

MY IMMORTAL

Written by

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EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Small local hospital. Beautiful spring day. Camera follows Joe to and through the hospital doors where people are sitting in the waiting room, nurses rushing back and forth, phones ringing. People are talking quietly in small groups, some crying, some laughing, a mother with her small child asleep on her lap. (Camera passes people down hallways and up to a Nurse reception desk).

JOE

(He is out of breath)

Hi, my wife Sam Aiden is having a baby, I'm Joe Aiden!!!

NURSE MYERS

(She smiles)

Yes, Mr. Aiden follow me, she's in here, shouldn't be to much longer!

JOE

Honey! I'm here, damn traffic!

SAM

Your here honey, that's all that matters.

JOE

I love you! Your my world babe!

SAM

Ditto!

(she begins to contract, pain begins, she begins to cry and yell. The birth begins).

DR. COHEN

It's a girl!!

(Joe and Sam kiss. They whisper to each other "I love you" The doctor begins to hand the baby to Sam when she begins complaining of pain)

DR. COHEN (CONT'D)

2 bags type O, Now!!! (she hands the baby to Joe and asks him to step aside, a nurse leads him and the baby to the next operating room).

JOE

What's wrong? What's happening?! I don't understand! Is Sam okay?

NURSE MYERS

Sam is having some blood loss and Dr. Cohen is stopping the bleeding, everything will be fine. Please Mr. Aiden, please spend some time with your little girl. The doctor will be in soon.

(Joe holds the baby gently and sits in the rocking chair in the corner of the room. Dr. Cohen enters the room and Joe begins to stand up.)

DR. COHEN

Please, Joe, don't get up. Everything is fine. Sam is fine. They are cleaning her up and will bring her in shortly.

JOE

I don't understand, what happened?

DR. COHEN

Sam had a small hemorrhage, we stopped the bleeding, she won't have any more complications and will be good to go in a few days!

JOE

Thank you Dr. Cohen. For everything!

(Smiling) Do you have a name picked out yet?

JOE (CONT'D)

We have some ideas, but we'll decide together.

(The door opens and in comes a nurse pushing Sam's bed into the room)

Hey!

SAM

Hey

(Looking groggy, distant and staring off as if to be elsewhere)

JOE

Hey honey, look who I have! This little girl want's her mommy!
 (He hands the baby to Sam)
 (Flustered) I don't know how to hold her! What if I drop her?

JOE (CONT'D)

Don't be silly, you know how! What shall we name her? I like that one name you came up with the other night.... What was it?

SAM

Grayson?

JOE

Yes! I like it! Then Grayson it is! What about her middle name? Ummm how about Tailer? Grayson Tailer, I like it!

SAM

(Kisses the baby) Here honey, take her I'm tired

The nurse walks into the room

NURSE MYERS

Oh, hold on there honey. You need to begin breast feeding!

SAM

Now? I'm so tired!

NURSE MYERS

If you don't begin now, there is a chance the little one won't take later. Now dad, you can stay and watch.

(the nurse attempts to help Sam. Sam is visually frustrated and the baby attaches)

SAM

Ouch! I can't do this!

NURSE MYERS

Sure you can honey.

SAM
No, I can't! Here, just take her!
(she hands the baby girl
back to the nurse)

NURSE MYERS
That's okay honey, you can try
again later.

SAM
I don't want to, just start her on
a bottle.

JOE
Sam, don't say that.

SAM
Please Joe, I can't!

JOE
Are you sure?

SAM
Yes, please just leave me alone!

NURSE MYERS
Mr. Aiden, Would you like to help
me with you new daughter?

JOE
Of course!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT.

A SMALL LIGHT COLORED HOUSE WITH FLOWERS IN THE YARD.

Daily it appears that Sam and Joe are doing well adjusting to
having a baby in the home. Occasionally Sam is seen staring
off into the distance.

DISSOLVE TO:

6 YEARS LATER

A WARM SPRING EVENING, THE SUN SETTING, GRAYSON IS NOW 6 YEARS OLD. NOISE FROM THE BACKYARD, A PARTY IS GOING ON. THE CAMERA FOLLOWS A LITTLE GIRL RUNNING TO THE BACKYARD WITH A GIFT. IN THE YARD THERE ARE PARENTS SITTING AT TABLES AND STANDING IN GROUPS. KIDS ARE LAUGHING AND RUNNING, PLAYING, SWIMMING. THE AIDEN FAMILY APPEARS TO BE THE IDEAL FAMILY. CAMERA CUES IN ON JOE AND SAM CUDDLING ON THE PORCH SWING, EXPRESSING THEIR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

GRAY

Mommy... Daddy! When can we eat the cake? I want to open my presents!
When Daddy? When?

JOE

Okay, okay! Let's cut the cake then open your gifts.

GRAY

YAY!

(Grayson runs to the cake table. The guests begin singing Happy Birthday. While the adults eat cake, the children gather around Grayson to watch her open gifts)

DISSOLVE TO:

BED TIME, SAM AND JOE TUCK GRAY INTO BED AND KISS HER GOOD NIGHT, SLOWLY SHUTTING THE DOOR AND TURNING OFF THE LIGHT. SAM AND JOE GO INTO THEIR ROOM, THEY MAKE LOVE THAT NIGHT

Sam wakes hours later and looks at the clock, it's 3:00 am. Sam quietly gets dressed, walks out into the yard. She collects a bunch of white daisies and a single sunflower. She returns inside and goes into Grayson's room and places the flowers on her night stand and returns to the kitchen, sits at the table and begins writing a letter.

SAM

Dearest Joe, I love you, I will always love you! I don't know what is going on in my head, but I feel so out of place. I know you love me and I am so sorry I am not a better wife to you. I think it all began when I was pregnant with our baby. I love Grayson so much, please know this! Gray you saved my life, you have given me so much happiness.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

However, for some reason my brain isn't working right and it makes me feel sad and lost. I need to get help and find myself. Please Grayson, take good care of your Daddy, he's really going to need your help. He is a wonderful man that is kind, understanding and full of love. I love both of you so much!

