

SUNCOAST

Written by

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CHYRON: JANUARY 2005

EXT. ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA - NIGHT

This town is mostly beaches and bridges. The time of year is reflected in the bundled up LOCALS, even the seagulls look cold. A few TOURISTS from somewhere actually cold, like Michigan, wear shorts and head to the beach, but everyone else is inside.

CHYRON: ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

EXT. DORIS' HOUSE - SAME TIME

This moldy house is jammed between other moldy houses that are all equally small and unmemorable. The front lawn is in a coma, not fully dead but definitely not alive.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

DORIS eats dinner in front of the TV. Dinner is grey food that was frozen for years before it was microwaved. Doris is seventeen, depressed, and hiding under matted curls.

ON TV: A *Friends* episode is coming to an end: Ross and Monica link arms on the couch and reminisce about a dance routine they did in high school. The ideal brother and sister duo. After the credits roll, Doris changes the channel.

ON TV:

ANCHORWOMAN

... in just a few short weeks, when
President Bush will be sworn in for
his second term--

GEORGE W. BUSH fills the screen as Doris changes the channel and takes a bite of grey food.

ON TV: Images of FRIED CHICKEN slo-mo falling into a BUCKET.

ANNOUNCER

Introducing KFC's brand new build
your own variety bucket--!

Doris changes the channel again. And again. And again. Doris hears a BEEP and turns away from the TV. REVEAL a YOUNG MAN in a full-on hospital bed next to Doris. Doris gets up and hits buttons on a MACHINE that is clearly monitoring this young man's life. Doris checks a tube in his arm and goes back to her dinner and the TV.

ON TV:

REGINALD ROUNDTREE
 ... ABC 10 o'clock news. I'm
 Reginald Roundtree. The debate
 continues over the life of Terri
 Schiavo who is right here in Tampa
 Bay surviving on a feeding tube,
 but for how long?

Images of a bed ridden TERRI SCHIAVO fill the screen.

REGINALD ROUNDTREE (CONT'D)
 Will Jeb Bush's request to the
 Supreme Court effect the ongoing
 case? Lisa Chan is at Suncoast
 Hospice now. Lisa?

Outside a FLORIDA HOSPICE, an Asian reporter LISA CHAN holds
 a microphone. Behind her, many EMOTIONAL PEOPLE hold signs
 that say things like, "LET TERRI LIVE!" and "AUSCHWITZ, USA."

LISA LING
 That is the question on everyone's
 mind, Reginald. I'm here with Paul
 Warren, who has become the
 unofficial spokesman for the
 protesters you see behind me.

Lisa stands with a passionate PAUL WARREN. He holds a sign
 that says "YOU MURDERERS ARE GOING TO HELL." He is fifty and handsome
 in a weathered way, too much Florida sun and American beer.
 He has a raspy, slightly Southern lilt.

LISA LING (CONT'D)
 Paul, what is the mood amongst the
 protesters knowing that the Supreme
 Court could remove Terri's feeding
 tube yet again?

PAUL
 Well, we're talkin' about a court
 of law murdering a young woman, so
 you tell me... I'd say the mood is
 pretty hopeful that we can--

Paul lights a CIGARETTE.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 That they'll do the right thing
 here, but we're gonna be fightin'
 everyday to-- to save her life,
 man.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

So-- yeah, I mean, we're not goin'
anywhere. If that's what you mean.

Doris seems slightly captivated by Paul. The front door opens. KRISTINE enters wearing a stained HOPS BAR AND GRILL t-shirt. She is a genuine Florida forty-year-old which is like a Los Angeles fifty-year-old. She carries a to-go box. Doris does not look up from the TV. Kristine does not say hello.

KRISTINE

Can you change the channel? I can't
stand looking at that poor woman.

Kristine motions to images of Terri Schiavo on life support FLASHING on the screen. Kristine sits and pulls CHICKEN WINGS out of her to-go box. Doris grabs a wing. They are mother and daughter, but they seem like roommates. Kristine has very little maternal instincts. Doris seems to not need them.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

You know she was bulimic, right?
That's why she had the heart attack
or whatever. Her family knows she
cares about her looks, but they're
splashing her all over the news
looking like *that*. I'd rather die.

DORIS

Noted.

KRISTINE

They're forcing her to stay
alive...

Kristine looks at the young man in the hospital bed next to Doris.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

I would never do that to him. How's
he doing? Did he eat?

DORIS

Yeah, he ate a little. His thing
beeped. I think it's broken cause
the morphine's not low--

KRISTINE

Did you give him his shot?

Doris nods distracted by the TV.

ON TV:

WEATHERMAN

... which is rare this late in the season, but it looks like Tropical Storm Zeta keeps heading our way--

Kristine takes the remote and turns it off.

KRISTINE

I got you chicken fingers.

She hands Doris another to-go box. Doris happily takes it.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Did you do your list? Did you vacuum?

Kristine taps a LIST OF CHORES on the coffee table. Doris nods and tries to take the remote back.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

It doesn't look like it. This place is a mess, Doris.

DORIS

Cause it's a shithole. A vacuum can't magically make it a nice house.

Kristine has a nasty temper and seems like she could flip out on her daughter at any second, but she shrugs it off.

KRISTINE

It is a fuckin' dump isn't it?

They share a small laugh.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Thanks for taking care of him.
(sniffing the air)
It smells like pee...?

DORIS

He um-- I was changing him and he peed. I tried to clean it up...

Kristine pats her son's thigh.

KRISTINE

I'll need your help with him in the morning.

DORIS

What? I can't-- I'll miss the van.

KRISTINE

It's a big day, Doris. You don't have to go to school--

DORIS

But I want to go--

KRISTINE

So you'll go late. I'll write you a note.

DORIS

No, please, Mom. I hate going late. I have to interrupt class and everyone looks at me. It's so embarrassing--

KRISTINE

Embarrassing? Oh, then I'll just drop your brother off by myself cause God forbid you get *embarrassed*--

DORIS

Okay, I'll come. Forget it.

Kristine's temper rises.

KRISTINE

You sure? Cause I wouldn't want you to blush in front of your friends.

DORIS

I don't have any friends! And fine! I said forget it!

KRISTINE

You're so selfish. I can't believe you!

These two are on their feet now.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

I ask for one little thing and it becomes a whole--!

DORIS

Did you not hear me say I'll do it?! I'LL DO IT!

KRISTINE

Never mind! I don't even want you to come! I don't need you! I'LL DO IT MYSELF!

Kristine heads to her bedroom and SLAMS the door.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. DORIS' HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

Doris helps her mom lift her brother into the front seat of a 1990 FORD PICK UP TRUCK. The young man's eyes are open, but he seems completely unaware of the world around him.

Doris wears her school uniform, khaki pants and a white polo shirt. As they lift her brother, a SMALL WHITE VAN, with "ST. PETE CHRISTIAN" on the side, pulls up.

KRISTINE
 (yelling to VAN DRIVER)
 I'm driving her today!
 (beat)
 You can go! I'm gonna take her later!
 (beat, to Doris)
 Is he fuckin' deaf?

DORIS
 Mom, stop yelling. He obviously can't hear you.
 (re: her brother)
 Can you lift his legs higher? I can't get him in.

KRISTINE
 I am lifting them. It's his butt--
 Get his butt higher.

The van idles. All the TEENS watch as Doris struggles to get her vegetative brother into the truck. Kristine SCREAMS, directing all her emotions at this faceless van driver.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
 Hello?! She's not going with you!
 I'm taking her later! What the fuck is wrong with you?! DRIVE AWAY!

DORIS
 Mom, please--

KRISTINE
 God dammit, Doris! Lift his butt!

The van finally drives away. Teen faces press against the glass, watching Doris. She is humiliated, as always. They finally get the young man into the front seat. They lift his wheelchair into the truck bed.

DORIS

Can I drive?

KRISTINE

What? No, honey. We don't have time.

DORIS

Come on, you never let me practice--

KRISTINE

So help me God, Doris. Get in the truck.

Doris groans and goes to slide into the middle seat, but Kristine stops her.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Uh uh, the latch is broken you gotta make sure his chair doesn't fall out.

DORIS

What? My hair is gonna go nuts--

KRISTINE

Your *hair*?

Kristine narrows her eyes. Doris climbs into the truck bed with the wheelchair and Kristine backs down the driveway.

EXT. ST. PETERSBURG - STREETS - LATER

Doris gets whipped by the wind as the truck moves through the swampy streets. Her curls are massive from the humidity.

A WHITE JEEP WRANGLER pulls up next to Doris. A tan blonde TEEN GIRL drives. Doris watches her. If we could hear Doris' thoughts she would be wondering if this teen driver has ever changed a twenty-year-old's diaper. Probably not. The teen driver looks carefree as she sings along to Gwen Stefani's *Hollaback Girl*.

TEEN GIRL

*Let me hear you say, this shit is
bananas! B-A-N-A-N-A-S!*

She speeds away. Kristine drives over a POTHOLE and Doris lurches forward in the truck bed.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - LATER

Kristine's pick-up truck pulls into a MEDIA CIRCUS. A hundred PROTESTERS hold SIGNS that represent their outrage about Terri Schiavo.

From the truck bed, Doris sees Paul Warren, the emotional man from the news. He wears an OLD HAWAIIAN SHIRT and carries a NEW SIGN that says: "~~HER~~ PARENTS LOVE HER AS SHE IS" Doris and Paul lock eyes. Doris looks down shyly. He's basically a celebrity.

Kristine HONKS at some protesters forcing them to move out of the way. Doris winces.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - MOMENTS LATER

This place looks like a hospital gave up and became a nursing home. Kristine and Doris wheel her brother through an AUTOMATIC DOOR. Doris clocks OLD DYING PEOPLE everywhere. A friendly nurse, IRIE, steps out from the nurse's station.

NURSE IRIE

Hi there! Welcome to Suncoast. I'm Irie.

She shakes Kristine's hand.

KRISTINE

Yeah, hi. Kristine.

NURSE IRIE

Hope you don't mind he just has to check your bags...

Nurse Irie motions to a tired SECURITY GUARD.

KRISTINE

For what?

NURSE IRIE

Weapons actually. We get a lot of threats since Ms. Schiavo got here. You understand...

KRISTINE

So while I'm dropping my son off to die you think I'm gonna kill someone? Or maybe I'll sneak in and feed Schiavo--?

DORIS

Mom--

NURSE IRIE

It's okay. Today is a hard day. I understand.

Nurse Irie waves the security guard away.

NURSE IRIE (CONT'D)

What's your name, dear?

DORIS

Doris.

NURSE IRIE

Oh... what a pretty name.

DORIS

It was my Grandma's name.

NURSE IRIE

Oh how nice.

DORIS

She died the day I was born.

Nurse Irie tries to keep smiling, taking in this sad crew.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris' brother is now in a bed. His machines are hooked up. Doris sits on a chair reading a PEOPLE MAGAZINE. Kristine scrubs the floor with a PAPER TOWEL.

KRISTINE

Look at this.

Kristine holds up the paper towel. It is covered in dust.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

This place is disgusting.

DORIS

Can we go soon?

KRISTINE

You're not at all upset about leaving your brother? I mean, this is it, Doris. This filthy room is where he's gonna die.

DORIS
Of course I'm upset.

KRISTINE
Yeah, you seem real torn up. Do you
ever think about anyone but
yourself?

Doris goes back to her magazine.

DORIS
Bennifer just broke up, right now
I'm thinking about them.

Kristine puts the paper towel down and sits close to Doris.
She looks over Doris' shoulder at an image of BEN AFFLECK and
JENNIFER LOPEZ wearing dramatic expressions.

KRISTINE
I knew they would. What did I say?

DORIS	KRISTINE (CONT'D)
He's too handsome.	He's too handsome.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
The handsome ones never stay.

Kristine looks at Doris' brother, lovingly.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
Like your brother. Too handsome for
this world.

DORIS
Can we go now please?

Kristine glares at Doris.

INT. ST. PETE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - LATER

As Doris enters, the WHOLE CLASS looks up. Doris blushes and
hands MR. LADD a note.

MR. LADD
Ah, welcome back, Doris.

He motions for her to sit. Doris sits behind a popular black
girl LACI and a popular white girl BRITTANY. They do not
acknowledge her presence. They whisper as Mr. Ladd lectures
in the background.

LACI

... So basically Cody is like fully hooking up with Tiffany. And I'm like - good, she can keep his dirty dick.

An incredibly cute black surfer type, NATE laughs at this.

NATE

He is *not* hooking up with her.

BRITTANY

Bullshit. Tiffany basically told me herself.

NATE

Well, she's lying.

Doris watches this group like a TV show.

NATE (CONT'D)

Ya'll should come over later. We're gonna grill by the pool. Cody will be there you can ask him yourself.

Doris listens longingly. The thought of grilling with friends is like a faraway dream.

LACI

Oh you best believe my ass will be there. I'm done with these rumors.

BRITTANY

(whisper singing)

*I'm tired of rumors starting
I'm sick of being followed
I'm tired of people lying--*

LACI

(whisper singing)

Saying what they want about me.

The girls CRACK UP at their Lindsay Lohan impressions. Doris LAUGHS too in spite of herself. Brittany and Laci turn and look at her for a beat. Doris quickly looks toward Mr. Ladd.

MR. LADD

Being naked in public... is that an ethics question?

HUMPHREY raises his hand.

MR. LADD (CONT'D)

Yes, Humphrey.

Humphrey is chubby, has sleep apnea, and is always congested.

HUMPHREY

That depends on the laws of the land.

MR. LADD

Exactly. Banning nudity is a rule of a particular society. Our society. Especially this classroom.

The class laughs. They clearly like Mr. Ladd.

MR. LADD (CONT'D)

But, what about Christian ethics? How do they differ from the laws of the land? That is what we're exploring this semester. So I hope you got everything out of your systems over the holiday cause now I'm going to teach you to be good Christian people.

The class laughs. The bell BEEPS. Students get up. Nate brushes past Doris and she looks like she could faint.

NATE

Excuse me.

DORIS

(flustered)

Yeah, okay.

