

THE WAY YOU REMEMBER ME

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We're welcomed by the rumble of deep thunder, it's bass percussion joined by the rhythmic pitter-patter of rain, heaving breath, and shoes landing on wet pavement...

MUSIC CUE: *MUMFORD & SONS "There Will Be Time"*

FADE IN:

EXT. CENTRAL PARK- LATE AFTERNOON, FALL

Rain-soaked white high top CONVERSE sprint along concrete. Our boyishly charming **BENJAMIN BRESLER**, 32, wipes away the water hanging from his hair to better see through his sparkling eyes, their shine all the more illuminated in contrast to the fading grey light of this rainy day.

INT. HOTEL ROOM- EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON

Ben defeatedly packs a suitcase. JOSH- ever the schlubby sidekick- lays on the bed tossing a baseball to himself.

BEN
Josh. Was a great week,
that's it- JOSH
-why are you storming out of
here like a baby then?

A KNOCK at the door brings them to a dead stop.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK- CONTINUOUS

Ben stops running to scan the expanse of that most famous park, nothing, he's at a loss. He sprints onward.

INT. HOTEL ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

LILY, 28, cutely freckled and plain, awaits in the doorway.

LILY
You're leaving!? Ben. He's gonna
propose, you gotta go-

BEN
-She doesn't want me. It's over.

Ben forces an "it's okay," shrug. He tries to continue to pack, but his hands fall to his hips and his head hangs...

EXT. CENTRAL PARK, LAKESIDE- CONTINUOUS

Ben slows, looking out across at the water towards a GAZEBO.

INT. HOTEL ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Ben longingly stares out the window, a street art image of RUTH BADER GINSBURG wearing A CROWN a la NOTORIOUS B.I.G., catching his eye... He quickly turns.

BEN

Wait, Lil. Any idea what she wore to bed last night after the bar?

LILY

You know she sleeps naked-

Josh gasps, feigning shock at the impropriety. Ben hides a smile as he straightens his look to her, "c'mon."

LILY (CONT'D)

Okay. Lemme think. I'm hungover. She had some random shirt on this morning? Kings? LA Kings maybe?

Josh excitedly pumps his baseball held fist, Lily oblivious:

LILY (CONT'D)

Had no idea she liked football.

Ben kisses her on the cheek as he runs out. Josh smiles.

JOSH

...they play hockey...

I/E. HOTEL LOBBY- MOMENTS LATER

Ben hurries to the exit, pushing a GUEST backwards into the revolving door, which they now uncomfortably share. Ben smiles at the man before he bursts out onto the street. Ben looks for a cab, waving off the DOORMAN, when he sees an unattended HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE across the street. Ben wildly dodges traffic before jumping into the empty carriage.

BEN (TO THE HORSE)

S' just you and me, American Pharaoh.

Ben snaps the reins, pulling the carriage pulled into motion.

HORSE CARRIAGE DRIVER

(eating a hot dog nearby)

Hey asshole that's my-!

Ben and the horse race down the heart of rush-hour, amazingly dodging traffic by the skin of their teeth.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK, 72ND STREET- LATE AFTERNOON

Ben pats his trusty steed before running into the park...

EXT. CENTRAL PARK, LAKESIDE- CONTINUOUS

Ben looks across to Gaston-esque GREG as he bends to a knee and pulls out a ring for KATHERINE, a freak amalgam of the perfect girl next door and super model, a heaven-sent mixture of down-home comfort and uptown elegance. Katherine puts her hand to her mouth, an unsure shock, uncertainty in her eyes.

BEN
Katie! Wait!!!!!!

The yell echoes through the rain. Katherine turns.

KATHERINE	GREG
Ben!? What're you doing here? <i>Katie-?</i>	
I thought you were leaving...	

She turns from Ben to Greg and Back to Ben who looks around.

BEN
I couldn't go. Hold that thought.

Ben jumps into the water. Katie gasps, Greg left dumb-struck.

GREG
(clenching his jaw)
-Katherine Miller, say yes, now.

BEN
This's way farther than it looked.

She tries to contain her amusement as she looks to Greg.

KATHERINE
I don't know if I, if um, if-

Ben finally reaches them, shivering, out of breath. Ben bows to Greg as he takes the douche-y pastel sweater off Greg's shoulder and covers himself from the wet-cold.

BEN
Hi... Look, I know you thought of me before you closed your eyes to sleep and in the moment you woke up this morning. And I know that in between you dreamt of me, of us, because I know I did. I know that I can't leave yet, not without you, that we can't not be a, a we-?

Ben shrugs. She looks to Greg, who rises up towards Ben.

KATHERINE
Greg, I can explain-

GREG
-Don't worry honey, I'm not gonna do anything- I just-

BEN
Wait, you're the best surgeon in the western hemisphere, the people need your hands... And I need her.

Greg hits Ben in the face, slipping in his follow through, going ass over tea-kettle into the lake. Katie rushes to Ben's side, gently touching the growing bruise on his cheek.

MUSICAL CUE: BOBBY DARIN'S "IF I WERE A CARPENTER"

BEN (CONT'D)
No idea where we go from here...
But, it's something, yeah?

Ben nervously looks to her as she hesitates. A beat.

KATHERINE
(coyly)
Eh. I guess it's a start...?

She smiles and kisses him. Greg slaps the water in frustration, an absurd piece of moss on his head. Lily and Josh, now nearby, themselves kiss, Josh pinching her ass.

EXT. STREET, CENTRAL PARK- EVENING

Ben turns and winks to us as their carriage rolls away.

FADE OUT.

ROLL END CREDITS.

Suddenly a voice of undeniably joyful tranquil effervescence interjects from some other place, a distant nether reach.

BEN (V.O.)
(self amused as ever)
Hold up, don't move, nothing's wrong, we're in the right place.

The credits fall into black and our music cuts out. A powerful WHITE LIGHT begins seeping through that abyss, accompanied by the sound of A GATHERING WIND.

BEN (V.O.)
 Sit back down, snack on, I very
 much insist. All's good...

The light grows. *MUSICAL CUE: Alt-J's "Warm Foothills"*

BEN (V.O.)
 Soooo, I gotta admit a few things:
 Yes, I, Ben, happen to exist,
 sorta, there never was a Josh, I'll
 never meet dear Lily or perfect
 Katie; they're nothing but part of
 a sweet dream, ish. How I'd've
 drawn it up? Sure, at least
 something like it, but that ride
 into the sunset was not to be,
 t'wasn't my happily ever after...

AS WE FLASH TO:

EXT. THE CLOUDS- THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT OF DAY

A CLOSE-UP on Ben, he looks different, unwell: his lips chapped beneath the thick beard which contours around an emaciated, almost hollow jaw-line. That gleam in his blue eyes muted, tired, and yet that bright light shines through the haze surrounding his face; a glimmer so perfectly ethereal if we didn't know any better this place could be, well, biblical... (READER'S NOTE: sections will be italicized throughout, you'll find out why shortly, please do enjoy...)

BEN (V.O.)
 You see, my story comes with a
 wonderful but slightly brutal irony-

Ben looks directly to us, breaking the fourth wall...

BEN
*I made it. Not too bad up here.
 Air's unlike anything I've ever
 felt, it lifts you off the ground.*

Ben screams at the tops of his lungs, a measure of freedom...

BEN (V.O.)
 -it starts with an ending; a lede I
 can't bury- pun intended- as that
 ending is my own...

He smiles as if amused by this thought from that elsewhere.

BEN

Dearly missing one and all from
above where we all began...

Our attention turns from Ben to the clouds parting below,
land coming into focus. We see Ben stands on top of MT.
KILIMANJARO, the "UHURU PEAK" sign marking his and our way.

BEN (V.O.)

Yet, I promise you're still here
for a love story, my love story,
the story of the love of my life.

Ben closes his eyes as the wind begins to whip even more.

BEN (V.O.)

They say "life moves pretty fast—"

As if it's conjured with the wind, Ben's life flies at us in an array of PICTURES and VIDEOS in fast forward, laid out like a map unfurled. It's a journey familiar: a giggling baby, the checkered grin of a chubby prepubescent little leaguer, the smile of our leading man far from home- but also singularly his. Ben, undeniably **that guy**; a life many of us wish were brave or lucky enough to have, his thirty odd years beyond what most might do in eighty. Explorer, philanthropist, athlete, founder, frat boy and intellectual, sailor, die-hard fan, lover, friend, brother, and as we all are one way or another, a son; this is our Ben.

BEN (V.O.)

-I assure you death moves quicker.

That glimpse blows away, that WIND taking us elsewhere:

EXT. STREET, SAN FRANCISCO- ANOTHER DAY, YEARS EARLIER

A younger Ben whistles a tune as A CRANE lifts a PIANO into an apartment above him, the wind swaying it on high.

BEN (V.O.)

(laughing)

Now I don't know when exactly, but
some sort of time had come.

Suddenly the chain snaps, the piano soars, crashing on him.

EXT. STREET, SAN FRANCISCO- AGAIN

This time as whistling Ben walks, we ZOOM into the depths of his lung, resting on a CELL floating in space like it's a sky loft high noon sun. In a flash the cell seems to skip a beat, a cosmic hiccup, we see it begin to replicate.

BEN (V.O.)
 (tongue in cheek as ever)
 As my favorite 17th century French
 fabulist Jean Le Fontaine once
 wrote, "a man often meets destiny
 on the road he takes to avoid it."

We SMASH OUT as Ben ever so slightly burps as he strolls, stepping around a piece of DOG SHIT.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, THE MISSION- SUMMER, MIDNIGHT

Ben looks at himself in the mirror, deep bags of midnight in place of his eyelids, a dull pain on his side.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO- AFTERNOON

BEN'S DOCTOR points to a mass on an MRI, Ben mouths "wow."

INT. KING YEN CHINESE RESTAURANT, BERKELEY- NIGHT, AUGUST

Ben and his family- his mother LAURIE, early 60s, the silvering of her dark hair which sits on her upright shoulders only enhance this woman's distinguished professorial elegance; Ben's Dad, ALLEN, mid 60s, his thoughtful grey eyes rest above a manicured gray goatee; Ben's sister ALLIE, 29, dark featured and pretty; and Allie's boyfriend MATT, 29, charmingly California aloof- sit and finish eating.

BEN (V.O.)
 The thing about dying this way is
 that you **live** through it.

Laurie looks to Ben with reflective sorrow. Noticing her glance, Ben smiles, a small piece of GREEN ONION left intentionally on his front tooth, Allie lovingly throws a fortune cookie at him. Allen and Laurie can't help but break and laugh too, for a moment their new reality given pause.

INT. MEDICAL ROOM- ANOTHER DAY

Ben uncomfortably grimaces, his neck and shoulders convulse.

EXT. SHIBUYA CROSSING, TOKYO- LATE SUMMER, NIGHT

Ben walks into the mass of the world's busiest intersection, jumping above the fray, looking back towards NIKET, 31, a literal and figurative waif disheveled-ness that only a savant can pull off, and RYAN, 31, self-assured, hip; who hold a specialized camera.

BEN (V.O.)
You acknowledge it, shake it off,
cause, this is just what it is.

EXT. BOAT, SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR- FALL, AFTERNOON

Ben's lost to VINTAGE PLANES flying overhead as he mans the helm. He shakes it off, rejoining the Fleet Week party.

BEN (V.O.)
There's nothing you can do but
continue, go on your way.

Musical Cue: NOVO AMOR's "From Gold"

INT. HOTEL ROOM- DAWN, NEW YEARS DAY 2020

Ben wears a "2020" NEW YEAR'S HAT on his head, his jacket slung over his shoulder, as he sneaks out into the possibilities of this new year, A WOMAN fast asleep in bed.

BEN (V.O.)
You move into a future, into what's
next. You make plans. Plans for a
loving future if the deck didn't
come up cold, if I didn't go bust-

INT. MEDICAL ROOM- ANOTHER TIME

...Which Ben is literally going to do; finishing masturbating into a cup. Ben glances down and nods, self-impressed.

BEN (V.O.)
...Plans big and small...

INT. SPECIMEN CUP, MICRO LEVEL- LATER

BEN'S SPERM swim proudly in clear liquid, until they begin to slow, freezing over...

INT. TRVLR VIRTUAL REALITY CO., BEN'S OFFICES- SPRING, DAY

Ben- grown sicker- removes a VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET, he looks at himself on screen beside a FROZEN ALPINE LAKE. Niket, Ryan, Ryan's curly haired, hipster fiancee MIMI, can only watch Ben walk out of their hip start up office space.

EXT. TRVLR VR, STREET- CONTINUOUS

Ben looks up to the sun and closes his eyes.

BEN (V.O.)

Plans to continue, to hope, to life beyond then, to more of those days in the sun, to start over...

EXT. MOUNT KILIMANJARO, BASE- MORNING

Ben looks up towards the mountainous earth rising above...

BEN (V.O.)

Because even when you only have minutes, seconds left, you've nothing else but onward and upward.

INT. HOSPITAL- A SUMMER MORNING

Ben's now a man down to the last of his humanly self...

BEN (V.O.)

Until the end there's true belief everything will work out, because otherwise would be impossible...

BEN

Gonna nap, then let's have a big lunch? Great idea or best idea?

Ben looks around at his family: Allen looks on, trying to grasp it all; Allie clenches her jaw through a smile; Laurie wipes his hair from his face, ever motherly, "of course."

BEN (V.O.)

...Then it just stops, life, til the moment there's not.

Ben closes his eyes, breathing faintly in the sleepy drift into unconscious unknown. A beat.

BEN (V.O.)

But, wait-

Ben peeks out of an eye and smiles sweetly before taking a deep breath and for all intents and purposes slipping away...

BEN (V.O.)
-Who's to say when your ending is?

When we hear COLLECTIVE CATHARTIC LAUGHTER from elsewhere...

EXT. BRESLER HOME, BACKYARD- VARIOUS/AFTERNOON TO MAGIC HOUR

The entire group wears WHITE HIGH TOP CONVERSE, a day filled with laughs, tears, stories told, pictures taken.

BEN (V.O.)
Cause the simple and hard spun
truth to this ride is that we don't
get to write our own...

EXT. FIELD- THAT NIGHT

Laurie stands at Allen's side as he finishes a speech.

ALLEN (TO CROWD)
(simply, quietly)
To know that man was to love him...

...They launch dozens of paper lanterns skyward over the Bay.

I/E. BRESLER HOME, PATIO/LIVING ROOM- THE FOLLOWING MORNING

Allen stares out to the backyard as the party supplies are removed. Allie pulls out BEN'S PHONE from a medical bag. She shows Laurie the outpouring of love on Ben's Instagram, in texts; his makeshift memorial in cyberspace, people miss him already.

BEN (V.O.)
You only hope there's place where
your ending finds beginning anew.

Allie hands the phone to Laurie as she looks out to the socked in hilly haze special to those Berkeley hills...

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT, THE MISSION, S.F. - SUNSET

Laurie stares at his door, AirPods in, but can't enter.

EXT. MOUNT KILIMANJARO- DAY

Again, Ben turns back to the camera and smiles; a certain captured essence of him as that wind blows...

BEN
...Signing out, til next time...

And suddenly the scene freezes, his face paused in time, and in that smile we see a measure of sadness in his eyes, like even amongst his strength he knows his truth forthcoming...

BEN (V.O.)
And well, that place is where we start this story, this love story, this story of the love of my life.

INT. SPECIMEN CUP- MICRO LEVEL

The dormant frozen SPERM begin to reanimate, awakening...

AND WE CUT TO BLACK with the sound of something crashing into WATER. And again we stay in that eternal black for a moment.

EXT. UNDERWATER- DAWN

Laurie's eyes are shut, she holds her breath painfully long.

CHRYON: "One Month AD"

Laurie's in a POOL. She finally breaks the surface, pulling herself over to hug the lane line...

Musical Cue: Fleet Foxes "Helplessness Blues"

INT. LECTURE HALL- LATER THAT DAY

Laurie lectures to some hundred students.

LAURIE
Are we even capable of the effort of coming together in order to save our planet's health, our home...?

She's caught herself in a moment, looking to a bookish man in his 70s, DEAN RICHARD WILTON watching from the back row.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Can we even save ourselves...?

INT. BRESLER HOME, ALLEN'S OFFICE- EVENING

Laurie peers into the messy room of blueprints where Allen's glued to the TV; his goatee sprouted to an unkempt beard. She hesitates to speak as he refuses to look to her.

EXT. DOLORES PARK- LATE SUMMER AFTERNOON

Laurie stands with her friend MICHELLE, tall, late 50s, as the large, eclectic mix of Ben's world are settled in on blankets. Allen stands off by himself. A screen displays information/pictures about the BEN BRESLER FOUNDATION.

ALLIE

Our focus was his: combatting
climate through youth programs-

WILL

-And massive tits?

WILL, Ben's heavily-bearded friend, points to an INDIGENOUS WOMAN with large exposed breasts in the background of Ben on a beach. The group laughs. Allie clicks over to a message. "His life overflowed ours with love and adventure and wonder. There will only ever be one Ben; his unique bright light will continue to inspire us all. 'Semper Deinceps, Always Forward.'" The group claps.

ALLIE

(jokingly)

All you being here is a testament
to Ben. Always blows my mind how
many people *actually* liked him.

WILL

We didn't.

The group laughs again as Will looks over the catering.

ALLIE

Please continue to tag "#LiveBen"
in all your shitty pictures, it's
amazing to see all that he would
connect to... A lot of people
helped set this up and deserve
thanks, but on behalf of Will and
all of us, I need to specifically
thank Kenna for the great spread.

Will waves to the crowd as CHEF KENNA- 30s, tattooed, bows
behind his catering station.

ALLIE (CONT'D)
That's it I think? I guess we can officially kick off LiveBen.