Sam gently folds the letter, kisses it and walks out the back door.

Begins to stir in bed from the noise of the door closing. He rolls over to find Sam gone. Rubbing his eyes and yawning, he gets out of bed to look for Sam. He opens the door to Gray's room and sees her sleeping peacefully, He continues looking for Sam. He sees the note on the table, confused he sits down, rubs his eyes and begins reading the letter. Joe begins crying, he rushes out the back door yelling for Sam, with no response. He is crying when he returns to the back door, Grayson is standing in the doorway.

GRAY

What's wrong Daddy? Why are you crying Daddy?
(Gray begins to cry as well)

JOE

Oh honey-pot, I'm so sorry! We'll be okay!

GRAY

What Daddy? Where's mommy? I'm scared, I want mommy!

JOE

It's okay sweetie, don't be scared, I will never leave you.

Joe picks up Gray and holds her close.

OVER A PERIOD OF DAYS, (CAMERA FADES IN AND OUT) JOE SEEMS TO BE LOSING HIS GRIP ON LIFE, HE BECOMES DEPRESSED AND WITHDRAWN. JOE IS AT THE MUSIC STORE STARING OUT THE WINDOW WHEN GRAY WALKS IN WITH HER BACKPACK ON. SHE TOSSES IT ON THE FLOOR.

GRAY

Hi Daddy!

Joe does not respond
 (looking around the store)
 Ya know Daddy, I was
 thinking about playing an
 instrument, will you
 teach me?

JOE
 Yeah, sure honey.

Gray is trying to get her dad's attention, she begins to bang on the drums.

JOE (CONT'D)
 Stop it Grayson! Just stop!

GRAY
 No Daddy, you stop! You have been sad forever, I need you Daddy! You need to be my Dad or maybe I'll leave too! If you put more energy into me, your daughter, as you do feeling sorry for yourself we could have a lot of fun!
 (Gray walks out and slams the door behind her)

Joe sits in thought behind the register watching the sun go down behind the stores across the street, it gets darker and darker.

DISSOLVE TO:

MORNING IN KITCHEN, JOE IS COOKING PANCAKES, EGGS, BACON AND SAUSAGE. GRAYSON WALKS IN SLEEPY IN HER PJ'S YAWNING AND STRETCHING HER ARMS.

JOE
 Good morning Sunshine! Did you sleep well?

Grayson is surprised by her dad's behavior, she sits and eats with a big smile. They begin to have small talk.

JOE (CONT'D)
 So, Honey-pot, what instrument would you like to play?

GRAY
 I don't know! Maybe the violin?

JOE
Well, after we eat lets head to the
store, okay?

GRAY
Okay!!!
(She eats quickly,
smiling)

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

THEY ENTER THE STORE AND GRAY GOES FROM ONE INSTRUMENT TO
ANOTHER AND STOPS AT THE VIOLINS.

Fading in and out of each day as she takes lessons and
struggles in each scene.

GRAY
Daddy, I don't think the violin
likes me!

JOE
What? Why's that? You should give
it some time, don't you think?

GRAY
My neck hurts, besides, you have
always said you can feel it when
you come across the right
instrument! Maybe I can try the
guitar?

JOE
Why the guitar?

GRAY
I think it might be easier for me.

JOE
Well, let's give it a try then!

Gray begins playing with a guitar as her dad opens the mail
in the store.

JOE (CONT'D)
Well, look at this! How about going
on a date with your old dad?

GRAY
I'd love to Daddy! Where are we
going?

JOE
I got two tickets to see a flute
trio!

GRAY
A what?

JOE
A Flute Trio. A trio means three
(he shows Gray a flute)

GRAY
And why would we go to this?

JOE
Why not? Free tickets and besides,
we don't have anything else to do!

GRAY
So what time will you be picking me
up? (She laughs)

FADE OUT.

EXT.

EXITING HIS OLD PICKUP TRUCK IN FRONT OF A FANCY CONVENTION
CENTER. GRAY LOOKS IN AWE OF THE BEAUTY OF THE CENTER AND THE
WOMEN IN THEIR FANCY GOWNS.

JOE
I feel so under-dressed!

GRAY
Please Daddy! Your the best looking
man here!

They smile at each other and walk arm in arm. They are
escorted down a long hallway to a ballroom where the guests
are mingling. They notice that their names are on the table
where people are to sit, they find their place and sit down,
the Trio comes out to perform. Grayson is mesmerized by the
sound and the beauty.

GRAY (CONT'D)
Daddy, look at that flute girl!
(people around them smile
and giggle at her
comment)

JOE
Honey, they are called Flautists.

GRAY

That's what I want to play Daddy!

JOE

Are you sure? Maybe we can talk to them when they take a break?

GRAY

Yes! How long until then??
(Excited)

The Trio goes on break and Gray rushes over to them to soak up all the talk.

They leave the concert and Gray is talking the entire way home. Even when they arrive home and Gray gets ready for bed, she continues on about the concert.

JOE

Honey, you need to get some sleep.
If you don't, we won't be able to go find you a flute!

GRAY

Oh, okay Daddy, good night! Oh daddy?

JOE

Yes?

GRAY

Thank you for taking me tonight! I really liked it!

JOE

Your welcome, I had a great time!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

Joe walks into the kitchen smiling, as he approaches the fridge, he sees a picture of his wife Sam. He stops and remembers, touching the photo, he wipes a tear from his eye and walks away.

FADE TO BLACK.

MORNING TIME AND JOE IS WALKING THROUGH THE HOUSE LOOKING FOR GRAYSON CALLING HER NAME.

JOE
Gray..... Gray..... Grayson Tailer,
where are you?

GRAY
Daddy, I'm out here!

JOE
Where?
(he opens the back door)

GRAY
I'm in the truck! Come on, let's
go!

JOE
Go where?

GRAY
To the store Daddy! I want to play
the flute today!

JOE
Okay, okay I'm coming sweetie!
(he gets into the truck
and they drive off)

FADE TO:

INT.