He walks away as Doris stares at the back of his neck.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - DAYS LATER

Doris works on a homework assignment. Kristine stands on a CHAIR with her head near the ceiling, listening.

KRISTINE

Do you hear it? It's like
eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

(re: her son)

It must be driving him insane.

DORIS

I doubt he hears it.

KRISTINE

I told that nightmare at the front desk, but they haven't done anything.

DORIS
Irie? I like her.

KRISTINE
Well, you're wrong, everyone here
is terrible. They just stuffed him
in this disgusting room with this
insane noise--

Kristine removes a piece of ceiling tile.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
Prop me up. I wanna poke my head
in. See what's going on...

DORIS
Mom--

KRISTINE
God dammit, Doris! Just do it!

Doris gets up and struggles to lift her mom up by the legs.

DORIS
Can we please just let them handle
it?!

KRISTINE
Stop wiggling me!

DUST and ASBESTOS falls onto Doris. She coughs. The door
opens. Nurse Irie enters and sees Doris lifting her mother by
her legs into the ceiling.

NURSE IRIE
Everything okay in here?

KRISTINE
No, it's not okay! Put me down,
Doris!

DORIS
I'm trying--

KRISTINE
PUT ME DOWN!

Doris finally does and wipes dust off her face.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
My son is a prisoner here and he's
being tortured by that noise!

DORIS
There's barely a noise--

KRISTINE
Eeeeeeeeeeeee! You don't hear that?

DORIS
I'm sure she has more important
things to do than--

KRISTINE
Your brother is *dying*. What's more
important?

DORIS
Whatever. I'm going to McDonald's.
(to Nurse Irie)
Sorry about her. She's a lunatic.

Doris huffs out. Behind Doris' back, Kristine FLIPS DORIS OFF
with both hands.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Doris weaves through the crowd of protesters towards her
mom's pick-up truck.

INT. FORD PICK-UP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Doris scrounges around the floor and seats for LOOSE CHANGE.

INT. MCDONALD'S - MOMENTS LATER

Doris stands at a counter across from a MCDONALD'S EMPLOYEE.

MCDONALDS EMPLOYEE
... a cheeseburger, small fries and
a chocolate shake. That's five-
sixty-eight.

Doris counts out her change and TWO CRUMPLED DOLLAR BILLS.

DORIS
Oh... um. Forget the shake.

McDonald's Employee goes to type in the register.

PAUL (O.S)
Nah nah, keep the shake. I got it.

Doris looks up at Paul the protester from TV.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Just add a filet-o-fish for me.

He hands McDonald's employee CASH and slides Doris' money back to her. Doris is flustered around this pseudo-celebrity.

DORIS
... thank you. That's so nice of you. But--

PAUL
No, buts. Take the food. You're skinny as a rail. Bet you can't even see your shadow.

DORIS
...okay, thank you again.

Doris takes her TRAY of suspiciously fast food and heads to a table. Paul follows.

PAUL
Mind if I join you?

DORIS
Um... yeah-- I mean, no I don't mind-- You can sit here if you want.

PAUL
I saw you go in that, uh, execution chamber a few days ago.

DORIS
Suncoast? Yeah, my brother is living there-- dying there? I don't know.

PAUL
Damn. I'm sorry to hear that. I'll pray for his recovery.

DORIS
Oh, please don't!
(catches herself)
--I just mean. He has brain cancer. He's blind and can't walk and hasn't talked in years. He still eats, but that's about it. If he stayed alive much longer... I don't think he'd be happy.

PAUL
Every life is precious.

Doris looks flustered by her own outburst.

DORIS

Yeah, never mind. Pray if you want to. Sorry, I haven't like, talked to another person in a long time.

(off his curious look)

I've just been taking care of my brother and haven't had time to like, talk to anyone...

PAUL

I hear ya. And maybe you shouldn't start now. You're pretty bad at it.

Paul WINKS at her and Doris LAUGHS. Paul unwraps his filet-o-fish. Doris makes a face.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Not a fan?

DORIS

Oh, sorry. Just the smell of seafood grosses me out.

PAUL

What? Nah, you just haven't had the right seafood yet.

DORIS

Maybe not.

PAUL

Definitely not. You been to Cocoa Beach?

DORIS

No.

PAUL

Oooweee, you would like Cocoa Beach. Go to Sam's Fish Shack. Best fish tacos in the world. Grouper. You'd love em'.

DORIS

No offense, but I doubt it.

PAUL

My wife was obsessed with em'...

Paul smiles for the first time since we met him. He rubs his graying stubble.

PAUL (CONT'D)
She passed away.

DORIS
I'm sorry.

PAUL
Me too.

DORIS
My dad died. He drowned when I was
three.

PAUL
Well, Christ, it ain't a
competition.

Doris laughs. Then they sit in silence. Then Paul reaches out
to shake her hand.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Paul.

DORIS
Doris.

PAUL
Doris? That's an old lady name.

DORIS
It was my Grandma's name. She died
the day I was born.
(laughs)
Basically everyone in my family is
dead. Except my mom, but I
sometimes wish she was.

PAUL
Don't say that.

DORIS
I'm kidding.

PAUL
Every life is precious.

Doris laughs. She laughs like a child. Paul can't help but
smile.

DORIS
No one has ever called my mom
precious--

Kristine blows through the glass doors.

DORIS (CONT'D)
Oop, here she comes.

KRISTINE
Hey, let's go. We're leaving.

DORIS
Mom, this is Paul.

KRISTINE
Yeah, hi-- I'm gonna be late for
work, Doris.

Kristine heads for the door as Doris gathers her stuff.

DORIS
See? Isn't she precious? Nice
meeting you.

Doris hustles after her mom.

DORIS (CONT'D)
Can I drive?

KRISTINE
No, I *just* said I'm late--

The door to the McDonald's closes, sparing Paul the rest of
their argument.

EXT. DORIS' HOUSE - LATER

Doris wears old paint stained clothes. She is covered in
sweat as she finishes NAILING a board to the last uncovered
WINDOW. She stands back and takes in the boarded up windows.
She notices the wind picking up and heads inside.

INT. DORIS' LIVING ROOM - LATER

Doris drinks BLUE KOOL AID in front of the TV. An old FAN
blows in her direction.

ON TV:

ANCHORMAN
... while Hurricane Zeta continues
through The Keys up the Gulf of
Mexico.

Images of wind and rain tormenting a TOWN fill the screen.

ANCHORMAN (CONT'D)

... Fill up those gas tanks and charge those generators, folks. This could be a long weekend. Let's hope this weather clears up in time for the Super Bowl, as Jacksonville prepares for the crowds and Paul McCartney...

Doris looks at her brother's empty hospital bed. Then back to the TV. The front door opens. Kristine enters in her stained HOPS BAR AND GRILL uniform. She carries a to-go box. Doris doesn't look up from the TV. Kristine does not say hello.

Kristine sits next to her and eats MOZZARELLA STICKS out of her to-go box. Doris takes a stick.

KRISTINE

(re: hurricane)

This Zeta could be a real bitch. I'm gonna start sleeping at Suncoast until your brother... goes. So he doesn't get lonely.

DORIS

But... then I'll be alone.

KRISTINE

Well, someone's gotta watch the house.

DORIS

What if the storm gets really bad? What if there's a black out? We don't have a generator--

KRISTINE

Jesus, Doris. Instead of feeling sorry for yourself, think about your brother, in hell, trapped inside his own body. He can't move! He can't see! God forbid you have to use a flashlight for one night!

DORIS

Okay, fine--

KRISTINE

I'm gonna be sleeping on a God damn cot for weeks!

DORIS

I said *fine*!

Kristine calms down.

KRISTINE

I got you some chicken fingers.

She hands Doris another to-go box. Doris happily takes it. The fight is over. They go back to watching the news.

INT. SCHOOL VAN - NEXT MORNING

Doris sits by herself, as always. She looks out the window at PEOPLE boarding up their windows. The van passes a long line of CARS outside a GAS STATION. GROCERY STORE parking lots are jammed. PEOPLE push CARTS FULL OF WATER AND CANNED GOODS.

Doris overhears GIRLS behind her. They are wannabe versions of Brittany and Laci.

WANNABE BRITTANY

... Brittany said everyone's going to Kyle's hurricane party.

WANNABE LACI

Laci told me! I really wanna roll tonight.

WANNABE BRITTANY

And play in the rain! So amazing--

WANNABE LACI

Yessss, where can we get ecstasy--?

They notice Doris is listening and lower their voices.

INT. ST. PETE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - LATER

The word "ABORTION" is written on the whiteboard. Mr. Ladd lectures.

MR. LADD

... because it is legal in all fifty states, is it ethical? Because it is accepted by society, is it ethical? Do we blindly accept the ethics of our government as our own?

Humphrey raises his hand.

HUMPHREY

Abortion is wrong cause the bible says it is.

MR. LADD

That's actually not true, Humphrey. There is no explicit prohibition of abortion in either the Old or New Testament.

HUMPHREY

So does that mean it's not wrong?

MR. LADD

That's up to you. There is no right or wrong answer. There is no pass or fail letter grade when it comes to human ethics. It is a deeply personal subject.

HUMPHREY

Well, I think it's wrong.

LACI

Well, I think you're an idiot.

The class laughs.

MR. LADD

Oh, good. A debate! Why don't you both come in on Monday with your prepared arguments.

Laci groans.

BRITTANY

You should'a kept your mouth shut.

LACI

I will not apologize for being an outspoken feminist.

Doris smiles at this. Nate whispers to Brittany and Laci.

NATE

Did you hear? Kyle's dad found out about the hurricane party. He's grounded.

BRITTANY

What? That friggin' sucks.

LACI

Where are we gonna go?

Doris's face lights up. She looks like she's about to say something, but she stops herself.

NATE

I don't know. We could go see a movie?

BRITTANY

Yeah, right after I kill myself.

Doris takes a breath again, about to speak, then: nothing.

LACI

We could go under the Causeway? Mac might be getting a keg?

BRITTANY

The waves are gonna be so big. They're gonna bail. I guarantee.

Doris takes another breath and then:

DORIS

You can come to my house.

Phew, she did it. They turn and look at her like a dog that just spoke.

DORIS (CONT'D)

I mean, my mom's not gonna be there and you can do whatever you want, but if not it's cool. I just thought if you needed a place to party, you could totally come over or whatever you want... It's chill.

Nate smiles.

NATE

Yeah, that's super chill.

BRITTANY

There's no adults?

LACI

Can we roll?

DORIS

Roll? Um... Sure whatever you want.

NATE

Do you have a black light?

DORIS
I don't think so...

LACI
Wait, this is so dope. I'm gonna
tell everyone. Wait, who are you?

NATE
Yeah, what's your name?

DORIS
Doris.

NATE
Cool. Nate.

DORIS
Yeah, cool.

BRITTANY
Brittany.

LACI
Laci.

DORIS
Cool. Doris. Cool.

Doris lights up. She can't believe this is happening. The
2005 hit *Beverly Hills* by Weezer takes us to:

A SUPER UPBEAT CLEANING MONTAGE:

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

- Doris cleans with passion.
- She shoves her brothers' hospital bed into a closet.
- She scrubs stains off the walls.
- She shakes dust out of couch cushions.
- She throws away bottles of medication and bags of fluids.
- She puts scented candles everywhere.
- She scrubs stains out of the carpet.
- She sprays Febreze.
- She takes a brand new BLACK LIGHTBULB out of it's package
and screws it into a lamp.

WEEZER

*The truth is, I don't stand a
chance. It's something that you're
born into. And I just don't
belong...*

The music fades as Doris opens her front door. RAIN POURS outside. Nate, Laci, Brittany, Wannabe Brittany, Wannabe Laci and other TEENS, all carrying cases of BEER, hurry inside, wet from the rain.

They sweep past Doris and check out the house, clearly uncomfortable with it's shittyness.

LACI

Awww, it's cute.

BRITTANY

Your house is super cute.

NATE

It sorta smells like piss in here.

DORIS

That's probably from my... cat. Who
is... running around here
somewhere. Lucy! Come here, Lucy!

Doris goes off in search of a cat that doesn't exist. Laci and Brittany put WET WASHCLOTHS in the freezer.

A teen turns on a boombox. A 2004 Techno Remix of *Everybody Is Free* blares.

QUICK CUTS of teens partying:

- The teens crack open their beers. The girls all sexily put PILLS on their tongues. Doris turns on the lamp with the black lightbulb. Nate smiles.

- More TEENS enter from the rain. Teens crack open GLOW STICKS. The girls dance ethereally with the glow sticks. They put MINI GLOW STICKS in their mouthes.

- Doris watches this alien world, an outsider, an observer.

- Doris wipes some spilled beer off the floor. Nate takes out a BAG OF PILLS.

NATE

You want one?

Doris awkwardly nods "no." He shrugs and takes the pill.

DORIS
So... you have a pool?

NATE
Huh?

DORIS
No, just-- in class I heard you say
you have a pool.

NATE
Oh, yeah. I do.

More silence.

DORIS
So, what do your parents do?

NATE
What you do mean?

DORIS
Never mind...

NATE
My mom has a parrot.

DORIS
Oh really?

NATE
Yeah, it talks. She taught it to
say,
(parrot impression)
"I love you, Nate."
(normal voice)
At first it was weird, but... now I
sorta like, look forward to it.

DORIS
That's... really sweet.

NATE
(beat)
Did you ever find your cat?

DORIS
Oh, um, she's around here somewhere...

Doris looks around for an imaginary cat once again.

- Kids try to "blow each other up" by moving glow sticks in front of each other's faces.

- Teens run outside the front door and dance around in the heavy rain. Doris watches, in awe of their lack of inhibitions.

- Brittany and Laci take the frozen washcloths out of the freezer and rub them on each other's faces. Doris walks by and Brittany grabs her hand.

BRITTANY

Doris, your house is amaaaaazing.
It's so like... real! You know,
like, this old couch is *real life*.
Sit with me.

Doris does. Brittany takes in the living room.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

How is this place so small?! It's
like a dollhouse! IT'S INCREDIBLE!