INT. TRVLR VR, CONFERENCE ROOM- THAT NIGHT

Laurie, Allie, Matt, Niket, Ryan, Mimi, and LARA- 33, pixie-cute, a charm- sit around. Allie looks at Laurie, out of it.

ALLIE
Hey Lar, really appreciate you coming up... Think that went about as well as we could've hoped? Mom?

LAURIE
It was wonderful sweetheart.

Everyone nods in agreement. Niket looks around.

NIKET
This is the goddamn worst.

LARA
...Are you guys moving into their offices or do you get to stay here?

MIMI
Likely move in with the new team.
Won't be til the deal's finalized.

RYAN
Speaking of, this's sort of out of left field, but had he ever mentioned anything about selling?

Everyone shakes their head no, Laurie stares at his picture.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Well, we were told Ben had reached out about acquiring us a little while before he was even diagnosed... Wasn't something he ever discussed with us...

Ryan glances at Ben pointing at himself and simultaneously at BIG BEN in London, sighing.

INT. B.A.R.T- NIGHT

Laurie looks at Ben's Spotify, his playlist "The Essentials."

EXT. STRAWBERRY CANYON, BERKELEY, POOL- DAWN

Laurie- in her odd underwater coma- is watched from the pool's edge by a SWIMMER: 30, naturally trim, her high cheek bones ruddied from her swim, her focused eyes carry a searching sadness.

INT. LAURIE'S OFFICE- AFTERNOON

Laurie scrolls the #LiveBen INSTAGRAM, friends: at Burning Man, a Giants game, jumping from a waterfall. Richard enters.

RICHARD

Hi. I just came by to-

LAURIE

-Richie, you don't need to say anything, I know it's a mess. How can I teach this? Hope's the last thing I offer them now, let alone about our planet; some future...

RICHARD

Kids don't need hope, they need the truth, and need it from you...

Laurie sighs and shrugs.

LAURIE

Wasn't this supposed to be secondary for me...? I'm proud of my career, but Ben and Al's futures, a grandchild or seven, all that mattered for *my* world now... Welcome to life amongst the rubble.

She stops herself and laughs. He waves off the thought.

RICHARD

...You're doing great.

LAURIE

Rich... I don't know what to call myself anymore. What word is there for a mother that's lost a child?

RICHARD

Mother, still mother.

He nods, wrapping his knuckles on the door jamb to leave. Laurie looks to him appreciatively, but solemnly.

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT- EVENING

Laurie looks at the door, AirPods in. She can't enter.

INT. BRESLER HOME, BEDROOM- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Laurie stares at the ceiling, unable to sleep. She rolls over, putting her hand on Allen's chest. Allen glances at her with half pity and half sorrow, he can't even hold her. She rolls over, closing her eyes as he turns off the light.

EXT. POOL, STRAWBERRY CANYON BERKELEY- DAWN

Laurie's underwater again. The Swimmer looks around nervously to see if anyone notices as Laurie holds a beat too long for comfort. Panicking, the Swimmer jumps in to grab Laurie, who fights back. The Swimmer pulls Laurie above the surface.

LAURIE SWIMMER
What's going on?! Let me go! You're okay, I got you!

LAURIE
Oh my god, what're you doing!?

Laurie continues trying to fight her off, as the Swimmer pulls them both to the lane line...

SWIMMER
(agitated)
I thought you were gonna drown.

LAURIE SWIMMER (CONT'D)
I wasn't- -What the hell're you doing!?

A beat. Laurie's not even sure herself.

LAURIE
(embarrassed)
Nothing. I'm fine.

SWIMMER LAURIE (CONT'D)
You looked, um dead, scared -Mind my own business? Who
me. Maybe you shouldn't- the hell are you?

The Swimmer can only sit there and watch as Laurie gets out.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
(muttering)
Lunatic. Jesus.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE, FINANCIAL DISTRICT- AFTERNOON

Laurie seems uncomfortable, her arms around her bag on her lap as a support as she sits with ANDREW, 33, short, stocky.

ANDREW
Event was great, Laur.

LAURIE
Yeah I think everyone had fun.

ANDREW
Anyway, thanks for coming in again,
I know you're sick of seeing me.
This's just something that I felt
best to discuss privately...

Laurie nods, ready for whatever he has to say.

Musical Cue: Bombay Bicycle Club "Eyes Off You"

INT. SPECIMEN CUP- MICRO LEVEL

The SPERM begin to swim around in the clear liquid.

INT. BRESLER HOME, ALLEN'S OFFICE- NIGHT

Laurie hurriedly enters to find Allen watching "Jeopardy."

ALLEN
Lake Victoria.

LAURIE
Did you know? Did he tell you?

Allen doesn't look up from the TV.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
About the sperm? His sperm?

ALLEN
(At the TV) Amadeus.
(laughing)
His sperm? What're you-?

A beat. He turns, seeing she's visibly upset.

LAURIE
After he was diagnosed he saved
some...? If the treatments left
him, with um, fertility issues...

ALLEN
And...?
LAURIE (CONT'D)
And well Allen, it exists.

ALLEN
They get rid of these things when
the person dies, no?

LAURIE
He didn't say what to do with
it if he died. It's up to us-
ALLEN (CONT'D)
-Okay... What's there to do
with it?

LAURIE
I don't know, but he did it then
for a reason, for-

Allen takes off his glasses and rubs the bridge of his nose.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
-We can't just throw it away.

Suddenly he gets up, grabs a coat and quickly walks out.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

ALLEN
I, I have to go, I...

He doesn't respond as he leaves, getting in the car.

INT. BRESLER HOME, BEDROOM- PRE-DAWN

Laurie wakes as Allen turns on the bedside lamp as he comes to bed past three AM. When nothing's said Laurie gets up and leaves, the light from the bedroom turning off behind her.

INT. BRESLER HOME, LIVING ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Laurie puts Ben's phone into a VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET and puts it on. We enter with Laurie into another world: *Ben pops up against a black background, a globe spinning behind.*

BEN (O.C.)
Hello TRVLR, I'm Ben, your guide;
wherever you could want to go...

A MENU opens up: Locations, Experiences, Minis.

Laurie rips off the headset and closes her eyes.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM/VARIOUS (INTERCUT)- DAWN

She bravely enters, shuddering, a chill, the homey bachelor pad untouched, his world frozen. A speaker picks up the music from his phone, eerily echoing off the hardwood floors. She walks around, her hands on her hips- as he might- unsure what to do with herself. Laurie turns to the Bluetooth Speaker.

LAURIE

Alexa, is there any way you can
please turn up the volume?

Nothing happens.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
(way too loudly)
Alexa, can you please volume up!?

Again nothing. She quits. She leafs her hand across a baseball hat on a doorknob before she enters his bedroom. She picks up his glasses from his bedside table and puts them on. She turns and starts to make his bed left unmade.

-She puts dirty dishes into the dishwasher...
-She makes a hospital fold of his top sheet...
-She throws away pill containers and caps his toothpaste...
-She fluffs his pillows...
-She looks at a Polaroid of she and adolescent Ben, old ticket stubs, tchotchkies, Post-Its tacked on the bulletin board above the desk filled with VR equipment, an old Leica camera, a souvenir bottle of "Kilimanjaro Beer," a New Yorker Magazine cover poster hanging on his wall, surrounded by other finds from across the globe. Laurie's stopped by Mimi and Ryan's Wedding SAVE THE DATE for March, 2021. She turns to see a small, worn CHILD'S THROW PILLOW emblazoned with SAILBOATS on his office couch....
-She finishes making the bed, smoothing it out...

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- LATER

Laurie glances in to this space we can't help feel was used time ago, his "room." She lays the pillow on the bed.

INT. BRESLER HOME, BEDROOM- LATE MORNING

Laurie sees Allen still asleep as she's on her way out.

INT. RESTAURANT, KITCHEN NORTH OAKLAND- AFTERNOON

Laurie with GIFT in hand, is slowed, Kenna demonstrating how to chop EGGPLANT to a GROUP OF KIDS WEARING APRONS.

KENNA
Laurie, hey...

LAURIE
Should I call child services or the labor board first?

A WOMAN snorts nerd-ly at Laurie's joke as she comes out from a pantry, it's the SWIMMER, a natural ease to her in her jeans and white tee. The Swimmer stops, recognizing Laurie.

KENNA
Take it up with her, it's her show.
Aubrey Case, Laurie Gould.

Laurie looks up, realizing who she is.

KENNA (CONT'D)
Laur, gimme a second real quick?

Laurie nods absently as Kenna goes to talk to a COOK.

LAURIE
...I'm on land, I'm okay, I'm safe.
I'm just dropping something off for Kenna if that's okay with you?

AUBREY
I- I am sorry about the other day,
I was out of lane.

LAURIE
(nonplussed)
A swimming joke, really?

Aubrey smiles guiltily. Round-faced LARRY, 10, sidles over.

LARRY
Hey Ms. Aubrey, look, we're chopping up the wiener emoji.

AUBREY
Larry, it was and still is just an eggplant well before it became the wiener. It's delicious.

LARRY
Wiener's delicious?

Laurie can't help but laugh with the kids too as Kenna head nods for Laurie to the dining room to talk.

AUBREY (TO LARRY)
Enough. Get back to it.
(TO LAURIE)
By the way I-

Laurie respectfully nods to Aubrey as she goes to Kenna.

KENNA
Sprouts is pretty great, so is she, really, she's done a lot of good around here, helped a lot of kids.

LAURIE
(looking back)
Yeah, it seems wonderful. I'm surprised Ben didn't know about it.

KENNA
I only just got involved but it's been around a while.

We see their conversation from Aubrey's POV ending when Laurie and Kenna hug. Kenna comes back in, wiping tears away.

AUBREY
Everything alright?

KENNA
Yeah, yeah. Her son was a friend of mine, he passed away last month. Catered an event for his foundation-

AUBREY
(realizing, effected)
-Oh holy shit I'm an idiot. Kenna, that's horrible, I'm sorry, I-

Aubrey looks to Laurie who turns back to glance at the kids.

KENNA
It's alright, was a special dude.
(TO THE KIDS)
Sorry guys... all those onions.

INT. BRESLER HOME, LIVING ROOM-PRE-DAWN

She sits with her laptop, it's past four AM. She looks at websites for SURROGATES and people looking for SPERM DONORS, it's completely impersonal, she closes the laptop as Allen enters the house, silent as he moves past her to their room.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

Laurie eyes Ben's pillow on the bed.

INT. ALLIE'S APARTMENT, THE MARINA- NIGHT

Laurie, Allen, Allie, and Matt eat. Matt nudges Allie.

MATT
Show them.

LAURIE
Show us what!?

Laurie's a little wound up. Allie lifts up the side of her shirt, a new TATTOO on Allie's rib cage, "Semper Deinceps" written in *industrial-style light bulbs*. Laurie examines it.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Al, it's fantastic! I would've come with, maybe even gotten one.

ALLIE
Actually-?
LAURIE (CONT'D)
-Yeah! Why not?

ALLIE
...Dad, thoughts?

ALLEN
(indifferently as ever)
It's great Love.

Laurie gulps her wine, something she wants to say...

LAURIE
Went by his place the other day...

ALLIE
Oh good, someone needed to finally. Time we start sorting through it.

LAURIE
Well, thing is, I realized there was something missing there...

ALLIE
Missing?

LAURIE
It was just all of his stuff, no one else's and- anyway, look um, what if we make us a grandchild?

Matt chokes on his food. Allie comes to a dead stop.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 Not yours yet, sweetheart. Well not
 til you're ready. Your brother's.
 Turns out he saved some sperm-

Matt chokes again at the word "sperm", coughing again before Allie casually hits his back, clearing up the blockage.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 -if the therapies hindered him from
 having kids down the line.

MATT
 Don't worry guys, I'm fine...

LAURIE (TO ALLIE)
 I take it you two didn't know?

ALLIE
 No, why would we have-? MATT
 -I did.

LAURIE
 What? ALLIE
 You did!?

MATT
 He wanted someone to go with him.
 Wasn't like I helped or watched to
 make sure everything went smoothly.

Everyone is uncomfortably quiet.

MATT (CONT'D)
 ...Sounds like it did though?

ALLIE
 (half-amusedly)
 He would somehow leave us with some
 end all be all dick joke.

Allen laughs quietly, Laurie can only glance at Allen.

LAURIE
 It's not a joke. He wanted to be a
 father, why wouldn't we do that for
 him if we can?

ALLIE
 You're serious right now?

LAURIE

The foundation's great, but what if
this's an opportunity we didn't
know we had for him...? What if
this is his "down the line?"

ALLIE

It's not what he did it for. LAURIE (CONT'D)
Not *not* what he did it for.

ALLIE

That's not how this works. LAURIE (CONT'D)
How does this, how do we work
with him gone?

ALLIE

Dad? *Help.*

Allen kisses Allie on the top of the head as he goes into the living room to watch a game. Laurie throws her hands up, exasperated by him. Allie nods for Matthew to sit with Allen.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

He didn't want you to take it- I
have too much to ask. Are you gonna
pay some desperate random woman to
have his baby? Some lesbian couple?
You two aren't raising a child now,
that's not happening.

LAURIE

C'mon. This isn't just about us
having a grandchild, finding anyone
willing... It's for him. He'd
figured out everything in his life
but *her*. It's what I meant by no
one else's stuff at his place.
Everything there was just, just
his, his life, where was ***the girl?***

Laurie looks to Allen, who doesn't look up from the other room. Allie grows flush, realizing where Laurie's going...

LAURIE (CONT'D)

...What if we find the woman that
he didn't get to find for himself?
The one for him, his partner who he
saved his *pardon me*- *SPERM*- with in
mind, to eventually have kids with.

Matt smiles from the other room. Allie's caught flatfooted. Allie gets up and starts to clear plates. Laurie follows.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

... If we can show him to her,
she'll love him the way we all did.

ALLIE

No, no, no, this isn't happening...
*Mom. He was doing fine, he just
 hadn't found the right woman yet.*
 What makes you think you'd be able
 to, let alone have the right? Isn't
 this just a mom's wet dream?

MATT (FROM OTHER ROOM)
 Bosoms the world over quiver.

They ignore him.

LAURIE

...I don't think my son being dead
 is exactly a dream come true.

ALLIE

You know I didn't mean that.

A beat. Laurie, realizes it's out there, but persists.

LAURIE

Anyway, I think I'm uniquely
 qualified as his mother; every one
 of these ridiculous weddings you
 kids have to go to every weekend
 the parents say they knew she's the
 one the moment they met her, right?

ALLIE

Because he's *there* and they see how
 she makes him feel, and vice versa.
 God damnit. This is so stupid...

Allie's exasperated. Matt returns for his plate.

ALLIE (TO MATT) (CONT'D)
 Can you not right now?

MATT

I wasn't done eating... Let's Shark
 Tank it? Women pitch themselves for
 full investment of Ben's, um, nut?

Allie screams as she paces, closing her eyes for a moment.

LAURIE

Alexandra, listen, I know there's
 obviously only so much that he
 cared to share about his world with
 me, or honestly that I would've
 liked to know, but I-

Laurie tries not to get too emotional.

MATT

On this very unique season, our
most shocking season to date,
Frances McDormand IS. THE. BACHE-

ALLIE

Matt, shut the fuck up!

LAURIE

Shut up Matthew!

Matt nods, acknowledging he probably went overboard.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

-I think I know enough of that boy
and what he deserved...

ALLIE

...Even if that was enough, there's
the ever so slight *minor*
inconvenience of reality-

A standstill. Allen gets up with his jacket and goes outside.

LAURIE

Okay... I guess we're leaving...
We'll talk about this. Matthew,
don't keep things from her.

Matt nods bashfully as Allie swallows her tears.

ALLIE

I can't help you in this, I can't.

Allie looks to her mother, bittersweetly, seeing her pain and
confusion, her determination. Allie hugs her firmly...

ALLIE (CONT'D)

There's all that we wished for him
in a partner, but those things
might not've been what *he needed*.
There's still the indescribable,
the *isms* for two people to figure
out; and nothing's worse than
knowing he won't be able to do
that, but you can't do it for him.

LAURIE

I hope I'm just a start is all.

Laurie kisses her daughter's forehead as she leaves.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Thanks for dinner, sweetheart.

INT. CAR- EVENING

Allen and Laurie drive in silence, she looks to him, he turns on *The Grateful Dead's "Uncle John's Band"* he starts to sing along with a strange vigor. She folds her arms in protest.

LAURIE

I'm doing this and I'd love your opinion on what might make someone worthy of having *your* grandchild.

He stares blankly, unmoved. She turns down the music.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Allen, there's no way... no fucking way I'll mourn him and mourn us at the same time. I can't. I won't.

ALLEN

(sighs)

We're fine.

LAURIE

Ha! Who can be fine right now?

He has nothing further to say.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Nothing. You can't even look at me.

He can't. Laurie drops her glasses to the tip of her nose.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Hey, it's just me.

ALLEN

I know who you are.

I.E. CAR, BRESLER HOME, DRIVEWAY- NIGHT

Laurie gets out, but he doesn't. He can only stare ahead.

LAURIE

You're a fucking coward.

INT. BRESLER HOME, BEDROOM- PRE-DAWN

Allen saunters in late again, Laurie's up and waiting. She walks out, the bedroom light turning off behind her again...

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

Laurie gets into bed and closes her eyes as she silently weeps, adjusting his pillow, gathering herself.

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT, STREET- MORNING

Laurie stares up at Ben's door, when an attractive FEMALE JOGGER trots by and smiles. Laurie smiles, self-impressed, her AirPods in. MUSICAL CUE: *KINGS OF LEON "Beautiful War"*

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM- AFTERNOON

Laurie enters and sits on his couch with a pad of paper.