INSIDE THE STORE, GRAYSON PICKS UP A FLUTE AND BEGINS PLAYING, SHE PLAYS WELL FOR HER FIRST TIME. JOE STANDS THERE WATCHING IN AMAZEMENT AND BEGINS TO TEAR UP. A FLASH BACK MEMORY OF SAM AND JOE IN THE SCHOOL BAND, SAM PLAINING THE FLUTE.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

BOTH ARE AT HOME, JOE IS IN THE KITCHEN COOKING DINNER, GRAY IS IN HER ROOM. THE CAMERA FLOWS THROUGH THE HOUSE INTO GRAY'S ROOM. SHE IS PLAYING HER FLUTE, SHE IS 14 YEARS OLD. SHE FINISHES PLAYING AND LAYS THE FLUTE ON HER BED AND WALKS INTO THE LIVING ROOM WHERE HER DAD JOINS HER AND BEGINS READING THE MAIL. SHE PICKS UP SOME MAIL ALSO.

GRAY

Dad, is this Richmond the Richmond here in Virginia?
(she hands him the letter)

JOE

Why do you ask?

GRAY

Here's a letter from some hospital in Richmond or something.

JOE

Let me see that..
(he leans over and gets the letter, reading it with surprise, he begins crying)

GRAY

What's wrong Dad? Who's it from?

JOE

Your mother!

GRAY

What?

JOE

The hospital your mother has been in

GRAY

What? I don't understand!

JOE

This says that your mom has been in this hospital for the past 7 years, suffering from depression and Bipolar disorder. She had been granted to leave but chose not to. They say she would continually hurt herself so that they would have to keep her. Recently she developed pneumonia and passed away due to complications. (Joe begins crying profusely)

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)
 (crying yet trying to
 comfort her dad) Daddy,
 I'm so sorry, what should
 we do? Can we go get her
 and bring her home?

JOE (CONT'D)
 No, it says that they have sent
 word to Johnson Mortuary, she is
 already on her way home.

GRAY
 Why didn't they tell us sooner
 where she was?

JOE
 It's confidential, they didn't have
 any emergency contact information
 for her. When they were cleaning
 her room they found a letter
 addressed to me inside her pillow.

Joe walks out of the room and Grayson is left sitting on the couch. She turns and sees a picture of her mother, she picks it up, holds it close and begins to cry.

FADE TO:

THE NEXT MORNING GRAYSON WALKS OUT OF HER ROOM AND FINDS BOXES OF CLOTHES, PICTURES AND DISHES EVERYWHERE. SHE LOOKS FOR HER DAD AND FINDS A NOTE ON THE TABLE.

JOE
 Honey, went out to get some boxes,
 I'll be back soon.

Gray walks around and finds a box with a picture on top. She begins to go through the box, smelling her mother's sweater, looking through photos, books and clothes. She sees a letter that falls on the floor. She reads the letter and begins to cry. Gray takes the box to her room and hides it in her closet.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

GRAY IS AT THE MUSIC STORE PLAYING HER FLUTE, JOE ENTERS

JOE
 Hey Gray!

Gray looks at him, but continues playing

JOE (CONT'D)

Gray? Hey we need to talk....
Please! Stop playing!

GRAY

What?

JOE

I have something for you!

GRAY

What? Another lie? Why didn't you
tell me mom left? Why didn't you
tell me she was sick? You always
say I'm just like her! So does this
mean I'm sick too? I get it now!

JOE

No Gray! Your not sick! Your not
like her like that! Here, you
should have this!
(he hands her a flute)

GRAY

Why? What's this for?

JOE

It belonged to your mom

GRAY

Mom played the flute?

JOE

Yes, yes she did.

GRAY

See, you didn't tell me that
either!

JOE

I was afraid you wouldn't play it.
You have shown so much anger in
many areas that your mom had
interests in, and your so good at
the flute, I didn't want you to
give it up!

GRAY

I get it. Thank you Daddy, I love
it, I am actually glad I have
something of mom's

(MORE)

GRAY (CONT'D)
(she puts the flute
together and begins
playing)

JOE
I need to get going.

GRAY
Where?

JOE
I have a doctor's appointment for
my yearly physical. I'll be home
shortly.

GRAY
Why are all these boxes out? What
do you want me to do with them?

JOE
They are things that belonged to
your mom. I was just going through
them. I guess it's time to let go a
little. If you see anything you
want, please take it to your room,
or just leave it be and I'll clean
it up later.

GRAY
Okay, I'm going to my room, I need
to practice a little more!

Joe walks out to his truck, leans over the steering wheel and
begins crying, he then drives away.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT.

Kitchen, Evening

DINNER TIME, IN THE KITCHEN WHERE GRAY IS COOKING AND JOE
WALKS IN.

JOE
What do we have here?

GRAY
I thought I would cook for you!

JOE
 Why thank you honey-pot, I'm sure
 it will be good!
 (he expresses a funny
 scared face and they both
 laugh)

GRAY
 Funny Dad!

FADE TO BLACK.

JOHNSON MORTUARY; THE CASKET BEING REMOVED FROM THE HEARST.
 JOE AND GRAY STAND BY WATCHING. THEY HAVE A SMALL FUNERAL THE
 SAME DAY. A FEW PEOPLE SHOW UP, THEY WALK SLOWLY AWAY FROM
 THE GRAVE YARD.

FADE TO BLACK.

WALKING INTO THE HOUSE, GRAYSON GOES TO HER ROOM.

FADE TO BLACK.

LATER THAT DAY JOE IS IN GRAYSON'S ROOM PICKING UP HER
 LAUNDRY, HE FINDS A FOLDER AND OPENS IT. GRAY WALKS IN.

GRAY
 What are you doin'?

JOE
 Laundry,

GRAY
 That's not laundry.

JOE
 I know, what is this?

GRAY
 Just some things I've written down,
 Poems I guess.

JOE
 May I read them?

GRAY
 Why?

JOE
 Why not?

GRAY
Okay, fine!