Brittany and Laci are blowing the fuck up. Laci touches Doris' face.

LACI

You're so beautiful. You're like
beyond natural and your nose is so
real.

BRITTANY

Beyond real. You're like this...
lion. With your wild hair--

LACI

Oh my god, she's a lion!

Laci ROARS. Brittany joins in, half chant and half roar.

LACI (CONT'D)

Roar with us!

Doris tries, she is barely audible, the girls don't notice.

- Wannabe Laci blows a VICKS NASAL INHALER into Nate's face while Wannabe Brittany rubs his temples. Doris watches, jealous.

- Doris picks up a CAN OF BEER and opens it. She sips it, subtly winces at the new taste but keeps sipping.

- LIGHTNING thrashes the front yard. All the teens run back inside laughing. All the LIGHTS GO OUT. The teens cheer! Doris' scented candles light the room.

- The lack of electricity has silenced the boom box, but the dancing and festivities continue in an unselfconscious blur that could not exist without drugs. Doris watches, embarrassed by and envious of this display of pure freedom. She bends her knees awkwardly and bobs up and down a few times, *nope*, too self conscious, she sits down on the couch.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - EARLY NEXT MORNING

All the kids are gone. Doris has cleaned up all the paraphernalia. She pulls the hospital bed back out of the closet. She drags it towards its old spot. The front door opens. Doris freezes.

KRISTINE

What are you doing with that?

DORIS

(covering)

I was just, uh, putting it in the closet. We don't need it anymore, right?

KRISTINE

Yeah, I guess not.

Doris pivots and drags it back toward the closet.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

How was the storm?

DORIS

Not bad. Sorta fun actually.

KRISTINE

Fun? How was it fun?

DORIS

No-- I just lit some candles and candles are fun?

KRISTINE

Well, glad you were having *fun* while I was sleeping on a cot. It destroyed my back.

Kristine heads to her bedroom. Doris mumbles.

DORIS

Well, soon he'll be dead and you won't have to sleep on a cot--

KRISTINE
What'd you say?

DORIS
Nothing.

Kristine shuts her bedroom door.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - LATER

Kristine's Ford truck pulls up. The amount of PROTESTERS has doubled. Paul yells into a bullhorn holding a giant PAPIER-MÂCHÉ SPOON with "KEEP FEEDING TERRI OR I'LL SHOVE THIS UP YOUR ASS" written on it. A MAN next to him is dressed up like Jesus and crucified on a WOODEN CROSS.

INT. FORD PICK-UP TRUCK - SAME TIME

Kristine wears her waitress uniform. Doris pouts.

KRISTINE
... it won't kill you to spend a
few hours with your brother, Doris.

DORIS
But I've spent ten years with him--

KRISTINE
Get out of the car. Or I will throw
you out and back over you.

A policeman OFFICER CHAUNCEY stands near the parking lot entrance. He nervously approaches the truck window. He's young and seems like it's his first day on the force.

OFFICER CHAUNCEY
Sorry, ma'am. We need to check the
back of your truck.

KRISTINE
For what?

OFFICER CHAUNCEY
Frankly, we received a bomb threat
yesterday and we're taking it very
seriously.

KRISTINE
Everyone in there is about to die
anyway. Who would waste a bomb on
that place?

Officer Chauncey stares at her, unsure. Doris leans over Kristine.

DORIS

Sorry, officer. Please do whatever you need to do.

Officer Chauncey heads to the back and lifts up the tarp. He heads back over to their window.

OFFICER CHAUNCEY

What is that, uh, device in the back there, ma'am?

KRISTINE

Well, *officer*, that is a defibrillator. In case my son goes into cardiac arrest from his chemotherapy. Is that illegal?

(to Doris)

Get out of the car.

(to Officer Chauncey)

I'm not staying here anyway. I have to go to work. At the bomb factory where I make bombs!

Doris gets out of the car and Kristine backs out angrily. Kristine HONKS at some protesters in her way.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

(yelling at protesters)

Let it go! Schiavo's already dead!

Officer Chauncey watches Kristine speed away.

OFFICER CHAUNCEY

I'm just doing my job.

DORIS

Yeah, I get it. Good luck with that.

Doris sees Paul smoking a CIGARETTE under a tree. She approaches. She pauses, thinking of something to say, then:

DORIS (CONT'D)

Can I have one?

PAUL

How old are you?

DORIS

Fine, I'll just go buy some.

PAUL
You're so fulla' shit, your eyes
are turnin' brown.

Paul hands her a cigarette and lights it for her. She inhales and coughs, pretending like this isn't her first cigarette.

PAUL (CONT'D)
You go to St. Pete Christian?

DORIS
How'd you know that?

PAUL
It's on your shirt.

Doris looks at her polo shirt with her school's logo on it and smiles, *oh yeah, duh.*

PAUL (CONT'D)
That's a good school. Private.

DORIS
Yeah, but my mom thinks religion is
bullshit-- no offense.

She gestures to the CROSS on his NECKLACE.

DORIS (CONT'D)
She just didn't want me going to
the public school after some girl
got stabbed. So she has to work all
the time to pay my tuition.

PAUL
She's a good mom.

DORIS
Um, no, not to me.

PAUL
I mean, she seems like hell on
wheels. But all good moms have to
raise hell sometimes...

Paul looks at the protesters holding "Terri Schiavo" signs.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Ya know, Terri went to Catholic
school?

DORIS
How do you know?

PAUL
I just do.

DORIS
Did you know her?

PAUL
... No, not personally.

DORIS
What do you mean?

PAUL
(defensive)
No, I don't know her. But when I found out her sociopath husband was trying to murder her I had to come here and do somethin'.

DORIS
Murder her? But they say she's basically already dead.

PAUL
She's as alive as you are. What if it was you in there instead of her?

DORIS
Well... they say she was bulimic and I'm not so I wouldn't end up like that.

PAUL
That's what we tell ourselves whenever somethin' bad happens. We try to make the victim responsible for their own demise so we can sleep all snuggly in our jammies knowing it'll never happen to us...

Doris smokes and coughs and thinks about those words.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Bottom line is, her husband didn't want to take care of her anymore.

DORIS
Honestly... I get that. It's really hard taking care of sick people and sometimes... you need a break.

PAUL
Are you enjoyin' your break?

DORIS

I mean, this is gonna sound horrible but yeah, it's, uh, kinda nice not having to take care of him. I just had friends-- or people or whatever over, for the first time. I felt like... a teenager.

PAUL

Once your brother's gone, he's gone. He ain't never comin' back. You'll miss takin' care of him.

DORIS

I doubt it. I mean, I'll miss him, sure. But I will *not* miss taking care of him.

PAUL

You will. You'll miss everything. All the good. All the bad. Hell, especially the bad. I'd give anything to hear my wife bitch n' moan again. Or just to talk to her. Just once. One sentence. One word.

DORIS

Well, I haven't talked to my brother in years. He's not really aware.

PAUL

You should talk to him before it's too late. Cause when they go, suddenly you got all this important shit to say to em', even not important shit. You just wanna tell em' stuff. Anything.

DORIS

Well, yeah, like I said, he can't hear me so... it's pretty much already too late--

ANGRY PROTESTER heads over with a head of steam.

ANGRY PROTESTER

Paul! They're trying to say we can't sit on the sidewalk!

PAUL

It's public!

ANGRY PROTESTER
That's what I told em'!

PAUL
Dammit, fine, just do what they
say.
(to Doris)
Come on. I want you to meet some
folks.

DORIS
Oh, that's okay, I have to go sit
with my brother or my mom will kill
me.

PAUL
These people could be good for you,
Doris. They're God's people.

DORIS
Aren't we all God's people? Isn't
that the whole thing?

PAUL
Just come on.

Doris gets up and follows Paul. He leads her over to the
protesters. Everyone holds SIGNS or LARGE WHITE SPOONS.
Standing amongst them is overwhelming.

Paul brings her to several WOMEN who sit on a curb with RED
TAPE on their mouths. Written on the tape is one word: LIFE.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Wendy, this is my friend Doris.

WENDY pulls the red tape off her mouth and smiles at Doris.

WENDY
Hi, there!

Doris shakes Wendy's hand. Another woman, SARAH, pulls "LIFE"
tape off her mouth.

SARAH
Hi, I'm Sarah.

Doris shakes her hand.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I saw you go in there.

DORIS

Oh, yeah my brother's in there. He only has a couple months left...

Sarah looks like she might cry. She forces Doris to hug her.

SARAH

I'm sorry to hear that.

Sarah reaches into her bag and gets a BOTTLE OF WATER.

SARAH (CONT'D)

They wanna cut off Terri's food.
They wanna starve her. Can you, at least, bring her this water?

Doris doesn't take the bottle of water.

DORIS

Oh, um... no. No thank you.

PAUL

Sarah, you're scaring her. Come on.

Paul keeps walking, Doris follows. Doris notices a WOMAN playing dead on the ground with fake blood all over her shirt, next to a sign that says: "SAVE TERRI FROM MURDER."

They pass a VAN with an image of a BLOODY FETUS RIPPED INTO PIECES and "A CHILD IS NOT A CHOICE" printed beneath it.

DORIS

Why is abortion part of all this?

PAUL

A life is a life.

GUS leans against the van and nods "hello" to Paul.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Gus, meet Doris. She's got a loved one in Suncoast.

GUS

I'm sorry to hear that, little lady. Hope he recovers soon. We'll be praying for him.

DORIS

No, please don't, he-- nevermind. Nice meeting you. I, uh, I gotta go. Bye, Paul. Thanks for the... tour.

A flustered Doris heads inside. Paul looks disappointed, as if he just lost a convert. Doris puts her arms up, by rote, as SECURITY scans her with a METAL DETECTING WAND at the entrance.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris sits and does homework. Her brother's machines BEEP. Doris goes over and makes some adjustments. For the first time, we are CLOSE UP on his face. He is, in fact, too handsome for this world. Doris takes him in.

DORIS

Hi...

Off his unresponsive face. Doris goes back to her homework for a beat, then she turns back to her brother.

DORIS (CONT'D)

I, uh, know you can't hear me...
but I guess it's good for me to...
talk to you or whatever.

She looks around, embarrassed. Then back to her brother.

DORIS (CONT'D)

I, just...
(beat, to herself)
Ugh, what am I doing?

She goes back to her homework. Nurse Irie and some MALE ORDERLIES enter. Nurse Irie smiles at Doris.

NURSE IRIE

Hi there! Don't mind us. It's time
for his bath.

They begin lifting her brother up to give him a sponge bath.

NURSE IRIE (CONT'D)

Okay, young man. You're going to
feel much better when you're all
clean.

Doris doodles "god's people" in her notebook as she watches Nurse Irie and the orderlies do their difficult job with smiles on.

INT. SCHOOL VAN - NEXT MORNING

From the van window, Doris watches PEOPLE clean Hurricane Zeta DEBRIS out of their YARDS. Wannabe Brittany and Wannabe Laci chatter behind her.

WANNABE BRITTANY

... Jake's going to fuckin' teen night at Storman's Palace. I said 'later, skater'.

WANNABE LACI

Really? Laci went once and said it was tight. She said you can sneak in vodka in a water bottle.

WANNABE BRITTANY

That's actually genius.

They notice Doris is listening, instead of lowering their voices, this time they smile at her.

WANNABE BRITTANY (CONT'D)

Your party was off the chain.

WANNABE LACI

So dope.

DORIS

Oh, yeah? Thanks. I had fun too.

WANNABE BRITTANY

Hey, my birthday is this weekend... Could we have another party at your house?

Doris is taken off guard and thinks for a beat.

DORIS

Well, my mom won't be home... so yeah, definitely.

WANNABE LACI

Amazing! Do you smoke weed?

DORIS

Not-- right now, but I am-- thinking about starting...

They look at her, *what?*

DORIS (CONT'D)

Yes, I do.

WANNABE LACI

Awesome! I'll bring a fat ass blunt
with your name on it, girl.

DORIS

Thank you. That sounds really
great.

Doris smiles as the 2003 birthday anthem *In Da Club* by 50
Cent kicks in.

50 CENT

*Go, go, go, go, go, go, go, go shorty.
It's your birthday. We gon' party
like it's your birthday...*

EXT. DORIS' HOUSE - DAYS LATER

Wearing old stained clothes, Doris removes the wood planks
from the windows.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LATER

A freshly showered Doris quickly cleans the house again.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LATER

Doris, Brittany, Laci, Wannabe Brittany, and Wannabe Laci
decorate the house with BALLOONS AND STREAMERS. TONS OF TEENS
arrive with a KEG for Wannabe Laci's birthday.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LATER

The party is in full swing. Doris sips a beer. The girls sit
in a circle and Wannabe Laci passes Doris a BLUNT. She smokes
it and coughs.

DORIS

Hoh my god--

Doris coughs more.

WANNABE BRITTANY

Whoa, are you a weed virgin?

Doris tries to answer but just coughs more.

BRITTANY
You gotta be careful, girl. That's
really strong, we got it from Aaron
Miller...

She says this like Doris is supposed to be impressed.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
Do you know him? He's twenty-two,
tattoos, he's smokin' ass hot. He
sells only the dankest buds.

Brittany leans into Doris.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
We dated for almost a year, but he
broke it off last month cause he
said I'm like... immature.

Brittany looks at Doris with eyes full of insecurity.

DORIS
Oh god, I'm sorry. I feel like only
a really immature person would be
callous enough to call someone else
immature.

Brittany looks like Doris just solved the unsolvable problem.

BRITTANY
Holy shit. You're so right. Wow,
I've never like, thought about
that.

LACI
That was some deep shit, Doris.

WANNABE BRITTANY
Oooo, Deep Doris.

The girls laugh. Doris laughs too. Laci passes the blunt to
Doris again. She hits it and coughs even harder.

BRITTANY
Oh oh! Doris, come on, let's do a
keg stand!

DORIS
What?

BRITTANY
It's so fun! I'll do one after you!

Brittany drags her over to the keg. Before Doris can figure out what a keg stand is, some GUYS lift her upside down and shove the keg nozzle into her mouth. Doris starts to chug.