LAURIE
Alexa, volume up!

It works, she's proud of herself. Laurie starts cross-referencing women whom he'd texted with their Instagram. She looks at various girls, we can't help but notice they're attractive but Ben certainly doesn't have a "type." Laurie jots things down, when a notification "1" pops up on Ben's "Social" app block, the "1" on "Raya." Laurie Facetimes Ryan.

RYAN
Can I be honest that it's a little unsettling seeing his name pop up?

LAURIE
Sorry, hey listen he used this dating app, Rayu, right?

RYAN (CONT'D)
-Raya. Yeah, why?

LAURIE
I thought the app wasn't nice for excluding people but maybe there's a lot of lame people out there so it's important to weed some out?

RYAN (CONT'D)
Yeah, I mean he used it, why?

LAURIE
Nothing, I'll figure it out.

"Tristla"'s profile pops up "Lives: San Francisco, From: Seattle, Work: Influencer," Laurie's beyond confused. She taps the girls face which starts her ostentatious and over-sexualized photo montage with a song. Laurie makes a face at the profile, shakes her head no, she hits X. "Jade, 29, San Francisco, Photographer" up next, she's cute, Laurie hits the heart, but nothing. She shrugs and continues.

EXT. CAMPUS- DAY

Laurie's head is on a swivel, she struck by various WOMEN of all shapes and sizes, like a new sense has awakened in her.

INT. SUPERMARKET- EVENING

Laurie spots A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN in the produce aisle, Laurie smiles at her, the woman smiles back. The WOMAN waves in Laurie's direction, Laurie is caught off guard but waves back awkwardly regardless, when suddenly a MAN walks past Laurie from behind her and kisses the woman.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- ANOTHER NIGHT

Laurie peruses his Netflix: "The Great British Baking Show," amongst many other food shows as she also swipes Raya.

LAURIE
Weird kid.

EXT. RESTAURANT, PATIO- DAY

Laurie sits and has lunch with TAMARA, 20s, and TAMARA'S MOM.

LAURIE
...So that's what I'm up to... But
I'd love to know more about you...

Tamara's jaw is dropped. She turns to her Mom, bright red.

TAMARA
Mom! Are you kidding? I can't
believe you lied to me.

TAMARA'S MOM
Tamara, you're not getting any
younger sweetheart.

TAMARA
Mom, this's an insane move. Laurie,
I'm sorry, I'd have loved to have
met him, but I'm in no place-

LAURIE
-Oh, I totally understand.

TAMARA
...Mostly because, Mom, you not
liking him doesn't mean I don't
CURRENTLY have a boyfriend.

Tamara starts to storm off, Tamara's Mom shrugs to Laurie...

TAMARA'S MOM
I'm sorry, but he's a loser honey.

EXT. POOL, STRAWBERRY CANYON BERKELEY- DAWN

Laurie breaks the surface. Aubrey is waiting for her.

AUBREY
Hi there. I wanted to-

LAURIE
What do you want Baywatch...?

AUBREY (deadpan)
What's Baywatch?

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Seriously?

Aubrey nods affirmatively, she doesn't know.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
It was a show in the 90s about,
well, sexy lifeguards, I guess?

Aubrey winks, messing with Laurie, she can't help herself.

AUBREY
I owe you a real apology, I
shouldn't have intruded, it was my
own neurosis, not you... But I was
thinking, we're here at the same
time a lot, maybe you'd want to
swim together? Like actually swim,
since you don't move at all?

LAURIE
Oh, I don't, um, I-
AUBREY (CONT'D)
-We can stay in the shallow
end.

LAURIE
(rolling her eyes)
I know how to swim, thank you.
I am sorry I scared you.

Aubrey gets in the water.

AUBREY
I'm sorry about your son Professor.

LAURIE
Oh... Yeah, thank you.

Aubrey starts to swim. Laurie timidly starts to follow.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, OFFICE- EVENING

Laurie swipes through Raya, when his phone dings.

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT- MOMENTS LATER

Laurie hesitantly walks up to a Toyota Corolla, triple checking Ben's phone.

LAURIE

Maurice? Hi, I'm Ben who ordered, sort of. This is my first Postmate, or is it Postmates? I'm so excited.

MAURICE THE POSTMATE

Oh okay, sure, yeah it's an honor. I guess. Here you go.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- LATER THAT NIGHT

She watches "The Great British Baking Show," as she eats.

LAURIE (TO THE TV)

I told you under proved and over baked! Now you're gone, idiot.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

The room's filled with more of Ben's things. Laurie looks through Raya, finally getting a match with a woman, she raises her arms in victory. It opens up a portal to send a message. Laurie has no idea what to say. She deletes a couple things before settling on: "Hey... So nice to make your acquaintance... You are very pretty!!!"

EXT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Laurie gets out of an Uber to Allie and Matt waiting.

UBER DRIVER

You'll find her Laurie. I promise.

LAURIE

I think so too. And thank you for the Starburst.

Matt can't help but laugh, but Allie is unamused.

ALLIE
...Dad's not coming?

Laurie shakes no.

INT. RESTAURANT- LATER

The three of them sit and eat. Laurie's distracted by a WAITRESS delivering food nearby.

ALLIE
-Mom, you never responded to the email with the real estate agent. Time we start dealing with his place, it can't just sit there.

LAURIE
...I think it's a little soon honey. We're in no rush.

ALLIE
And have you had any thoughts about what to do with the money if the TRVLR deal is finalized?

LAURIE
I haven't quite yet, I need to run to the bathroom, but we'll discuss.

Laurie smiles at the waitress as she walks to the bathroom.

ALLIE
She's full on manic right now.

Matt shrugs, he doesn't necessarily agree.

EXT. POOL- MORNING

Laurie waits, ready to swim as Aubrey arrives. Aubrey climbs down into the pool and they start to swim. Laurie keeps pace.

INT. LAURIE'S OFFICE- MORNING

She scrolls through Raya, nothing happening. She clicks over to a text conversation between Ben and a woman, clicking "info", seeing pictures exchanged, she scrolls down and sees a picture of Ben standing naked with a huge smile, and a huge, well, measure of confidence.

LAURIE
Oh my God it's a penis! His penis.

She fumbles the phone into her purse and runs out.

INT. CAMPUS COFFEE SHOP- LATER

Laurie stares straight ahead as she waits to get a coffee.

BARISTA

Ma' am?

LAURIE

I'll have a dick coffee. I mean
drip cocky! Shit. Drip! Coffee!
Drip coffee! Goddamnit.

Students look at her like she's insane as she runs out.

EXT. FARMER'S MARKET, 4TH STREET, BERKELEY- ANOTHER MORNING

Laurie walks with Michelle, they share a joint.

MICHELLE

We needed this.

Laurie smiles to a BEAUTIFUL WOMAN selling artisanal candles.

CANDLE SELLER

Our aromatherapeutic properties
alleviate menstrual symptoms.

MICHELLE

We're well menopause'd sweetie.

LAURIE

I bet they still smell great.

CANDLE SELLER

They do.

Laurie smells.

LAURIE

They're really nice.

Michelle mouths "thank you" as she pulls Laurie away.

MICHELLE

You want this kid hauled to parking
lots every weekend like a carnie?

LAURIE
 To farmer's markets in Berkeley?
 Oranges are twelve bucks, the kid'd
 have a really nice life.

Laurie starts to cry and laugh simultaneously.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 This is completely insane isn't it?

MICHELLE
 Checking out every woman you come
 across to decide whether you should
 impregnate them? No, not at all.

Michelle starts to cry too.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 Known you for forty years, what've
 you failed at... So why not? I'm in
 no place to dissuade you, Lara's
 never going to give me a grandkid.
 She blew it with Ben.

LAURIE
 They tried, they're like siblings.

MICHELLE
 Assholes still ruined it for us.

LAURIE
 Completely...not too late though.

Michelle laughs and hugs her old friend.

MICHELLE
 You're doing good honey.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Laurie looks at a box of matches from a bar on the counter.

INT. BAR, MARINA- NIGHT

Laurie looks around the bar, she notices there's a lot of
 women her own age and men much, much younger... A GUY no more
 than twenty-two approaches her.

YOUNG GUY
 Love your look.

Laurie has no idea he's talking to her, he taps her shoulder.

YOUNG GUY (CONT'D)
Excuse me, miss? I just wanted to
say I love your look.

LAURIE
And I'm old enough to be your moth-
oh my god, I have to go.

EXT. STREET- CONTINUOUS

Laurie waits for her Uber, when Ryan and Niket spot her from another bar across the street, they run across.

RYAN
Laurie? What're you doing... here?

LAURIE
Oh, no! It's not what you think!

NIKET
Well... what's up...?

Laurie sighs, looking to the heavens, she begins to explain.

INT. TRVLR VR, CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

Niket, Mimi, Ryan, and Lara (on video chat) discuss.

RYAN
It's just seed...So, vegan...

LARA
In name, but they're alive.

RYAN
If life begins at sperm production
and masturbation is murder, Niket's
the most decorated serial killer in
human history.

Niket bows as Laurie arrives to the enlightened discussion.

LAURIE
Okay, hi... what am I doing here?

RYAN
Can we have Ben's phone?

NIKET
Again, if those Catfish guys get
involved, I'm way out. They're
creepier than who they seek out.

Ryan holds his hand out, she hesitantly hands it over. Matt hurriedly enters with a case of beer.

MATT
If we could not tell a certain person I'm here. I couldn't miss this.

LAURIE
Miss what!? Please, guys.

Niket pulls up Raya onto the big screen. "Casey" pops up.

NIKET
We're taking over- MIMI
-No. We just wanted to make sure you're sailing in the right direction.

LAURIE
Ah. You're okay with me doing this? I know it's different, and I know how hard it's been for you all too.

NIKET
As long as you're not gonna like have this kid yourself if this doesn't go as planned, it's cool.

Everyone glares at Niket.

RYAN
Couldn't let you find our guy his girl without *some* of our help.

MIMI
Ben needed someone that would've really challenged him, (smiling) called him on his bullshit.

LARA
Someone that'd- wherever they were- rise for the day with him, but also be the reason he wanted to stick around, stay in bed a little longer, he needed that...

RYAN
Hold up...he **needs** his best friend.

Ryan holds Mimi's hand. They take a beat.

MATT
(excitably)
And of course someone who already
owns Converse. Ella didn't, bought
a pair for his sake, but it wasn't
genuine. I never trusted that girl.

RYAN
(moving on)
Anyway...Shall we?

The group turns their attention back to Raya on screen.

LARA
This broad's a one hit wonder.

LAURIE
What does that mean?

LARA

Ryan looks to Niket who presses play, the rest of the montage plays. Lara's right. They X the girl.

LAURIE
You guys are brutal, she was cute!

NIKET
I would.

RYAN
How's Raya's wait list?

NIKET
I'm happily King of the Garbage
people on the other apps thank you.

Another girl follows on screen who certainly won't work.

GROUP
Ohhhhh nooooo.

Next, another girl who is absolutely drop dead gorgeous. Ben gets a match. the group erupts.

RYAN She's perfect. OH is she?

RYAN

MATT (TO LAURIE)
She's gonna break your heart.

LAURIE
What should we say?

MIMI
What've you been saying?

LAURIE
That it's so nice to meet them, and
that they're really pretty, etc.

Ryan swipes over to the "messages" section.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Oh no. There's a messages section?

They see Laurie has sent out the same exact message to a number of women. They all look to her and laugh, she blushes.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Knew I couldn't have been *that* bad; thought no one responded yet.

They look through Ben's old conversations: the successful, the slighted, and even the ignored (despite Ben's charm). Including, "You have a face I want to sit on, 650-307-5300"

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Oh my.

NIKET
I'm calling her.

Ryan clicks to his profile, a picture of smiling Ben pops up.

LAURIE
I didn't know I could see what girls see of him.

Laurie puts her head in her hands, embarrassed. Ryan presses play, "St. Lucia's "The Way You Remember Me" plays, and for thirty seconds we see a quick snapshot of Ben, an encapsulation of who he thought he was for the world to see.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Can you play it again?

Ryan does. Laurie's stopped.

RYAN
Lest we all forget he did just fine in his day... You don't need to do much Laurie, he'll sell himself.

Laurie nods as Matt sneakily grabs the phone and goes back to the other part of the app to see more women.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM" - VARIOUS

Laurie mimics how Ben messaged, "We did it." Another one "Why do Jews have such short necks?" and the SHRUG EMOJI. Laurie messages with multiple matches. "Let's meet up soon...?" "I'd like that." "Great, are you free this week?"

EXT. POOL- MORNING

Aubrey and Laurie finish swimming.

AUBREY

Glad you agreed to do this. We owed each other, I could say you saved me from drowning, like I did you.

LAURIE

But you couldn't say that.

Aubrey snorts as she laughs.

AUBREY

Seriously though, I've been meaning to thank you for a long time, I took a class of yours years ago... Was a big influence on my program.

LAURIE

Oh yeah, how so?

Aubrey hesitates, something about the question catches her.

AUBREY

Well, uh, on top of the angst of what the hell am I gonna do with my life after school, had some other stuff happen junior year... So I was a little lost admittedly...

Laurie sees the light in Aubrey drift for a moment, a pain.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

Anyway, Environmental Science 224 came along, "the importance of the next generation finding a collective consciousness to overcome climate change" really got me, clicked at the right time, like how I dove in in time to save you.

Laurie rolls her eyes, as Aubrey snort-laughs.

LAURIE

Surprised my son didn't know about
Sprouts, it's totally up his alley.

AUBREY

Why don't you come to another class
soon? See what you've wrought.

LAURIE

Okay, I guess I'd do that.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- EVENING

Laurie scrolls through Raya, when Aubrey appears: "30, Westport, Connecticut, San Francisco." Laurie presses play "Avant Gardener" by Gordi; her profile's different: less about herself than others, it highlights she and her Sprouts kids gardening together, in the kitchen, unique hand drawings of all sorts of faces. Laurie watches it twice before pressing heart, no match. Laurie Googles Sprouts. "Empowering youth from all backgrounds to live healthier lives through culinary programs..." She watches Aubrey's "meet the founder" video, where Aubrey walks through a kitchen amusingly eating off of every kid's work station; she's effortlessly charming, self-assured... Laurie checks the time, realizing she's late.

INT. BRESLER HOME, BEDROOM- LATER

Laurie looks at herself in the mirror, dressed up in a little black dress. She Facetimes Michelle.

LAURIE

What am I trying to give off
here?

MICHELLE

Ben. Not so, I don't know,
sexy?

LAURIE

I can be completely flipped
out, right? I haven't gone on
a date like this since 1980-

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

-Has anyone ever gone on a
date like this?

Laurie changes her clothes, more casual.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Better.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Laurie glances at her Raya, no new matches. She glances through the window to see JENNA sitting at the bar.

She enters and approaches but she panics and walks right past. Laurie waits at the end of the sushi bar, staring. Laurie gathers herself and saunters up to Jenna.

LAURIE

Hi?

Jenna doesn't realize Laurie is talking to her.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Hi, Jenna?

Jenna turns and looks at her.

JENNA

Um, yes?

LAURIE

Sorry I'm late, I was a little nervous. I know this's strange, but I'm Ben's Mom. He's not gonna make it, but I'd love to talk.

Jenna's face drops, she scans the room...

JENNA

This is a joke right?

MOMENTS LATER

Laurie finishes explaining. Jenna puts her hands to her mouth. Laurie can only grin and shrug in the silence.

INT. BAR- ANOTHER NIGHT

Another date starts crying as Laurie finishes explaining.

CRYING DATE

Sorry, it's just so fucking sweet.

Laurie hugs her.

LAURIE

It's okay, it's alright.

CRYING DATE (CONT'D)

Why am I the one crying?

Laurie exhales.

CRYING DATE (CONT'D)

He seemed amazing, I just think I want someone, you know, here.

EXT. HIKE, BERKELEY- DAY

Laurie's DATE laughs hysterically as Laurie explains.

HIKE DATE
-I don't know what my problem is.

She continues to laugh, Laurie tries to smile with her.

INT. KITCHEN, SAN FRANCISCO- AFTERNOON

Aubrey and Laurie help a CHILD knead dough.

AUBREY (TO THE CHILD)
Now we wait for the dough to rise.

KID
For how long?

AUBREY
(with an English accent)
Have to be patient and let it rise
properly to get the right crumb.

LAURIE
Best show, not a great accent.

Aubrey smiles as Laurie watches the kids stare into the oven.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES, AUBREY'S OFFICE- LATER

Laurie looks around the office as Aubrey walks to the window, pointing towards a garden, Laurie clocks AUBREY'S CONVERSE.

AUBREY
(pointing)
Trying to raise the money to buy
that lot to build a kitchen and
community center so we can bring
chefs here to cook with the kids
straight from the garden rather
than haul them to restaurants.

LAURIE
That's a great idea.

SHARICE, 34, warm, five-months pregnant, enters.

AUBREY
Sharice, this is my friend
Professor Gould I've mentioned.

LAURIE

Laurie's fine. How far along...?

SHARICE

Five months, feels like fifty.

LAURIE

Your first?

AUBREY

Her third. I really don't remember what she's like un-pregnant.

LAURIE

That's amazing.

SHARICE

Eh... No, no, it's worth it.

AUBREY

We're excited, her first girl.

LAURIE

Then it's definitely worth it.

SHARICE

Chef Britta returned your call about London...

Aubrey nods thanks as Sharice walks out.

AUBREY

I've also Been talking to chefs to try and take Sprouts global. I hope other cities might like what we're doing here...

LAURIE

I bet they would.

AUBREY

Selfishly as much for me as otherwise, I haven't gotten out of here much...

Laurie looks through Aubrey's bookcase and the accompanying drawings throughout the office, faces of Sprouts kids.

