
it anyway.

Elody and Lindsay look at Ally - the virgin.

ALLY (CONT'D)

What?

LINDSAY

Well, if that's what our Sammy
wants, that's what she'll get.

Lindsay waves at Rob who's hanging with his FRIENDS.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

I can text him. Tell him you got
your period or something.

SAMANTHA

Thank you.

ELODY

Yay! I kind of miss those
sleepovers we used to have! We can
make popcorn and watch scary
movies! It'll be so fun!

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

STUDENTS stream out of the cafeteria into the hallway.
Samantha sees Kent at his locker. He looks happy. As usual.

SAMANTHA

(to the girls)

I'll catch up with you.

She runs down the hall. Lindsay, Ally and Elody all look at
each other: WTF?

AT LOCKER:

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Hi.

Kent

(surprised)

Hi?

A few STUDENTS look over. Samantha Kingston is talking to
Kent McFuller.

SAMANTHA

I just wanted to say thanks for the valogram.

KENT

(grinning)

Oh, hey, no problem! That rose kinda looked like ice cream, right? All swirly and stuff.

SAMANTHA

(smiling)

Yeah, it did!

She suddenly catches herself and gets aloof again. But she can't help but notice - Kent's eyes are green and sparkly.

KENT

So are you and your witchy friends coming to my party tonight? Rah-rah, senior year.

He has a batch of tiny freckles across his nose.

SAMANTHA

No. But thanks for the invite.

(beat)

Did you always have freckles?

KENT

Huh?

Lindsay's VOICE zings from down the hall:

LINDSAY

Samantha Kingston, my heterosexual life partner! What are you doing?!

SAMANTHA

(to Kent)

Gotta go --

She walks away shaking her head, as if to clear her mind:
Kent. Kent. Kent?

She joins up with Lindsay.

LINDSAY

What was the whole bout?

SAMANTHA

Nothing. Just stuff from Parker's class that I missed.

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

The GIRLS head towards Lindsay's car. Samantha sees Juliet at the far end of the lot, her hair glowing in the cold sunlight. Samantha shudders. Ally notices.

ALLY
(re: Juliet)
Remember "mellow yellow"?

ELODY
Oh my god, from when she peed in
her sleeping bag during the girl
scout camping trip...?
(in a sing-song)
Mellow yellow...

SAMANTHA
Remind me again why we hate her so
much?
(covering her tracks)
I'm not saying I *like* her or
anything.

LINDSAY
We don't associate with the
mentally ill, the pathetic or
people who pee in their beds, how's
that for a reason? Good enough for
you?

Along the horizon, dark clouds are visible.

MUSIC COMES UP: KE\$HA'S "WE R WHO WE R"

SOUND PRE-LAP

INT. ALLY'S HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

The MUSIC BLASTS. Vases shake on the bookshelves.

FRIDAY THE 13TH plays on the huge TV.

Lindsay and Elody dance on the couch. Ally steps up to join them holding a tray of spinach puffs. Each girl takes one.

ELODY
These are S...oor! Screw NYU Ally,
you should otc c ol... clo...

Pillows, blankets and comforters are all over the place.

Samantha shakes her head dancing while shooting glances at the cable box: 12:36 a.m...

Lindsay suddenly flicks the LIGHTS ON AND OFF with the beat, like a strobe light. It looks like it did at the party...

SAMANTHA

Lindz! Don't! You're giving me a headache!

Elody comes in and out of the flashing light doing "the chicken" dance.

FLASH! 12:37 a.m.

FLASH! 12:38 a.m.

FLASH! 12:39 a.m.

Samantha suddenly jumps up on the couch and pulls everyone into a tumble.

ALLY

Sam!

SAMANTHA

Yay! I'm alive! We're alive!
I love you guys!

LINDSAY

Duh!!

A THUMP-THUMP comes from the ceiling.

ELODY

Oh shit! Your mom wants us to turn the music down --

A shaft of light comes from the stairs. The girls stifle their laughter and shut the music off.

Elody presses pause on the DVD. The masked killer's FACE FILLS THE SCREEN.

ALLY'S MOM comes down in her bathrobe.

ALLY'S MOM

(upset)
Oh girls --

ALLY

(immediately panicked)
What is it mom. Is dad okay?

ALLY'S MOM

Your dad is fine, honey. No, I just got a call from Mrs. Springer.

ELODY

Mrs. Springer's such a gossip --

ALLY'S MOM

A girl from your school was killed tonight.

The room pulses, like a heartbeat.

SAMANTHA

(in a whisper)

Who?

ALLY'S MOM

A girl named Juliet Sykes. She went to a party --

LINDSAY

Juliet Sykes went to a party?

SAMANTHA

Shhh!

Lindsay glares at Samantha.

ELODY

It must've been Kent McFuller's--

ALLY'S MOM

Evidently, she went to this party and for some reason, after she left she walked through the woods and out onto route nine. And she was hit by a truck. A semi. I've always said they shouldn't let trucks drive on that road. Oh, it's so sad.

Her cellphone rings. She flips it open and goes back up the stairs her voice fading.

The air is thick with tension.

SAMANTHA

(confused)

That's impossible. It can't be --

Lindsay falls back down her hallway. The rest of the girls instinctively huddle together.

LINDSAY

Whatever. Sykes is better off.

The girls look at her, shocked.

SAMANTHA

God. Lindsay.

LINDSAY

What? It's not like it's our fault --

ELODY

(in a small voice)

But what if it wasn't an accident...what if it was about the valogram?

LINDSAY

We've sent her the same valogram every year and she never jumped in front of a truck. She's obviously had mental problems long before Cupid Day. Why do you think she's called *PSYCHO*?

Elody rips a blanket off the couch.

ELODY

I feel like sleeping upstairs.

ALLY

Yeah. Me too.

They go upstairs. Lindsay looks at the tv screen and considers Jason-the-killer's face. Samantha stares at her.

LINDSAY

What?

SAMANTHA

That's harsh, Edgecombe. Even for you.

LINDSAY

Whatever, Kingston.

Sam gets up.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Oh great. So you're leaving too?

SAMANTHA
(sharply)
I'm going to the bathroom. Okay?

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY -

Sam heads towards the bathroom.

She passes by what looks like a storage area. She stops. On a shelf there are dozens of YEARBOOKS.

INT. STORAGE ROOM -

Sam sits on a box and flips through the Middleview Elementary School yearbook.

2nd grade CLASS PHOTO:

Lindsay and Juliet stand next to each other in the front row. They're holding hands. Sam is in the back, next to a little boy wearing a baseball cap.

3rd grade CLASS PHOTO:

Lindsay and Juliet stand again in the front row. They're wearing friendship bracelets. Sam is partially obscured by someone else's face.

4th grade CLASS PHOTO:

Lindsay and Juliet stand next to each other again, wearing the exact same outfit. Sam is nearby, wearing braces. She looks closely - Kent McFuller is behind her.

5th grade CLASS PHOTO:

Lindsay is in the front row. Her power already evident. She looks confidently at the camera and smiles widely, her teeth perfect and white. Samantha stands right near her.

Sam's eyes scan the page: where's Juliet? What happened?

Then she finds her.

Juliet stands in the back row. Her hair is now hanging in front of her face. She's taller than the kids next to her. Her shoulders are hunched over.

Kent stands next to her, wearing a power hat.

INT. ALLY'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM

Samantha walks into the room. She can see the outline of Lindsay in the dark.

LINDSAY

What happened to you? You were gone forever.

SAMANTHA

(her voice hard)
What happened to you?

LINDSAY

What are you talking about?

SAMANTHA

I just found Ally's old yearbooks. You and Juliet were friends. And then suddenly you weren't.

LINDSAY

What the fuck does that have to do with anything? You loved horsies and still believed in the tooth fairy in fifth grade. Do I hold that against you?

Shaken, Samantha walks through the dark towards the couch.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

What happened to Sykes tonight is not our fault.

SAMANTHA

(under her breath)
I can't believe you --

Lindsay bolts up and turns on the light.

LINDSAY

You can't believe *me*? We only stayed in tonight because of *you*. Because you were too afraid to get together with Rob.

SAMANTHA

What?!--

LINDSAY

You heard me. You *couldn't* afford to sleep with Rob Tyical.

(HORL)

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Samantha the 'fraidy cat, always
standing on the sidelines waiting
until other people jump--

SAMANTHA

Fuck off Lindsay.

LINDSAY

You fuck off!

Samantha angrily wraps the blanket around her and stares at
the ceiling.

The POV shifts and we are the CEILING looking down at her.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

*It seemed so simple. All I had to
do was stay away from the party,
stay away from the car. But it
wasn't simple.*

Everything starts spinning...Samantha's face contorted with
rage, her hands gripping the blanket.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

*It was so far from simple that I
thought my heart would burst.*

SPINNING AND SPINNING INTO BLACKNESS

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But of course, it didn't.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

CLOSE UP

The front of Sam's neck as she settles a necklace against her
throat.