PARTY

1... 2--

Doris spits beer all over her couch. The teens CHEER.

When the teens put her down she has beer all over her face. She stumbles and backs into Nate. He grins at her.

NATE

Two? That's like, a record.

DORIS

Really?

NATE

No.

Doris laughs. Nate wipes beer off Doris' upper lip. As Doris' depression lifts, her beauty is amplified. Nate is clearly taken with her. *Is he going to kiss her?*

We'll never know cause Brittany falls out of her keg stand onto them. They all fall on the floor, laughing.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - EARLY NEXT MORNING

All the teens are gone. Doris holds a BLOW DRYER to the couch to dry all the beer spit. Kristine enters. Doris quickly pivots the blow drier so it looks like she's drying her hair. Kristine doesn't notice and heads to her bedroom. Doris goes back to drying the couch.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - DAYS LATER

A blissful Doris, the girls, and the Wannabe girls are having a sleep over. They drink beer and pass a joint around, while watching a HORROR MOVIE. Brittany yells at the movie.

BRITTANY

Don't just stand there! Run, you dumb bitch!

The girls laugh. Laci plays with Doris' hair.

LACI

Man, I can't stand how dumb people are when real shit's goin' down.

DORIS
It's called the freeze response.
It's a survival instinct and your
brain just like, shuts down.
(off their looks)
... or whatever.

BRITTANY
Of course you would know that.

LACI
Oh, guess what I heard?

Everyone looks at her, hungry for gossip.

LACI (CONT'D)
Nate has a crush on Doris.

WANNABE BRITTANY
(jealous but covering)
What? Where'd you hear that?

BRITTANY
Ahhh! That's so cute. You guys
would be so cute.

Doris blushes.

WANNABE LACI
So cute.

DORIS
Who told you that?

WANNABE BRITTANY
Do you like him?

DORIS
I don't know.

LACI
If you do, I can totally make that
happen. I'm all about sisterhood.

BRITTANY
He's not like, deep and quiet or
whatever like you are. But he's
super cute, right?

All the girls look at Doris, expectantly. Doris tries to play
it cool.

DORIS
Um, I mean, he's sorta cute...

BRITTANY

Oh my God. You love him. She loves him.

The girls all laugh as Doris turns beet red.

LACI

You should go to prom with him!

BRITTANY

Oh well, now you *have* to! Too bad it's already out there. You're going with him.

WANNABE BRITTANY

Well, don't get her hopes up he might not be into her.

LACI

Ew, you sound really jealous and it's boring.

BRITTANY

So boring.

LACI

(re: Doris' hair)

Why don't you use gel? You got great hair.

DORIS

Ugh, I hate it. I don't know what to do with it.

WANNABE BRITTANY

You should just straighten that shit. I would kill myself if I had curly hair.

BRITTANY

Well then I wish you had curly hair.

Brittany and Laci keep standing up for Doris and Doris notices.

LACI

You got gel? I wanna mess with it.

DORIS

My mom might have some in the bathroom closet.

Laci gets up and opens a closet.

DORIS (CONT'D)
Oh-- not that one--

Doris hurries over to the closet.

LACI
Why you got a hospital in here?

Laci gestures to the hospital bed and all the medical supplies. All the girls gather around it. Doris feels caught.

DORIS
It's for my brother. He was sick
for a long time.

The girls look at each other. They have no idea what to say.

BRITTANY
That's... so heavy. Is he, like,
dead now?

DORIS
No, he's at Suncoast Hospice--

LACI
Shut the fuck up! With Terri
Schiavo?

BRITTANY
That's so cool. Have you seen her?

WANNABE BRITTANY
You have to get on the news!

WANNABE LACI
Holy shit! Can you get us on the
news?

Brittany roots around the shelves filled with pills. She holds up a BOTTLE OF OXYCONTIN.

BRITTANY
Can I have these?

DORIS
Sure.

BRITTANY
Tiiight!

Doris seems relieved.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

Doris finishes cleaning up the last of the sleep over mess.
Kristine enters. Kristine holds an ICE PACK on her back.

KRISTINE
That fuckin' cot is killing me.

Kristine notices the sleeping bags Doris just folded.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
You slept out here?

DORIS
Yeah...

Kristine then notices that Doris' hair is gelled. Her curls are sharply defined and shiny.

KRISTINE
What'd you do to your hair?

DORIS
Just put some gel in it.

Kristine checks it out. Doris looks nervous. Then:

KRISTINE
It's beautiful. Seriously, honey.
You look like me when I was your
age. I used to use so much gel.

Kristine smiles, touches Doris' hair and cups her face. It's a nice moment until:

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
Get dressed. I'm dropping you off
at Suncoast.

DORIS
What? I *just* saw him.

KRISTINE
Last week! What's the matter with
you? What're you doing that's so
important?

DORIS
Just school work and stuff.

KRISTINE

You're home alone too much. And he shouldn't be left with that psycho Irie. He needs visitors. He needs family. And I gotta go to work.

DORIS

Fine. Can I drive?

KRISTINE

No.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - LATER

Paul is being interviewed by Lisa Chan from ABC 10 o'clock news. He smokes a cigarette and rants. His stubble is longer. He's beginning to look unkempt, wild.

PAUL

... If the Supreme Court refuses to hear the case, then we're talkin' about a young woman bein' *murdered* by the highest court in the land. And those sons a bitches better give their heart to Jesus, 'cause their ass is mine.

Kristine pulls up, HONKING at protestors to move. Doris gets out. She watches Paul for a beat then heads inside.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - MOMENTS LATER

Doris does homework. She looks at her brother. She goes back to her homework. Then she takes a deep breath.

DORIS

Hi...

Doris hesitates. She feels like she's talking to a corpse. Her FLIP PHONE rings. She flips it open.

DORIS (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. BRITTANY'S HOUSE - BRITTANY'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Brittany sits on her canopy bed with her FLIP PHONE to her ear.

BRITTANY

Yo! Laci's here too.

INT. LACI'S HOUSE - LACI'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Laci lies on her plush white carpet talking into her FLIP PHONE'S SPEAKERPHONE.

LACI

What up?

INTERCUT DORIS/BRITTANY/LACI

BRITTANY

We were just talking and we were like - *I wonder what that hoebag is up to.* So now we're calling.

LACI

Soooo what are you up to, hoebag?

The girls laugh.

DORIS

Nothing. Just doing homework.

BRITTANY

Ugh, my mom keeps threatening to get me a tutor and I'd honestly rather die. But I just like can't motivate to do homework on my own.

LACI

Same. You're such a good girl, Doris.

DORIS

No, not-- really.

LACI

We're gonna seriously make this Nate thing happen. He absolutely has to take you to prom. Cause his last girlfriend, you know Anika Onagain? She was just *such* a bitch but we really like you.

DORIS

Oh, really?

BRITTANY

Duh, you're like, this super good person with like, this sick brother and stuff...

LACI

And you let us party at your house,
and you give super good advice.
We're like, friends. We have your
back now.

DORIS

Oh, that's so cool to hear. I mean,
I have your back too obviously.

BRITTANY

Dope dope dope. Okay, so will you
please help me talk Laci out of
getting back together with Dirty
Cody.

DORIS

Oh no, Laci, you can't. He sounds
like the worst.

LACI

You guys, he took my virginity.
I'll love him forever, it's like a
fact. I just *will* love him forever.

DORIS

Okay, but you can love him and not
be with him, right?

BRITTANY

Wow, such a good point.

Doris smiles, beaming. She walks away from her homework and
her brother, elated to be talking to her new friends.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT NIGHT

Doris, the girls, the Wannabe girls, Nate and a few guys sit
around playing DRUNK JENGA and smoking weed. Nate carefully
pulls a JENGA BLOCK from the TOWER. Handwritten on it is:
"~~never~~ have i ever."

NATE

Okay, never have I ever...

He looks at the girls devilishly.

NATE (CONT'D)

Waxed my pubes.

The girls all laugh. They have to drink because they have, of
course, all waxed their pubes.

They all drink their beers, except Doris. Doris realizes the implication of not drinking her beer and quickly drinks before anyone notices. Brittany gently pulls a Jenga block, written on it is: "dare."

BRITTANY

Okay, Dare. Hmmm, I dare... all the boys--

SOME DUDE

You can't do that! It's gotta be one person--

NATE

Dude, shut up. It's fine.

BRITTANY

I dare all the boys to... take off their clothes.

Doris looks embarrassed. Everyone else laughs playfully. After some protesting, the guys strip down to their briefs.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - SAME TIME

A brightly lit Lisa Chan speaks directly into a NEWS CAMERA.

LISA CHAN

... And the U.S. Supreme Court has officially refused to hear an appeal from her parents...

Behind her, protestors are fired up, CHANTING and WAVING signs. Kristine's truck pulls into the chaotic parking lot. Kristine is stopped by Officer Chauncey.

OFFICER CHAUNCEY

Hi, there, ma'am.

KRISTINE

Look who it is. My hero. You wanna cavity search me? Make sure I'm not hiding any bombs back there.

He looks nervous because Kristine is terrifying.

OFFICER CHAUNCEY

I'm sorry, ma'am. But-- no visitors are allowed tonight. The Supreme Court just--

KRISTINE

I don't give a shit what the Supreme Court did. I'm going to sleep next to my son.

OFFICER CHAUNCEY

I can't let you do that. No one is allowed in until morning.

Kristine makes a motion to drive forward.

OFFICER CHAUNCEY (CONT'D)

Ma'am, I will have to place you under arrest--

KRISTINE

Are you kidding me?!

Kristine thinks for a beat. She throws her truck in reverse.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

You should be real proud of yourself, buddy! You kept a grieving mother from her dying son tonight! Congratulations! I hope you get the medal of honor!

She peels away. Officer Chauncey takes a deep breath.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The guys are still in their briefs. The girl's shirts are off. Doris' bra is by far the least cute bra anyone has ever seen. Doris pulls a block: "Waterfalls." She holds it up and everyone reacts.

DORIS

What does 'waterfalls' mean?

BRITTANY

You gotta chug a whole beer.

Before Brittany finishes her sentence, Laci pops the cap of a beer and hands it to Doris. Doris nervously starts to chug.

EVERYONE

Chug it... chug it.... chug it...
Chug! Chug! Chug! Chug! Chug! Chug!

Doris' eyes water as she struggles to finish it. She finally does and holds it upside down. Everyone CHEERS.

Doris smiles, wiping beer off her mouth and trying not to burp. Laci pulls a block: "Dare."

LACI

I dare... Nate to kiss Doris.

Everyone "Ooo's" and teases them. Nate grins at Doris for an awkward beat then he leans forward... Doris' first kiss happens over a Jenga tower.

Nate pulls Doris close to him, knocking over the Jenga tower. Everyone LAUGHS. This is the best moment of Doris' young life--

KRISTINE (O.S.)

WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON?!

This is the worst moment of Doris' young life. Doris rips away from Nate to see her mom standing in the open doorway.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

WHAT IS THIS?! Put your God damn clothes on now!

The kids are scrambling to get dressed. Doris can't find her shirt. She looks like she's going to have a heart attack.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

GET THE FUCK OUT OF MY HOUSE!

Kristine throws their purses and shit out the front door.

DORIS

Mom, please--

KRISTINE

Don't you talk to me! You're dead!
You're having orgies while I'm
sleeping on a FUCKING COT!

Kristine is shaking with anger.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

You know what?! I'm calling the
police!

The kids look terrified. Kristine grabs a nearby PHONE.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Underage drinking! Having God damn
orgies! In my house?!

DORIS

No, Mom! Please! Be mad at me,
ground me, whatever you want-- But
let them go! PLEASE!

KRISTINE

You have two minutes.

The kids race out the door grabbing whatever they can.

EXT. DORIS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The teens run and get dressed at the same time. They pile in
their cars and peel away. Kristine SLAMS THE FRONT DOOR.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Doris looks at her mom with shame filled eyes. Kristine just
goes into her bedroom and SLAMS THE DOOR.

INT./ EXT. FORD PICK-UP TRUCK - NEXT DAY

Kristine is in her waitress uniform driving in an enraged
silence. Doris sits next to her.

DORIS

Mom, I--

KRISTINE

Nah! Don't. I don't want to hear
it. I trusted you-- I left you in
charge of the house-- And you--
Well those days are over! You're
not allowed to be home alone ever
again. After school you go straight
to Suncoast and wait for me--

DORIS

Mom--

Kristine throws her hand up, silencing her.

KRISTINE

Ah! Not one word!

Kristine pulls into Suncoast and HONKS at PROTESTERS in her
path.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
This is our home until your brother
dies! I hope you like cots! Cause
that's all they have!

Officer Chauncey approaches Kristine's truck window. Kristine
blows past him.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
Go fuck yourself, Barney Fife!

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - CONTINUOUS

Kristine reaches over Doris and flings the passenger door
open.

KRISTINE
Get out of the car.

Doris angrily gets out of the car. Kristine drives away.

Paul sits under a tree next to a sign that says: "HITLER MURDERED
THE DISABLED TOO." Doris notices Paul has been watching her.
Doris heads over to Paul. Wordlessly, he hands her a
cigarette and a lighter. They smoke in silence, then:

PAUL
Wanna go watch the Superbowl?

Doris looks at him and almost smiles. She nods.

DORIS
I do. I really do.

INT. NEARBY BAR - LATER

Doris and Paul sit at the PACKED bar. Doris wolfs down
CHICKEN FINGERS. Paul sips a beer. THE PATRIOTS and THE
EAGLES are on the TV. People BOO and CHEER respectively.

DORIS
... so now they'll probably never
talk to me again.

PAUL
If they're your friends, they'll
talk to you.

DORIS
My mom freaked out on them!

PAUL

So?

DORIS

So... I don't know. I was having fun for the first time in my life and she ruined it. She ruins everything.

PAUL

Look, I get it, you want to be a "normal" teenager.

DORIS

Yes! Exactly. Why can't she get that?

PAUL

Well, I got news for you. You're not normal, Doris, you're different. You're going through something real here. And this whole thing is a gift. It might not seem like it, but it is.