LAURIE

You drew these?

AUBREY

Yeah. Something I mess around with.

LAURIE
You're really talented.

AUBREY
Thank you.

LAURIE
All this helped come from my class?

AUBREY
Yeah. That and my dad, he was chef; that "other stuff—" during college was when he passed away.

LAURIE
(motherly)
It's not okay though.

AUBREY
...So that's what else *this*'s all about. He and I cooked together,

A beat.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Anyway, I'm jealous of your
students now, they get great guide
through rough waters.

LAURIE
Not sure I have it in me anymore.

AUBREY

TNT, B.A.B.T TRAIN- EVENTING

Laurie checks Raya, nothing new, she Facetimes Ryan.

LAURIE
If I hearted someone on Raya and
they don't love me back does that
mean it's automatically a no?

RYAN
It's possible she just might not have seen him yet.

LAURIE
Oh okay, good to hear.

RYAN (CONT'D)
We got a winner?

Laurie isn't sure, she half-smiles.

EXT. POOL- MORNING

Laurie looks at Aubrey after their swim.

LAURIE
Thanks again for the other day.

AUBREY
You're welcome, please come again.

LAURIE
Absolutely... Hey-

Aubrey turns on her way out of the pool.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Um, do you- actually um, never
mind. Nothing, never mind.

INT. LECTURE HALL, BERKELEY- ANOTHER MORNING

Laurie lectures when Ben's phone dings, she stops and looks at his phone, "New Match," Laurie opens it up and checks to see who it is, it's not Aubrey, her face drops...

LAURIE
... Sorry...um, where was I?

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

Laurie flips through girls on the app, they blend into:

I/E. VARIOUS DATE SPOTS- VARIOUS

WOMAN
(casually)
Screw it, let's go. My eggs are
frozen too, it works out.

Laurie grins through her teeth uncomfortably. Laurie awkwardly glances down at ANOTHER WOMAN's feet.

LAURIE
Do you own Converse per chance?

The WOMAN shakes no. ANOTHER WOMAN is a mile a minute.

WOMAN
Our software automates time-keeping
for lawyers.

LAURIE
(feigning interest)
Oh that's fascinating.

Laurie takes Ben's phone out under the table, checking Raya.

WOMAN
Just finished our Series A, finally
can add to our c-suite...Did you
just check Raya?

LAURIE
No. WOMAN (CONT'D)
Yes you did. I see it.

LAURIE
Okay, I did. Sorry I'm just waiting
for a message from a friend.

WOMAN
Rock bottom, officially. I don't
know what's worse, being rejected
by a dead guy or his mother.

EXT. POOL- MORNING

Aubrey and Laurie get out. Laurie gathers some courage.

LAURIE
Hey... not to be weird, but do you
have a boyfriend or anything?

AUBREY
-Trying to seduce me Mrs. Robinson?

Laurie laughs nervously.

LAURIE
No! What? Of course not.

AUBREY
And no I definitely don't. Why?

LAURIE
I'm surprised you don't um, I have
someone to set you up with?

AUBREY
 Oh, ha, well, I'm not really
 in the market. Dating is- LAURIE (CONT'D)
 -Of course! Absolutely I hear
 you, hope I didn't overreach.

AUBREY
 No, no you're all good.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY- NIGHT

Laurie finds ELLA, 31, gorgeous, waiting with arms-crossed,
 this is a woman whose emotions are clear and present.

ELLA
 Hi. I figured I'm owed hearing
 exactly what you're up to...

LAURIE
 Ella, there's a lot to it, I don't
 think I need to justify anything.

ELLA
 I didn't love him as much as he
 made it seem.

LAURIE
 ...But you did, which is okay...

ELLA
 Fuck him.
 (growing upset)
 I wanted to give it a try again. He
 didn't think we should talk.

LAURIE
 He was protecting you. He didn't
 want to hurt you...

Ella breaks down.

ELLA
 I'll have the baby.

A beat. Laurie looks to her, considering the magnitude.

LAURIE
 Sweetheart... You don't want to.
 You'll find someone great, he'll
 give you everything you know you
 need, Ben couldn't do that. I love
 how much you loved him, but this
 isn't what you want.

Laurie grabs and hugs Ella, like it's something Ella really needed. Ella wipes away her tears.

ELLA
I'm sorry. I should go.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE- DAY

Laurie, Niket, Ryan, and Mimi sign some papers.

ANDREW
Congrats. I know it's a change, but
maybe it's a fresh start for TRVLR?

LAURIE
Lotta money, hope you have plans.

MIMI
Pay for the wedding. NIKET
Pay my way into Raya.

LAURIE
Make it count.

As Andrew walks Mimi and Niket out, Laurie sees Ryan stuck staring out the window.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
You alright?

RYAN
Yeah, it just feels like an ending.
That this is what he wanted?

LAURIE
I don't know, I wish I did.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM- NIGHT

Laurie looks through his books, she pulls out Kurt Vonnegut's "Cat's Cradle," opening it up to find an inscription, "My son, in this Vonnegut wrote (technically, paraphrased) "Of all the words of mice and men, the saddest are 'it might've been'" On this day, your college graduation, my only advice- actually more so a plea- for the rest of this life of yours, leave nothing to what might have been... Always, Dad"

INT. ALLEN'S OFFICE- NIGHT

Laurie leaves the book on his desk.

INT. ALLIE'S APARTMENT- LATE AFTERNOON

Allie makes Thanksgiving with some friends, Laurie sits nearby, out of it, not helping, a heavy rain outside. Allen, Matt and a few others watch football in the other room.

ALLIE

Mom, sure it's okay I'm doing the turkey? Always been your thing.

LAURIE

It's yours this year honey.

ALLIE

You alright?

LAURIE

I'm fine. Decided I'm taking next semester off. Need some time.

ALLIE

(snidely)

You've really been *so busy*.

LAURIE

I hope you know I've had women willing, I've chosen otherwise for him, not because I'm incapable.

Laurie sees Allen stand up to leave.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

We can't even be together tonight?

Allen slows.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Why don't you give your father any shit about how healthily he's moving on?

ALLIE
He's not trying to-

LAURIE (CONT'D)
He sneaks out every night to god knows where-?

ALLIE
Dad is that true?

Allen, as he does, has nothing to respond with.

LAURIE (TO ALLEN)
He's happily making this our life.

Allen turns, angrily.

ALLEN

This has nothing to do with a life
of ours. You're trying to live his.

LAURIE

Oh! His balls appear! He speaks!

An anger appears in Allen she's never seen.

ALLEN

The boy's not here, and all this
nonsense won't bring him back.

He can't look her in the eye, she gets her coat.

LAURIE

No, I'll go for a change.
Have a nice meal all.

INT. BRESLER HOME- "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

Laurie picks up Ben's phone, but doesn't click it on, she throws it down. She looks outside as Allen arrives home; that rain seems to have amazingly turned to snow...

EXT. POOL- MORNING

Laurie holds underwater, emerging to Aubrey not there. She gets out and checks Raya, her eyes go wide. Just like that, Aubrey, a match. Laurie stares, unsure what to do... "Hey Ben! No need for all the bullshit on here, right? If you're free, lunch at Cheesecake in Berkeley today at 1PM, cool? 777-555-2121" Laurie stares on, giddy.

INT. CAR- DAY

Laurie watches Aubrey arrive. Aubrey nervously sweeps her hair behind her ears. Laurie checks herself in the rearview.

INT. CHEESEBOARD PIZZA- MOMENTS LATER

Laurie walks up timidly, trying to be casual.

LAURIE

Aubrey? Hi! What're you doing here?
You missed a swim this morning!

AUBREY

Laurie? Hey.

They hug awkwardly.

AUBREY (CONT'D) LAURIE
Office is closed today so I -I figured it was too cold
tried to sleep in- for you.

Laurie playfully and uncomfortably hits her arm.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
Anyway! Just grabbing lunch or- ?

Aubrey looks around, she's a mile a minute too.

AUBREY
Yeah well, no, I'm kinda supposed
to be meeting a date sort of... And
I know I said no dating but my
friend's been using this dating app
for me, Raya? Totally not my thing.
Anyway, she set this all up with a
guy and sort of forced me to come
cause- sorry, I'm rambling-

LAURIE
Nothing to apologize about, you
kids have such crazy dating lives.

AUBREY
Yeah, it's not ideal...

LAURIE
So it's a blind date? Do you know
anything about the guy? I know zero
about how these things work.

AUBREY
Yeah, well, no, I mean I did have
some right of refusal... She showed
me his profile and he's pretty
cute, I don't know much anything
about him or anything otherwise,
she didn't want me to look him up
and find some reason to bail, which
I still considered...

Aubrey thinks she sees a guy that looks like Ben. She
nervously checks her phone.

AUBREY (CONT'D) LAURIE
He's getting kinda late, I -No! Stay! I mean- you should
might leave anyway- probably stay, poor guy
probably is really really
looking forward to it.

Aubrey looks around again. Laurie smiles, unsure what to do.

AUBREY

But you know what? Think I am just
gonna go, whole thing is silly. See
you Monday morning?

LAURIE

Yeah... absolutely.

Laurie is frozen as Aubrey turns and starts to walk away.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Wait!

Aubrey turns back. Laurie gathers herself.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

I-I-I'm Ben!

AUBREY

What?

LAURIE

I'm Ben. Well, I'm Ben's Mom, but
for all intents and purposes, I'm
him, sort of. Here, look-

Laurie fumbles into her purse for Ben's phone. Laurie opens up Raya to Ben's profile. Aubrey looks on, confused.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Yeah.

AUBREY

Oh. Wait. Yeah. Your son. Ohhhh.
No, wait, yeah, I'm confused.

LATER

They sit outside. Laurie sighs to the heavens.

LAURIE

So, yeah-

AUBREY (CONT'D)

-Well that's fucking wild.

LAURIE

If you think I'm insane, I get it.

AUBREY

No, no, it makes sense, I guess?
And I have a confession, I'm only
on Raya to find my old professors
posing as their dead son.

Aubrey winks, an ease to the two despite the surreality.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
How many of these have you been on?

LAURIE
A few...

AUBREY
My first and last, no offense...

LAURIE
(nods, understanding)
Been a lot of first's with this...
So why today? Why Ben?

AUBREY
(sincerely)
Well, I saw his profile, and felt
like I'd met him somewhere? Maybe
he just looks like you? I don't
know, something about him though...

LAURIE
You'd have liked him... Hey, I get
this is a lot, and I'm not asking
for you to do anything, I don't
really know what I'm doing to be
honest. Thanks for not running away
today, wouldn't have blamed you.

AUBREY
Where would I go? I'd have to
change my entire morning routine.

LAURIE
I shouldn't have mislead you
though, I didn't know how to-

AUBREY
-It's okay, you did nothing wrong,
really. I'm not *completely* freaked
out, it's a story to tell?

LAURIE
Still see you next week, right?

AUBREY
Of course.

Aubrey smiles and she turns to leave.

LAURIE
Hey wait-

Aubrey turns back.

AUBREY
-wanted to take another look at me?

LAURIE
(smiling)
Would love you to come to this
event next week? It's at a hockey
game down in San Jose, bad food,
drinks, good group. No pressure.

AUBREY
Oh, yeah? Can I maybe you? Is that
cool? Have to see what I'm up to...

LAURIE
Of course. I'll send you the info.

AUBREY
You don't have my number.

Laurie pulls out Ben's phone. Aubrey nods, "of course."

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, HAIGHT-ASHBURY- EVENING

Aubrey enters to find her roommate QUINCY- 29, diminutive but feisty- on the couch, Quincy jumps up.

AUBREY
Hey Quin.

QUINCY
Don't hey me bitch, tell me, tell
me, I've been dying.

Aubrey can only laugh, microwaving a frozen burrito.

AUBREY
Irony is alive and well...

QUINCY
Figure out where you knew him?

AUBREY
He didn't show up.

QUINCY
Wait, what? Seriously?

Quincy follows Aubrey into her room...

AUBREY
 (matter of factly)
 ...His Mom did though.

QUINCY
 Get out of here- AUBREY (CONT'D)
 -Cause he's dead...

Aubrey shrugs, Quincy looks like her head might explode. Aubrey goes to her laptop, typing in "Benjamin Bresler" into Google. "Benjamin Bresler, founder of TRVLR VR, dead at 32."

QUINCY
 What's happening? What's she doing?

AUBREY
 Looking for who might've been right for him, there's more to it. She's grieving, least I could do was hear her out. The crazy part is I know her, she was a professor of mine, we swim together.

QUINCY
 Is that the crazy part though?

AUBREY
 ...She invited us to an event for his foundation.

Aubrey shows a text from "BEN RAYA," "Great chat today! Sorry again! Thanks for understanding!!! Tuesday 730, I can leave tickets for you at Will Call!!! Let me know!-Laurie Gould"

QUINCY
 She's texting from his phone too?
 I'm so sorry, onto the next one.

AUBREY
 I think I'm good for now.
 I'll come hang in a bit Q.

QUINCY
 Alright...

Quincy leaves. Aubrey hurries to her phone. She scrolls through the BenBresler Foundation website and she plays Ben's Raya profile again, hugging her knees into her chest as she buries her head into her hands and begins to weep...

INT. UTERUS- MICRO LEVEL

The sperm are "dropped" into a new, pink, maternal world.

EXT. POOL- MORNING

Laurie exhales, reassured, as Aubrey arrives with a smile.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES, AUBREY'S OFFICE- LATER

Aubrey watches a video of Ben giving a TED talk...

BEN

The wonders of our world, in all
that we learn, that we experience
from distant places and their
grandeur, shouldn't just be for
those that can afford it...

Sharice enters.

SHARICE

You alright? Out of it today...
Who's that? He is nice.

AUBREY

No one.

SHARICE

My big pregnant ass no one.

AUBREY

(off Sharice's look)
Okay, he's that woman Laurie's son-

CUT TO:

Sharice's jaw drops.

SHARICE

Aubrey Case. You gonna?

AUBREY

Are you crazy? No. Of course not.

SHARICE

Just checking, only thing more out
of their mind than a white woman is
a single 30-something white woman
with a ticking biological clock.

Aubrey rolls her eyes...

SHARICE (CONT'D)

You know I'm not wrong, and
speaking of... six months.

They walk over to the office "Belly Board," in the hallway where co-workers have marked off their belly bump growth. Aubrey marks Sharice's sixth month of pregnancy.

INT. SAP CENTER, LUXURY SUITE, SAN JOSE- NIGHT

Laurie keeps checking the door. Allie watches on. Allen quietly watches the game by himself.

MICHELLE
You're fidgeting.

LAURIE
She's late.

RYAN
She'll show.

INT. SAP CENTER, HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF LUXURY SUITE- NIGHT

Aubrey and Quincy stand at the door about to go in, Aubrey double checks the ticket, Quincy looks around nervously.

AUBREY
What're you so wiggled out about?

QUINCY
This is an extremely different social interaction, you should be uncomfortable too considering why we're here. How you dragged me to this I'm still not sure.

AUBREY
We're mixing it up. Some new people... *Open bar?*

Quincy nods, remembering, fair point. They open the door, heads turning. Niket quickly the first to see them enter.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Hi. This is the Ben thing yeah?

NIKET
Yeah, you look super familiar...

AUBREY
I'm Aubrey, this is Quincy.

NIKET (TO AUBREY)
Were you a friend of Ben's? I don't-

Ryan quickly comes over and nudges Niket.

RYAN
She's Laurie's friend.

Ryan pulls Niket away as Laurie sees Aubrey's arrival.

NIKET
Her grad assistant or something?

LAURIE
Hey! So glad you could make it.

AUBREY
Sorry we're late.

Matt turns to Allie who watches on.

MATT
She's very cute, can't deny that.

ALLIE
She's fine, but she's nuts if she
knows what my Mom's angling at, and
if she doesn't then I really don't
know what she's doing here.

MATT
This's all still for the
foundation. Gonna introduce myself.

Ryan reminds home team gear clad Niket.

NIKET
(loudly)
Oh fuck of course! I am a moron.

Aubrey, Quincy and Laurie all exchange a nice awkward glance.

AUBREY
Thanks again for having us, we've
never been to a hockey game before.

LAURIE
All the better.

NIKET
-Are you joking me!? What kind of
piece of shit no-call is that!?

LAURIE

...Ben was a big fan of the LA team from when we lived down there, so there's a little rivalry tension here with a few people from here.

Matt approaches.

MATT

Hey! I'm Matt, Ben's sister's boyfriend. Thanks for coming, *such* a pleasure, seriously such a treat. What can I get you guys to drink?

QUINCY

Do you have anything with lithium?

MATT

Shouldn't be a problem.

Quincy talks with Matt and Allie, leaving Aubrey and Laurie to both laugh, nervously.

LATER

Laurie and Michelle watch Aubrey talk with everyone, a vibrancy to her. Allen is of course off to himself. When the BenBresler Foundation is welcomed on the Big Screen, Will's shirt comes off, the whole box dances, Aubrey admires the group's vigor, she can't help but be swept up in it too. Aubrey jumps up when a goal is scored by the visiting Kings to Niket's dismay; Aubrey mockingly eats a nacho in his face. Quincy and Allie stand together and look on unamused.

LATER

The game over, most of the suite has cleared out. Aubrey sits with Niket, Ryan, and Mimi. Mimi looks around at who's left.

MIMI

It's a special group.

RYAN

If it felt like there was something missing, that was him.

NIKET

...Hey, I have an idea... Think you might want to actually meet him?

AUBREY

What do you mean?

NIKET

Come by our office tomorrow, see
what we've been up to?

Aubrey looks back to Laurie, who smiles at her.

AUBREY

Sure, why not?