It reads: SLUT.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

*Maybe I was dead and in hell. Maybe
I was alive and in hell. It didn't
matter. Either way I was screwed.*

Sam steps back and looks at herself in the mirror. Her eyes are lined in black kohl and she's hiked her mini-skirt up into a micro-mini. Her jaw is set, firm.

PRE-LAP:

SAMANTHA'S MOM (O.S.)
You are NOT wearing that to school!

INT. FRONT HALLWAY - LATER

Sam and her parents are in a stand-off.

SAMANTHA
I am so! It's my Cupid Day outfit!
We're all wearing it!

SAMANTHA'S DAD
Stop screaming at your mother!

SAMANTHA'S MOM
Take off that necklace! Take it off!

SAMANTHA
Why don't you want me to wear this necklace, huh, Mom? Afraid I won't be popular if I wear it? Afraid I won't get a hundred roses for Cupid Day?

SAMANTHA'S DAD
Back off, Sam!

IZZIE
(in a tiny voice)
Here are your gloves, Sammy --

Samantha grabs them.

SAMANTHA
I told you not to touch my stuff!

Izzie bursts into tears.

SAMANTHA'S MOM
That's it! You're grounded!

SAMANTHA
Grounded, huh. I k, I can't be able to go ny'er?

She roughly puts on her coat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I'm already NOT GOING ANYWHERE--I'm
already fucking GROUNDED!

Before her shocked parents can say anything, Sam has slammed the front door.

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR - LATER SAME DAY

Sam stares out the window while Lindsay drives. Elody and Ally sit in the backseat, watching nervously.

Sam suddenly rolls down the window and pours out her Dunkin' donuts coffee.

LINDSAY
Jesus, what's up your butt? Get out of the wrong side of the bed this morning?

SAMANTHA
Yeah. For a few mornings, actually.

She lets out a laugh. It doesn't sound happy. Elody starts rifling through her purse.

ELODY
I know something that'll cheer you up, Sam --

SAMANTHA
I swear to God, Elody, if you're going to give me a condom right now --

ELODY
I just wanted...it's a present.

LINDSAY
Take it. Unless you want to be a walking STD farm.

SAMANTHA
Well. You would know, wouldn't you?

LINDSAY
Excuse me?

Ally leans in to get a h if .

FLY
Hey! Let's listen to a little
Ke\$ha. That'll brighten the mood.

SAMANTHA

Why? You're the one who treats her like crap. It's you who says all the mean things about her. *Elody's so pathetic. Look at Elody climbing all over Steve. He doesn't even like her. Hope she doesn't puke in my car, I don't want the leather to smell like alcoholic.*

In the backseat, Elody's mouth trembles as if she's about to cry. Lindsay abruptly swerves the car to the side of the road.

LINDSAY

Get out.

ALLY

Lindz, it's freezing --

Elody wipes a tear from her eye.

ELODY

It's okay, Lindsay.

Lindsay stares straight ahead.

LINDSAY

I. Said. Get. OUT.

Samantha grabs her stuff.

SAMANTHA

I'd just love to hear what you say about me behind my back!

Samantha slams the door and Lindsay peels out.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

Samantha totters in her high heels along the icy shoulder. She has her arms wrapped around herself and her legs are pink from the cold.

A CAR SLOWS DOWN. An ELDERLY WOMAN leans out the passenger side window.

LADY

Are you okay? Do you need a ride?

Samantha gives her the finger.

INT. MR. DAIMLER'S CLASS -

Samantha walks into class with everyone else.

MR. DAIMLER

A little early for beach wear,
isn't it?

SAMANTHA

If you've got it, flaunt it.

She crosses her legs when she gets to her desk and leans back a bit. Daimler looks surprised.

MR. DAIMLER

No roses today? Or was the bouquet
too heavy to carry around?

SAMANTHA

I'm over that kid stuff.

Daimler's eyes flicker slightly. He seems a bit nervous.

As everyone settles into their seats, KENT enters, his bag flapping open and papers scattering behind him. He mutters an apology and slides into his seat.

Samantha rolls her eyes.

MR. DAIMLER

I know it's Cupid Day and love is
in the air, but guess what? So are
derivatives.

He starts to write on the board when a bunch of CUPIDS enter.

CUPID 1

Valograms!

They start to pass out the roses. The ANGEL CUPID nears Samantha's desk and before she can hand them to her, Samantha grabs them out of her hand.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, those are mine.

She shoves them to the bottom of her bag.

One girl gasps and makes the sign of the cross.

MR. DAIMLER

You're breaking people's hearts
left and right, Sam.

SAMANTHA

Oh yeah? What about yours? Breaking your heart too?

MR. DAIMLER

Okay. That's enough.

Samantha's legs are crossed and her skirt has come up almost to her underwear.

SAMANTHA

Really? I thought you were enjoying the view.

The room is charged with electricity.

A GIRL looks at Samantha and mouths, "YOU'RE AWESOME."

MR. DAIMLER

(angry)

See me after class.

The clocks ticks. Samantha stares out the window. She can see the dark clouds bundled up in the sky.

A miniature paper airplane flies onto her desk. She slowly unfolds it.

In neat block handwriting it says: YOU ARE TOO GOOD FOR THAT.

Samantha knows it's from Kent but she turns around anyway. He's looking at her with a concerned expression, as if he's trying to figure out what she's going through.

Samantha gives him a blank stare and turns away.

The BELL RINGS. Everyone files out. Except Sam. Kent looks over his shoulder as he leaves the room, worried.

Mr. Daimler walks over to Sam's desk. She looks up at him and blinks her eyes slowly, like someone just waking up from a long nap.

MR. DAIMLER (CONT'D)

What the hell were you thinking?

SAMANTHA

I don't know what you're talking about.

MR. DAIMLER

That shit b ck 'he e. In front of the whole class.

(MORE)

MR. DAIMLER (CONT'D)

You could get in a lot of trouble,
baiting me like that. I could get
in alot of trouble.

SAMANTHA

I don't mind trouble.

Mr. Daimler looks at her, as if he's considering whether she knows what she's saying or not.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Seriously.

Daimler walks over and shuts the door to the room. When he turns back around, Samantha is close to his face.

She hooks her finger underneath the hemp necklace he wears.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Is it true you've been wearing this
same necklace since you were a
senior here?

Daimler falters. Samantha is sending out a raw sexual energy that she herself doesn't even realise.

MR. DAIMLER

Don't tease me.

SAMANTHA

I'm not teasing...I've always had a
crush on you. Every girl in the
school does. You must know that.

Suddenly, Mr. Daimler grabs the back of Samantha's head and pulls her in, kissing her deep in the mouth. Sam is surprised and doesn't know what to do, where to put her hands, how to stand.

Daimler continues kissing her while pushing her down on his desk so she's on her back.

Sam's POV:

The ceiling. Tiles. Popcorn tiles. All in neat matching squares.

Sam snaps back into the moment.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Hey...hey. Over your shoulder.

She suddenly kicks her legs up, and with all her strength pushes him off.

She pulls at the hem of her skirt, breathing heavily. Her eyes are bright and shining.

Daimler, red-faced and sweaty, tries to regain his composure.

MR. DAIMLER

I thought you were over kid stuff.

SAMANTHA

I...

She grabs her bag and starts out the door.

MR. DAIMLER

Samantha.

She stops without turning around.

MR. DAIMLER (CONT'D)

I don't think I need to tell you
that this is our little secret,
right?

Samantha stares at him, sickened and bolts out of the room.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - EMPTY HALLWAY

Angry and tearful, Samantha runs towards a trash can, dumps in all her Valograms then smashes them over and over again with her fists.

When she looks up, she sees Kent standing at the end of the hallway. He stares at her, then turns and walks away.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Samantha looks out over the room. The primo table where she and the girls always sit is empty. She's officially been ditched.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Samantha swings down an empty hallway, still reeling. This is the old part of the school, it's architecture less clean and modern.

She heads towards the 11th floor room. When she tries to push the door open, it seems stuck.

She jams her shoulder against it and suddenly it swings open and she hits her knee on a chair.

INT. LADIES ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SAMANTHA

Ow!

A stall door swings open. Katie Carullo (Goth Girl) exits with a joint in her hand.

KATIE

You could've knocked.

SAMANTHA

On a bathroom door that's supposed to be open? In the most desolate part of the school?

Sam notices the joint in Katie's hand. Katie suddenly tries to hide it.

KATIE

You're not gonna tell are you?

SAMANTHA

That I interrupted your little party? No.

KATIE

Then you don't mind if I put the chair up against the door again?

She jams the chair against the doorknob. Samantha looks around the old tiled bathroom. There's an awkward pause.

SAMANTHA

So what? You just come in here and smoke your lunch?

KATIE

Yeah. I like the decor.