DORIS

No, it's definitely not.

PAUL

It definitely *is* God dammit!

Paul SMACKS the bar, Doris jumps a little.

PAUL (CONT'D)

You're learning what's truly important in this fucked up world and those friends of yours sound like the most important part of their day is getting a tan.

DORIS

I wish I could go get a tan...

PAUL

And your mom is... in pain. She wants to do the right thing but she doesn't know what that is.

DORIS

I just wish he would freakin' die already and then she would leave me alone.

Paul looks stung by this. He goes back to nursing his beer.

DORIS (CONT'D)
I-- I obviously don't mean that.
I'm just... ugh, never mind.

Doris and Paul watch the Superbowl in silence.

DORIS (CONT'D)
... How did your wife die?

PAUL
Wow, you're a real fun person to
watch the game with.

Doris laughs.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Brain aneurysm. In her sleep. She
was perfectly healthy. I woke up
and... she was gone. There was
nothin' I could do.

Paul cradles his beer with both hands.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Then there's Michael Schiavo. His
wife is still alive and he *wants* to
let her go... I mean, shit, now he
is fightin' to watch her starve...
If I ever saw that piece of shit on
the street I would--

A BARTENDER puts FISH N' CHIPS down in front of Paul.

BARTENDER
Fish n' chips.

The bartender walks away.

PAUL
-- Let's just say it wouldn't be a
good day for dear ol' Michael.

Paul picks up a piece of FRIED FISH. Doris makes a grossed
out face. Paul waves it in front of Doris' face. She laughs.
Doris takes one of his fries, playfully.

DORIS
I'll just stick with these, thanks.

PAUL
So what would you really be doin'
right now if you were a "normal"
teenager? Seriously just laying on
the beach gettin' tan?

Doris thinks.

DORIS
No, I don't know... I-- I really
wanna drive.

Paul looks at her confused.

DORIS (CONT'D)
I'm seventeen, and I only have a
learners permit, my mom never lets
me drive. But-- I've always wanted
to... Since I was five years old,
I've dreamed about driving. So I
could go anywhere, anytime I
wanted, on my own, and be like...
completely free.

Paul looks moved. Paul lifts up his beer.

PAUL
Then a-fuckin'-men to that.

Doris lifts her soda and they clink glasses. The Eagles score
a touchdown and the whole bar is on their feet SCREAMING.

PAUL (CONT'D)
YES! COME ON!
(to Doris)
Between you and me, I gotta lotta
money ridin' on this game.

Doris takes in this oddly handsome and slightly decaying man
then she joins in with the bar CHEERING and CLAPPING.

INT. TAMPA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - MONDAY MORNING

Doris sits at her desk as other students trickle in. Brittany
and Laci enter. Doris looks nervous. Do they hate her?

DORIS
So, um, I'm really sorry about my
mom--

Brittany looks at her, then:

BRITTANY
That was *so* funny.

LACI
Oh my God. Bro, she was trippin'.
And I thought *my* mom was a maniac.

BRITTANY
That was some straight up Jerry
Springer shit. Too funny.

The girls seem completely over it. Doris relaxes.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
So, we're gonna skip tomorrow and
get fake IDs.

LACI
We figured if we can't hang at your
place anymore we should try to go
to Ybor.

DORIS
Oh, yeah, that makes sense. Good
luck.

BRITTANY
Good luck? You're coming with us.

DORIS
I am?

BRITTANY
I mean, are you?

DORIS
Yes! Definitely. I'm coming.

BRITTANY
Don't tell the other girls about
it.

LACI
Dear God no. I'm so sick of them.
We're all about like lifting girls
up and they're like total tear
downs. So boring.

DORIS
Oh, yeah, totally boring.

Doris is thrilled. They still want to be her friend! Nate
enters.

NATE
There she is. Glad your mom didn't
kill you. Thanks for taking all
that heat.

DORIS
Oh, yeah, no problem.

NATE
So we're getting fakes tomorrow--

BRITTANY
We told her. She's coming.

Nate smiles. Doris looks thrilled.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)
I'll come scoop you in the morning.

DORIS
Can you actually pick me up at
Suncoast... I kind of live there
now.

BRITTANY
Oh, wow. Bummer. Sure.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris watches TV. Her brother is asleep in his bed.

Kristine enters, in her waitressing uniform. She sits down,
opens her TO-GO BOX and eats. Doris does not eat out of the
to-go box. They don't even look at each other.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Kristine pulls her COT out of the closet and opens it up.
Doris watches her and does the same.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - BATHROOM - LATER

Doris brushes her teeth. Kristine washes her face.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris lays on her cot, wide awake. Kristine lightly SNORES on
the cot next to her. Her brother's machines make light
BEEPING noises. Doris looks up at the ceiling. The HUMMING
NOISE is back.

Doris sits with these sounds as long as she can. Then she
gets up. She looks out the window. The night shift of
protesters have less energy than the day shift.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Doris quietly steps out into the hallway. It's empty.

She walks toward a SNACK machine. She puts some QUARTERS in and gets a BAG OF COOKIES. Her mother didn't bring her dinner, so this is it. She opens the cookies and munches on them. She continues down a different hallway.

She notices A DOOR CRACKED OPEN. Unlike the other rooms, there's a chair in the hallway as if someone usually sits outside the door. Doris looks at the chair and then into the open door... and holy shit! It's TERRI FUCKING SCHIAVO.

Doris holds her breath. Terri's dark hair is short and she is overweight. Her arms are unnaturally curled up by her neck. Doris steps closer to the doorway.

Doris takes in this woman. This woman with closed eyes and an open mouth. This woman who has the whole country in a frenzy. This woman who is trapped in this room, trapped in this bed.

Tears fall out of Doris' eyes. Maybe for Schiavo. Maybe for her brother. Maybe for herself. Probably for herself.

Doris hears somebody WALKING and hurries away. A SECURITY GUARD rounds the corner. He eyes Doris as he quickly shuts Terri's door and sits on the empty chair in the hallway.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris pulls the blankets up around her. She lays awake in her cot listening to the sounds of the living and the dying.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - NEXT MORNING

Kristine drinks COFFEE. Doris, wearing her school uniform, grabs her SCHOOL STUFF and heads for the door.

KRISTINE

Whoa, where are you going? I'm not ready to take you yet.

DORIS

I have a ride.

Doris motions out the window. Brittany's 2004 WHITE MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE is outside. Brittany, Laci, and Nate are visible.

KRISTINE

Oh, your new *friends* are taking you to school? I barely recognized them with their clothes on.

Kristine watches out the window as Officer Chauncey heads over to the Mustang to talk to Brittany.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Oop, looks like Deputy Dipshit is on the case.

Doris heads for the door. Kristine notices Doris' gelled hair and lipstick.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Are you wearing make-up?

DORIS

What? No.

Doris rushes out. Kristine calls after her.

KRISTINE

You're coming straight here after school!

Kristine watches through the window as Doris happily runs out of the building toward her friends.

Laci snaps pictures of the protestors, Officer Chauncey, and the news vans with her DISPOSABLE CAMERA. Kristine shakes her head at them.

INT. BRITTANY'S MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE - MOMENTS LATER

Doris is in the backseat with Nate. Doris clocks that the others aren't wearing their school uniforms. She takes off her polo shirt and wears a tank top underneath.

Brittany blares Britney Spears' *Toxic*. The girls animatedly sing every word while doing a choreographed hand-dance. Doris mumbles along, holding her hair down from the wind.

DORIS

(yelling)

Your car is amazing.

BRITTANY

What?

DORIS

Your car!

BRITTANY

Cool!

Brittany can't hear her. Doris' school shirt blows out the back. Doris yells.

DORIS

Oh shit! Stop!

Brittany slams on her BRAKES.

BRITTANY

What the fuck, Doris?!

DORIS

Sorry, my shirt just blew out.

Doris looks back as CARS speed by. Her shirt is gone.

LACI

Your shirt?

DORIS

My school shirt.

BRITTANY

Oh my god. Who cares?

NATE

Just buy a new one.

DORIS

I can't afford--

(beat)

Yeah, yeah. It's fine. I'll just buy a new one.

Doris tries to seem like she fits into this carefree group.

EXT. BAD NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

Brittany's car looks out of place in front of this RUN-DOWN HOUSE with an even more RUN DOWN COUCH in the front yard.

EXT. RUN-DOWN HOUSE - SAME TIME

A sketchy older white dude, SUGAR BEAR, sits on the couch, smoking a blunt and going through a SHOE BOX FULL OF WALLETS.

The teens approach him. He notices Doris.

SUGAR BEAR
Who's she?

BRITTANY
This is Doris. Doris this is Sugar
Bear.

Doris reaches her hand out.

DORIS
Nice to meet you...

He ignores this. Doris puts her hand down.

BRITTANY
(sweetly, aside to Doris)
Wow, you like, shake hands? That's
so cute.

He takes an ID out of a wallet and hands it to Brittany.

SUGAR BEAR
What about this one? She's twenty-
two.

Brittany and Laci look at it the BLONDE LADY in the photo.

LACI
She looks just like you.

BRITTANY
Yeah, she's hot. I'll take it.

She hands him a WAD OF CASH. Sugar Bear hands Nate an ID.

SUGAR BEAR
He's twenty-eight. But you can
pass, dog.

Nate looks at it.

NATE
He's white.

Sugar Bear looks annoyed and goes back to the box. He hands
Nate another ID.

NATE (CONT'D)
Yeah, that'll work.

He hands Sugar Bear some CASH. Sugar Bear looks at Laci.

LACI

Oh, I don't need one I got my
sister's.

SUGAR BEAR

(to Doris)

You?

DORIS

Um, how much are they?

SUGAR BEAR

A hundred.

DORIS

I don't have that right now, but
thank you anyway.

Sugar Bear looks through the box.

SUGAR BEAR

How bout' this one? It's gonna
expire soon. You can just have it.

He hands Doris an ID with a photo of FEMALE WEIRD AL YANKOVIC
on it.

LACI

That's perfect.

BRITTANY

That'll totally work.

DORIS

Okay, yeah, thank you so much.

Doris pockets it. Sugar Bear puts the shoe box down.

SUGAR BEAR

Hey, ya'll like puppies?

He motions to a large CARDBOARD BOX in the corner. The teens
look inside, it is full of PIT-BULL PUPPIES.

SUGAR BEAR (CONT'D)

Three hundred bucks each.

DORIS

Oh, no... thank you.

BRITTANY

We're good.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - LATER

Brittany's Mustang pulls up blaring Britney Spear's *I'm a Slave 4 U*. They drop Doris off and speed away.

Doris waves to Officer Chauncey as Paul pulls along side of her in his OLDSMOBILE. Paul gets out of the car.

PAUL

Get in. You're driving.

Doris lights up.

DORIS

Oh my God. Seriously?

Doris gets in the driver's seat as Paul gets in the passenger seat.

INT. PAUL'S OLDSMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

Doris sits behind the wheel, taking it all in. She looks around the car and notices a lot of CLOTHES in the backseat and a TOOTHBRUSH. *Does this dude live in his car?*

PAUL

Okay, normal girl, show me what you got.

Paul lights a CIGARETTE.

DORIS

Um, don't get freaked out cause I like, know the answer to this but, which pedal is go and which is stop?

PAUL

Are you serious?

Doris nods, *afraid so*.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Get the hell outta my car.

INT./ EXT. PAUL'S OLDSMOBILE - MOMENTS LATER

They have relocated to a safer location. This PARKING LOT is completely empty. Paul gets out of the driver's side and Doris gets in it again. Paul fills his lip with a wad of DIP and spits out the window.

PAUL

Okay, first, you gotta make sure that your mirrors are in the right place. Can you see out the back window in this?

He points to the REARVIEW MIRROR. Doris wiggles it.

DORIS

Now I can.

PAUL

What about the side mirrors can you see what's on either side of you?

DORIS

Sorta.

Paul reaches over her and adjusts the MIRROR BUTTONS. It's an intimate act, but Doris seems at ease.

DORIS (CONT'D)

Okay, there now I can.

PAUL

Alright, now press the right pedal-- wait, no the left. Now you got me fuckin' confused. Press the left pedal with your right foot, the big one, and hold it down. Now slide this fella' into "D."

Paul guides her hand to shift the car into DRIVE.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Now take your foot off the big pedal. And hit the gas.

The car lurches forward. Doris giggles.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Now steer! You gotta steer!

The car veers toward a pole.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Steer! Steer!

Doris sharply turns the wheel away from the pole.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Oh my God, she's gonna kill us.

This begins a MONTAGE:

- Doris drives around the parking lot in circles while Paul white-knuckles in his seat.
- Doris pulls into a parking spot and backs out.
- Paul SCREAMS something we can't hear while Doris almost backs into a pole.
- Doris drives around the parking lot more comfortably and Paul looks slightly more relaxed.
- Doris drives down a residential street. She veers into a curb but pulls out at the last second.
- Paul SCREAMS pointing to a STOP SIGN and Doris slams on the breaks.
- Doris pulls into a driveway and backs out smoothly. Paul looks proud, he pats Doris on the back and pumps his fist. Doris smiles.

EXT. PAUL'S OLDSMOBILE - LATER

Paul drives them back to Suncoast. Doris sits shotgun. Paul occasionally spits dip out the window.

PAUL

... and you wanna always be
checkin' *all* your mirrors, you
cannot mess around with that shit--

DORIS

Oh! Can you pull over?

PAUL

Huh?

DORIS

Right there, can you stop?

Paul pulls over, confused. Doris gets out of the car. She runs fifty feet back and digs around in the BUSHES. Paul watches her in his rearview mirror.

Doris looks around for several beats and then, *bingo*. She runs back to the car holding her SCHOOL SHIRT. She gets back in the car. Paul thinks, then:

PAUL

You know what, it's none of my
fuckin' business.

Doris laughs.

INT. ST. PETE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - MS. BURNS' OFFICE - NEXT DAY

A middle-aged woman in ill fitting business attire, MS. BURNS, reads a FILE at her desk. The AC is on, but Ms. Burns is sweating. Doris pops her head in the door.