Quincy taps Aubrey on the shoulder to leave. They approach Laurie, Aubrey hugging her goodbye.

LAURIE

Thanks for coming you two.

AUBREY

I'm glad we did, had a blast.

As Laurie closes the door on the girls exit, she raises her eyebrows to arms-folded Allie, Matt smiling in amusement.

INT. CAR, FREEWAY- LATER

Aubrey sings loudly, Quincy is dead silent, as if waiting for Aubrey, finally Quincy turns down the music.

QUINCY

She wants you to use her dead son's
jizz to make a baby and you weren't
going to mention it?!?

AUBREY

Christ, so delicate. It has nothing
to do with why we came... And
everything to do with why he came.

QUINCY

Laugh it up, but this woman's after
something you can't give her.

AUBREY

We went to a party Q-

QUINCY (CONT'D)

-Where you were a completely
different person.

AUBREY

I was having a good time.

QUINCY

Yeah you were, it's just...

Quincy looks at her friend obtusely.

QUINCY (CONT'D)

Been a while since I've seen you
like that, like, free, I guess.

AUBREY

It's a bad thing I had a good time?

QUINCY

It's nice, I just, I don't know...

Aubrey turns the music back up. Quincy looks at her.

INT. TRVLR VR- AFTERNOON

Niket impatiently runs up to Aubrey as she arrives.

NIKET

Welcome, Niket, we met last night.

AUBREY

Yes Niket, I think I remember you.

He excitedly brings her to the conference room.

MIMI

Oh hey girl, glad you came.

RYAN

You ready? Sit. Let's get you into
one of the minis. There are longer
trips but this is a good start...

They hand her a VR headset as she sits down and puts it on.

IN VR: Ben pops up as usual.

BEN

Hello TRVLR, I'm Ben... Thanks for
joining, I'll be your guide today,
wherever you could want to go...

A list of places pops up. Aubrey takes off the headset.

AUBREY

(self-consciously)

Is Paris cliche? I've never been...

MIMI

That's the point. Plus it's Paris
for a reason... Day or night?

AUBREY

Night?

MIMI
Get back in there.

NIKET
Bon voyage.

RYAN
Don't forget to say hi...

Aubrey gives Ryan a look like "what?" as she puts the headset back on, and with the push of button *we're suddenly in Paris at the base of the Eiffel Tower, the city of lights shining as advertised. Suddenly we hear that familiar voice nearby:*

BEN (O.C.)
Bienvenue a Paris, mon amis...

We see as Aubrey does, Ben in all his glory, as Ben bows...

BEN (CONT'D)
Perfect night to be here with you, thanks for coming along. Shall we?

Ben turns and starts walking backwards out in front of "us."

They watch on as Aubrey smiles... We're transported to the TOP OF THE TOWER, Ben looks out to the city, us with him.

BEN (CONT'D)
Originally the Tower was supposed to be torn down 20 years after it's completion for the World's Fair in 1889, but Eiffel himself cleverly put a radio antenna here, making it too valuable to be taken down...

Aubrey looks left and right, and then at Ben looking out. She takes the headset off, shaken, her heart racing...

AUBREY
(honest)
It's beautiful. At first it's kind of claustrophobic though. My eyes and ears are in there, but I knew the rest of me was out here-

NIKET
-Should we burn this place down?

Aubrey looks at Ben on the big screen.

AUBREY
No, you get used to it, you let go.

Ryan hands her the VR headset.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
No, no, you don't have to.

RYAN
Although you just shit on it and
everything we've been working on
for years he would've loved for you
to check it out more.

AUBREY
I didn't! I said it's beautiful.

MIMI
Go enjoy it, it's fun...

AUBREY
Thanks guys.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, AUBREY'S ROOM- NIGHT

Aubrey tosses the VR and some take-out food onto her desk as Quincy peers in.

QUINCY
(re: the takeout)
You might be single handily
responsible for a third of the
Pacific garbage patch.

AUBREY
Leave me be woman.

Quincy walks to her own room. Aubrey looks at Ben's Spotify.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Thirty-something white guy music
present and accounted for, Ben.

She chooses *Sleeping at Last "Sun."* Aubrey looks through Ben's Instagram. Mimi, Ryan, and Niket have all followed her, she follows back. She finds a video of Ryan and Niket chanting as Ben eats an insanely spicy plate of HOT WINGS at a Chinese restaurant, when a text from "Ben Raya" interrupts, Aubrey wrinkles her nose, it's still a little strange, "Thanks for coming last night!- Laurie Gould"

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- SPLIT SCREEN

Laurie smiles when she sees the typing dots... "It was a lot of fun! His friends are great." Laurie: "See you tomorrow?" Aubrey hesitates how to respond. Laurie smiles with Aubrey's thumbs up emoji.

Laurie: "G'night." Aubrey sighs as she glances at the VR, her sparse room, she holds onto an old STUFFED GLOBE on her bed.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Aubrey tosses and turns, exasperated, she gets out of bed, she begins to draw some, when she's pulled to the VR set...

BEN
Hello TRVLR...

Aubrey chooses Rome from the longer journey options...

EXT. ROME- STREET- DAY

Aubrey looks up to summer blue sky, then down to the cobblestoned street beneath to a pair of white Converse.

BEN
Gelato?

We pan up to find Ben, holding a cone of gelato towards us.

BEN (CONT'D)
The one and only eternal city.
Lovely you're here with me...

AUBREY
Hey, I'm Aubrey. Pleasure to seeee-

She throws the VR set onto her bed. She rubs her hands across her face and looks at the VR set again.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
The fuck, Aubrey?

She sighs, putting it back on. Ben unfreezes.

BEN
You ready? Let's Rome.

He smiles at his bad joke- as we see she does too- he starts walking, and of course, we follow...

LATER

INT. SAINT IGNACIO CHURCH, ROME- DAY

Ben's voice lowers to just above a whisper in the church.

BEN

...it was to have one of the most beautiful domes in Renaissance Rome; but in 1642 the Jesuit brothers ran out of money. Instead of foregoing it entirely, one of the brothers, Andrea Pozzo- who happened to be a painter- proposed he paint a life-sized illusion of a dome that would fool the eyes of visitors when they looked up...

Aubrey looks through the Roman dust of time up to this spectacle. Our POV spins, taking it in...

BEN (CONT'D)

Ironic, no?

Aubrey spins in her desk chair, her knees into her chest...

EXT. POOL- DAWN

Aubrey looks at Laurie.

AUBREY

(laughing at herself)

I don't know what's going on, it sounds crazy, but I'm curious about him. I can't figure it out, it's like I know him...

LAURIE

I can show you more about him... He had some kind of a life.

INT. AUBREY'S OFFICE, SPROUTS- DAY

Aubrey plays *St. Lucia's "The Way you Remember Me."*

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Aubrey's struck, like she knows this place.

LAURIE

You okay? Is this too weird?

AUBREY

No? I don't know, I'm alright.

Aubrey nervously fiddles with some BOXING GLOVES which hang from the entryway closet door as she looks around.

LAURIE

Take 'em, give it a try sometime.

AUBREY

Nooo, I don't think I have the innate desire to punch anything.

LAURIE

Well, he never shut up about how therapeutic it is. He loved it.

Aubrey thinks on it as she sits next to Laurie on the couch who has a stack of photos. Laurie eyes one with SIX HANDPRINTS and a SMUDGE in concrete "Ben, Laurie, Al 1994."

AUBREY

...What's that smudge?

LAURIE

He put his face in.

Aubrey snorts, Laurie looks down at the picture.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

He had the joy gene. I don't know where he got it from.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- EVENING

Aubrey rushes in, waving to Quincy, hurrying into her room before Quincy can even respond. She puts on the VR headset.

BEN (O.S.)

Hello TRVLR... I'm Ben.

EXT. CARNIVALE, RIO DE JANIERO- NIGHT

We walk through the unfolding insanity, when Ben's stopped by a DANCER, they shake their asses together. Ben turns and winks at the camera. Aubrey smiles in real time.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Aubrey laugh-snorts at a picture of twelve year-old Ben leaning frighteningly over the edge of Half-Dome in Yosemite.

LAURIE

He was curious, always, to a fault.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM- ANOTHER NIGHT

Aubrey pulls down a box of notecards from her closet. The tattered notecards are full of HAND WRITTEN RECIPES. She looks through them before putting them away... She sits down and starts to draw A FACE we can't quite make out. Done for the night, she turns to the headset.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

Laurie texts Aubrey from Ben's phone.

INT. AUBREY'S BEDROOM- MORNING

Aubrey opens up one eye to the awaiting text.

BEN (PRELAP)
Hello TRVLR... Good morning...

INT. AUBREY'S BEDROOM- LATER

Aubrey puts her morning coffee on her desk. She puts on the headset. She watches and waves to him in a distant world.

LAURIE (V.O.)
I loved how he tried it all, simply
cause it was there to be tried.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT- ANOTHER DAY

Aubrey scans the pictures on the wall of people with eyes tear-filled, faces fire-red as the remnant wings in front of them. She finds Ben with two thumbs-up, his face swollen. The RESTAURANT OWNER smiles to her, Aubrey shakes her head no.

MOMENTS LATER

Aubrey tastes one of the wings before her with her finger.

AUBREY
No way. Who'd be stupid enough to
subject themselves to this???

She rubs an itch in her eye, it immediately begins to burn.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Holy shit. Oh my god, god damnit.

EXT. SPROUTS, GARDEN- LATER

Aubrey smells the fresh herbs with a swollen eye.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES- DAY

Aubrey continues that drawing.

BEN (O.S. PRELAP)
Hello TRVLR, I'm Ben...

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN- NIGHT

Aubrey takes out a pan, putting it on the burner, but the sight of the flame breaks her, she slides down the floor.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Aubrey lays on her bed, the headset on.

AUBREY
Hi Ben...

QUINCY (O.S.)
Did you say something?

Aubrey doesn't hear her, immersed in the headphones.

EXT. DESERT, MOROCCO- DUSK

Ben slides down a sand dune, camels waiting at the bottom of the long ride, the camera goes right into the camel's mouth.

BEN
...believe you've made a friend.

Quincy peers in to see Aubrey on her bed in that other land, enjoying the ride. Quincy surprises Aubrey with a tap.

QUINCY
Who you talking to?

AUBREY
I'm in Morocco. Check it out.

Aubrey hands the VR over, Quincy shakes no.

QUINCY
I'm good, seems claustrophobic.

AUBREY
I said that at first too- QUINCY (CONT'D)
-We still on for Erin dinner?

AUBREY
Damnit, I forgot. Gonna hang in.

Aubrey head nods to the take out on her desk. When Aubrey gets a text from "Ben Raya," Quincy clocks it.

QUINCY
Okay, cool, do your thing...

EXT. HARBOR- SAN FRANCISCO BAY

Matt, Aubrey, and Laurie board a sailboat.

LAURIE
Thank you for this Matthew.

MATT
My blood's on your hands if your daughter murders me.

LAURIE
She'll live. MATT (CONT'D)
I'm worried about me.

LATER AT SEA

Matt shows Aubrey how to rig the sail. The wind catches it and onward they go. Matt cuts off a piece of rope for her.

MATT (CONT'D)
Tradition. Allen with him, Ben, me.

AUBREY
Fathers and sons.

Laurie flinches, as they laugh... Aubrey closes her eyes as they stop beneath the Golden Gate Bridge, it's breathtaking.

EXT. TROPICAL BEACH- SUNRISE

Ben meditates to the eastern sky. The sun rises in Aubrey's window to the east as she stretches on her floor, routine... And as day transitions to night outside... Aubrey curls up with the headset on. She falls asleep with the headset falling off her face... We see his boxing gloves hanging on her door, the piece of rope on her desk.

LAURIE (V.O.)
...He brought us all a wonder...

EXT. JOSHUA TREE, DESERT FLOOR- A WINTER NIGHT

Ben, bundled up, points upwards to a meteor shower...

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

She finishes the drawing, turning it right-side up, she'd been drawing it upside down, BEN in all his resplendence.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

LAURIE
I'm lucky to be his Mom.

Aubrey bittersweetly smiles, she curiously wanders around.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
...Bake off? New season.

AUBREY
Sure.

LAURIE
(a touch of melancholy)
He never slept well, couldn't turn his brain off. Why I think he liked these cooking shows cause they're mindless, helped him fall asleep. As a baby we tried *everything*: drove him around the block, put him in his car seat on the dryer...

Laurie's hit by the memory. Aubrey laughs.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
He could always eat, despite never cooking himself a thing in his life. You must cook all the time?

AUBREY
No, I never do, it's hard for me...

LAURIE
I'd imagine you have it in you.

Laurie turns on the TV, "Jeopardy" on. Aubrey's ears perk up with the sound of Alex Trebek's voice. She comes back.

ALEX TREBEK
This Dutch painter's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" was originally entitled "Girl With a Turban."

LAURIE
Johannes Vermeer.

AUBREY
Vermeer.

LAURIE
He watched it all the time with his
dad, they banned me cause I kicked
their asses too badly...

AUBREY
I wouldn't let my dad not take the
beating. I'm a bit competitive.

LAURIE
What was he like?

AUBREY
The guy was a bear, most charming.
(smiling bittersweetly)
He knew how to love...

LAURIE
I believe it... And your mom?

AUBREY
She's remarried up in Oregon.

Aubrey waves it off, she doesn't want to go there.

ALEX TREBEK
This word is French for left, it
also means crude.

AUBREY
Gauche. LAURIE
Gauche.

Aubrey sees a small shrine to the LA Kings in his office.

AUBREY
It's too bad he never aged past 13.

Laurie turns to see Aubrey pop out with a BOBBLE HEAD DOLL.

LAURIE
Few men do, sweetheart. I think he
got to seventeen, that's about it.

Aubrey looks at his office, this collection of his spoils.

AUBREY
Wow, the rest of this stuff, he
went everywhere. What're you gonna
do with it all?

LAURIE
Not sure yet really.

Aubrey comes back, Laurie turns.

AUBREY
Cleaning out is the hardest part.

LAURIE
And you? What's stopped you from
distant travels? Just going?

AUBREY
Circumstance? Sprouts here? I-
(re: Jeopardy, deflecting)
I have to stay to smoke your
Professor ass anyway.

INT. FOX THEATER, OAKLAND- NIGHT

Aubrey, Quincy and their spacey friend Erin watch a show.

QUINCY (TO AUBREY)
Look at you, out in the wild.

AUBREY
What do you mean?

Just then, JARED, tall, 30s interrupts.

JARED
-Hey, sorry to bother you, but I
noticed you and thought I'd come
say hi, buy you a drink. I'm Jared.

AUBREY
Hi, I appreciate it, but no thanks.

JARED
You sure?

Aubrey nods, Jared hovers a moment before turning away.

QUINCY
What? What're you doing? He's gorg.

AUBREY
Didn't do it for me-

QUINCY (CONT'D)
-What? Why not?

AUBREY
You talk to him. He wasn't-

QUINCY (CONT'D)
-Dead?

AUBREY
Whoa, whoa... okay? And that means?

Quincy gives her a look. Aubrey looks around the room.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
You know? I'm tired anyway, long
week, think I'm gonna head home.

ERIN
You okay? We can head out with you.

AUBREY No, no, stay, I'm just-	QUINCY -Lying? You realize your favorite musician is right here, in person?
-----------------------------------	--

AUBREY
I'll see you at home.

Aubrey leaves, Quincy looks to Erin in disbelief.

EXT. COACHELLA- MAGIC HOUR

Ben dances; our POV twirls with him in the VIP area out towards the thrum, the throngs extending outward, the colors of the descending heat and desert sunset. Quincy rips the headset off as Aubrey swirls in her chair, Erin there too.

AUBREY
Ow, what the hell?!

When Quincy hears music coming through the headphones, she puts on the VR, immediately ripping it off.

QUINCY
Real nice. Are you kidding?

AUBREY
How am I bothering you?

QUINCY
Have you stopped at all to look
around at what you're doing?

Quincy holds up the VR.

QUINCY (CONT'D)
I wish you were stalking a guy's
Instagram or something, they'd at
least be, um, alive. Isn't binge
watching this guy's life getting to
be a little weird?

AUBREY

If I was doing that it would be.
I will admit- and you'd see if you
tried TRVLR- that he's charming-

QUINCY

-Was.

AUBREY

(tongue-in-cheek)

It's a flaw, yeah. Otherwise, he's
the perfect man, no? He listens, he
doesn't say much other than some
really interesting anecdotes while
he takes me everywhere. He's from a
good family, he can't get out of
shape, and he literally can't cheat
on me! Oh! And I forgot to tell
you, my vibrator's all charged up.

QUINCY

You kind of aren't kidding. AUBREY (CONT'D)

You're being ridiculous.

ERIN

I think it's cool Aub. Did you read
about that chick that bangs ghosts?
She's engaged to one now.

AUBREY

(playing along)

No, but I did see that Japanese
TikTok guy who married a hologram.

ERIN

I saw that too.

AUBREY

Maybe I'll see if I can get his Mom
to get a hologram of him made too?
Down to the *detailed inch*.

Aubrey wraps the headphone cord around her finger
lasciviously to goad Quincy.

QUINCY

I'm not going to sit here and not
say anything if you're going to
throw away-

AUBREY

What? What life of mine am I
throwing away, what life am I
mourning Q? I haven't been
anywhere, done anything.

(MORE)

AUBREY (CONT'D)

My life's been the same thing over again, safe, boring, for how long now? I hadn't even been out of the fucking country Quin-

QUINCY

And you still haven't!

AUBREY

What if I said there's something undeniable here I can't explain or you couldn't get?

QUINCY

I'd say you've talked yourself into him cause he can't leave you like your Dad, like Grant, like any man you meet eventually might.