An old bumper sticker is pasted to the mirror: *Only Those Who Attempt the Absurd Achieve the Impossible*. Sam considers it.

KATIE (CONT'D)

It's from M.C. Escher. You know the stair guy.

SAMANTHA

My dad has a bunch of his books.

Katie looks at her - an'?

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
My dad's an architect.

KATIE
Oh yeah?...my dad's...unemployed!
Hahaha!

Samantha gets uncomfortable.

SAMANTHA
Oh...sorry to hear that.

Katie relights her joint. She let's out a long plume of smoke.

KATIE
So. Why do you and your bitchy friends hate me so much?

SAMANTHA
(startled)
What?

KATIE
I know your BFF Lindsay wrote KC=WT all over the bathrooms --

SAMANTHA
(not very convincingly)
We don't...hate you.

KATIE
Katie is white trash. Katie's slept with every guy in the school. Do you talk shit about me because I'm not rich? Is that why?

Samantha is startled: is that the reason?

SAMANTHA
I don't know why. I guess...well, there are always people on the inside and people on the outside--

KATIE
Oh is that how it goes? I sleep with a couple of guys and I'm called a slut but if you and your friends sleep with anyone, you're just cool. And I'm white trash because my mom works for a cop. At least she isn't pretending she's all that like some people in this school. At least she works hard.

Embarrassed, Samantha looks down at her feet.

Katie takes another long inhale from her joint. She offers it but Samantha shakes her head, "no."

KATIE (CONT'D)

Whatever. This whole high school thing will end and I'll be able to look back and say, "sayonara bitches, look who's laughing now."

Samantha shrugs a teeny-weeny bit defensive.

SAMANTHA

You think you're smarter than everyone don't you Carullo?

KATIE

Shit yeah I do! Look at those whore shoes? Walk much?

SAMANTHA

They're not that bad.

KATIE

(smiling)

Bullcorn. You should get a pair of these. Most comfortable shoes I've ever worn.

Samantha looks at the scuffed Doc Martens on Katie's feet. Today will end, nothing matters, why not?

SAMANTHA

Let's trade.

KATIE

Whoa...you want me to wear porno shoes?

Samantha nods. Katie bends over and unties her boots. She starts laughing.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Fuck it. I'm already high.

Samantha slips into Katie's boots as Katie tries on Sam's shoes. They look at each other and burst out laughing.

KATIE (CONT'D)

This is kind of sex ed, huh?

SAMANTHA

You're such a pothead, Carullo!

This makes Katie laugh harder.

KATIE

And you're such a bitch!

SAMANTHA

(laughing)

Pothhead!

KATIE

(sputtering with laughter)

Mean girl!

They crack up, the kind of laughing that leads to more laughing...When they finally calm down:

SAMANTHA

Katie?

(slowly)

Have you ever...have you ever had a situation where you're doing the same day over and over with only a few things being different? Like you're stuck in a time warp?

Katie looks at her. For a second it seems she knows Samantha is trying to tell her something important.

KATIE

Shit, Samantha. You just described my whole life.

THE BELL RINGS. Katie opens the door to leave.

KATIE (CONT'D)

But you know, there's this saying:
Be the change you want in the world.

She suddenly lets out a huge wail of laughter making Samantha jump.

SAMANTHA

What?

KATIE

That's Gandhi, muther-fucka!

Katie continues laugh i g, t' door closing slowly behind her.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY - LATER

Samantha stands facing a different hallway. Artwork lines the walls.

INT. ART HALLWAY -

Samantha walks past various PAINTINGS, COLLAGES, WEIRD SCULPTURES until she gets to a case with a series of MASKS in it.

The masks are propped up on wire stands, each one illuminated by a single bulb underneath.

They're women's faces - beautiful and horrible at the same time - made entirely out of ripped up photographs - yearbook pictures, magazine clippings, red thread, old newspapers.

Words are visible on the bridge of the nose: "beauty remedy", "tragedy strikes". Little scraps of paper unfurl in places. The eyes are cut outs.

As Sam leans in to take a closer look, she can see her reflection in the back of the glass case through the empty eye sockets.

SAMANTHA

I know just how you feel, you
freaky mask, you.

When she pulls back she sees the artist's name: Juliet Sykes.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Goddamit, Sykes. This is all your
fault.

The BELL RINGS, echoing...

PRE-LAP:

HARD-CORE MUSIC COMES UP: LOW-FIDELITY ALL STARS, "HOW TO
OPERATE WITH A BLOWN MIND"

EXT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE -

CLOSE UP:

Sam's DOC MARTENS stopping up to the porch and stepping
into the house.

INT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Samantha enters the crowded kitchen. It's bright and unflattering, every pimple and slip of greasy teenage hair visible. Sam squints as if it hurts her eyes.

Rob slips his arms around her from behind and nuzzles her.

ROB

Hey...

Samantha turns around. Rob smiles, sexily, a beer in his hand.

SAMANTHA

You have beer breath.

ROB

We're at a party, remember? How come you weren't at lunch? I was afraid you weren't gonna show tonight.

SAMANTHA

I skipped lunch.

Rob looks down at the doc martens.

ROB

(raising an eyebrow)

What are you wearing those for?

SAMANTHA

They're comfortable. I can walk in them.

ROB

They're not you, babe. Really. You're a high heels girl. You know, Sexy Sammy.

SAMANTHA

You don't know everything about me Rob.

ROB

I know that you're cute when you're mad. But don't frown too much, you might get wrinkles. So we have our special date later. I even had my bed--

His baseball cap looks dirty. His smile is smug.

SAMANTHA
(distracted)
I have to find Lindsay --

As Sam pulls out of his arms, a bit of beer sloshes on her shirt. Sam looks down. Beer - again.

ROB
(grinning)
Oh, sorry babe. Sorry.

SAMANTHA
You're a spaz, Rob.

ROB
So you want me to text you? Or--

SAMANTHA
Sure. Whatever.

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM

Sam enters the dark, smoky room. Lindsay and Ally are squished on the couch passing the vodka bottle back and forth.

Elody grinds up against Steve who talks to another girl.

MUSIC THUMPS. People dance and chug beers.

Lindsay looks right at Sam. And looks away. Ally gets up and rushes over.

ALLY
Look, Lindsay's really mad, okay?
You need to say you're sorry.

SAMANTHA
I'm not sorry.

ALLY
Look. She's Lindsay. She's ours.
We're each other's, you know? Flaws
and all. Thick and thin--

Lindsay walks over and right into Samantha's face.

LINDSAY
What are you doing here?

SAMANTHA

Free country, Lindsay. I'm here
because I want to know what made
you into such a bitch--

LINDSAY

Look who's talking.

SAMANTHA

But you--

LINDSAY

You what? You what Samantha?

Sam sees Ally, open-mouthed, staring over Sam's shoulder. Sam knows right away. Juliet.

The SOUND suddenly DISTORTS. Ally looks at Lindsay, her image trailing behind her, distorted, as if she's dripping.

ALLY

(as if under water)

Linnnnzeeee....doooo yoooo seeee
whooo itttt izzz?

The MUSIC slows DOWN, like a record put on the wrong speed. The room seems to shrink -- Everything looks suddenly like an acid trip.

Sam heads toward Juliet. She puts her hand on Juliet's chest as if to push her out of the room -

THUMP THUMP THUMP

Juliet's heart.

Everything stands still -- THUMP THUMP THUMP -- then Sam pulls her hand away and everything expands outwards again blowing up in a rush of noise --

JULIET

Get out of my way --

Juliet's eyes are a laser beam over Samantha's shoulder directly towards Lindsay. Samantha tries block her.

SAMANTHA

Juliet, don't! -- You don't want to
be here! You're acting like an
idiot!

Juliet grabs Sam's wrist. Sam looks down horrified. Juliet's hand is as cold as ice.

JULIET

You're just like the rest of them,
Samantha Kingston. You're a bitch.

Sam suddenly explodes:

SAMANTHA

Yeah? So I'm a bitch, everyone's a
bitch, the world is a bitch! Get
over it! It doesn't mean you have
to fucking die!

Juliet looks stunned. Samantha pulls away fast and bolts out
of the room.

INT. HALLWAY -

Sam bursts into the hallway like a bullet. Faces come in and
out of focus, the xmas lights blink menacingly like ambulance
lights, she can hear the ECHO of "Psycho! Psycho!" from the
room behind her...

Rob comes up the stairs, wobbling slightly. Sam pushes
against him trying to get him down the stairs.

ROB

Hey...hey...slow down. Psycho just
showed up--

He blinks, trying to focus. She looks at him disgusted.

INT. DIFFERENT HALLWAY

This hallway is dark with books and artwork lining the walls.

Samantha sways. Her clothes are a mess. Her eye-make up has
smeared. She looks wrecked. KIDS point at her and whisper -
she's officially on the laughed at side.

Using the walls as a ballast, Samantha comes upon a door that
says: DO NOT ENTER.