The phone rings, Joe goes to answer it.

JOE
(On the phone) I see, okay,
tomorrow then.

GRAY
Who's that?

JOE
Dr. Wilson, he say my test results
are in and would like to go over
them with me.

GRAY
Test's?

JOE
Like cholesterol type stuff, from
my physical.

GRAY
Oh.

JOE
So, when did you begin writing
poems?

GRAY
I don't know, I guess a year ago or
so.

JOE
This is good! I hope you continue
this!

GRAY
Yea, I'm sure I will.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

GRAYSON IS NOW 16. NEXT AFTERNOON, GRAY IS BEING DROPPED OFF BY FRIENDS AT HER HOUSE.

GRAY

Bye! Okay, I'll call you later!
(she walks into the house
and sees her dad on the
couch) Daddy? What's
wrong?

JOE

Nothing honey, I just miss your
mom!

GRAY

Oh, Daddy!

JOE

(Wiping his eyes) How was your day?

GRAY

Awesome!!! We saw a bunch of kids
from school, ate a lot of junk and
the movie was so funny!

JOE

Good! What would you like for
dinner?

GRAY

I don't know, I'm not really
hungry. Why don't I make you a
sandwich?

JOE

Yeah, that would be nice honey,
thank you.

Gray walks into the kitchen, camera on Joe. Joe folds a paper and puts it under the newspapers, and goes into the kitchen.

JOE (CONT'D)

So tell me about the movie!

Gray begins telling parts of the movie, there is laughter, and Joe begins eating, and Gray walks back into the living room and cleans up the newspapers, she finds the letter reads the doctor's report.

GRAY

Hey Dad, I'm going to bed
(looks very upset)

JOE
Are you okay?

GRAY
Yes, just some things on my mind.

Gray goes into her room, throws herself on her bed in tears. No words are spoken, only the emotions on her face, she walks around her room looking at photos and holding her favorite stuffed animal.

FADE TO BLACK.

KITCHEN: JOE IS AT THE SINK, GRAY ENTER FROM THE HALLWAY, SHE STOPS AND STARES AT JOE TAKING IN HIS DEemeanOR, HIS LOOKS, AND MEMORIES. JOE TURNS TO SEE GRAY STANDING THERE.

JOE
Hey honey, whatcha doin'?

GRAY
Nothing, just watching you!

JOE
And why would you want to do that?

GRAY
Just taking it all in. I love you
Daddy, you know that right?

JOE
Of course I do! I love you to
sweetie! Why are you being so
mushy?

GRAY
Why not? Besides you never know! I
just really appreciate you and the
life I have!

JOE
Why thank you sweetie!

GRAY
Well, I need to get to the store. I
told Jake I would work his shift.

JOE
Okay, I'll see you later!

GRAY
Okay, later dad!

FADE OUT.

FADE TO:

INSIDE THE STORE, PEOPLE ARE BROWSING AND GRAY SITS BEHIND THE COUNTER STARING OUT THE WINDOW.

MR. MORRIS
Hello Grayson, will you ring me up?

GRAY
I'm sorry Mr. Morris, of course!
This is a great CD, very easy to
learn from!

MR. MORRIS
I hope so! Mike wants to try out
for All City Band

GRAY
He should do great! All the songs
they expect you to play are on
here. And besides, Mike is real
good at picking up the music just
by listening!

MR. MORRIS
Well thank you Grayson!

GRAY
No problem Mr. Morris, have a nice
day!

MR. MORRIS
What ever your day dreaming about,
don't worry, it will all get
better!

GRAY
Thank you, I sure hope so!

Gray turns back to the window in deep thought. People come and go through out the day, Joe walks in.

JOE
Hey Gray, How's it going? Have we
been busy?

GRAY
Yeah, I guess so.

JOE
You guess so?

GRAY
(upset) Yes! Things are fine, God
Dad! Don't you trust me? I mean, I
know how to take care of the store,
I've only been doing it for the
past, I don't know, 6 years now!

JOE
Honey, come on, it was just a
question. I know you know what your
doing, I was just wondering if we
were busy today.

GRAY
YES!
(she quickly moves from
behind the counter and
out the door) I'll be at
home!

JOE
Okay, I'll see you soon!

GRAY
K, fine!

Gray grabs her bike and rides away. Mary a store employee and
Joe stand together.

JOE
What's going on with her?

MARY
I don't know, she's been pretty
distant all day. Do you think it's
about her mom?

JOE
No, well.... I don't think so, I
just don't know any more. Maybe
it's affecting her more than I
thought.

MARY
Sounds like you need to have a sit
down with her.

JOE
I think your right!

MARY

Why don't you take off, I'll close
for you.

JOE

Okay, sounds like a good idea!
Night Mary, wish me luck!
(Chuckling)

MARY

And don't worry, it will all be
good!

Joe leaves the store. He is driving home. Camera soots the scenery of the country side. On the side of the road is a lake with a picnic table, Joe pulls over walks to the table and sits on the edge.

JOE

(talking to himself, looking upwards) Damn you Sam! Why in the hell did you have to leave? I miss you so much! (He begins to cry) Here I am trying to raise our daughter alone, I feel like I'm messing up some how! I need your guidance with all this! Everything was okay until last week when I got the letter from the hospital you were at. Then yesterday, I get this stupid test result back that says I got some stupid kind of cancer! Oh my God!!!! How do I tell Gray this? What do I do?!!! (He lays back on the table crying)

The sun sets, and the night grows darker. He finally gets up heads back to the truck and drives home. Gray opens the back door as he drives up.

GRAY

Where have you been? I have been here for hours worrying about you! You don't call or anything! For all I know you could have een dead in a ditch!

JOE

Your right, I'm sorry! I've got a lot on my mind too you know!

GRAY

Yes Dad, I know! I saw your test results!

(MORE)

GRAY (CONT'D)

This is just great, now I'm loosing another parent, as if one isn't bad enough!

JOE

How did you know?

GRAY

I found your results the other day, when were you planning on telling me?

JOE

After I talk to the doctor.