AUBREY

Nice. I get it now, I get why this bugs you so much. If you can't obsess over finding me someone you have to face the fact that you can't find someone for yourself.

QUINCY

Wow, you're honestly more far gone than I thought. How you could think this is some deep-seated thing about me and not a concern for you falling in love with a **fucking dead guy** is laughable.

AUBREY

Noted. Thanks for your input, you can get out now.

Aubrey puts the headset back on in protest.

EXT. POOL- MORNING

Aubrey and Laurie dry off.

LAURIE

I wanted to ask you... With TRVLR selling, the foundation has a little money. I've been thinking there might be a way to help bring your community center to life.

Aubrey is rocked back.

AUBREY

Seriously? Oh, Laurie, wow, I mean, I don't even know what to say.

LAURIE

...Something we could work on together. What do you think?

AUBREY

As long as this isn't going to stop you from going back to teaching at some point? I'd sort of hoped Sprouts would re-excite you.

LAURIE

It has, I just-

AUBREY (CONT'D)

-Or no deal.

EXT. SAILBOAT, HARBOR- LATE AFTERNOON

Laurie approaches Allie as they wait for people to arrive.

LAURIE

Al... think I found a great way to use the TRVLR money...

ALLIE

(measured)

Oh great... What're you thinking?

LAURIE
A community center in partnership with Sprouts, Aubrey's program. She'd be happy to call it the Ben-

ALLIE (CONT'D)

-Are you kidding me? You asked her? How could you not talk to me first?

LAURIE

I'm talking to you now. It's a perfect fit, the foundation could have offices there, and it'd be something for me to work on.

ALLIE

(deeply sarcastic)

Oh, *that's* what you're working on?

LAURIE

Give her a chance.

ALLIE

What exactly am I giving her a chance to do? Propel your insane delusional bullshit?

LAURIE

...This project is important to me. I want you to be involved, but fine be selfish about it. It's not up to you how the money's spent anyway.

ALLIE

You've disappeared from anything we've been doing for the foundation and now you want to take over? And you're calling me selfish?

LAURIE

I'm sorry this isn't exactly how you wanted it you spoiled brat. I should've asked you first, but I worried you wouldn't see the good in it, and clearly I was right.

ALLIE

Do it yourself, he was your son.

LATER

Laurie talks to a LiveBen group of 20+.

LAURIE

Dragging you all out here to reflect on the year past and imagine what the next might bring- despite how fucking cold it always is- was always one of his favorite traditions. As much as last year-

Aubrey arrives late, Will accidentally popping champagne a touch early, the cork soaring, as the speech comes to a stop.

WILL

-Shit! Sorry.

AUBREY

I'm so sorry everyone.

LAURIE

That's okay. As I was saying, we're here to celebrate all that we have to look forward to, always forward. Happy New Year, raise the sails!

LATER

Allen mans the helm. Allie looks over to Aubrey who snorts at something Niket said and then to Laurie across the boat.

MATT
She seems happy- ALLIE
-It's not real.

MATT
Maybe you're looking at this wrong?

ALLIE
Fuck off, don't you dare tell me
how to look at this.

Matt mouths "wow, okay," when a rope gets caught in one of the sails, Matt moves to fix it. Aubrey jumps up, taking care of it... Matt smiles at Allen as Aubrey curtsies to Matt.

INT. BAR, CASTRO- LATER THAT NIGHT

Aubrey and Erin arrive to DRAG QUEENS doing karaoke on stage.

NIKET
Aubrey!

AUBREY
Hey, this is my friend Erin.

ERIN
I'm Erin, such a pleasure.

NIKET
Pleasure is all mine.

He kisses her hand, Erin giggles, smitten by Niket, Aubrey gives her a look, amusedly confused.

NIKET (CONT'D)
(proudly)
That's my cousin Tijuana/T.J.

T.J./Tijuana belts out a song.

RYAN
Hear you have some celebrating to do. We're pumped to hear you sing.

AUBREY
I don't think embarrassing myself in front of dozens of people is how I want to close out the year.

RYAN
Some purposely do it.

Ryan points to Niket now atrociously singing with his cousin. Erin's loving Niket's singing, somehow. Ryan smiles.

Aubrey shakes her head no. Ryan understands. He brings Aubrey to a WALL OF POLAROIDs of people singing, there of course a picture of Ben, a boa around his neck. Ryan sighs.

RYAN (CONT'D)

We're going through years and years
of b-roll to see if there's
anything useful, happy to send you
some. I'm already sick of his face.

AUBREY

I don't blame you.

GROUP (PRELAP)

10...9...8...7...6...5...4...

Aubrey looks at his picture.

INT. AUBREY'S BEDROOM- PRE-DAWN

Aubrey watches an Instagram from the night.

GROUP

3...2...1... Happy New Year!!!!

Aubrey is engulfed by this new group of friends. She then looks to other friends, their relationships, babies, travels, the onward lives of thirty-somethings celebrating a new year.

INT. BRESLER HOME- "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

Laurie checks the LiveBen Instagram, pictures of Aubrey from the night previous, smiling even as she hears Allen get home.

EXT. SPROUTS, ADJACENT LOT- DAY

Aubrey and Laurie walk through with a REAL ESTATE AGENT.

LATER

Aubrey, Laurie, and some Sprouts kids plant seeds. Larry has used a stick and a couple of seeds to make a well, you know. Aubrey amusingly throws a clod of dirt at him.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN- ANOTHER NIGHT

Aubrey looks at the frozen burrito in her freezer. She closes it. She comes back in with her Dad's recipes. Looking at a recipe, "An Agnolotti for Aubrey..." She starts the stove...

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- ANOTHER EVENING

Laurie and Aubrey sit on the couch. Aubrey is in thought.

AUBREY

Why do you think he didn't have someone? Was he running away?

LAURIE

No, I think he was searching for something more than anything, something that he just hadn't found yet. And you... You know it makes zero sense you're not with someone so wonderful it hurts.

Aubrey gets a chill.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Go grab a sweatshirt.

Aubrey stares at an LA KINGS sweatshirt hanging up. A beat. In the other room Laurie turns on Jeopardy. Aubrey returns.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

What about kids eventually? Not that I'm saying- you're just so great with them.

AUBREY

(jokingly)

Stop trying to force me to get pregnant Laurie.

LAURIE

I'm sorry, okay!?

AUBREY

(like a holy man)

The kids of Sprouts are my children.

Aubrey smiles to her.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

No, my ex and I were on that path, I thought, but he um- we're all due one great heartbreak in our lives.

LAURIE

It's the second one that's not fair... And look, the when has to be as right for you as whom with...

AUBREY

...What if what Ben'd been looking
for had been here?

Laurie smiles at the thought.

INT. TRVLR- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Ryan looks through old footage.

EXT. HIGH ALPINE LAKE- DAY

A younger Ben looks out amongst the snow.

BEN

*Thanks for doing this with me. It's
gonna be a helluva ride.*

RYAN (O.S.)

It's a decent gig. Good benefits.

Ryan throws a snowball at his friend's head, Ben turns.

RYAN (CONT'D)

You'd never not let us try, Cap.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Aubrey takes off the headset.

AUBREY

Ben I don't know why I can't let
go, what've I been so scared of? -

She looks at the boxing gloves on her door.

INT. BOXING GYM- DAY

MARK, Ben's AFRICAN-ANGLO TRAINER, shows Aubrey and Laurie PICTURES on the wall of: Ben getting punched in the face sparring, and another what seemed to be right after, Ben with Mark, smiling through a bloody nose...

AUBREY

(laughing)

His picture is everywhere.

LATER

In the ring, Mark taps the mitt across the side of her face.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
You can't do that.

LAURIE
You can't do that, it's 2021.

MARK
Keep your guard up and you won't
have to worry about it.

Mark hits her on the side of the head, Laurie jumps up to the ropes like a Mama Bear. Aubrey throws a punch at him, which he dodges, but he smiles. He taps the side of her face again.

EXT. CAMP, FOREST- NIGHT

*Ben, Ryan, Andrew, and Will sit around a campfire, drinking.
Cut Copy "NEED YOU NOW" playing out of a phone.*

BEN
Today was a good day- RYAN
-We almost died.

BEN
Well, beyond that...

Ben starts to tap his foot to the song.

WILL
The bear wasn't that close.

RYAN
It was in Niket's tent.

Ben stands up and dances, singing loudly, the clearly drunk boys do the same... And we see Aubrey singing, dancing...

INT. SAP CENTER, SEATS- NIGHT

Niket shakes his head at Aubrey's sweatshirt as she arrives.

NIKET
Judas.

LATER

She gets on the KISS CAM with Niket. She shakes her head and mouths to the camera "he's my brother," but then shrugs and grabs Niket's face, kissing him, the crowd goes wild.

INT. TRADER JOE'S- AFTERNOON

Aubrey checks out with Sharice, Aubrey's mind a wander.

CASHIER
Did you check your eggs?

Aubrey starts laughing nervously.

AUBREY
I'm sorry, what did you say?

CASHIER
(re: the carton of eggs)
Your eggs, there're no cracks?

Sharice looks at her confused.

INT. OBGYN'S OFFICE- DAY

Aubrey's GYNO looks through some paperwork.

OBGYN
...you're considering soon?

AUBREY
Oh, no, um, I just thought I should
make sure everything's alright.

OBGYN
Everything's spot-on; egg count is
stellar. Last time I saw you you
didn't have a partner, right?

AUBREY
Yeah, no I didn't...

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- LATER THAT NIGHT

Aubrey gently covers veggies in olive oil.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT- DAY

Aubrey wears her SWIM GOGGLES as she finishes the plate of chicken wings, she and the crew raise their arms in triumph, she gets her picture taken and put on the wall.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES- MORNING

Aubrey comes to Sharice. Aubrey checks her phone.

AUBREY
Seven, no?

Aubrey brings Sharice over to the "Belly Board."

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM- NIGHT

Aubrey comes home and puts on Ben's sweatshirt and the VR.

INT. B.A.R.T- NIGHT

Aubrey's train comes to a stop, the lights flickering before shutting off. A YOUNG MOTHER huddles with her THREE YEAR OLD GIRL who starts to cry, scared by the darkness. The Mother turns on her phone light, doing a dance with the light to stop her daughter from crying... The girl turns the light to the mother, which we now see is Aubrey...

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Aubrey's eyes shoot open, waking from what was a dream.

INT. TATTOO PARLOR- EVENING

Aubrey gets a TATTOO on her shoulder of her dad's INITIALS IN A CHEF'S HAT as Laurie gets the same tattoo Allie has.

INT. DRAG KARAOKE BAR- NIGHT

Ryan smiles as Matt brings out a bag of CHOCOLATE MUSHROOMS.

AUBREY

It's like molly right? Not that
I've tried that either.

MATT

Molly, how very 2013 of you.

MIMI

This is more mellow, like putting a
twinkle-filter on your eyes.

Aubrey timidly goes for it. LATER, she's dancing, a freedom to her as the neon lights swirl around her... Ryan looks to her and the mic on stage. She stops dancing and smiles.

CUT TO:

Aubrey belts "Need You Now." T.J. gives her a boa as the rest of the gang sings below the stage.

INT. BURRITO STAND, THE MISSION- NIGHT

They sit with massive burritos before them. Niket takes a bite, sliding back into his chair in ecstasy.

AUBREY

See, I can show you skinny boys a thing or two too.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- LATE NIGHT

Aubrey stumbles in, the boa around her neck, Quincy still up.

AUBREY

(kissing Quin's forehead)

Hi, I'm high.

QUINCY

Congratulations.

EXT. BEACH, THAILAND- DAY

Ben in swim trunks stares at her.

BEN

Let's take a dip, shall we?

Ben can't help but laugh about it.

BEN (CONT'D)

C'mon sexy, get wet, you know you want me, you dirty bitch...

NIKET

Stop dick, we gotta get this shot!

BEN

Always known you've wanted me, that kinky little mind of yours baby.

She rips off the headset and runs to her bathroom, splashing water on her face. She looks at the VR lasciviously in the mirror, biting her lip. She sits back down, climbing herself back against her headboard. She puts the headset on.

BEN (CONT'D)

You want this. I can feel it...

Ben approaches the camera, and starts to mock kiss it... And Aubrey if we didn't know any better, kisses back, before stopping herself. She shakes herself back to reality.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES- MORNING

Aubrey marks Sharice's eighth month on the Belly Board.

EXT. SPROUTS GARDEN- LATER

Aubrey, Sharice, Laurie and some Sprouts students pick out those planted vegetables. Sharice holds her stomach.

AUBREY

You okay?

SHARICE

She's kicking like crazy, feel.

Aubrey feels the baby kick, catching a glance from Laurie.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, BATHROOM- NIGHT

Aubrey pushes her stomach in and out, "pregnant."

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- LATER THAT NIGHT

She lifts the pasta high out from a pan onto a plate.

INT. BOXING GYM- DAY

Aubrey decks Mark and dances around, the champ is here.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- LATER THAT NIGHT

Aubrey lights a candle with her meal. She takes a bite.

AUBREY

Needs salt.

She gets up and gives it some salt, tasting, better.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- MIDNIGHT

Aubrey falls back onto her bed. She runs through his music. Putting on *J. Views, Wild Cub "Into the Light."* She looks through the headset to see *Ben again on that beach, shirtless...* This time she slowly starts to move her hand across her breasts, the other down between her legs. She rips the headset off and closes her eyes, in some way she's really making love. Flashes of the impossible dot our imagination, together in the throes of another place...

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- MORNING

Aubrey wakes up and laughs to herself, as the sun beams in, the VR by her side. She puts it on to see *Ben smiling as we left him*, she smiles back, a rapturous exhale.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES- DAY

Sharice looks at Aubrey, a glow to her. Aubrey looks back at her when Laurie and the Real Estate agent arrive. Laurie and Aubrey sign the papers for the lot next door.

EXT. SPROUTS GARDEN- LATER THAT DAY

They look to the lot adjacent, the possibilities.

LAURIE

In another life Allen'd help design. Well, in another life- Anyway, I don't think a June 1st groundbreaking is too overzealous is it? Just past Ben's birthday.

AUBREY

Works for me.

EXT. MARIN COUNTY, FARMHOUSE- EARLY EVENING

Aubrey sits with Laurie a row behind Matt, Allie and Allen, as Niket does the honors as Justice of the Peace. Laurie gives a look to Allen, who sees her but can't look back.

NIKET

Ryan Gunwoo Lee, do you take Miriam Leah Wolf to be your lawfully wedded wife? Cause I really think you should.

RYAN

...Without a doubt in this world or any other...

Mimi puts the ring on Ryan's finger.

LAURIE

(whispering)

What's your middle name?

AUBREY

Mildred.

Matt and Allen try stifle laughs as if they'd heard her.

LAURIE (TO AUBREY)
No. Seriously?

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Unfortunately.

NIKET

...And so by the power vested in me
by the great state of California, I
proudly pronounce my dearest
friends as husband and wife. Ry,
you may kiss the bride.

Ryan stomps the wine glass underneath the CHUPPAH. They kiss.

COLLECTIVE

Mazel Tov!

LATER THAT NIGHT

Lara and Aubrey- out of breath from the dance floor mania-
come and sit.

LARA

They're rare.

Lara points out Ryan and Mimi off to the side of the party,
sharing a quiet moment.

AUBREY

They really are.

Lara looks at Aubrey, "Shout" comes on the dance floor.

LARA

...The marriage thing is nice when
it's like them, not some means to
an Instagram end, genuine...

AUBREY

You're right, I know what you mean.

LARA

...Hey, I just want you to know
it's really cool you're considering
having this kid on your own.

Aubrey's taken aback a moment, completely caught off guard,

LARA (CONT'D)

Men are trash anyway-

AUBREY

-Oh no, I'm not. I hadn't-
did someone say I was?

LARA

No I just figured since you've...
Anyway, as someone who dated him,
be grateful for what essence of him
you'd get; he and I didn't work but
I loved him, he was different...

Lara runs back to the dance floor where Will drops too low during "Shout,"'s "a little bit softer now" apex, ripping his pants. Aubrey can only stare outward.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Aubrey puts photo booth photos from the wedding on her bulletin board, she listens to *Small Black "Big Ideas, Pt. II"* before of course putting the VR on.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- MORNING

She wakes up to a million texts on her phone.

INT. HOSPITAL, SHARICE'S ROOM- MORNING

Aubrey enters, to find Sharice comfortably in bed where she holds hands with her husband JOHN and their two antsy BOYS, 3 and 5, who climb on their dad.

AUBREY
I heard you did great.

SHARICE
Oh Aub, she's so beautiful...

Aubrey kisses her dear friend on the cheek.

AUBREY
How're you feeling?

She fake falls asleep.

SHARICE
No, I'm good. But you didn't come here to see me.

AUBREY
Of course I did.

SHARICE
(to her sons) Boys, take Aunty Aubrey to see your sister.

They jump up excitedly.

INT. HOSPITAL, NURSERY- LATER

Aubrey stands hand in hand with Sharice's sons THEO and JAMES as they look at the multitude of newborns.

THEO
That's her, there, that's Sam.

Theo points towards the sleeping newborn in the front row, Aubrey can't help but put her hand to the glass...

AUBREY
She's the perfect baby sister.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES- ANOTHER DAY

Aubrey glances at the BellyBoard, as she and Laurie sketch out plans. Laurie can't help but notice Aubrey day dreaming.

INT. TRVLR- NIGHT

Niket, Ryan, and Mimi pore over footage.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD- DAY

Ben picks up a KID, bringing him to camera, a group follows.

BEN
Say hi, right there.

All the kids wave. Ben and some kids play basketball.

NIKET
Kobe!