She pushes it open.

INT. KENT'S ROOM -

In the dim light she sees a mess of stacks of books and a bulletin
board with drawings tacked up, - the name - d.

A tiny sliver of moonlight comes through the curtains like a knife on the floor. She opens the curtains and the room glitters with light reflected off the snow outside.

She begins to cry and folds down onto the floor.

She heaves with sobs, holding her hands over her mouth to keep from screaming.

She wipes her nose with her hand sensing a presence in the room. Kent.

SAMANTHA

How...how long have you been standing there?

KENT

(gently)
Not long.

He comes and sits down next to her on the floor.

KENT (CONT'D)

Your friends just beat up Juliet Sykes.

SAMANTHA

I know...I know. It's sickening. I--
I shouldn't have come here tonight.
I don't know what I was thinking.

KENT

Shit happens.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry I threw out your valogram. You didn't deserve that.
I'm really sorry. About everything.

KENT

Yeah...that kind of sucked. But you probably had a good reason for it.

SAMANTHA

Oh Kent...why are so nice?

KENT

(with a shrug)
I'm not *tha* nice

Suddenly self-conscious, Samantha fiddles with the slit necklace. Kent looks down at her cheeks giving her moment's grace.

KENT (CONT'D)

Those shit-kickers are cool. Of course, you do look good in just about anything.

When he looks up, Samantha has turned the necklace around so that the SLUT can't be seen.

Kent's face is half in the dark, half in the moonlight. The light in his eyes shimmers. Sam starts to stand up but it's more like a stagger. Kent helps her.

KENT (CONT'D)

Just sit for a second.

Samantha sits on the bed. Kent pulls a blanket around her.

KENT (CONT'D)

I can drive you home later, if you want, okay?

He looks at her. Her hair is dark halo against the window, her eyelashes still wet from tears. She looks beautiful and vulnerable.

They search each other's faces. Kent instinctively leans in and embraces her. Samantha hugs him back as if it's the most natural thing in the world.

SAMANTHA

I'm a bad person...I'm a mess.

KENT

No you're not.

SAMANTHA

I am. I don't want to be, but. I am.

KENT

Everyone's a mess, Sam. At some point or another.

Sam shuts her eyes and feels his warmth. He takes in the softness of her hair against his face. They hold each other, amazed.

SAMANTHA

(in a whisper)

I can feel your heart beat.

KENT

I can feel yours too.

Kent's PHONE BUZZES. A TEXT.

SAMANTHA
(in a whisper)
Don't look. Don't read it.

KENT
But--

SAMANTHA
Don't. It'll be bad news.

Kent holds her face in his hands. She wipes away another tear.

KENT
(smiling)
How do you know?

SAMANTHA
Because I know. I can't tell you why.

KENT
You're a mystery Samantha Kingston.
A beautiful mystery.

SAMANTHA
Kent...you're not supposed to say stuff like that. It's embarrassing.

KENT
I wear a bowler hat. I'm the school cartoonist. You think I care?

Samantha's eyes start to flutter. She fights to stay awake.

SAMANTHA
You won't remember this moment.

KENT
Uh. Wrong. I will never forget this moment, trust me--

SAMANTHA
Don't let me sleep, Kent. Don't let me go...

KENT
I won't let you go... Don't worry...it's okay.

They move toward each other but the air is as thick as molasses - she can see his lips moving toward hers but everything is moving so slowly, like in a dream...the room shimmers and pixelates, everything is tiny stars...

Their lips almost touch.

BLACKNESS.

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The light on this morning is like Ektachrome from the 1960s -- saturated, a bit overexposed.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
*Couldn't I have at least one good
day? Didn't I deserve it?*

Sam opens her eyes. Her cheeks are flushed. As if she's just woken from a good dream. She looks at her cellphone: **6:45am, FEB 12.**

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*What if tomorrow was just blackness
and nothingness, the end of
everything?*

Izzie comes into the room and jumps on the bed, eating a piece of toast with peanut butter smeared on it.

IZZIE
Good morning, Thammy.

Samantha sits up and considers her sister. Izzie smiles, her teeth tiny white chiclets.

Samantha takes a bite of the toast.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)
*At least I could share one day with
my little sister. One day when I
was all good. Maybe being good
would make a difference.*

IZZIE
You're gonna be late for school.

SAMANTHA
I'm not going to school today. And
neither are you.

MONTAGE:

These scenes are impressionistic and dreamy with unexpected bursts of color. Conversation is heard in bits and pieces.

-- Samantha and Izzie walk along a trail in the woods holding hands. Sunlight filters through the bare leaves making the girls glow. Their breath comes out in wisps.

SAMANTHA

I'm going to tell you a bunch of things Iz, they may not make sense right now, but they will, okay?

IZZIE

Okaaaay...

SAMANTHA

Trust me. They will.

-- A tiny bright yellow leaf frozen underneath a patch of ice. Izzy's chubby finger traces its outline.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

...So when you first like someone, all your insides start twirling around, like a roller-coaster.

-- Samantha throws a handful of red holly berries upwards and they scatter against the blue sky. Izzie watches, mesmerized.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

...Choose your friends because they're fun and honest. Not because you want to be popular...

IZZIE

Choose nice people as friends...I already do that.

SAMANTHA

Well, keep doing it.

-- Samantha and Izzie roll down a hill, both of them screaming joyfully. When they get up they're both staggering and laughing.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

*...never change or let anyone tell you
only come to this...*

(10:17)

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
*...when you love someone tell
them...don't wait...There's no
reason, ever, to be mean to people
who are different.*

-- A cluster of small yellow flowers burst forth from the icy ground.

IZZIE
I'm different! I have a lisp!

SAMANTHA
(laughing)
So there you go!

-- Samantha and Izzie lie on a big rock. They point to different cloud formations:

IZZIE
Cow.

SAMANTHA
Rabbit.

IZZIE
Grandma.

Samantha busts out laughing.

-- Sam and Izzie cross the landscape, holding hands, tiny against the vast sky -- storm clouds gather on the horizon.

SAMANTHA
*Don't talk about people behind
their back.....don't let daddy cut
your hair, he's terrible at
it.....sometimes Mom will make you
really mad but just remember that
she loves you and you love her...*

As they get smaller and smaller heading towards home, Sam's list continues...

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
*Everything that hurts will get
better in time...*

END MONTAGE.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - THE LIVING ROOM

Samantha and Izzie sit at the kitchen table, playing a little girl board game called "FAIRYTALE". Izzie looks up.

Apropos of nothing: (typical 8 year old)

IZZIE

Grandma died when I was really little, right?

SAMANTHA

She did.

IZZIE

So that's why you got the necklace and I didn't.

Samantha instinctively touches the necklace she always wears, a tiny gold star.

SAMANTHA

Yeah. Sorry about that.

IZZIE

I wish nobody ever died.

Samantha wipes a sudden tear out of her eye.

SAMANTHA

It would get pretty crowded, Iz.

IZZIE

I'd move into the ocean and just live underwater.

Samantha's DAD walks in with his briefcase. He clutches his chest like he's having a heart attack.

DAD

Is it a hallucination? Could it be? Samantha Kingston? Home on a Friday night?

SAMANTHA

The very same.

Sam's mother walks in with her briefcase.

MOM

How was your "skip day"? Better than a dozen roses?

SAMANTHA

Yes. Very much better.

Her parents share a brief kiss. Samantha watches as she's never seen them before.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Hey, what if we went out to dinner?
Maybe Fresco's...? Like, back in
the day?

Izzie shimmies back and forth.

IZZIE

Yaaaaaay!

EXT. RESTAURANT - THAT NIGHT

Through the window, we see Samantha and her FAMILY sit at a table eating together and laughing.

Samantha looks happier than we've ever seen her.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

*Today was a good day. Probably one
of the best. Even though nothing
really special happened. I guess I
used to have a lot of days like
this but I never noticed them
before. I didn't want it to end.*

INT. RESTAURANT

Sam's phone buzzes with a text just as her Dad finishes telling a funny story.

SAMANTHA

(up at Dad, down at phone)

Sorry...

TEXT: LINDSAY "McWeirdy's 10pm tonight. U coming?"

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Mom? Do you mind if I borrow your
car? Kent McFuller's having a party
and I'd kind of like to say hi to
him.

SAMANTHA'S DAD

He's the one that draws cartoons,
right?

Samantha blushes.

S M N T 12

Yeah...

SAMANTHA'S MOM

Just be careful, it's icy.

SAMANTHA

Thank you. Thank you both.

They look at her curiously.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I mean...dinner and all. It was good.

EXT. RIDGEVIEW - NIGHT

Rain mists the road. Sam drives her mother's car. Carefully.

INT. KENT'S HOUSE -

Samantha walks in, wearing her sweatpants and sweatshirt. She's early - only a few KIDS are hanging out.