GRAY

Well, didn't you think about taking me with you?

JOE

Yes, but you just found out about your mom, how could I tell you two bad things in a matter of days?

GRAY

I don't know Dad, but you should have!

JOE

Well, tomorrow is my appointment with Dr. Wilson, we will both go, okay?

GRAY

Okay, sounds good to me! Please Daddy, don't keep things from me anymore!

JOE

I won't, I promise! But I need you to listen to everything Doc Wilson has to say, okay?

GRAY

Okay!

JOE

I mean it Gray, you can't let your anger get the best of you. It will be very confusing so you need to stay calm!

GRAY

Do I have a reason to get upset?

JOE
You never know, besides, it's not like any of this is good news! Come on, let's call it a night and get some sleep. Tomorrow's gonna be a long day!

GRAY
Yeah, okay, I love you Daddy! Night!

JOE
Ditto honey-pot!

FADE TO BLACK.

THE MORNING SUN RISES OVER THE HILLS AND THROUGH THE WINDOW ACROSS GRAYSON'S BED. SHE WAKES UP STRETCHING AND LOOKS AT HER CLOCK. SHE JUMPS FROM BED AND QUICKLY GETS DRESSED.

She is bent over forward putting her hair in a messy pony tail as she walks out of her room and down the hallway to her dad's room

GRAY
Good morning daddy! It's time to get up, we over slept, we're late!

JOE
Okay, I'm comin, I'm comin!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

ENTERING DR. WILSON'S OFFICE

JOE
Hi, I have a 9 am appointment

NURSE MELISSA
Hi Joe, I'll bring you back in just a moment. How are you feeling today?

JOE
Not bad, a little tired

GRAY
Why would she ask that?

JOE

What?

GRAY

How your feeling?

JOE

She's a nurse, it's her job

GRAY

Oh yeah, silly me!

NURSE MELISSA

Joe, you can come back now

Joe and Gray walk towards the door

NURSE MELISSA (CONT'D)

(looking at Gray) Honey, you may want to wait out here.

GRAY

Excuse me?

JOE

It's okay, she needs to hear everything, same as I do!

NURSE MELISSA

Okay then, this is your choice.
(They walk into the office and sit down. A few minutes of silence until Dr. Wilson walks in)

DR. WILSON

Hi Joe! Well, Grayson, how are you young lady?

GRAY

I'm okay, thanks.

DR. WILSON

How about you joe?

JOE

Not bad.

DR. WILSON

Well, let's see what we have here.
(he opens the folder and studies the file, he has a concerned look about him)

JOE
Well Doc, what ya got?

DR. WILSON
Are you sure you don't want Gray to wait in the waiting room?

JOE
No Sir, she's apart of this and needs to know everything.

DR. WILSON
Okay then, well, your results show that you have a condition called Pulmonary Fibrosis.

GRAY
What?

JOE
Hold on Honey, let the Doc explain.

GRAY
Is he going to die?

JOE
Gray!

GRAY
I'm sorry!

DR. WILSON
This may be to much Joe!

JOE
No, it's okay. Please Gray! Just listen to what Doc has to say.
(Gray sinks down into her chair with her arms crossed)

DR. WILSON
Pulmonary Fibrosis involves scarring of the lung. Gradually the air sacs of the lungs become replaced by fibrotic tissue. When the scar forms, the tissue becomes thicker causing an irreversible loss of the tissue's ability to transfer oxygen into the bloodstream.

GRAY
English, please!

JOE

So I have scarring on my lungs?

DR. WILSON

Yes. What doesn't make sense to me is how you contracted it!

JOE

What do you mean? What are they symptoms?

DR. WILSON

Shortness of breath, particularly with exertion, chronic dry hacking cough, fatigue, weakness, discomfort in the chest, loss of appetite and rapid weight loss.

JOE

How did I get this?

DR. WILSON

Okay, let me explain. This may get overwhelming! So please bear with me. Traditional theories have postulated that it might be an autoimmune disorder, or the after affects of an infection, possibly viral. There is a growing body of evidence which points to a genetic predisposition. A mutation in the SP-C protein has been found to exist in families with a history of Pulmonary Fibrosis. The most current thinking is that the fibrotic process is a reaction to microscopic injury to the lung. While the exact cause remains unknown, associations have been made with the following: Inhaled environmental and occupational pollutants, cigarette smoking, diseases such as Scleroderma, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus and Sarcoidosis, certain medications or therapeutic radiation.

GRAY

Dad doesn't smoke!

DR. WILSON

I know honey, so it could have been a form of medication or even from pollutants!

GRAY

Like the exhaust from a car?

DR. WILSON

Well, yes and no. Pollutants are even more severe.

JOE

So what do I do?

DR. WILSON

Honestly, there are currently no effective treatments or cure for Pulmonary Fibrosis. The drugs designed to treat lung scarring are still in the experimental stages and treatments intended to suppress inflammation have only limited success.

GRAY

How come you never hear about this disease?

DR. WILSON

Well, there are 5 million people worldwide that are affected by the disease. In the US there are over 200,000 alone. Many are misdiagnosed and the actual number may even be higher!

JOE

You have got to be kidding me!

DR. WILSON

Sadly at this time there is limited data on prevalence for this group.

JOE

This is a lot to take in Doc!

DR. WILSON

Now listen Joe, because the origin and development of the disease is not completely understood, misdiagnosis is common.

GRAY

What's that mean? He may not have it?

DR. WILSON

Varying terminology and lack of standard diagnostic criteria have complicate the gathering of accurate stats about people with this disease.

JOE

What are my options Doc?

DR. WILSON

Supplemental oxygen improves the quality of life and exercise capacity. Single lung transplant may be considered for some patients.

GRAY

So is Dad going to die? (she rushes to her dad and hugs him)

DR. WILSON

This is a very complex disease and the length of survival rates of patients after diagnosis vary greatly.

JOE

Shh, it's okay honey

GRAY

No! It's not okay!