Niket airballs a shot horribly, hitting a kid in the head. The kids point and laugh at Niket, while Ben sweetly picks up the crying kid. Aubrey takes off the headset. A beat. She lays down on her floor. She puts on her hand on her stomach.

AUBREY
Ben, I know you can't begin to know me, but I know you somehow. What if-

EXT. POOL, STRAWBERRY CANYON BERKELEY- DAWN

Aubrey and Laurie towel off. Aubrey bashfully puts her head down, something she wants to say.

AUBREY
What if, I, um I think I might be thinking about giving this a try?

LAURIE
This?

AUBREY
A baby, the baby.

LAURIE
Oh, oh my god. Wow. I
didn't...You're serious?

AUBREY
I think so? At least to talk about
it? Maybe it's my time? And he's,
well... Yeah...

LAURIE
Okay, wow. I guess I never really
thought about what this looks like
if this actually happened.

AUBREY
You have it here with you right?

LAURIE
It?
AUBREY (CONT'D)
It.

Aubrey laughs as Laurie realizes.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
...I have no idea what this looks
like either, but, it's a thought?

LAURIE
(still taken aback)
Well, I'm obviously glad.

AUBREY
It's okay I'm not Jewish?

LAURIE
Beggars can't be choosers.

INT. UTERUS, MICROLEVEL- CONTINUOUS

The EGG comes into view as the sperm continue onward.

INT. BRESLER HOME- EVENING

Laurie walks by Allen's office. He watches TV.

LAURIE
Allen, she's thinking about having-

Allen doesn't look up. Laurie walks away.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- CONTINUOUS

Laurie looks to the heavens, catching her breath.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP- DAY

Niket shows a viral video of a baby absolutely freaking out as it tries ice cream for the first time.

NIKET
(deadly serious)
But seriously, epidural or natural?
Breast milk or formula? Breast is
best. Have you found a night nurse
yet? They're hard to come by,
especially with the nouveau riche
in this city, you can't be just
willy-nilly Aubrey.

MIMI
Leave her be man.

AUBREY
I'm just thinking about this whole
thing anyway...

Everyone looks to him.

NIKET
(sweetly)
Been reading up, figure you two
aren't far behind. It'd be all of
yours you know.

Ryan and Mimi hold hands, affirmatively. Niket grabs theirs.

NIKET (CONT'D)
Aub, you can use these too. Been
thinking names in the tree realm:
Birch, Ash, Maple. All solid.

AUBREY
(appeasing him)
Those are all perfect, thank you.

MIMI
I know he's (re: Niket) not exactly
reassuring, but if you need any
affirmation, you have our blessing,
we, and he'd, be super blessed.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES- MORNING

Aubrey gets a phone call.

INT. RESTAURANT, KITCHEN- MORNING

Aubrey sits with CHEF BRITTA, 40s British, blonde, a force.

CHEF BRITTA

...Kenna and I spoke, we discussed with a number of chefs in London. The city needs Sprouts, beyond needs Sprouts. Trips with students, food exploration.

AUBREY

Chef Britta, seriously?

CHEF BRITTA

Yeah, and I'd love to help set it up with you, if you'd have me.

AUBREY

Wow. London. I'd move to Europe-?

CHEF BRITTA (CONT'D)

(enjoying Aubrey's disbelief)

-That's where London is.

AUBREY

I- wow, I don't know what to say.

CHEF BRITTA

This can be really big Aubrey. You've done something special here.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

She spins her stuffed globe and looks at her new life, the boxing gloves on the door, the sailing rope on her desk, the boa hanging on her lampshade, photo-booth pictures from the wedding on her bulletin board, the VR on her desk, the sweatshirt on her shoulders, Aubrey opens her laptop...

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT- MORNING

The #LIVEBEN group meet outside. NIKET holds a 3D camera rig. A band is there with guitars, a cello, a drum...

RYAN

This is a special TRVLR presentation.

BAND

This is for our friend Ben, who we miss more and more each day. Semper Deinceps. Always forward.

Aubrey looks around at these new people in her life, this group of people that loved this man. She takes it in as the band sings and they traipse the streets.

EXT. SPROUTS GARDEN, LOT ADJACENT- EVENING

Laurie and Aubrey walk around, Laurie seems a bit on edge.

LAURIE

(nervously)

Kenna mentioned the news, I'm so excited for you. Sprouts should be everywhere...

AUBREY

Yeah...

LAURIE

(off Aubrey's look)

What's wrong?

AUBREY

I don't think I'm gonna do it. It's a dream, it is, I'm just not sure about the timing, you know? The community center and, um, everything. Let alone packing up and moving around the world.

LAURIE

(half-heartedly)
I just want you happy-

AUBREY (CONT'D)

-I think here is where I'll be happy.

Aubrey looks around at their space, reassuring herself.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

Laurie looks at baby photos of Ben and Allie, when she hears the front door close, she throws the pictures down. She gets up and grabs Allen before he can go into their bedroom.

LAURIE

Where do you go...? Please don't tell me you're having an affair... It'd be pathetically cliche...

ALLEN
I wish... C'mon...

They both laugh, a window into a friendship gone by.

LAURIE
Tell me, please.

His lip quivers, he shakes.

ALLEN
Wanna know where I've been? Where I go? I walk, that's it. I walk looking for someone to kick the shit out of me, someone who fucks me up, so I can feel something, anything different than this... And I can't look at you, cause you're him, it's what I loved about him most, how much he was you.

This crushes Laurie. Laurie grabs and holds him.

LAURIE
She's so wonderful, more than we could've asked for; she could've kicked his ass in Jeopardy. She wants to do it. She wants to have his baby. I need you with me...

ALLEN
...I can't... I have no idea how to help myself, how can I help her?

LAURIE
You think I have the first idea what I'm doing? I'm wandering. Do you know how worried I've been that this has all been completely self-indulgent? As if I'm the first person to lose a child...

ALLEN
We're the first people to lose him.

LAURIE
Try for me.

ALLEN
I'm sorry.

Allen returns towards the bedroom. He turns off the light.

INT. KITCHEN, FRONT OF HOUSE- DAY

Aubrey regrettably shakes Chef Britta's hand.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM- EVENING

Quincy sits in front of Aubrey's open laptop, an AMAZON page for LA KINGS BABY ONESIES sits before us as Aubrey enters.

QUINCY
(a quiet frustration)
Aub... This? London? It's real?

Aubrey shrugs "yes" before gathering herself.

AUBREY
Quin... I don't need a man, a husband, I'm more than capable of doing this myself.

Aubrey's sentiment levels Quincy off.

QUINCY
You don't think I know you're going to be a ridiculously great mother someday with or without whatever asshole you pick?

The friends can't help but smile with each other.

AUBREY
...Quin, part of me didn't exist without him.

QUINCY
And it's wonderful "he" or his mother have helped you find that but there's nothing wrong with wanting to share a life with someone. And if you don't want to do that, that's fine, but aren't you throwing away the opportunity to go do what for the longest time you'd thought you needed, what you wanted to do, a world to see? Is he a stand in for a void in you? Is this baby a stand in for him, who you may somehow, I don't know how, but may love, but who's gone?

AUBREY
What if this is what's meant for me?
(MORE)

AUBREY (CONT'D)

What if this baby's how I'd see the world? Whatever wonder I find will be through this kid's eyes? He or she would be mine, my family, with them, I'd be home...

QUINCY

...None of that's going anywhere, only this chance to take a risk for you would be, Aub, right?

Quincy hugs Aubrey as she walks out, Aubrey left alone.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Allie and a REAL ESTATE AGENT find Aubrey on the couch.

ALLIE

What're you doing here?

AUBREY

Hey, um, we're just uh-

Laurie comes back out.

LAURIE

We're hanging out.

ALLIE

Hanging out? Seriously? It's not your place to hang out, and especially not yours.

The Real Estate Agent is confused and uncomfortable...

LAURIE

Who's this?

ALLIE

This is Nancy Wilcox, she's listing the place, I told you months ago...

LAURIE

Oh...

AUBREY

I should go.

LAURIE

No, stay.

ALLIE

Stay, you've made yourself more than comfortable.

Aubrey looks to Allie.

AUBREY
I'm sorry, I-

Aubrey leaves. Allie's upset. A beat. Nancy steps out.

ALLIE
...We've been worried about *him* for
so fucking long now Mom, I'm still
here; you're still my mom too...

LAURIE
...Of course I am sweetheart.

ALLIE
(gathering herself,
defiantly)
Well, we're selling the place.

Allie turns to leave, Laurie effected by her daughter.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM- NIGHT

Aubrey walks in, she leans against the door, out of breath.

EXT. LONDON, BIG BEN- DAY

Ben walks out along the Thames, pointing at Big Ben and then himself. She pauses him and unpauses him, how weird is that, she can stop and start his existence.

AUBREY
Ben-

Aubrey takes off the VR. She stares at it, then the globe.

EXT. BRESLER HOME, BACKYARD- NIGHT

Laurie speaks to the LiveBen group. Aubrey looks around.

LAURIE
Reminding everyone that tomorrow
we're meeting at 11 for the start.

Laurie steps down, Aubrey approaches her.

AUBREY
Is Allie not coming?

LAURIE
No, I don't think so.

AUBREY

...It's his birthday though.

LAURIE

She and I are having some issues.

Aubrey feels horrible.

RYAN

Traditions being what they are, I figured this year is no different. This of course is the story of Ben's 25th birthday when he ended up naked locked outside a hotel room in Thailand. I think you all know it...? But here we go.

Aubrey zones out as she obviously doesn't know it... The group explodes with laughter, a familiarity. Aubrey looks around at all these people, a sudden discomfort.

LAURIE

You alright?

AUBREY

I think I'm gonna go, I'm tired.

LAURIE

You okay? Do you still want to get that costume from his place?

AUBREY

Sure.

LAURIE

You sure you're alright?

Aubrey nods.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

Get home safe please.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- LATER THAT NIGHT

Aubrey comes into the place by herself and lays on his couch. She puts some of his music, *Musical Cue: Joe Purdy "Miss Me"*

AUBREY

(frustrated)

God damnit Ben...

She sighs, as the music eerily echoes through the shadows.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
I could've just met you one night
in a bar.

INT. BAR- SAN FRANCISCO- NIGHT

They make eye contact, a long look, he tips his glass to her.

AUBREY
...Or a party or something...

And magically that bar scene is changed to a party...

INT. HOUSE PARTY, SAN FRANCISCO- NIGHT

Ben finishes tipping his beer her way... She turns to Quincy, as Ben begins to move through the party towards her.

AUBREY

BEN
No.

Ben starts to walk away, he turns back.

BEN (CONT'D) AUBREY
Ben. Aubrey.

BEN AUBREY (CONT'D)
Aubrey. That's what I said.

AUBREY (V.O.)
...Where we'd just get to talking,
end up in a corner... simple math,
nothing complicated about it...

And we see this... as the party and hours disappear...

AUBREY (V.O.)
Until you sweetly, nervously asked
me what you normally would never.

BEN
I'd normally *never* ask this...

He bites the inside of his cheek, nervously...

BEN (CONT'D)
...but I don't think I can stop
being around you right now... Come
home with me?

AUBREY (V.O.)
And against my normally better
judgment I'd say...

AUBREY
Against my better judgment, sure...
if we can get something to eat.

BEN

Ben shows her the way out... He turns to Ryan and Niket and gives them a shrug... Aubrey simultaneously doing the same with Quincy, Quincy mouthing "Where the fuck are you going...?" Ryan, Niket, and Mimi blow kisses...

BEN (CONT'D)
I guess we have some fans...

Aubrey pulls her sweater over her head in mock paparazzi embarrassment. Ben elegantly bows as they exit...

AUBREY (V.O.)

INT. BURRITO STAND, MISSION- LATER THAT NIGHT

When she's not looking Ben puts his face into the sour cream in his burrito and lifts up as if nothing is the matter...

BEN
So how's yours?

She looks up to see him.

AUBREY
(rolling her eyes)
You're thirteen, it's pathetic.

BEN
Yep.

AUBREY BEN (CONT'D)
I'mma head back to the party. Okay, later.

He sticks his hand out to say goodbye, which she readjusts to play thumb war, Ben leaves his thumb to be gotten, a trap, before striking and holding her thumb down, he wins, she throws a chip at him. She's annoyed, she can't look at him.

BEN (CONT'D)
Really horrible loser, noted.

They can't help but laugh together.

AUBREY (V.O.)
It'd have been as unexpected as
something like this could go,
something in the air, some
alignment of the moon.

INT. CAR, 80 FREEWAY - NIGHT

The moon hangs bright overhead as they drive on the freeway.

BEN
...Have to tell you something.

AUBREY
What?

BEN

AUBREY BEN (CONT'D)
Actually? Wait, why didn't I kind of want to just keep you- driving, that cool?

AUBREY
Why? Where?

AUBREY (V.O.)

As he's wont to do, he shrugs...Ben gasses it towards the Bay Bridge, east, he looks at her sincerely...

AUBREY (V.O.)

LATER- They cruise along the highway...

BEN AUBREY
San Diego Padres. Basketball?

BEN AUBREY (CONT'D)
Sorry, No. Carolina Panthers. Ummmm, baseball?

She looks at him for reassurance. He grins no again.

BEN AUBREY (CONT'D)
No ma'am. Football. LA Kings. I know that one, hockey.

Ben smiles.

INT. GAS STATION- I-5

They try on hats, sunglasses, cheesy gas station t-shirts...

AUBREY (V.O.)
...But we end up where we end up,
cause that's you...

EXT. ROAD- LATER

They sit on the car sharing Peanut M&Ms, Aubrey throws one at his face as he looks up at night disappearing...

AUBREY (V.O.)
And you somehow just knew me...

BEN
(half-joking)
So... who the fuck are you Aubrey?

...Aubrey looks at him, taking it seriously...

AUBREY
I'm the only child to Leslie
Tuttleman and Stephen Case. Born on
what I was told was a warm
Wednesday morning for December.

She gathers herself, solidly.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
I'm a founder, a boxer, a hockey
fan, a Jeopardy champion, a karaoke
ingénue, and I guess you could say
I'm a world traveler.

BEN
Same.

He smiles at her as if he somehow knew all of this...

AUBREY
...I'm also a swimmer, an artist, a
gardener, and a pretty decent cook.

BEN
...I love that.

He pulls her up to dance, our song playing from the car's speakers. He spins her, a wind help kicks up the dust, a storm in the distance... They stumble into each other, perfectly uncoordinated together, and finally kiss...

AUBREY (V.O.)
 And then at some point we realize
 it's probably time to go home...

They look at each other and nod, a language formed already.

INT. CAR- LATER

Ben watches her sleep in the morning sunlight...

AUBREY (V.O.)
 Then I don't know, I can't say what
 would've happened next, I'd like to
 believe we would've just been, we'd
 have found some rhythm together.

I/E. STREET/CAR- MORNING

She drops Ben off, Ben turns and bows elegantly before going inside. She sits there for a moment, when her phone buzzes... A text from "BEN PARTY" "...*Idea was to come home with me...*"

AUBREY (V.O.)
 You're just there, in my life...

And she turns off the car... and goes inside...

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- MORNING

She magically knows exactly where she's going... She puts on the Kings sweatshirt hanging from the back of a chair, and climbs right into bed with him... where she closes her eyes... And with the flash of sunlight from oblivion...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, VARIOUS- MORNING

The sun rumbles through the window on Aubrey's face, waking her in his bed, his sweatshirt on. She rolls over, of course, alone. She gets up and walks around the quiet. She goes and looks at herself in the bathroom mirror, an empty apartment reflecting beyond her through the doorway...

EXT. RINCON PARK, BAY TO BREAKERS 12K START- MORNING

Aubrey moves through the masses- costumes of all kinds, it's wildly colorful, pure San Francisco- til she finds the group about to start walking. Laurie sees her stuck.

AUBREY
I can't do this-

LAURIE
You don't have to, it's long-

AUBREY
No, this- I never knew him; I'm not
a part of his life, never was.

Laurie looks around.

LAURIE
You've become a part of it though.

AUBREY
No, I haven't, and me or a baby
isn't going to be able change that,
change the fact he's not coming
home. He's gone.

Laurie absorbs the punch to the gut out of nowhere.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
We've both been completely
delusional. I felt bad for both of
you, that's all this was.

LAURIE
I never needed your pity.

A beat, of pained silence. With nothing else to say Aubrey
leaves amongst the explosion of color and noise... Laurie
turns away to march on, for Ben, for the day.

INT. UTERUS, MICROLEVEL- TIME ETERNAL

The egg cresting the horizon, the sperm collectively stop.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- NIGHT

Laurie puts her AirPods in, no texts coming in to his phone.

MUSICAL CUE: *THE NATIONAL "I'LL STILL DESTROY YOU"*

EXT. POOL- DAWN

Laurie comes but Aubrey doesn't show...

INT. RESTAURANT, SAN FRANCISCO- DAY

Aubrey sits with Chef Britta.

CHEF BRITTA

Why don't we get started in a few weeks? We have your apartment ready. Is that enough time to settle things here?

AUBREY

That's perfect, sooner the better.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Aubrey ignores the idle VR set. She looks at her room, as she hits purchase on a plane ticket, her departure date "June 1."

INT. BRESLER HOME, LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Laurie is depressed, when Allie calls...

ALLIE

We're gonna clean out his place.

LAURIE

Do what you have to do.

ALLIE

Don't you want some of his stuff?

LAURIE

Alexandra, it's fine.

EXT. BERNAL HEIGHTS PARK- MORNING

The city unfurls itself before them as they go for a hike.

AUBREY

(tongue in cheek)

Quin, you let me fall for a ghost.

QUINCY

I probably shoulda said something.

AUBREY

I still kind of want to throw you off this thing.

QUINCY

Would you have my baby then?

AUBREY

Fuck you.