She walks through the kitchen where BEER BOTTLES have been set out in neat rows on the table next to plastic cups. Colorful bowls of chips and snacks are laid out.

Sodas are packed in a huge cooler of ice with a sign that reads: "DESIGNATED DRIVERS, HERE'S THE GOOD STUFF"

Samantha smiles - Kent obviously knows nothing about throwing a party.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Samantha enters the still pristine living room where Kent is setting music on his ipod.

SAMANTHA

Hi Kent.

He turns around.

KENT

Hi! I mean...hi. How are you?
You're here! You showed up!

SAMANTHA

Yeah. I'm here. So when you give me a tour before it gets too crowded?
This seems like a pretty amazing house.

They turn to leave the room.

KENT

Sure, yeah. Definitely. You really think it's going to get crowded? Like...how crowded?

INT. KENT'S BEDROOM - LATER

Samantha stands silhouetted in the doorway as Kent moves across the room in the dark.

KENT

Yeah...Okay. Just wait a sec --

He pulls the curtains open to reveal three huge windows, floor to ceiling. The moon is huge and luminous, bouncing off the whiteness of the snow, bathing the whole room in a soft, silver light.

Samantha gasps - it's thrilling to see it again.

KENT (CONT'D)

Yeah. Not so great in the morning though. It's like waking up in the middle of the sun--

Samantha walks over to the windows and sits down on the floor, the same place she was "the night before".

SAMANTHA

Mind if I sit here?

KENT

Sure. But I can bring you a chair.

SAMANTHA

I'm good.

She looks out the window, her face illuminated by the light. Kent, not sure what else to do, sits down next to her.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

You think the world is a good place, don't you Kent?

KENT

I don't think it's so bad. Contrary to popular belief, I haven't been to any other places

She looks at him.

SAMANTHA

I hope you don't think it's weird
that I'm here with you.

KENT

I used to collect Pez dispensers. I
worship R. Crumb. I once went 363
days wearing Crocs.

(beat)

I don't think anything's weird.

Samantha laughs a bit.

SAMANTHA

I forgot about the Crocs phase.

The room is quiet, only their breathing. Samantha takes
Kent's hand.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Your skin...it's so hot.

KENT

(shyly)

It's always like that. I just have
warm skin.

SAMANTHA

Why are you so nice to me?

Kent takes a breath.

KENT

Remember that time in third grade
right after my grandfather died?

SAMANTHA

Sort of--

KENT

I missed him so much and I was
crying in the lunchroom. So Phil
Howell walks over and calls me a
faggot. That made me cry harder
even though I didn't know what a
faggot was. Then he smacked my food
tray and food went flying
everywhere. I'll never forget: we
were having mashed potatoes and
turkey burgers. A dog went over
and scooped up some potatoes off the
floor with its hands and shoved
them straight into Phil's face and
said, "get a life!"

SAMANTHA

I did?

KENT

You totally did! And I started laughing. It was the first time I'd laughed since my grandpa died. You were my hero. From that day, I vowed that I would be your hero too, no matter how long it took.

They stare into each other's eyes.

SAMANTHA

I wish I'd known before how I feel about you -- Everything's happening too late.

KENT

It's never too late.

They lean toward each other and begin to kiss. It's romantic and passionate and perfect.

SUDDENLY - The CHANTING of *PSYCHO! PSYCHO!* rumbles outside the room.

KENT (CONT'D)

What's happening? Is that yelling?

Samantha looks panicked.

SAMANTHA

Shit! I have to go--I screwed up!

She jumps up and runs out of the room, Kent on her heels.

INT. HALLWAY -

As Sam comes running down the hall, Kent is swallowed up by the adrenaline-pumped crowd.

A few GIRLS stare at Samantha.

SAMANTHA

What? So I'm wearing sweatpants, get over it'

INT. STAIRWAY

Samantha stops Tara on the stairs.

SAMANTHA
(yelling over the music)
Hey! Hey! Have you seen Juliet
Sykes?

TARA
Who?

SAMANTHA
(impatient, almost angry)
Sykes! Juliet Sykes!

Tara doubles over, laughing drunkenly.

TARA
She...she just called Lindsay a
bitch.

Samantha's eyes flash - she's too late. She's too late! Then she sees the back of Juliet's head through the crowd. The white blonde hair in a ponytail...

Sam reaches out, grabbing the back of Juliet's shirt. Juliet turns around, startled and frightened.

Samantha pulls Juliet down the hallway.

JULIET
What are you doing? Get off me!

INT. BATHROOM

TWO GIRLS are putting on the their make-up when Samantha arrives in the doorway.

SAMANTHA
OUT!

They hustle past. Samantha pulls Juliet in and slams the door.

JULIET
What, are you like kidnapping me or something? Get out of the way--

SAMANTHA
No. We need to talk. You and me. I know what happened up there--

JULIET
Oh, you mean that our friends poured beer all over me.

SAMANTHA

Look, I'm sorry--

JULIET

I don't know you.

SAMANTHA

I know, I know--

JULIET

Except that you're one of them.
You're the same as everyone. You're
a bitch.

Samantha takes sharp breath.

JULIET (CONT'D)

In seventh grade you and Lindsay
stole all my clothes from the
locker room so that I had to walk
around in my sweaty gym clothes for
the rest of the day. Then you
called me Stinky Sykes.

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry...I don't remember
that...

JULIET

That was before you came up with
Psycho of course. *Psycho killer*
qu'est-ce-que c'est. Catchy!

SAMANTHA

Lindsay thought of that--

Juliet is on a roll, everything tumbling out.

JULIET

Then there was the time you hacked
my cellphone and sent a text to
everyone that I'd lost my virginity
for a pack of cigarettes. I don't
even smoke!

(beat)

I've never even kissed anyone.

SAMANTHA

Lindsay was the one who--

JULIET

Mellow yell w/ 'em make that? It
wasn't even me.

(MORE)

JULIET (CONT'D)

In third grade when Lindsay's parents were getting divorced, they fought so much that she started wetting her bed. That was in between crying non-stop every night. Lindsay was the one who wet her sleeping bag. But when Ms. Bridges came in and asked what had happened Lindsay just pointed her finger at me and screamed, *She did it!*

SAMANTHA

I don't understand. Why didn't you say anything?

JULIET

To who? Say what?

SAMANTHA

But she was your best friend--

JULIET

(razor sharp)

Yeah. She was. It doesn't matter now.

Juliet tries to push Samantha out of the way.

SAMANTHA

It does matter. It totally matters!

JULIET

You didn't think so before, did you? For the last seven years of my life, you didn't care at all.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

KENT (O.S.)

Samantha?! Are you in there? Is Juliet with you? Are you guys okay?

Startled by Kent's voice, Samantha moves away from the door and as she does, Juliet takes the opportunity to open it and run out.

Samantha starts to follow but Kent stands in her way.

KENT (CONT'D)

Hey!

SAMANTHA
(almost embarrassed)
Kent --

She blushes. The kiss...the way he stroked her hair... She looks at him, fierce.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Kent, I can't talk. I have to leave
now --

KENT
No, stay here! Don't run away--

Samantha notices a flashlight on a shelf, she grabs it.

SAMANTHA
I'm sorry!

And she's out the front door.

EXT. WOODS -

Sam's flashlight bounces in circles against the trees. The ground is a soggy paste.

Sam keeps slipping in the mud, the trees crack and sway in the wind and the rain starts to come down hard.

She can hear the thrum of cars in the distance and starts to move towards it.

Fat drops of rain splash on Samantha's face, she gasps from the cold. She can see Juliet's pale figure running through the woods ahead of her.

SAMANTHA
Juliet! Wait!

She starts jogging but hits a rock, stumbles and the flashlight flies out of her hand. She's engulfed by the darkness.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
No way! No way!

She crawls on her hands and knees, raking through the mud trying to find the flashlight.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Shit! Shit! Shit!

She stands up, holding her hands out in front of her so she won't collide with anything. The rain drives down into her eyes, soaking her already wet sweatshirt --

A HONK in the distance. The white FLASH of a headlight.

The road.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Juliet!

She begins to run, slapping tree branches out of her way, kicking mud.

The SOUND of cars on the road gets louder. She can see headlights...

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Faster...faster!

From far behind her, she hears Kent's voice:

KENT

Samantha! Sam!

She stops for a second, torn.

SAMANTHA

(screaming)

Go back! Kent! Go back!

She turns away from Kent's voice, towards the road. Towards Juliet. The headlights of cars flash across the trees. Juliet's figure weaves in and out, in and out.

The pieces smash together in Sam's mind: Juliet running from the party, the white flash in front of the car--

Samantha runs.

EXT. ROAD

Samantha skids to a stop at the edge of the road. Juliet is in the middle, standing on the white dividing line. She turns towards Samantha, soaking wet, her white blond hair plastered against her head, her clothes clinging to her skinny frame.

JULIET

Why won't you leave me alone!