DORIS

You wanted to see me, Ms. Burns?

MS. BURNS

Ah, yes, hi, Doris. Have a seat.

Doris does.

MS. BURNS (CONT'D)

How well do you know Brittany Douglas, Laci Green, and Nate Gregor?

DORIS

Um... I don't know.

MS. BURNS

Well, this is very unlike you. But all four of you were absent yesterday, without a note, so am I right to assume you were skipping school?

DORIS

Oh, no, I mean, I know them-- but I wasn't skipping... I was...

(feigning somber)

I was at hospice.

MS. BURNS

Oh?

DORIS

Yeah, my brother is there. He's dying. He only has a few weeks left.

MS. BURNS

My goodness, I'm so sorry, Doris. I knew he was sick-- but I didn't realize...

DORIS

(feigning martyrdom)

Yeah... I'm trying to spend every second I can with him.

MS. BURNS

Of course. Of course. Forget I said anything. Next time just get your mom to write a note-- Or you know what, she has enough on her plate. Why don't you just give me a heads up next time?

DORIS

Absolutely. Will do.

MS. BURNS

You are very brave, Doris.

Doris nods, trying to look brave and not like a shitty liar.

INT. ST. PETE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NEXT DAY

Mr. Ladd stands at the front TALKING. Brittany, Laci, Nate and Doris whisper.

DORIS

... But don't worry I didn't tell her anything about you guys.

BRITTANY

Ha, I couldn't be less worried. That dinosaur can eat my ass.

NATE

Sweaty Burns, at it again.

LACI

On to actual important stuff, Ybor City is a go for tonight, yeah?

BRITTANY

Mos def, oh Doris, you will live for Prana.

NATE

It has five different floors and each one has a different DJ.

DORIS

I just pray my mom goes to sleep so I can sneak out...

BRITTANY

She will. You gotta think positive--

MR. LADD

And what's your opinion, Brittany?

BRITTANY

About what?

MR. LADD

The Terri Schiavo case? The case that we've been discussing all morning...

BRITTANY

Full disclosure, I haven't been listening.

The whole class giggles.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

But I will say, I think the whole Schiavo thing is wrong.

MR. LADD

Why is that?

LACI

Because people should be allowed to die. Like, she told her husband to let her die, if she ever ended up like that, and all those white Republican dudes just need to honor her wishes.

MR. LADD

I wasn't asking you, but thank you, Laci.

BRITTANY

I mean, you really should be asking Doris. She like, basically knows Terri Schiavo.

LACI

Her brother is in hospice with Schiavo *right now*.

HUMPHREY

Who's Doris?

Everyone looks confused.

DORIS

Um, I am.

The whole class looks at Doris, *that girl talks?*

MR. LADD

Doris, you don't have to talk about this if you don't want to. I didn't realize...

DORIS

No, it's okay... it's just sorta hard to talk about it like this-- Like, the way we talk about stuff in this class...

MR. LADD

What do you mean?

DORIS

Just like, I don't know. We sit here and we talk about hypothetical situations and what the right or wrong action is... but you can't really answer those questions cause you don't know. You don't know what's right or wrong until it's happening to you.

Doris looks at Humphrey.

DORIS (CONT'D)

You can say abortion is wrong but if you were in a situation where you *really* needed one, suddenly it's not wrong. We can say Terri's husband is a monster for wanting her to die or her parents are monsters for wanting her to live but we don't *know*, do we? Cause we're not them. I guess you don't know what's "ethical" until... you know.

Mr. Ladd is about to speak when the bell BEEPS. Every kid immediately gets up and heads out.

LACI

So smart, Doris.

BRITTANY

See you tonight, beebee.

Brittany, Laci and Nate head out, leaving Doris looking a little shell-shocked at her own self-expression.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - LATER

Lisa Chan talks directly into a NEWS CAMERA.

LISA CHAN

... And her feeding tube was removed this afternoon. Her parents are running out of time and running out of courts...

Doris walks past Lisa Chan as Paul riles up the crowd.

PAUL

... This ain't over! We have been here before! But God will not let this happen! God has not forsaken her! God has not forsaken us!

Sarah, the protester, removes the red tape from her mouth.

SARAH

God has not forsaken us!

The protesters all cheer and shout different things about God and forsaking as Doris walks through the automatic doors.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Doris steps inside and lifts up her arms as a female SECURITY GUARD wands her. The security guard notices Doris watching Paul yell at the crowd.

SECURITY GUARD

All the crazies are gettin' crazier. Seems like this nightmare'll be over soon.

DORIS

Yeah...

Doris unzips her backpack so the security guard can peek inside. The security guard pulls out a DISPOSABLE CAMERA.

SECURITY GUARD

No more cameras allowed inside.

DORIS

Seriously...? What if I want to take a picture with my brother?

SECURITY GUARD

I know. It's a damn shame.

The security guard takes the camera.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - BATHROOM - LATER

Doris and Kristine brush their teeth in silence.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

The room is dark except for the LIGHT from a NEWS VAN shining in through the window and the soft glow of Doris' brother's machines. Kristine lays in her cot. Doris gets in her cot and immediately closes her eyes. After a long beat:

KRISTINE

Doris?

DORIS

Hmmm?

KRISTINE

I, uh, just wanna say... I know this is hard, sleeping here every night... and I know you're a good kid so let's forget about the whole... party at our house thing.

DORIS

Oh, okay, thanks.

Doris keeps her eyes shut.

KRISTINE

... I do think we'll be very grateful when we look back on all this. Grateful that we got to sleep next to him every night.

DORIS

Yeah, maybe...

Doris looks at a new TEXT on her phone from Brittany: "C U soon bb." Doris fakes a YAWN.

DORIS (CONT'D)

Man, I'm so tired. Goodnight, Mom.

KRISTINE

If you forget about how awful this place is, it's almost like we're having a sleep over.

Kristine chuckles.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)
The world's saddest sleep over.

DORIS
Yeah... Mom, you should really get some sleep, you've been working so hard.

KRISTINE
Okay, okay, jeez. Goodnight, Dory... I love you.

Kristine closes her eyes, she seems more at ease after making peace with her daughter. Doris lies with her eyes wide open, so guilty.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris is obviously wide awake, listening to Kristine SNORING next to her. Doris gets up, watching her mother carefully. Doris enters the bathroom and closes the door.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - HALLWAY - LATER

Doris, now wearing very gaudy make-up and a hoodie and sweatpants, nods at TERRI'S GUARD as she passes Terri's door. Behind that door, a woman is beginning to starve, but Doris isn't thinking about that right now.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - MOMENTS LATER

Brittany and Laci sit in the idling Mustang. They notice Doris approaching and do a silent dance, celebrating that she made it out. Doris gets in and Brittany slowly drives away.

INT./ EXT. BRITTANY'S MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE - MOMENTS LATER

As soon as Brittany rounds the corner, she TURNS ON Beyonce.

BRITTANY
Holy crap! I'm legit scared of your mom I was like, that bitch is gonna wake up and murder us!

LACI
Whoa, your make-up looks so good! I brought you an outfit!

Laci throws Doris a SKIMPY BLACK OUTFIT and Doris changes in the backseat.

LACI (CONT'D)

And these are my old fuck-me boots,
but they're still cute!

Laci tosses some THIGH HIGH BLACK BOOTS to Doris.

BRITTANY

Okay, Nate and the other girls are
meeting us there... with Dirty
Cody. Ugh, have you met him yet?
He's the worst.

LACI

He's in college, that's why you
haven't met him. And we're back
together.

DORIS

Well, I hope it works out this
time. I honestly do. I support you.

LACI

This! See, Britt, *this* is what a
real friend looks like!

BRITTANY

Whatever, easy for you to say,
Doris. You haven't been dealing
with this shit for four years.

(beat)

Ybor here we come, motha fuckas!

Brittany CRANKS Beyonce and the girls SCREAM with their hands
in the air as they fly over the bridge to Tampa.

INT. PRANA NIGHTCLUB - LATER

The girls are at the front of a LINE. A DOORMAN checks
Brittany's ID and then lets her in. Doris wears an outfit
made for a leather loving stripper and whispers to Laci.

DORIS

I'm so nervous.

LACI

No, dude, you're fine. But
definitely stop whispering.

The doorman checks Laci's ID and lets her through. Then Doris
hands him her Weird Al Yankovich ID. He inspects it.

DOORMAN

Um, hold up...

Doris gulps. Brittany and Laci low-key watch from inside.

DOORMAN (CONT'D)

You know your ID is gonna expire soon?

DORIS

Oh, yeah, duh, I gotta go to the DMV and get a new one. Cause that's where I got that one... I mean, you knew that. Obviously.

The doorman looks at her curiously. Then he nods her in. Doris looks like she almost crapped her tiny leather shorts.

INT. PRANA NIGHTCLUB - MOMENTS LATER

The girls are in full celebration mode! They're in! Doris takes in this crowd of UNDERAGE GIRLS dressed like prostitutes and OVERAGE GIRLS dressed in jeans and t-shirts.

The music PUMPS louder than anything Doris has ever heard. CLUB-TYPE MEN check our girls out. Brittany and Laci love it. Doris has not been desensitized to it yet.

BRITTANY

Come on, I'm buying drinks!

NATE (O.S.)

Nope, I got Doris.

Nate appears and puts his arm around Doris' waist.

NATE (CONT'D)

You look amazing. What can I get you?

Doris looks nauseous and delighted.

DORIS

Oh-- um, I'll get-- or you can get me a...

(to Laci)

What are you having?

LACI

Captain and coke, bitch!

DORIS

Captain and coke please!

Nate smiles and disappears into the crowd.

BRITTANY
Don't look now but Dirty Cody is
being...
(newscaster voice)
that's right folks, he's being
dirty as hell!

Brittany gestures to a tall guy with a goatee as he grinds on the dance floor with a GIRL who is probably fourteen. This is classic DIRTY CODY.

LACI
Excuse me, ladies. Sisterhood and
all that, but I'm about to snatch a
bitch.

Laci heads off. Nate appears with Doris' DRINK. She sips it.

DORIS
Oh my God. Why is this so good?!

Nate laughs.

NATE
You wanna come up on the roof with
me? There's a bar up there and it's
quieter.

Before Doris can answer, her PHONE RINGS. She looks at the screen: MOM. *Oh shit.*

DORIS
Um, I gotta-- I'll be back.

Doris runs outside...

EXT. PRANA NIGHTCLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Doris answers the phone.

DORIS
Hello?

KRISTINE (V.O.)
Doris. You better get back here
right now. The nurses are all here
and... it's time. Your brother is
going to go... he's gonna die
tonight.

Kristine hangs up. Doris looks horrified.

INT. PRANA NIGHTCLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Doris looks around, but she can't find anyone. She scans faces on the dance floor, still nothing. Dudes try to grind on her ass as she searches frantically. She runs to a flight of stairs and climbs up so she can look down and get a better view of the crowd, but her friends are gone...

INT. PRANA NIGHTCLUB - STAIRWELL - LATER

Doris sprints upstairs in her six-inch-high heels. She's sweating and frantic. She opens a door marked: "Roof."

She runs out onto a chic rooftop bar. String lights hang over DRUNK PEOPLE as they relax on lounge chairs. She scans this crowd and spots her friends. She runs to them.

NATE

There she is.

DORIS

Oh-- Um, Brittany, I'm so sorry,
but can you take me back to
Suncoast?

BRITTANY

Haha, very funny, bitch.

DORIS

No, I'm serious, my brother is--
he's about to die.

The energy of this carefree crowd changes immediately.

WANNABE LACI

Whoa, that's so heavy.

BRITTANY

Oh God, of course. Yeah.

LACI

Yeah, let's go.

NATE

I'll come.

DIRTY CODY

I'll come too. I'm Cody, by the
way.

Doris runs out and these young, ill-prepared kids follow. The Wannabe girls stay behind and immediately change the subject.

WANNABE BRITTANY
Did you hear what happened to
Charlotte Yang?

WANNABE LACI
Shut up! Yes! I literally died...

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - LATER

Brittany pulls up and Doris hops over the side before the car is fully stopped. She runs past whatever COP is on duty.

Paul stands in a group of NIGHT PROTESTERS and watches Doris curiously.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - MOMENTS LATER

Doris bursts in to find her mother sitting on the couch and her brother lying peacefully in bed.

KRISTINE
Are you kidding me? This is how
you're dressed?

DORIS
(out of breath)
What...? Did he...? Is he still...?

Doris runs to her brother, but he looks the same as always.

DORIS (CONT'D)
What's going on?

KRISTINE
Relax, he's not about to die, but
he could be. You never know, he's
in hospice...

DORIS
What? You lied?

KRISTINE
It wasn't a lie! He could've died
tonight and you weren't here! After
I tell you what a good kid you are,
you sneak out dressed like a
hooker? Well, joke's on me, I
guess.

DORIS
You made me think--? What the fuck
is wrong with you?!

KRISTINE

What is wrong with *me*? Oh that's really rich, Doris. You break all the rules and *I'm* the bad guy.

DORIS

You're worse than the bad guy, you're a fuckin' monster! You just don't tell someone that! You don't lie about that.

Doris starts to cry.

KRISTINE

Oh good the water works.

DORIS

Yes, okay, I snuck out but that doesn't mean you can-- I've always done everything you ask me to. My entire childhood was wasted taking care of him so you didn't have to!

KRISTINE

Didn't *have* to?! You think I liked leaving my sick child to go serve food to tourists?! You think I wanted to work instead of be with my boy? I *had* to work so we could eat! So we could pay rent! So you could go to your *private* school with your perverted friends!

DORIS

I'm done. I'm done with this. I'm not coming back here. You can live here with your precious son. He's basically dead anyway. You can both fuck off.

Doris walks out.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - MOMENTS LATER

Doris bursts outside, wiping away tears. She walks toward the main road. Paul catches up to her.

DORIS

I don't wanna talk right now.

PAUL

We don't have to talk.

Paul walks with her in silence.

DORIS

I just want to be alone.