JOE

We need to listen to Doc

DR. WILSON

I do feel we need to get a second opinion, mainly because this is commonly misdiagnosed. There are a number of new trial testing drugs to treat this disease (handing Joe a pamphlet) call them, they can give you additional information.

JOE

I believe you Doc, I don't need a second opinion.

DR. WILSON

Thank you Joe, it means a lot, however, you do need a second opinion.

JOE
With who? I don't know any other
doctors!

DR. WILSON
I will get you a good referral!
Okay?

JOE
Okay, I trust you!
(joe and Gray leave the
office, not letting go of
each other, Gray is
crying)

JOE (CONT'D)
I'm going to be fine honey, you'll
see!

GRAY
How can you say that?! You were
just told you have a terminal
disease! Your going to die, then
what will happen to me? I have no
family! I have no one else!

JOE
I'm not dead yet, now am I!? Don't
count me dead until the Doctor
says!

They drive home, with only silence.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

ARRIVED AT HOME, GRAY JUMPS OUT OF TRUCK AND RUNS INTO THE
HOUSE, INTO HER ROOM AND SLAMS THE DOOR. JOE WALKS UP TO
GRAY'S DOOR AND LISTENS TO HER CRY AND WALKS AWAY.

JOE
Gray? I'm going to start dinner,
okay?

GRAY
I'm not hungry.

JOE
How about a salad honey?

GRAY
Whatever, fine!

Gray opens her journal and begins writing.

GRAY (CONT'D)

What a terrible day! Dad doesn't even realize it's been 8 years since mom left as of today! The same day I find out my dad has cancer. This is not a good date for me! I need to remember not to get married on this day! Dad thinks it's all going to be okay. God! I hope he's right! I'm only 14 and starting high school in less than a month! Where would I go? Who would I live with? What would happen to the store? So many things to think about! Not meant for a 14 year old. I have got to stop this! Think of something different, okay, I have a concert coming up soon, I better practice!

(she puts down the journal
and picks up her flute
and begins to practice)

JOE

Gray? (knocks on the door) Dinner's ready.

GRAY

Okay, I'll be there in a minute, thanks dad.

She joins her dad at the table.

JOE

You okay? The music sounded good!

GRAY

Yeah, I'm okay. This looks good dad!

JOE

Good, I hope you like it!

GRAY

So you know Daddy, I have a concert in 2 weeks

JOE

I know, I look forward to it! What song will you be playing? Or were you allowed to pick your own music?

GRAY

Yeah, I think the one I picked is pretty exciting!

JOE

What's it called?

GRAY

I chose "Celtic Ritual".

JOE

Really? Why that one?

GRAY

I like the way it sounds. That Irish sound, I love it! You remember that CD you got me as a baby? It actually has it on there!

JOE

Really, I didn't know you still listen to it.

GRAY

Of course! Every night when I go to bed!

JOE

Your mom actually bought you that CD to put you to sleep as a baby!

GRAY

Really? Now it has even more meaning!

They finish eating.

GRAY (CONT'D)

I'm gonna get back to practicing!

Joe goes into the living-room and sits on couch, he listens to Gray practice, and his emotions overwhelm him. He begins crying, burying his face into a pillow as so not to be heard. Gray walks into the room.

GRAY (CONT'D)

Dad? Are you okay?

JOE

(He raises his head and wipes his eyes) yes, I'm fine. You sound so beautiful!

GRAY
I love you daddy! (They hug)

FADE TO BLACK.

AT THE SCHOOL AND BEHIND STAGE, GRAYSON PREPARES FOR HER DEBUT. PEOPLE BEGIN TO RETURN TO THEIR SEATS, THE THEATER BECOMES SILENT AS THE CURTAINS OPEN. GRAY IS STANDING CENTER STAGE, SHE BEGINS HER SOLO. THE AUDIENCE IS SILENT AND IN AWE.

When her solo is over, the curtains close. Joe meets her back stage.

JOE
That was awesome! My God girl, you are unbelievable!

Mark, Gray's friend approaches.

MARK
Hey Grayson, that was awesome!

GRAY
(Shyly) Hi! Thank you!

MARK
Are you hanging out for a while?

GRAY
Yeah, sure!

Mark walks away smiling.

JOE
Well! He seems like a nice boy!

GRAY
Yeah, I guess so!

JOE
Oh, come on! You know he's cute!

GRAY
Dad! Yes, I guess he is!

MEGAN
Hey Gray, let's go sit up front! Hi Mr. Aiden!

JOE
Hi Megan!

GRAY
Dad? Do you mind?

JOE
Of course not, I'll meet you by the
doors later!

The girls run off.

AMANDA
Hi Joe!

JOE
Well, hello there! How are you?
(they hug briefly)

AMANDA
Good, how are you?

JOE
Well, that's a loaded question!
(said with a chuckle)

AMANDA
Why's that?

JOE
Oh, nothing. Would you like to sit
with me?

AMANDA
Sure, I'd like that!

As they walk to their seats, Gray and Megan see them, they giggle and stare. Gray is slightly surprised and sure how to really react.

Show begins and 2 girls begin dancing, Joe and Amanda look at each other and smile, to show comes to an end.

JOE
Thank you for seating with me

AMANDA
I enjoyed it, thank you for asking!

JOE
Amanda? (They look at each other)
would you like to go to dinner
tomorrow night?

AMANDA
(Surprised and happy) Yes! I'd like
that!

JOE

Great! Well then, may I pick you up at five?

AMANDA

Yes, perfect! Until then (she walks away)

Gray walks up.

GRAY

What's up Dad? What did you two talk about? (Nudging at him)

JOE

Well, I asked her to dinner.

GRAY

No way!!! I can't believe it! Your actually going on a date?

JOE

Yes, I guess I am! Wow! What am I going to wear? (He smiles)

GRAY

No problem Dad! I'll take care of you! Come on let's go!

FADE TO BLACK.

THE EVENING OF JOE'S DATE (CLOCK IS SEEN 4PM).

GRAY

Come on Dad, your going to be late!

Gray is searching for the right shirt for Joe.