The rain slams against the ground, the pavement rattles...Samantha has to raise her voice over it.

SAMANTHA

Look, I'm trying to make things
right. I'm trying to help you!

Headlights can be seen in the distance.

JULIET

You? Help me? You're just trying to
help yourself!

The SOUND OF "WITH OR WITHOUT YOU" wails out of car
speakers...Lindsay's car...

SAMANTHA

What? No, no!
(crying)
Please...please come out of the
road!

JULIET

Guess what? It's not about you. Not
everything is about you, Samantha
Kingston.

From inside the woods:

KENT (O.S.)

Sam! Samantha!

Sam turns towards the woods, the MUSIC gets louder, when she
turns back Lindsay's silver Range Rover bursts from the
darkness--

JULIET

*"Maybe next year. But probably
not."*

Juliet pitches herself into the road. Samantha lets out a
scream.

SAMANTHA

Nooooooooooo!!!

Juliet's body flies sideways off the hood of Lindsay's car
and lands face down on the concrete as the Range Rover sails
into the woods, crashing, splintering, crumpling against a
tree, long ribbons of smoke and fire licking the air.

Kent grabs Samantha trying to stop her SCREAMS.

F IN '

Stay here! us stay here'

Kent runs across the road, whipping out his phone -

KENT (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 There's been an accident. Route
 nine, just past Devon Drive.

He kneels down next to Juliet's body.

KENT (CONT'D)
 Yes, hurry! A girl's been hit--

Other cars skid to a stop, STUDENTS getting out of their cars uncertain -- One GIRL has her hand over her mouth, her eyes fixed on Juliet's dead body.

MUSIC ROARS from a car stereo: *"It's getting hot in here...I say, it's gettin' hot in here!"*

GUY
 (shrieking)
 Somebody turn that off!

A piercing WAIL comes from the woods.

LINDSAY
 HELP!! Elody! She's still in the
 car, someone help! She's still in
 the car!

Lindsay and Ally stumble out, their faces red, their clothes burned. Lindsay's words slur together and she falls on the pavement screaming.

Sam registers: *Elody. Shotgun.* Stunned, Sam watches the disaster unfold: everything seems lit by strobe lights - hyper-speed - time-lapse:

faces and bodies coming in and out, doubling, tripling -
 the red-white-red-white spinning of the police and ambulance
 lights,
 a sheet over Juliet's body,
 a sheet over Elody's body,
 men in SUITS with notebooks,
 COPS unfurling yellow crime scene tape
 Lindsay's hair singed back on the side,
 Kent - jumping up and down to say "ari" talking to the
 police.

The rain turning to snow, falling in big flakes over the whole scene.

Sam sits on the curb rocking back and forth, her arms wrapped around herself. She slowly looks up at the sky, a swirling white mass.

When she looks down again, the road is empty and Kent is holding his hand out to her.

KENT

I'll take you home.

Samantha stands up and he wraps his arms around her.

SAMANTHA

(hysterical)

Don't let me go. Don't let me go.

Don't let me go. Don't let me go.

His voice is already fading...

KENT

You're okay, you're going to be okay...

CUT TO BLACK.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

(plaintive)

Kent?

INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - DAWN

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

Maybe Juliet was right. Maybe I did think it was all about me.

Sam's cellphone is on the bedside table. Her eyes are already open and bright, as if she's been awake for hours, thinking and making a plan.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Even though every day was different in certain places, I wasn't. I was still the same, spinning around in my own universe, thinking only about how to save myself.

Izzie comes bounding out of the room and jumps on the bed.

IZZIE

Good morning, Mommy!

Samantha grabs her sister for a kiss. She holds her in her arms.

SAMANTHA
Wanna know something?

IZZIE
Sure.

SAMANTHA
If a bunch of butterflies take off in Thailand, it can cause a rainstorm in New York.

IZZIE
(laughing)
No way!!! Come on!

SAMANTHA
You know what that means?

Izzie shrugs.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
It means, everything is connected. Action, reaction. So, whenever you do something, it has an impact on something else.

INT. KITCHEN -

The whole room feels illuminated - sunshine, warmth, the messy, cozy, lived-in Kingston kitchen. Samantha notices photos stuck on the fridge, a cabinet door left open, Izzie's bedhead, mail in a stack on the counter.

SAMANTHA
Hi.

Everyone turns to look. She wears her Cupid Day outfit but instead of high heels she has on a pair of practical winter boots. And she has a scarf and a hat with her.

DAD
Wow. You're up early. Did you sleep okay? I heard you on the phone until about midnight --

SAMANTHA
I'm good.

Dad slips some eggs from the pan directly onto a plate for Mom.

MOM

Thanks, honey.

SAMANTHA

Do you cook breakfast for mom every morning?

IZZIE

YETTTT! Every morning!

DAD

I'd cook breakfast for you too if you were ever here! You want some?

Samantha's cellphone beeps.

MOM

(in between bites)

Is Lindsay outside already?

Sam nods.

MOM (CONT'D)

Have a great Cupid Day, honey.

Samantha awkwardly leans in to give both her parents a hug. Her dad almost drops his fork.

SAMANTHA

I love you guys.

She turns and walks out.

DAD AND MOM

(surprised)

Love you too, honey!

INT. FRONT HALLWAY

Izzie runs up with Sam's gloves.

IZZIE

Hey! Your gloves!

Samantha unclasps the necklace she always wears. She hooks it around Izzy's neck. Izzy's eyes widen.

IZZIE (CONT'D)

Really?

SAMANTHA

I know Grandma would've wanted you to have it.

Izzie hugs her but Samantha pulls away as she feels tears starting.

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

*If I could just, for once, make the
right moves, take the right steps.
Then maybe everything would change.*

(beat)

Everything including me.

Sam exits the house and walks confidently towards Lindsay's car. Lindsay smiles at her from inside and holds up two coffees.

EXT. ROAD -

The RANGE ROVER zips along. The sky is blue and the sun bounces off the car. The neighborhood looks sparkling on this morning. Clean and fresh and calm.

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR - LATER

All the GIRLS are in the car. They eat their bagels and sip their coffee, chit-chatting as they always do. Sam looks out the window, smiling to herself.

SAMANTHA

Hey, do you mind if we drive around
for a minute?

ELODY

You mean be late *on purpose*?

ALLY

We're gonna lose the best parking
spot.

Sam laughs.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT

The GIRLS get out of Lindsay's car, each one licking from a cup of frozen yogurt. Jennifer Grundel's car is parked where Lindsay's would have been if they had been on time.

LINDSAY

I can't believe you convinced us to
get The Country's Best Yogurt when
it's zero degrees outside.

ELODY

(theatrically)

We're going to have walk .22 miles
to the front door!

Sam throws her arm around Lindsay.

SAMANTHA

I love you Lindz. I really do!

Elody throws her arms around the girls.

ELODY

I love you too! I love everyone!

The others join in:

GIRLS

(a happy howl)

Til death do us part and even then!

LINDSAY

Okay, okay. Enough girl on girl
romance. Let's go get roses.

INT. SCHOOL - ROSE ROOM

The room is filled with CUPIDS arranging for their valogram
deliveries.

Samantha pulls out the one for Juliet and crumples up the
card. She then writes a new one: *"It's never too late. Don't
give in."*

The Angel Cupid walks up just as Samantha is spelling
Juliet's name.

ANGEL CUPID

Hey! That's my sister!

Samantha looks up at the girl - the pale blonde with big blue
eyes and crooked tiara

SAMANTHA

Juliet Syke is your sister

ANGEL CUPID

I'm Marian Sykes. I'm a sophomore.
You know, my sister used to garden
because we had roses. And she
taught me to cut them on an angle
and then they live longer.

SAMANTHA

Marian Sykes.

Samantha hands all her roses over.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Here. I can never keep them alive.

MARIAN

(astonished)

But...these are yours.

SAMANTHA

I'm giving them to you. All except
this one.

She points at Kent's rose.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I want this one, okay? Make sure
you deliver it to me in Daimler's
class.

MARIAN

I will, absolutely. Thank you.
Thank you so much. I'll take really
good care of these roses. I
promise.

INT. MR. DAIMLER'S CLASS

Samantha opens the card from Kent. She looks back and watches
as he opens his card. The classroom folds in two, all the
distance between them disappears, a zooming rushing of his
green eyes towards her brown ones, a look of astonishment on
his face. Sam whips her head back to the front of the room.

BELL RINGS.

As everyone files out Mr. Daimler stops Samantha.

MR. DAIMLER

How's Cupid Day for all of you?
big romanti pens tonight?

His incisors suddenly look very sharp. Like a vampire.

SAMANTHA

We'll see. What about you? Table for one?

MR. DAIMLER

(chuckling)

Now, why would you assume that?

SAMANTHA

Because if you had a real girlfriend Mr. Daimler, you wouldn't hit on high school girls.