PAUL

I'm so sorry, Doris. Did... your brother pass away?

DORIS

No! No! She told me he was about to! She lied to me. My mom is a psycho! I really don't wanna talk about it.

Doris wipes away tears and keeps walking. Her boot heel breaks. She tries to walk with the broken heel for a few steps, then she sits on the ground and pulls the ridiculous boots off. She walks barefoot.

PAUL

Do you want me to drive you somewhere?

Doris ignores him.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I-- I know you don't want to hear this right now, but your mom just did you a huge favor. I saw you run in that building. You thought he was goin' and you ran to him. You're not ready for him to go. You think you are, but you're not. You need to make peace with him while you got the chance--

DORIS

Shut up! Please just shut the fuck up! Who even are you? You're like some old guy who's obsessed with Terri Schiavo cause you can't get over your dead wife? Do I look like her or something? Is that why you're always bothering me? Well, I'm not her! So just leave me the fuck alone.

Doris walks faster. Paul stops walking, hurt.

PAUL

No... that ain't it at all. You're just a... kid. You seemed like you needed--

DORIS
 I don't *need* anything from you.
 Just get the hell away from me!

Doris runs out into the street narrowly missing a CAR.

PAUL
 Doris!

Doris keeps running. Her bare feet slap the concrete as Paul watches her disappear into the night.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - NEXT DAY

QUICK CUTS:

- Doris lies on her bed, wide awake, still wearing the leather outfit. Mascara is smeared all over her face. Her bare feet are black from running for miles.
- Doris looks at her alarm clock: 6:25 AM
- Doris walks around her empty house.
- Doris takes a shower.
- Doris brushes her teeth, wearing a TOWEL.
- Doris gets dressed in her school uniform.

INT./EXT. SCHOOL VAN - LATER

The van is parked in front of Doris' house. Doris gets in. Doris sits in front of Wannabe Laci and Wannabe Brittany. They fall into an awkward silence when they see her.

WANNABE BRITTANY
 ... Um, I'm so sorry for your loss--

DORIS
 He didn't die. It was a... false alarm.

WANNABE BRITTANY
 (huge relief)
 Oh thank God. Cause I had zero idea what to say to you just now.

WANNABE LACI
 Me too. Do people like when you say, "sorry for your loss?"

WANNABE BRITTANY

I always feel so generic when I say
it...

They wait for Doris to speak for all grieving people.

DORIS

Um, yeah it's fine.

WANNABE BRITTANY

Sweet. Okay, so you missed an epic
night, after you left we all met up
at Nate's house, Laci got so
wasted, she jumped in the pool
naked and Cody was beyond pissed...

Doris listens to these girls prattle on about nothing.

EXT. TAMPA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - LATER

Brittany, Laci, Nate and other cool kids hang out in a group.
Laci sees Doris and runs to her. She pulls her into a
dramatic hug. She holds her as the other kids crowd around.

LACI

Back off! She needs her space!
(to Doris)
Shhhh. It's okay, girl. We're here
for you.

BRITTANY

Forever. We'll always be here.

DORIS

(muffled, into Laci's
chest)
He didn't die.

NATE

Wow, really? Okay, that's amazing.

LACI

Yeah, I'm so happy to hear that!

Laci finally lets go of Doris.

LACI (CONT'D)

Well, now Nate has something to ask
you--

NATE

Stop--

BRITTANY

He wasn't going to do it today
cause if your brother had died he
felt weird asking but--

NATE

Shut up, both of you. I don't need
you to speak for me.

LACI

He *so* does.

Nate approaches Doris. He's nervous but trying to be cool.

NATE

Um, nah, I was just wondering if
like, you wanted to go to prom with
me?

Doris looks stunned. She didn't realize it until now, but
she's been waiting for this moment her entire life.

DORIS

I--

But her emotions are completely fucked right now so she just
says:

DORIS (CONT'D)

Sure.

Nate looks concerned. Doris smiles to ease his concern.

DORIS (CONT'D)

I mean, yes, of course. Yes.

NATE

Good. Good.

LACI

Kiss her!

BRITTANY

Finger her!

Laci and Brittany laugh, but Nate does pull Doris into a
kiss, it's weird and nice.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Doris watches her TV DINNER move in circles inside the
microwave.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

Doris searches the back of a cupboard and pulls out a half empty bottle of CAPTAIN MORGAN from Kristine's stash.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - KITCHEN

Doris pours COCA COLA into a glass and mixes it with Captain Morgan. Doris fills the Captain Morgan bottle with tap water to replace what she stole.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Doris sits in front of the TV with her drink and her dinner. She flips through the channels. She stops when she sees Paul being interviewed by Lisa Chan.

ON TV:

PAUL

... and we're going to fight this thing all the way to city hall. These folks behind me are prepared to march--

Doris changes the channel.

ON TV:

CNN NEWS ANCHOR

And three of Florida's top neurologists viewed Schiavo's CT scans. Saying it is quote, "the most severe brain damage I've seen." And quote, "The chance that this person is going to recover is about zero..." She has now been without nutrition or hydration for several days and it looks like the long battle over this young woman's life is coming to an end--

Doris turns off the TV. She sips her drink and eats in silence.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Doris has all the PHOTO ALBUMS out. She skims through photos of her brother at all different stages in his life.

INSERT: PHOTOS

- YOUNG DORIS and her BROTHER. They're both healthy and playing with toys.
- Young Doris and her brother riding bikes.
- Young Doris and her brother swinging on a rope swing into a river.
- Young Doris and her brother opening Christmas presents.
- Doris sitting by her brother's hospital bed.
- Doris playing checkers with her brother who has a large bandage on his head.
- Doris pushing her brother's wheelchair. He smiles at the camera, the definition of a trooper.

INT. DORIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Photo albums are everywhere, but Doris is glued to the TV.

ON TV: An old home movie, Young Doris and her brother are running around the backyard. Kristine films them. Kristine sounds a hundred years younger and unrecognizably happy.

KRISTINE (O.S.)

Okay, guys, do the Muscle Beach!

Doris and her brother both flex their muscles and growl, trying to look tough. Kristine LAUGHS.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Now do the Moonwalk.

Doris does a terrible Moonwalk across the lawn, basically just walking backwards. She watches her brother.

YOUNG DORIS

Wait, how do you do it--?

DORIS' BROTHER

No, Dory, you gotta slide your foot.

Doris mimics his foot movement.

DORIS' BROTHER (CONT'D)

Yeah, sliiiiiide and sliiiiiide.

YOUNG DORIS

(singing)

And sliiiiiide and sliiiiiide!

They both start singing this nonsensical song and cracking each other up. Kristine laughs too.

Doris turns off the TV. She sits in this pile of memories, trying not to implode.

EXT. INTERNATIONAL PLAZA - TAMPA - DAYS LATER

Brittany whips her Mustang into the parking lot, narrowly dodging OLD PEOPLE and TEENS. Somehow Florida's entire population seems like it is made up of old people and teens. Doris, Laci and the wannabe girls get out of the Mustang.

A black RANGE ROVER parks nearby. TWO WHITE WOMEN and TWO BLACK WOMEN get out. The women are all in their 50's. They are well dressed, Florida chic. Their hair is coiffed, Florida classy. The two white women's skin is deeply tanned, Florida crispy.

BRITTANY'S MOM

Jesus, Britt you almost hit someone--

BRITTANY

Oh God, Mom, give it a rest.

LACI'S MOM

I think we should go to Neiman's first--

WANNABE BRITTANY'S MOM

Yeah, they have the classiest formal wear.

This group of teens and their future-selves head toward the mall. Wannabe Laci's mom notices Doris.

WANNABE LACI'S MOM

Oh, hello. I'm Carol.

DORIS

Doris, hi.

BRITTANY'S MOM

Oh, Doris! I'm Brittany's mom, Susan. I've heard so much about you.

LACI'S MOM

Maureen.

WANNABE BRITTANY'S MOM

Debbie! Hi!

BRITTANY'S MOM
Is your mom meeting us or--?

BRITTANY
Mom, I literally told you not to ask her that.

BRITTANY'S MOM
Oh, sorry.

DORIS
No, it's okay, she's busy.

BRITTANY'S MOM
Oh, okay, well, no problem.
Neiman's, here we come!

The women all start chattering, excited, as Doris tries not to feel like a ninth wheel.

INT. NEIMAN MARCUS - LATER

The moms are piling a SALES ASSOCIATE'S arms full of all the PROM DRESSES they want to see their daughters in/they wish they could still wear.

At the other end of the FORMAL WEAR SECTION, the teens are looking at extremely skimpy DRESSES. Doris, however, is more focused on the PRICE TAGS.

BRITTANY
Check out this slutty little number.

Brittany holds a GOLD STRAPPY DRESS up to her body.

LACI
Horny.

WANNABE BRITTANY
So hawt.

WANNABE LACI
Ooo, love.

DORIS
Are they all like, five hundred dollars?

BRITTANY
Yeah, I know right? It's nuts.

Brittany and Laci walk ahead.

WANNABE BRITTANY
 You're like my Grandma. She's
 always talking about price. She's
 like, obsessed with coupons.

WANNABE LACI
 (playfully)
 Aw, Grandma Doris.

The Wannabe girls laugh. Doris tries to laugh too, but it
 stings. Brittany calls out:

BRITTANY
 Ooo, Doris, come here, this burnt
 orange would look dope on you!

Doris catches up to her and looks at the price tag.

DORIS
 Um, I don't think it's-- exactly
 right.

BRITTANY
 Yeah, it's a little like - *hey,*
look at me. Next!

Doris looks at more price tags in disbelief.

INT. NEIMAN MARCUS - DRESSING ROOM - LATER

The moms sit on couches, waiting for their daughters. Doris
 sits with the moms, weirdly not trying anything on. Laci
 steps out of a dressing room and the moms CHEER!

LACI'S MOM
 Shut the front door! That's the
 one!

WANNABE LACI'S MOM
 Oh, yep! That's the one!
 Definitely!

Laci does a little spin.

LACI
 I *like* it, but I'm not sure if I
love...

She steps back in the dressing room and the moms GASP at
 Brittany who steps out in her gold slutty little number.

BRITTANY'S MOM
You are stunning. Oh my goodness.
You are *buying* that dress, young
lady.

Doris watches this alien display of mother's living
vicariously through their daughters.

INT. LACI'S HOUSE - LACI'S BEDROOM - DAYS LATER

Brittany, Wannabe Laci, and Wannabe Brittany are decked out
in their prom dresses with their hair professionally done.
They fuss over their perfect images in the mirror.

Laci, also dolled up to perfection, stands in front of her
closet carelessly tossing DRESSES on her bed.

LACI
Hmmm... I know it's in here.

Doris stands awkwardly nearby, in her bra and underwear, her
hair is not professionally done.

DORIS
They're all so pretty. Honestly,
I'll wear whatever--

LACI
Oooo! Here it is!

Laci holds up an AQUA DRESS covered in sequins. Doris
gratefully takes it.

DORIS
Thank you so much.

Doris puts it on and Laci zips her up.

LACI
Oh my God, it's perfect.

BRITTANY
Stun-ning.

WANNABE BRITTANY
The straps are a little long...

LACI
My mom can fix that.
(screaming)
MOM! I NEED YOUR SEWING KIT!

WANNABE BRITTANY

I think it's so cool that you're comfortable wearing Laci's old dress.

Brittany glares at her.

BRITTANY

What are you doing? Like, what are you *actually* doing right now?

WANNABE BRITTANY

Sorry. I meant it like a good thing.

Laci looks at her phone and GASPS.

LACI

Cody's not taking me to prom.

WANNABE LACI

What?!

LACI

He said he'll meet me at the bon fire before but...

(reading)

'I've already been to prom. It was super lame and I don't feel like going again.'

Laci runs to her bed and throws herself down face first.

BRITTANY

Oh, I hate him, I ab-sol-utely hate him.

WANNABE BRITTANY

Me too.

WANNABE LACI

He's the worst.

DORIS

Oh, Laci, I know this hurts, but I promise this is a good thing. Isn't it better that you really see his true colors now than in four *more* years?

BRITTANY

I mean, for him to do this to you on the holiest of nights. I can't even.

Laci looks up, she's not crying, but she wishes she was.

LACI

Ugh, it's my fault. I keep going back to him.

DORIS

Not anymore. You're done. You're strong enough to be done now.

LACI

Yeah?

DORIS

You're so strong, dude. You're such a good person and such a good friend. You like-- I mean, you all have like-- saved me. You're a shining star and you're way too good for that loser.

Laci sits up, looking touched.

BRITTANY

Doris with the *truth bombs*! Group hug, beebees.

They all pile on top of Laci. Then Laci sits up.

LACI

You know what? I'm breaking up with him right now.

She pulls out her phone and sends him a text, then:

LACI (CONT'D)

Wow, I'm going to prom alone...

BRITTANY

Uh, no, you're going with me. Now I have a date!

WANNABE BRITTANY

God, I can't imagine going to prom alone...

BRITTANY

Are you *kidding* me? Do you ever like, flip it over once in your brain before speaking?

WANNABE BRITTANY

Sorry.

Laci stands up and wipes her eyes, again, she was not crying.

LACI

Thanks, guys, I love you so much.

WANNABE LACI

Aw, I love you guys so much.

BRITTANY

Alright, let me whip my curling iron through that gorgeous hair and we are. On. Our. Way, bitches!

Brittany motions for Doris to sit. Laci's mom knocks and then enters.

LACI'S MOM

Oh my goodness. Did I just walk onto a runway? You are all so beautiful!

LACI

Can you shorten the straps on her dress?

LACI'S MOM

Is that from your Junior Prom? Oh, it looks so good on you!

DORIS

Oh, thank you. You're so nice...
(to Laci)
Your mom's so nice.

LACI'S MOM

Well, isn't she sweet? I'll tell you what, it's nice to be appreciated around here...

Laci's mom pulls out her sewing kit and gets to work. Doris looks in the mirror as Brittany curls her hair and Laci's mom fixes her straps. Doris wells up with tears. Even without a dime, and without a mom, she still gets to go to prom.