JOE

Calm down Gray, it's just a date!

GRAY

But Dad, it's been so long, you need to look perfect. And don't forget to be a gentleman, help put her coat on and Dad, don't forget....

Both Joe and Gray say the words together.

JOE AND GRAY

Open the door for her too
(they laugh, Gray fixes
his tie and begins.
pushing him out the door)

JOE

Slow down girl! You act like your
the one going on a date! Are you
okay with this? If not, your know I
can cancel.

GRAY

I'm okay Daddy! Really! I guess I'm
a little nervous considering the
circumstances. I don't want you to
get hurt. And, well.....

JOE

I know honey-pot, I've thought
about it too. Besides, I better be
as happy as possible right?

GRAY

Yep! So get outta here before your
late. A woman doesn't like to
be.....

JOE

(finishing Gray's sentence) kept
waiting, they just like to keep a
man waiting!

Joe drives away. The phone rings and Gray runs back into the
house.

GRAY

Hello?

MARK

Hey Gray!

GRAY

Hi Mark, how are you?

MARK

I'm good, how are you?

GRAY

Pretty good, My Dad just left for a
date?

MARK

A date? I thought your parents were still together?

GRAY

No, not really, my mom died not to long ago.

MARK

Oh, I'm sorry Gray, that was rude, I didn't mean to be.

GRAY

It's okay, really, I think it's great that he's going out.

MARK

Really, why's that?

GRAY

I really don't want to talk about this. Let's talk about football tryouts! How did you do?

MARK

Good, I guess, I was asked to play quarterback!

GRAY

Really? That's awesome!

MARK

Yea, I'm looking forward to it. You know, it would be nice to be talking to you in person.

GRAY

Yes it would!

MARK

You think it would be okay if I come over?

GRAY

I don't know? I guess so.

MARK

Okay, then I'll be over in a bit

GRAY

Okay, bye!

Gray nervously gets ready, dabbing perfume on her neck and wrists. She goes through her closet trying to find the right top, she throws clothes everywhere.

The doorbell rings, she runs to the door opening it slowly

GRAY (CONT'D)

Hi! Come in!

MARK

Hi! I brought a movie.

GRAY

Really? Which one?

MARK

Don't laugh! Legends of the Fall,
have you heard of it?

GRAY

Yeah (surprised) you really want to
watch it?

MARK

Yeah, why not?

GRAY

It's like a chick flick! I'm just
surprised that's all! But I heard
it was really good. One of Brad
Pitts best!

MARK

Sounds good! You have popcorn?

GRAY

Sure, I'll make some, want some
water?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

GRAY WALKS INTO LIVING ROOM WITH POPCORN AND 2 BOTTLES OF WATER. SHE SITS NEXT TO MARK ON THE COUCH AND THE MOVIE BEGINS.

MARK

You okay?

GRAY

Yeah, of course, it's just a sappy
chick flick!

MARK

It just seems like you have more on your mind that's all.
Gray begins to cry.

MARK (CONT'D)

What is it?

GRAY

I can't talk about it.

MARK

Why? Is someone messin with you? Or bothering you? What? You can't just leave it like that and now have me all worried!

GRAY

There's just so much going on! I haven't even talked to Megan about it!

MARK

Why? I thought you guys were best friends!

GRAY

We are, just haven't had a chance I guess, so much has happened!

MARK

Come on Gray, what's going on, you can trust me! I'm here for you no matter what! I promise!

Gray blurts everything out quickly.

GRAY

My mom left when I was six years old because she was depressed or something! We just got a letter last week that she had died, we have already buried her, then my Dad found out a few days ago he has a terminal illness! I have no family, I have no one!

MARK

You have me! I'll take care of you, I promise!

He pulls Gray close, they begin to kiss.. Mark pulls away.

MARK (CONT'D)
Gray, we can't do this.

GRAY
Why?

MARK
It's just not right.

GRAY
You said you'd be there for me!

MARK
And I am here for you, just not
like this. Your real special to me
and I'm not going to ruin what we
have by rushing things, you mean
more to me than that!

GRAY
Really?

MARK
Yeah, duhhh!!!!

The front door opens and Joe walks in.

JOE
Gray? Are you okay? What's wrong?
What's going on here son?

MARK
Nothing sir, really. (He stands up)

JOE
Why are you crying Gray?

GRAY
Dad, Mark came over to watch a
movie with me and I began crying.
He asked what was wrong and I just
broke down. I told him about mom
and you! He was just hugging me,
trying to comfort me.

JOE
Are you okay?

GRAY
Yes. Dad I like Mark, He's not
going to hurt me, promise!

JOE
So, what movie are you kids
watching.

MARK
Legends of the Fall, sir. Would you
like to join us?

JOE
No, it's been a long day, I need to
get to bed. You leave by a descent
hour you hear?

MARK
Yes, sir!

Joe walks down the hallway into his room, he sits on the edge
of his bed. Visually he is tired, he begins to feel anxious
and isn't able to calm down.

JOE
Gray! Come here! Gray!

Gray runs down the hallway into the room. Joe is clutching
his chest and his throat.

JOE (CONT'D)
Help! Call 911!

GRAY
Mark! Help! Call 911, hurry!!!! I
won't leave you Daddy! Oh my God!
What's wrong! (crying)

JOE
I don't know honey, it hurts!

GRAY
What hurts Daddy?

JOE
Everything!

Mark enters the room.

MARK
What's wrong? What's going on?
Ambulance is on the way!

GRAY
I don't know! Call 911! Daddy!

JOE
Honey?

Joe passes out.

GRAY

Daddy! Daddy! Don't you die on me
Daddy, Not now!

MARK

Stay calm Gray, he's still
breathing. I'll go see if the
ambulance is here, stay here and
stay calm. He needs you calm!

Mark runs out of the room, the ambulance arrives.

MARK (CONT'D)

In here! Hurry please! He is still
breathing.

EMS 1

Has he been ill?

MARK

I just found out he has a terminal
illness, but I don't know what.

Mark leads them into the bedroom.