They laugh.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I'm going.

QUINCY
I know you are, you have to. Plus,
Erin's gonna sublet.

Aubrey hugs her friend and stares out to the city beneath.

QUINCY (CONT'D)
Dude, you were gonna have a baby.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- PRE-DAWN

She picks up Ben's phone, opening Raya for a second- but who is she kidding? She throws the phone down.

INT. TRVLR- DAY

Ryan, Mimi, and Niket, watch hours and hours of footage as they too clean out their office space.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- AFTERNOON

Allie packs up his things alone. Allie stops, looking around.

INT. BRESLER HOME, LIVING ROOM- LATE AFTERNOON

Allie enters, the house quiet.

ALLIE
Mom?

Allie walks around the house. She enters "Ben's Room" and sees what Laurie has done, this pseudo-shrine, when Laurie walks by and sees her standing there.

ALLIE (CONT'D)
Aw, Mom...

Laurie tidies up, defensively.

LAURIE
What?

A beat, suddenly Laurie breaks down.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

I know, I know. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. And I copied your tattoo.

Laurie shows her new tattoo. Allie smiles.

ALLIE

...Mom...

LAURIE (CONT'D)

This all's been insane... I haven't been fair to you.

ALLIE

What's fair anymore? There's no grand plan, no reason for Ben fucking getting sick...

A beat.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

Mom- I miss him...

Laurie straightens up, the mother in her.

LAURIE

How could you not sweetheart?
You're allowed to not be okay...

ALLIE

I know, and I'm not... Matt won't help, he's been weird, distant, sneaking around sort of, I don't know what to do. Can you come over there? Can you do this with me?

LAURIE

Of course.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT- EVENING

Laurie is there as they continue to clean up. Allie turns the TV on to Ben's Netflix recently watched for background noise.

ALLIE

What a nut of a dude.

Laurie stares at it, which Allie catches.

INT. SPROUTS OFFICES- DAY

Aubrey shows Sharice where she'll be living in London on the computer. They hug, an understanding between the two friends.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- AFTERNOON

There's a knock on Aubrey's door.

AUBREY
Come in Quin.

It's Allie.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Oh, hi, what're you-

ALLIE
Hi. Sorry for storming the Bastille
here, but we're cleaning his place.

AUBREY
That's good, it was time.

ALLIE
Yeah. You should come, see if
there's anything you want.

AUBREY
What could I want? And I have
enough to do here.

ALLIE
You're not going to help with the
community center anymore?

AUBREY
My co-workers and your Mom have it
covered if she still wants to.

ALLIE
I'm sure she does, she's just
figuring this all out...

Allie looks to her.

AUBREY
Look, this was never meant to be.

ALLIE
What's that even mean? Meant to be?
He wasn't meant to die.

AUBREY
Even if we'd met I couldn't have
stopped what happened.

ALLIE
Who knows? Do you love him?

AUBREY

I think I do or did...? If that's what you can call it...?

(In Shakespearean accent)

Is it better to have loved and never had than to have never loved at all? (laughing at herself) Not sure anyone has ever had to ask that before...?

ALLIE

Cause it's only something a stalker would have had to ask.

AUBREY

A pretty self-aware stalker though?

They laugh.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I know this all has been super single white female.

ALLIE

It's been something, but I get it. He was my brother, I loved him too. And I need to thank you anyway, you gave her hope again...

AUBREY

I'm glad I could do that, but I think everything went too far.

ALLIE

You can stay, we can build it, you can have my niece. It'd be a girl for sure.

Aubrey shrugs.

AUBREY

Thank you, but I'm going, I should.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- MORNING

Aubrey picks up her swim bag, her goggles falling out.

INT. TRVLR- DAY

The trio watch through footage and pack. Ryan's distraught.

INT. KITCHEN, SAN FRANCISCO- AFTERNOON

Aubrey and Britta talk over plans, Aubrey tries to be enthusiastic, but we see there's a joy missing.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT, VARIOUS- MAGIC HOUR

Laurie walks room by room, the place empty, no longer his, now just a blank space for new... Laurie hands the keys to the real estate agent waiting at the door...

EXT. MUIR WOODS- DAY

Matt and Allie hike, its a beautiful late spring day.

MATT

I'm sorry. I needed a break from all the grief, I've been a dick.

Allie looks to him, appreciative.

MATT (CONT'D)

But as a token of my apology and appreciation, I offer you this.

Matt gets down on one knee and puts a Ring-Pop on Allie's right ring finger...

ALLIE

That's the wrong hand dip-shit...

MATT

I need room on the other hand.

ALLIE

What?

Matt pulls out an actual ENGAGEMENT RING... Allie puts her hands to her head in shock.

ALLIE (CONT'D)

No... seriously?

MATT

Not the reaction I was looking for.
Alexandra Sarah Bresler, will you-?

He waits.

ALLIE

...Finish the sentence asshole.

He smiles and nods.

MATT

Right. Alexandra Sarah Bresler,
will you be and continue to be my
favorite person for the rest of my
life and marry me?

She can only nod yes as tears stream. Matt puts it on the left ring finger. He licks the ring pop and then kisses her.

ALLIE

You're a dumbass, but you're great.

INT. KENNA'S RESTAURANT- EVENING

A celebration for the newly engaged is raucous.

LAURIE (TO ALLIE)

We've got one of those stupid
weddings to plan sweetheart.

ALLIE

And a building to make.

LAURIE

You want to?

ALLIE

I want to help, if you're willing
to do it without her.

LAURIE

I wish I knew if I was.

Allen watches on as his wife tries to keep it together.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Aubrey picks up his sweatshirt from her chair, she can't help but put it on, the room fully packed but the VR headset.

INT. TRVLR- DAY

Niket looks through footage when his eyes widen.

INT. RESTAURANT- DAY

Ryan, Mimi, and Niket arrive to Aubrey and a Sprouts class.

AUBREY
What're you guys doing here?

NIKET
I was hungry.

MIMI
We need to show you something...

NIKET
Do something about that kid first.

Larry is going to town on a vegetable with a knife.

AUBREY
Larry, cool it.

Larry flips off Niket, Niket taken aback.

NIKET
South by Southwest 2017- AUBREY (CONT'D)
-Yeah...? I was there...

They hand her a headset.

EXT. BAR- AUSTIN, TEXAS- NIGHT

Ben stands in front of us looking through what can only be Texas air, dry and slow, the light an orange the color of lifted Earth. A Ray LaMontagne cover of "Loretta" plays.

BEN
I gotta go talk to her...

RYAN
Excuse us.

Ben hands back his microphone to NIKET, he turns and walks through hanging industrial lights above.

NIKET
Oh c'mon dude. I wanted to listen.

Ben turns and half dances/half walks through the crowd, looking back at his friends with a smile. It might as well be in slow motion, but it's not, we're here... Suddenly, there's a break in the crowd and there's our Aubrey, bright as day...

AUBREY (V.O.)
Oh my god...I remember.

She rips off the headset and closes her eyes, remembering. Just like that we're transported to that night, her night.

Ben comes through the crowd towards her. She looks up, this man she can't help but notice...

BEN
Careful, I've had a bit of tequila.

AUBREY
Oh yeah? And what should I be concerned with...?

BEN
I break out really badly- AUBREY (CONT'D)
-Oh no. Jesus. How so?

BEN
Break out dancing.

Ben dances around her, it's bad. She shakes her head.

AUBREY
You poor thing.

They re-make eye contact, he grabs her hand and spins her.

BEN
Saw you speak today. Sprouts seems really impressive. Congrats on what you've put together. I'm Ben.

AUBREY
Thank you. I'm Aubrey.

BEN
Made it seem like you're a pretty good person...

AUBREY
It's just my public persona, I'm pretty horrible in private.

BEN
I'd love to find out if that's actually the case, hard to believe.

Aubrey snorts, charmed, she wrinkles her nose cutely...

AUBREY
... My boyfriend has to deal with that side of me...

Ben's shoulders drop.

BEN
Well, he's lucky to.

Aubrey can't help but smile widely. Quincy taps her shoulder.

BEN (CONT'D)
Look, I'd still love to get
involved with Sprouts. I run a-

As we're brought back to reality. Aubrey puts on the VR.

BEN (CONT'D)
Alright then. She's great.

She looks back to him, Ben to her, a wave and a nod to the fates as if he knew it was only somehow a "see you later."
She starts crying.

NIKET
He never reached back out about
Sprouts...

RYAN
Cause he met Ella that trip...

NIKET
(earnest as only he can)
So what now? You'll stay?

Aubrey puts her head into her hands. *Musical Cue: Emmit Fenn: "I Can't Believe I Had You"*

INT. UTERUS, MICROLEVEL- CONTINUOUS

The sperm start up again. One seems to be ahead of the pack, heading towards the egg, A POSSIBLE CHAMPION.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Quincy takes off the headset, she's blubbering.

AUBREY
...I know...

QUINCY
Maybe this *is* fate, he and you.

AUBREY
What do I do?

QUINCY (CONT'D)
Fuck.

AUBREY
You were wrong by the way, what if
leaving is the easy way out?
(MORE)

AUBREY (CONT'D)
 If I've learned anything from her,
 it's that being a Mom is the
 scariest thing in the world...
 Decide for me?

QUINCY
 You don't want that, what clue do I
 have? You're brave either way.

They smile.

INT. BRESLER HOME, "BEN'S ROOM"- NIGHT

Laurie looks at the space where her boy once lived.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM- LATER THAT NIGHT

His music on, she stares at her plane e-ticket.

AUBREY (V.O. PRELAP)
 Aubrey, I think he would've called
 you by your middle name just to bug
 you. He would've made fun of your
 laugh, how it's slightly out of the
 side of your mouth, how you snort.
 He would've tolerated your
 lateness, as much as it would've
 driven him nuts...

EXT. SPROUTS GARDEN- MORNING

Sharice brings Aubrey a letter as she quietly gardens. Aubrey begins reading it.

AUBREY (V.O.)
 He would've loved what you do, how
 you dance, and from what I've heard
 how much better at Jeopardy you'd
 have been than him.

She collapses into the dirt, this letter tearing her apart.

AUBREY (V.O.)
 I loved that boy with all my heart,
 was beyond proud of him; shocked at
 all that he'd done, on his own,
 dreams bigger than I could have
 been told stories of, unfathomable.
 Yet, the thing I know he would've
 been best at, is-

EXT. BRESLER HOME, BERKELEY- EVENING

Aubrey arrives, it's quiet... She takes a deep breath.

INT. BRESLER HOME- MOMENTS LATER

Aubrey stands before Laurie, reading.

AUBREY

-being a great father: available, self-less, willing to teach and learn, like it was all he was put on this earth to do. I'm most sorry he won't get to be that. But for me at this point, a father without his son, you my dear, are more than good enough. I'd be humbled for you to be the mother of my grandchild.

Aubrey looks past Laurie to Allen who stands in the doorway. Laurie looks back at him.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

He'd be the perfect, and certainly better half. Thank you.

Allen nods as he might.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

I want to stay and do this-

LAURIE

-I don't know if you should.

ALLEN

What do you mean? I want her to.

LAURIE

And how could you not...?

Laurie smiles to Aubrey.

LAURIE (CONT'D)

But it's not about a child, it's about him, who I somehow forgot in all of this... I thought of his life in reverse, the tough parts. The end, when we knew he might not make it; at twenty home early from spring break cause Caitlin McKechnie broke his heart, which we could only worry might never mend;
(MORE)

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 at sixteen when he got busted for a party he threw here- Will puked in Allie's room- his tail between his legs we worried might never come out again; at thirteen shooting baskets outside for hours in a funk- cause changing boys get in that funk- we thought he might never come inside; at seven those head lice from baseball helmets we thought we might never get rid of; at one, those endless drives around the block when we'd thought he might never sleep...

Laurie turns to Allen, she holds his hand.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 It made me realize his story is our story. And Ben deserved that story. Deserved that partner, that life. He saved this for himself and for her, and it may be you, but the only fate that matters now is yours, and I have to let you go figure out yourself... I'm not going to stop you from doing this if it's what you really want, but it's a decision I won't make...

Aubrey and Laurie hug.

LAURIE (CONT'D)
 See you tomorrow?

Aubrey tearfully, nods a stunned yes.

INT. UTERUS, MICROLEVEL- CONTINUOUS

The champion sperm swims closer and closer to the egg.

EXT. POOL- MORNING

They swim together, smiling upon finishing.

AUBREY
 Teach again.

LAURIE
 I plan on it.

INT. BRESLER HOME- "ALLEN'S OFFICE"- MID-MORNING

Laurie enters with plans for the community center, they sit down together.

EXT. SPROUTS, GARDEN- LATE MORNING

Aubrey, Laurie, Allen, Allie, Sharice, and a group of Sprouts kids prep for the #LiveBen event. Aubrey's conflicted.

AUBREY (V.O. PRELAP)
Ben, I don't know what to do...

EXT. HARBOR- DAY

She looks at the boat and across the Bay...

EXT. BOXING GYM- DAY

She looks inside, a new piece of her life.

AUBREY (V.O. PRELAP)
...I don't know if I'd just be
running away from making a life
here or whether I'd be going to
what I'm supposed to?

EXT. BURRITO STAND- EVENING

Aubrey picks up takeout.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, AUBREY'S ROOM- NIGHT

Quincy comes in, Aubrey's suitcases packed. Aubrey shrugs.

INT. TRVLR- NIGHT

Ryan looks at an empty office, when he sees a THUMB-DRIVE alone in the corner. He plugs it into his laptop.

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Aubrey crawls out of bed and sits on her floor, her hand to her stomach.

AUBREY

I don't know what will be different if or when I come back, but maybe just enough of me...?

Suddenly her phone dings, "TRVLR: NEW MESSAGE" Aubrey puts on the headset and scrolls into messages, there, simply, a link.

EXT. MT. KILIMANJARO- CONTINUOUS

And we're with Ben as we started, she unfreezes him.

BEN (V.O. PRELAP)

-Hey wait, before I go, I need to tell you all something.

MUSICAL CUE: Bon Iver "Holocene"

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Aubrey sits on the floor, the headset on.

BEN

If anyone has an opinion about some sort of destiny, it's me...And you know? The idea's bullshit. We don't get some magic cure all, some walk or speech, some manna from on high above, when everything just makes sense and everything is happy from that moment on; no more days of unsure, of discomfort or fear. There'll always be good days and bad to be had, it's all relative.

EXT. SPROUTS GARDEN- MORNING

All the people in Ben's life and large group of KIDS are at the foundation groundbreaking. They all wait for Aubrey.

INT. AIRPLANE- ANOTHER DAY

Aubrey looks out a window...

BEN

I think happiness comes in moments, moments which aren't to be named, lest they might pass you by. Contentment, waking up and knowing it's okay; always forward, right?

EXT. SPROUTS GARDEN- CONTINUED

The group continues to wait.

EXT. TARMAC, SOMEWHERE- MIDNIGHT

Aubrey disembarks down stairs, a warm wind circulates...

BEN

*It's why we need to sell TRVLR...
We're putting blinders on people.
We've been blessed to feel the wind
at our backs, to be there, to feel
what's it like there, to miss home.
We're stopping people from
experiencing that themselves.*

EXT. PLAINS, SOMEWHERE- DAY

Aubrey shields her eyes from the sun as she looks upward...

INT. AUBREY'S APARTMENT, AUBREY'S ROOM- MORNING

Quincy enters, but Aubrey's gone, the VR sits on her desk...

EXT. MOUNT KILIMANJARO- DAY

Aubrey stands on that summit as Ben once did.

BEN (V.O.)

*So I say to you all, as I was once
told, something that I've come to
know most: of all the words of mice
and men, the saddest are 'it
might've been...'*

EXT. MOUNT KILIMANJARO- DAY

BEN

*Don't let your life be to what
might've, go do, of course, and if
you need to start over, start
over... I love you all, bye for
real, I'm coming home.*

Ben smiles as the footage ends.

EXT. SPROUTS- CONTINUED

Quincy shows, she shakes "no" and smiles. Laurie bittersweetly looks to Allen and to Allie who approvingly nods to her to turn to the crowd, ready to speak.

LAURIE

Thank you for coming. For those that don't know me, my name is Laurie Gould, my son Benjamin passed last year, I, we, have been searching for the best way to continue what he brought to this life, and this building, is a representation of so much of what Ben lives on as, as much as he'll never be re-created...

And then from that nether-world we hear that voice:

BEN (V.O.)

...In time who is to say what becomes of Aubrey, of her life...

INT. BAR, PARIS- NIGHT

We see Aubrey lock eyes with a MAN...

BEN (V.O.)

Maybe she finds someone in those foreign lands, someone taller, someone kinder, someone more interesting, someone many things I never was or would've been.

INT. VARIOUS- NIGHT

Aubrey and this man make love. They start a life together...

BEN (V.O.)

Maybe she doesn't.

And we see all sorts of lives for Aubrey... Her growing old, with children, without...

BEN (V.O.)

I just hope she finds whatever makes her whole...

EXT. MOUNT KILIMANJARO, PEAK- DAY

Aubrey closes her eyes. When she feels as if someone is touching her hand, someone or something stands next to her...

BEN (V.O.)

...And just maybe she comes home and gives this a go. But I can't know, it's not my story to tell, not yours to hear... But, as with all the best stories, hers has to start again somewhere, and what's truer than beginning with an ending...

Ben looks out from the rise, standing next to her...

THE END

And wait... again we're taken to that most elemental of places, where that single sperm swims ever closer to that egg, inching to that precipice... And as the chain reaction of all things is about to begin we:

FLASH TO WHITE.

MUSICAL CUE: Bobby Darin's "If I Were a Carpenter"

ROLL END CREDITS...

...And there's no interruption this time...