Mr. Daimler seems to lose his balance. As she walks out:

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Oh. And you might want to change that necklace. Rumor has it you've been wearing it since senior year.

INT. HALLWAY

Sam walks down the hallway towards the cafeteria. Kent catches up. He walks backwards in front of her.

KENT

Your hero, huh?

Sam keeps walking.

SAMANTHA

Just like the card said.

KENT

"Tonight. *Leave your phone on and your car out and be my hero.*"

SAMANTHA

Yup.

Kent looks like his head might explode - from joy.

KENT

You going to tell me what this is about?

SAMANTHA

Yup. Later . . . night .

FIN

I'm having party you know.

SAMANTHA

Yeah...I heard.

It's all she can do to keep from grabbing him and kissing him right there in the hallway.

KENT

(lowering his voice)

How did you...the hero thing?

Sam stops.

SAMANTHA

Are you going to be my knight in shining armor or do I have to find someone else?

KENT

It'll be me. I can't resist a damsel in distress. So wait for your text, right?

SAMANTHA

Yes. And don't worry. I won't flake.

Samantha smiles and pushes the door open to the cafeteria.

INT. CAFETERIA

Rob rubs his forehead with a grubby hand.

ROB

What?!

SAMANTHA

Just like I said in my note. You don't have to wait for me anymore.

ROB

But...I thought you meant -- what about tonight? Are you going to stay over?

SAMANTHA

Definitely not. You don't have to wait for me anymore because I'm breaking up with u.

Rob's face goes completely white as he takes a step backwards.

ROB

You can't break up with me.

Sam crosses her arms.

SAMANTHA

And why is that?

ROB

YOU cannot break up with *ME*.

SAMANTHA

Oh right. Because in sixth grade you said I wasn't cool enough to even talk to you.

ROB

(sputtering)

I should have screwed Gaby Haynes when she asked me to over break.

Samantha sees Juliet gliding past. She has her rose sticking out of her knapsack. She seems to be looking around the room, as if searching for someone. Clues.

SAMANTHA

(brightly)

Oh well! It's never too late!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - END OF SCHOOL DAY

Students stream out of the building. Sam walks with Lindsay, Elody and Ally.

LINDSAY

...I just can't believe you did that!

SAMANTHA

I knew you were going to make a big deal out of it --

ALLY

Come on! It's ROB COCHRAN! You can't just shove a guy like that across the room --

I . 'DSAY

Ballsy, Kin s'on

ELODY

I think you should do what you
feel. I think more people should
act on their feelings --

Samantha sees Katie Carullo up ahead, her tattered shirt
hanging out from underneath her leather jacket.

SAMANTHA

Hey, you guys, I'll meet you at the
car --

She runs off.

ALLY

Oh.My.God. Is she running towards
Katie Carullo?

LINDSAY

What is happening around here? Has
the whole planet tipped over or
something?!

EXT. PARKING LOT

Samantha catches up to Katie. Katie barely notices her.

SAMANTHA

Uh, hi. Katie.

KATIE

(sideways glance)
Yeah?

Sam has to jog to keep up with her.

SAMANTHA

Uhm...so, listen, I -- my dad had
an extra copy of this --

Samantha pulls a big MC Escher book out of her bag.

KATIE

What are you doing? Playing some
kind of joke on me?

SAMANTHA

No, no...I thought you might like
this? There's over two hundred
drawings in here. Our dad did
them out and just left them up
Somewhere.

KATIE
(suspicious)
Like where?

SAMANTHA
Anywhere. Your room?

She holds it out. Katie hesitates. She looks at the cover, the famous upstairs/downstairs drawing.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I know I'm seeming super weird
right now, I can't really explain
why, it's way complicated--

KATIE
How about I say "gracias", you say
"sayonara" and we leave it at that?

SAMANTHA
Yeah. Yeah, that's great! Great!

Katie puts the book in her knapsack and keeps walking.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
(waving)
Sayonara!

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR - LATER

LINDSAY
Now I know you've gone completely
batshit.

ALLY
A present for Katie Carullo?!?!

ELODY
How do you even know her?

SAMANTHA
I talked to her a few days ago. You
know, she isn't so bad. She's
really smart actually.

Lindsay makes a kind of honking, snorting sound.

I . 'DSAY
Come back!! Come o ck

SAMANTHA

(to the girls)

What is she drama-ing out about now?

LINDSAY

I just want my Samantha Emily Kingston back! Not this pod person! First you break up with Rob and now you're friends with Katie Carullo! My god, what's next? Don't tell me you're going to take a year off and hitch-hike around the country?

Sam puts her hand on Lindsay's.

SAMANTHA

Relax drama queen. I'm still here.

She sits back in the seat and watches the houses go by, one, two, three, four...every brick, every doorway, every window crisp and clear and shining.

INT. ALLY'S HOUSE - LATER

MUSIC PLAYS - A SEXY POP SONG. The girls get ready for the party. They shimmy around trying on clothes and eating food prepared by Ally.

EXT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE -LATER

Lindsay's car pulls up. Samantha is in the drivers seat.

LINDSAY

I just don't understand, how will we get home?

SAMANTHA

I've already told you like a million times, I've got us a ride, okay?

INT. CAR - SAME

LINDSAY

But I always drive us. Have you ever seen me drunk

SAMANTHA

You can't even drive when you're sober.

Elody checks her hair in a compact mirror while Ally takes a swig of vodka.

ALLY

Woo-eee!

Samantha takes the vodka bottle out of Ally's hand and pours it out the window.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Hey!

ELODY

Hey!

*
*

SAMANTHA

Things don't look that much better with vodka ladies, trust me. Lindz, your car will be parked at your house. I'll be back before you even make it to the keg!

LINDSAY

Unless you can fly, I seriously doubt that.

As the girls get out, Samantha holds Lindsay back. Ally and Elody run inside.

SAMANTHA

Lindz?

LINDSAY

Yeah?

SAMANTHA

How come you never told me about your parents divorce? How bad it was.

Lindsay bursts out laughing.

LINDSAY

What the fuck?

Samantha looks at her, serious. Lindsay stops laughing.

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

Why would I talk about something from a thousand years ago, Sam? You know I'm not into the past.

SAMANTHA

Because. It happened to you and it made you say that at matters to me.

LINDSAY
(her eyes shining)
I have no idea what you're talking
about Kingston.

Samantha grabs Lindsay and pulls her into an embrace.

SAMANTHA
Be kind to yourself.

Lindsay looks like she might break with emotion.

LINDSAY
(gently)
Hey. Don't worry about me.

She pulls out of the hug and opens the car door.

SAMANTHA
I love you, Lindsay.

LINDSAY
Til' death baby.

SAMANTHA
And even then--

Lindsay gets out of the car.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS

Samantha drives slowly winding through the pretty streets.

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR

Samantha takes in the neighborhood, the only place she's ever lived in her life. She can see PEOPLE inside their houses, doing their thing: tv, computer, talking on the phone.

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR

Samantha sits in the parked car, staring at her house.
Through the lighted windows:

Her father sits on the couch watching the TV. Her mother enters wearing a bathrobe and holding a bottle of skin cream in her hand. She plops down next to him and he puts his arms around her while she puts the cream on her face.

Izzie, wearing footie pajamas, walks in and jumps in between them.

Sam's eyes fill with tears.

She puts her head down on the steering wheel to steady herself. She breathes, in out in out - then puts the car in gear.

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR

Sam is at a stop sign. The rain pours down. She feels weirdly elated - light, as if she could fly. As if everything really will be alright.

She rolls down the window and sticks her head out letting the rain pour over her.

A CAR pulls up. An ELDERLY WOMAN rolls down the window - The WOMAN from the day Sam was walking to school.

LADY

Are you okay?!

Sam looks over and recognizes the lady.

SAMANTHA

I'm good, thanks! I really am.

Samantha puts her foot on the gas and keeps her head out the window, licking the rain...

EXT. LINDSAY'S HOUSE - LATER

Kent's car pulls up. He blinks his headlights and Sam jumps out of Lindsay's car.

INT. KENT'S CAR -

Sam slides into the passenger seat.

KENT

Hunky Heroes, rescuing distressed women, captive princesses and girls without wheels since 1684.

Samantha bursts out laughing

SAMANTHA

Thank you!

KENT
Hey. You're all wet.

SAMANTHA
(happily)
Yeah. I was dancing in the rain.

KENT
You mean snow.

Sam looks out the window. Fat white flakes fall on the windshield. The whole world looks magical, like the inside of a snow globe.

SAMANTHA
(smiling)
Yeah. Snow.

EXT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

The driveway is packed with cars when Kent pulls in.

INT. KENT MCFULLER'S CAR -

Samantha looks at the house, snow falling on it like glitter.

KENT
Are you going to tell me why I'm
giving you a ride?

SAMANTHA
(teasing, flirtatious)
Nope.

KENT
Are you going to tell me what I'm
supposed to do --

SAMANTHA
Kiss me.