DORIS

I-- I feel like a princess.

BRITTANY

Dude, stop you're gonna ruin your make-up.

Doris' phone rings. It says: MOM. She hesitates, then:

DORIS

Hello?

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - SAME TIME

Kristine sits near her son's bed while NURSES tend to him.

INTERCUT KRISTINE/DORIS

KRISTINE

I just, uh, I wanted to tell you that it looks like he might go tonight or tomorrow. They say-- cause, uh, his fingers are pretty yellow. And his breath is getting kinda labored, so...

Doris doesn't say anything for a long beat.

KRISTINE (CONT'D)

Look, I'm sorry, okay? I should've never done that-- lied to you. I just-- there's no excuse. It was cruel and I understand if you can't forgive me. But don't punish him, okay? He didn't-- I mean, you do what you want. But I just wanted to let you know...

After a long beat:

DORIS

Thanks for letting me know.

Doris hangs up the phone.

BRITTANY

Everything cool?

DORIS

Umm hmm.

Doris forces a smile as they continue to doll her up.

INT. WHITE STRETCH LIMO - LATER

This fourteen person limo is filled to capacity. TEENS are flaunting at least \$10,000 worth of DRESSES and SUITS. The MUSIC blares and everyone SCREAMS over it.

Doris sits with Nate, Brittany and Laci.

BRITTANY
... then you threw her off the jet
ski! You were like, *take that, hoe!*

LACI
She fell! I didn't "throw her!"

NATE
Oh, you threw her! I saw ya'll!

The kids LAUGH. Doris checks her phone and tries to laugh.

NATE (CONT'D)
Remind me to never get on a ski
with your punk ass!

LACI
Whatever! How 'bout when you hit
Michael Rieger *with a brick!*

Brittany spits out her beer, laughing.

BRITTANY
Holy shit! Nate! You can't lie,
that was some psycho shit!

NATE
He came at me with a bat! Yo! What
was I supposed to do?!

BRITTANY
Do you know Mike Rieger?

Doris is lost in thought and realizes Brittany is talking to her.

DORIS
Oh, um, no, but that's so funny!

Doris fakes a laugh and this satisfies everyone.

LACI
Oh shit! Wait, turn it up! This is
my song!

BRITTANY
Shots! Shots! Shots!

Brittany swigs from a bottle of GRAY GOOSE VODKA and passes it around for everyone to swig from.

Someone turns up *Don't Cha* by The Pussy Cat Dolls and every girl screams the lyrics.

TEEN GIRLS

*Don't you wish your girlfriend was
hot like me?
Don't you wish your girlfriend was
a freak like me?
Don't cha?
Don't cha?*

Doris obviously doesn't know the lyrics. She checks her phone again. Nate notices.

NATE

You look amazing tonight, by the way.

DORIS

Oh, thank you.

They sit in silence because they have literally nothing to talk about.

DORIS (CONT'D)

How's your mom's parrot?

NATE

What? Oh, yeah, it's good. I taught it to say,
(parrot impression)
"Suck my dick"
(normal voice)
It was super funny. But now it won't stop saying it so... my mom's kinda pissed.

Nate chuckles. Doris forces a smile.

NATE (CONT'D)

I'm, uh, really stoked you came with me tonight...

Nate pulls Doris' face toward his and they make-out. After a few beats, the whole limo notices and the kids CHEER. Doris pulls away, embarrassed but smiling.

EXT. SHELL KEY BEACH - NIGHT

Our teens are in a crowd of a HUNDRED TEENS, all well dressed and gathered in small groups around a large BON FIRE. Wannabe Brittany holds an empty bottle of DASANI WATER and Brittany fills it up with her giant bottle of Gray Goose.

BRITTANY
Make sure to stay hydrated at the
dance, ladies!

The girls laugh. Brittany swigs from her Grey Goose bottle,
she's pretty hammered.

WANNABE BRITTANY
Um, excuse me, young lady, is that
vodka? No, it's Dasani, bitch!

Wannabe Brittany waves her Dasani bottle around, victorious.

BRITTANY
Seriously, don't be an idiot about
it, be cool.

WANNABE BRITTANY
Oh, yeah, no, I will.

BRITTANY
Your turn, Doris.

Doris stops checking her phone and holds her Dasani bottle up
for Brittany to fill.

LACI
Oh, shit.

Everyone looks up and sees what she's looking at. It's Dirty
Cody.

WANNABE LACI
Ugh, here we go...

DIRTY CODY
Laci, can I talk to you for a
second?

Doris takes Laci's hand and Brittany takes her other hand.
Everyone waits for Laci to respond...

LACI
No. Cody, we're done. I erased you
from my phone. I mean it this time.

DIRTY CODY
Lace, come on, babe, I'm gonna come
with you to the dance, okay? My
bad, okay? Gimme a break.

LACI

No. Seriously. We are done.
Forever. I never want to see your
face again.

Dirty Cody looks at her, *what the fuck are you doing?* Laci doesn't budge. He sighs and leaves. After he walks away, the girls all SCREAM and jump and down!

BRITTANY

Oh my God! I'm so proud of you!

WANNABE BRITTANY

Genius!

WANNABE LACI

So gangster!

The girls all hug Laci. Laci looks very proud of herself.

DORIS

I knew you could do it.

BRITTANY

OH MY GOD! THIS IS THE BEST NIGHT
OF MY LIIIIIIIFE!

Brittany swigs vodka and calls to the kids nearby, including Nate.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

GUYS! Ya'll, oh my God, I just
realized something. *This* is it.

Everyone LAUGHS at her.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

No, I'm serious, shhhhh, this is
going to be the most important
night of our lives. This is
everything. We'll remember this
forever...

Doris looks at her, weirdly taking this drunken ramble in.

BRITTANY (CONT'D)

We're all together. And that's all
that matters. Like, this really
will be the most important night of
our lives, seriously. You guys are
my-- my family and we're all here
for each other and we're always
gonna be here for each other and
I'm never gonna forget tonight.
Never ever ever.

Doris' looks like the clouds have been lifted from her eyes.

DORIS
I have to go.

BRITTANY
What?

DORIS
I have to go right now--

BRITTANY
What the fuck, Doris? Did you not listen to what I just said?

DORIS
No-- This isn't important-- This isn't-- I have to go see my brother. I-- I need to be with my mom. Oh my God. I have to go. I need to talk to him! I have to go!

Doris runs off the beach, toward the street.

NATE
Doris?!

LACI
What are you doing?!

Doris ignores them and keeps running.

EXT. SHELL KEY - STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Doris runs up to a WHITE LIMO and knocks on the window.

DORIS
Excuse me?! Can you help me? Can you drop me off somewhere real quick? It's an emergency!

INT. WHITE STRETCH LIMO - MOMENTS LATER

Doris sits all alone in the back of this ridiculous display of wealth on wheels. The BALLOONS and CONFETTI make it look like she's celebrating. Her face makes it look like she's mourning. She rolls down the PRIVACY SCREEN and addresses the limo driver, trying not to cry.

DORIS
If there is anything you can do to go faster, I'd... really appreciate it.

Doris CALLS her mom, over and over again but no answer. Doris winces at every RED LIGHT, willing the car to move.

INT./EXT. WHITE STRETCH LIMO - LATER

The limo is cruising along and suddenly stops. The driver HONKS. Doris looks out the window and sees a hundred protesters all holding CANDLES. They are silently marching.

LIMO DRIVER
I can't get through--

DORIS
That's okay! We're close enough!

Doris opens her door and runs out. She is immediately swallowed up by a sea of candles. She tries to weave through the crowd.

Paul, holding a candle and marching in front of the crowd, spots Doris running down the street toward Suncoast...

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Doris flies down the hall, a sparkling object in a somber place.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - MOMENTS LATER

Doris bursts through the door.

DORIS
Mom! Max, I'm so sorry!

Doris is blown back by the sight of her brother's body with a sheet over his face, she is too late. Oh, and his name was MAX.

Kristine stands near his corpse, her eyes red from sobbing.

DORIS (CONT'D)
No. He? No...

Doris looks around in shock.

DORIS (CONT'D)
Max, no. I'm so-- I'm sorry-- I wasn't--

KRISTINE
It's okay, Doris.

Kristine steps toward her daughter. Doris lurches away from her mom.

DORIS
No-- no-- please!

Doris flings herself on her brother's covered body.

DORIS (CONT'D)
Please don't be gone, Max? I'm
sorry. I wasn't here... You can't
leave me here by myself... Please?
I need-- I need to talk to you--

KRISTINE
It's okay, baby, he can still hear
you. He'll always be with us.

DORIS
NO! Not like this! I love you. I
love you so much! I don't know why
I wasn't here. I'M SORRY! DON'T
FUCKING LEAVE ME! PLEASE?!

Doris SCREAMS into Max's chest. Kristine watches, crumbling.

DORIS (CONT'D)
You shouldn't'a been here. You
shouldn't'a been sick. You didn't
deserve this. You didn't deserve
any of this. I'm sorry. I'm so
sorry. I was so awful to you-- I
was so--

Doris pulls the sheet back and immediately regrets it. There is no lonelier sight in this world than a body without its soul.

DORIS (CONT'D)
Oh my God. No-- Please-- please
come back.

Doris wraps her arms around his stiff neck and sobs into him.

DORIS (CONT'D)
I love you. I promise I'll be nice
to you. I'll make you brownies, I
know you love them and I never make
them for you, but I will-- I will--
And you can watch skateboarding
videos all day. You can hold the
remote. Please.

Kristine slowly approaches Doris and puts her hand on her daughter's back. Doris cries for a while, deep heaving sobs. Eventually, she softens, her breath slows down. She pets Max's hardening face.

DORIS (CONT'D)

We can climb the tangerine tree.
Remember? You said the sweetest
ones were at the top. But I was too
scared to climb all the way up, so
you did and you brought me the
sweetest ones... There was white
paint on the trunk. Remember? You
told me it was turning white cause
it was an old tree...

Doris laughs through tears.

DORIS (CONT'D (CONT'D))

And I believed you... I always
believed you. I wish I could--
climb trees with you. I'm sorry,
Max. I'm so sorry.

Doris stays glued to this body. Kristine stays glued to her daughter.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris sits near Max's body holding his cold hand as a MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL talks to Kristine in a hushed, respectful voice. Doris tunes in and out.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

... organ donation isn't
possible... the level that his
cancer spread... some more
paperwork to fill out... we're all
here for you...

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris and Kristine sit on the couch watching helplessly while TWO SKETCHY MEN enter the room with a gurney. They lift Max onto the gurney and begin zipping him into a BODY BAG.

Doris and Kristine clearly want to fight these men to the death, instead they sit on the couch and watch their boy go away forever.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris and Kristine sit on the couch in a trance while Nurse Irie and another ORDERLY strip the sheets on the bed and remove Max's medical equipment.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - ROOM 104 - LATER

Doris and Kristine sit on the couch in a room that is now prepped and ready for another deeply loved person to die in.

INT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - LOBBY - SUNRISE

Kristine signs paperwork at the front desk while Doris hovers nearby. She wears her mom's hoodie over her gown. Doris looks out the glass doors and sees Paul sitting on a curb.

DORIS
I'll be outside, Mom.

KRISTINE
Okay, sweetie.

Any ice between these two is officially thawed. Doris heads outside.

EXT. SUNCOAST HOSPICE - MOMENTS LATER

Doris approaches Paul. She sits on the curb next to him.

DORIS
Hey...

PAUL
Hey...

Paul lights a cigarette and offers one to Doris. Doris waves it away, *no, thank you*.

DORIS
Where was everyone going?

Doris motions to the parking lot, empty for the first time.

PAUL
City hall... They're gonna sit outside until that piece of shit judge agrees to start feeding her again.

Doris knows the answer but asks anyway:

DORIS
Why aren't you with them?

PAUL
... I wanted to make sure you were
alright.

DORIS
He died.

Paul nods.

DORIS (CONT'D)
And it feels just like you said.

Paul nods again.

DORIS (CONT'D)
But... no-- never mind.

PAUL
No, go on, what is it?

DORIS
... It's all about me, ya know?
This pain I'm feeling. This like,
sharp brutal pain. It's all about
me. I want him here. Selfishly. I--
I don't want to be without him. But
I think-- no-- I *know* he's in a
better place now. I *know* he's
happier. He's free. I can feel it.
And if Terri goes... she'll be free
too. And isn't heaven like, what
you guys believe in? Isn't heaven
supposed to be a lot better than
this place? Better than being stuck
in a bed anyway. It's just-- life
is meant for the living and death
is meant for the dying and I don't
know, I can just feel it. I know
it. I miss him. I hate this, but...
he's free.

Doris lets tears spill from her eyes. Paul wipes tears from
his own eyes.

PAUL
I'm very glad I met you, Doris...
And thank fuckin' God you're not
normal.

Doris laughs. Kristine approaches.

DORIS
Mom, this is Paul.

KRISTINE
Hi.

Paul stands up and shakes her hand, meaningfully.

PAUL
It is truly an honor to meet you,
ma'am.

Kristine looks confused, like she missed something, because she did.

KRISTINE
Um, thank you?
(beat)
Okay, kiddo, you ready to go?

Doris stands up.

DORIS
Yeah. Goodbye, Paul.

PAUL
So long, my dear.

Doris and Paul hug for a long beat. Kristine looks so confused. Doris and Kristine head toward Kristine's truck.

KRISTINE
Who the hell was that?

DORIS
It's a long story.

They reach the pick-up and look at each other for a beat.

KRISTINE
Well, what do we do now?

It is hard to tell if she means in the short term or the long term.

DORIS
Can I drive?

Kristine smiles at her daughter for the first time in months.

KRISTINE
Yes. Yes, you can.

Doris flies into the driver's seat and expertly arranges the mirrors. Kristine gets in the passenger seat. We PULL OUT WIDE as Doris backs out and Paul watches her drive away.

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

When did you learn how to drive?

Doris pulls out of the parking lot and flies down the main road as we FADE TO BLACK...

CHYRON: Dedicated to the memory of Max Kenneth Chinn.