Kent looks surprised. He lets out a kind yelp/laugh.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
What's so weird?
(whispering)
Yours is the best kiss I've ever
had.

KENT

(softly)

But...I've never kissed you. Not
since third grade anyway.

Samantha's eyes are shining.

SAMANTHA

Better get started, then, because I
don't have a lot of time.

Kent leans in as if this were the most natural thing in the
world. They kiss - tenderly, passionately, romantically.
The windows in the car steam up.

When they pull away from each other, both are breathing hard.

KENT

Wow.

SAMANTHA

Yeah...wow.

EXT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE

Kent leads Samantha out of the car. He puts his arms around
her, they look at each other and begin to kiss again.

The snow swirls around them or they twirl in the snow, hard
to tell because it's like they're in a bubble, spinning and
spinning.

INT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE -

Samantha walks in with Kent.

SAMANTHA

(to Kent - serious)

Kent. I wish, I wish, I wish we had
more than just tonight.

KENT

(smiling)

We do! What are you talking about?
We have our whole lives!

Samantha stares into his eyes, trying not to let her fear and
sadness show.

KENT (CONT'D)

Okay...okay. I don't want to freak you out like 'our whole lives' blablabla. How about...we have the rest of senior year into summer?

Samantha laughs, gives him one last long kiss. They fit together perfectly.

KENT (CONT'D)

Maybe also freshman year college?

She looks at him - he's irresistible.

SAMANTHA

Just remember the plan, okay?
You're driving my girls home.

KENT

And you. Right? And you.

But she's already disappeared into the crowd.

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM

Lindsay, Elody and Ally scream with delight when Samantha enters the room.

They rush towards her in a happy tumble. It doesn't seem as dark and smoky as it did before. Instead it seems kind of fun. They all start dancing together.

As her friends drift back into the crowd, Samantha holds back. She watches her friends - dancing, talking, laughing. They look like girls, silly, happy, girls.

The SOUND drops out. Samantha's heartbeat - THUMP THUMP THUMP
She's able to slip out without anyone noticing.

INT. KENT MCFULLER'S HOUSE - DOWNSTAIRS HALL

People pass as Samantha stands sentry near the door. She has a look of concentration on her face. As if ready to jump at any minute.

The door opens and Juliet slips in. Samantha jumps up.

SAMANTHA

Hey. Can I talk to you for a minute?

JULIET
(startled)
Actually...uhm. I have somewhere to
be --

SAMANTHA
No, you don't.

Sam pulls her away from the front door where it's less noisy.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I know you have something to say to
me. I know you have something you
wanted to say to all of us.

Juliet holds Samantha's gaze.

JULIET
You're a bitch--

Samantha lets it sink in.

SAMANTHA
I know. All of us are, me and
Lindsay and Ally and Elody. We have
been. And I'm sorry.

Juliet takes a step back but bumps into the wall.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Juliet. I really am.

JULIET
I have to go --

SAMANTHA
I have to come with you --

JULIET
(angry)
No! Leave me alone!

SAMANTHA
I can't leave you. I *can't* -- you
and I--

Kent's voice rings out from somewhere.

KENT (C.O.)
Sam! Sam!

In the split second that Sam at a terror crowd and sees Kent
coming towards her, Juliet slips out of her grasp --

KENT (CONT'D)

Hey! What happened? You ran away as soon as we got here--

When Samantha turns around again, the front door is open and Juliet is gone.

SAMANTHA

No! Juliet!

Kent grabs her.

KENT

You act like I'm invisible for years, then you send me this adorable little note, then I pick you up --

He's choking back emotion now --

KENT (CONT'D)

And then we kiss. And you completely blow me away and rip up my world and everything else and then you go back to ignoring me --

SAMANTHA

I meant to kiss you. I wanted to kiss you. And I want to be with you. I want to be here more than anything in the world but I can't--

KENT

What do you mean? Why did you say you don't have any more time? You can talk to me, whatever it is, you can trust me --

Kent keeps his hand on Samantha's arm. She puts her hand over his and squeezes it, feeling his warmth.

SAMANTHA

(fighting tears)

Kent. I can't. I can't tell you. I never meant to hurt you, I want you to remember that. I never meant to hurt anyone. You have to let me go.

He releases his hand.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Sam runs through the muck, snow mixed with rain.

SAMANTHA
Juliet! Juliet!

She dodges in and out of the trees towards the road. The wind hisses. Branches crunch under her feet.

She sees headlights in the distance, the rumbling of a truck. She pushes herself to move faster, slipping in the mud, out of breath and fighting sobs.

In the distance:

KENT
Sam! Sam!

Hearing Kent's voice Samantha hesitates for a nanosecond then sprints into the darkness towards the road.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Sam bursts through the trees where Juliet is standing in the middle of the road, the rain slamming down.

SAMANTHA
Don't!

Juliet whips around.

JULIET
What are you doing?! Why are you following me? Why were you waiting for me at the party?

SAMANTHA
(breathing heavily)
Because! I need to help you, I need to stop you--

Samantha takes a tentative step out into the road.

JULIET
Help me? Help me with what?!

Sam moves closer. The two of them are now in the middle of the icy wet road.

SAMANTHA
Stop runnin away Talk to me.

Juliet's eyes dart back and forth, frightened and desperate.

JULIET

Why? You don't give a shit about me! Nobody does!

Samantha tries to wipe some of the rain out of her eyes.

SAMANTHA

Yes! They do! Your sister does!
Your family does! I do! There are probably like hundreds of people you haven't even met yet who are going to totally love you--

Juliet looks at Samantha as if she's gone crazy. She starts crying.

JULIET

What are you talking about? Why are you even here!

The spindly trees flicker: HEADLIGHTS.

SAMANTHA

(urgent)

Just come out of the road--just let me take you home--

JULIET

No! No! It's too late!

TWO TRUCKS heading towards each other come into focus - Sam grabs Juliet by the shoulders--

SAMANTHA

Listen to me! *It's never too late!*

Sam's voice is almost lost in the split second when the TRUCKS THUNDER TOWARDS THEM - HEADLIGHTS FLARE, Juliet's face suddenly lighting up with recognition- the valogram: "*it's never too late*" -

Sam's face illuminated by the HIGHBEAMS. She PUSHES JULIET AWAY FROM THE TRUCKS ONTO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD.

The TRUCKS converge - SCREECHING BRAKES, BURNING RUBBER, BREAKING ICE - Sam squeezes her eyes shut.

In sudden SLOW MOTION she's thrown up into the air. Her body pirouettes, her arms out. It looks as if she's flying.

And in micro-bursts:

-- Sam and Izzie chase each other on the beach with crabs in their hands.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*I'm glad I skipped school and gave
 Izzie advice.*

-- Sam's parents make dinner and joke and kiss each other.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*I'm glad I told my parents I love
 them, even though it came out
 weird.*

-- Lindsay shows Sam how to drive.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
*I'm glad I tried to get through to
 Lindsay.*

-- Marian Sykes holds Sam's roses.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
*I'm glad I threw out Ally's vodka
 and got the girls a ride and gave
 Marian Sykes my roses.*

-- Sam, Izzie, Mom and Dad on the couch, clap and shout when
 the lights from their xmas tree turn on.

-- Sam and the girls try on clothes and laugh at each other.

-- Sam lies on green grass, holding a blade up to her face,
 examining it, turning it this way and that.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
*I'm glad I kissed Kent McFuller and
 broke up with Rob and wore sensible
 shoes.*

-- Sam and Kent kissing, the snow swirling around them as if
 they were in a snow globe...

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
*I know it doesn't sound like much.
 But sometimes that's all you get.
 Small steps.*

The VOICES of Sam's friends echoing, echoing from the woods. -

KENT, THE GIRLS
S...a...m... nnnn...tha!!!

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Nobody ever said I was fair

EVERYTHING TURNS WHITE...The SOUND OF SOMEONE BREATHING.

Snow is falling, everything coated in soft white flakes. The TRUCKS are a mangled mass further up the road where CARS have skidded to a stop.

Juliet tries to push herself up. She looks around, disoriented. She chokes back a sob - relief, astonishment, shock.

JULIET

Wha--

Samantha is on the ground next to her. Juliet reaches towards Samantha.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Sam! SAM!

Juliet holds Samantha's pale face in her hands. SIRENS and SHOUTING can be heard in the background.

JULIET (CONT'D)

(quiet, desperate)

You saved me. Why did you save me?

Kent comes running out the woods. He sees the two girls and runs towards them, Lindsay, Ally and Elody following.

Samantha clutches at Juliet's shirt.

SAMANTHA

(a hoarse mangled whisper)

No. You saved me--

They all run to Sam and Juliet, hovering and holding them, crying, laughing: fear, relief, love.

Samantha suddenly opens her eyes. The SNOW comes down.

SOUND DROPS OUT.

MUSIC COMES UP.

FADE OUT