EMS 1

Sir, can you hear me? Hand me the
sniffer, see if that wakes him!

EMS 2 hands him the sniffer, he waves it in front oh Joe

EMS 1 (CONT'D)

Sir, can you hear me?

GRAY

Daddy? Is he okay? What's wrong
with him?? Daddy, Daddy, I'm right
here!

EMS 1

Come on, what did you say your name
is?

GRAY

Grayson Aiden. What's wrong with my
dad?

EMS 1

We don't know yet, we need to talk
to him, and you need to calm down
so we can do our job!

MARK

Come on Gray, let's go in the other room

EMS 1

Why don't you head to the hospital, we will be there in about 8 minutes!

MARK

Yeah, come on Gray, let's get going.

GRAY

I don't want to leave my dad! May I just talk to him for a second? Please?

EMS 1

Sure, make it quick, he needs to be at the hospital!

GRAY

Daddy? We're going to meet you at the hospital, okay? I love you Daddy!

Joe looks at Grayson.

JOE

1 4 3 (he says in a faint voice)

Gray and Mark drive away, EMS put Joe in ambulance and drive off.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

AMBULANCE ARRIVES AT HOSPITAL, DOCTORS TAKE OVER

Gray hovering.

GRAY

Will he be okay? Doctor? Is my dad going to be okay?

DR. JONES

Listen young lady, we need to take care of him, please let us! (the doctor begins to walk away, but turns around and comes back to Gray) has your dad been ill?

GRAY

He was just diagnosed with pulmonary something, some kind of cancer.

DR. JONES

Who's his doctor?

GRAY

Dr. Wilson.

DR. JONES

Where's you mom honey?

GRAY

She's dead! I'm the only family he has.

DR. JONES

(Takes a deep breath) I'm sorry. Let me get to work, I'll be back soon!

FADE TO BLACK.

DR. JONES WALKS BACK INTO THE WAITING ROOM. HE TAKES A DEEP BREATH AS HE APPROACHES GRAY.

DR. JONES

Well.... This doesn't look good. Has Dr. Wilson arrived yet?

Dr. Wilson walks into the waiting room.

DR. WILSON

I'm right here! What are we looking at?

DR. JONES

Gray here, the patience daughter tells me he has cancer.

DR. WILSON

Yes, Pulmonary Fibrosis. He was going for a second opinion tomorrow.

DR. JONES

Well, he now has it! He needs Chemo ASAP!

GRAY

Is it that bad? I thought he needed a second opinion.

DR. WILSON

Our goal is to stop the cancer or at least slow it down.

GRAY

How long does he have to live?

DR. JONES

Well, we really have no way of telling. Chemotherapy should help, however, there are no guarantees.

DR. WILSON

There are alternative methods.

GRAY

Like what? What do you mean?

DR. WILSON

Like natural methods. Herbs, acupuncture, from my understanding you can have very positive results. Here, this is the number to a lady I know. Her name is Jessie Smith. She will take good care of your Dad. With her help and ours we are sure to beat this thing! (He hands her a business card)

DR. JONES

You can go see your father now.

GRAY

Thank you Dr. Jones and Dr. Wilson, I do appreciate your help.

Gray walks down the hall, she looks back at Mark.

GRAY (CONT'D)

Do you want to come?

MARK

No, I think you should go be alone with him. Don't worry, I'll be right here waiting for you.

With concern on Gray's face, she turns and enters the room. Her father is hooked up to wires and tubes. He reaches out to Gray, she grabs his hand.

GRAY
Can I hug you Daddy?

JOE
(Struggling to speak) Of course!

They hug Gray begins to cry.

JOE (CONT'D)
Shhh.... I'm okay honey-pot, I
promise.

The doctor walks in.

DR. JONES
Okay, we are keeping your dad for a
few days.

GRAY
How long?

DR. JONES
Just a few days, we need to keep an
eye on him. Do you have somewhere
to stay?

GRAY
Yes.

JOE
Go home and get some sleep honey,
come back tomorrow. Doc here will
take good care of me.

DR. WILSON
Call Jessie, okay?

GRAY
Okay. Dad, I'll be back first thing
in the morning, I promise!

JOE
I know honey!

Gray leaves the room and joins Mark, they leave the hospital.

MARK
Where do you want to go?

GRAY
Home.

MARK

Are you sure? I know my mom won't mind you staying at out house.

GRAY

No, it's okay. I need to be home in case the hospital calls.

MARK

Okay, I need to give my mom a call when we get there.

GRAY

Mmhmm.

Gray rests her head on Mark's shoulder.

They arrive at Gray's house, Mark picks up phone, Gray goes to her dad's room and lays on the bed crying.

MARK

Hi mom.

BARBARA

Hey honey, where are you, it's late.

MARK

I'm still at Grayson Aiden's house. Her dad was taken to the hospital tonight.

BARBARA

What? Why? Is he okay? Is she okay?

MARK

Oh mom, what a mess, I feel so bad for her!

BARBARA

Why, what's wrong?

MARK

Her dad has cancer, some kind that isn't treatable. Her mom died like two weeks ago. Her mom left them when Gray was like six years old. The doctor can't even tell them how long he has to live, Gray has no family! She has no one mom!

BARBARA

Who is she staying with?

MARK

No one, she's staying here at her house. I asked her to come to our house, she said she just wanted to be here. I don't know what to do!

BARBARA

Well, how do you feel if you stayed with her tonight? She really shouldn't be alone!

MARK

I don't know!

BARBARA

Why don't you let me talk to Grayson.

MARK

Okay, hold on.

He walks into her dad's room.

MARK (CONT'D)

My mom wants to talk to you.

She picks up the phone.

GRAY

Hello?

BARBARA

Hi honey, listen, I feel uncomfortable with you staying home alone. Would you mind if Mark stays with you? I would make me feel better.

GRAY

Yeah, I guess so. He can sleep on the couch or something. He doesn't have to though.

BARBARA

I know honey, I just don't want you alone right now.

GRAY

Thank you Mrs. Cooper, here's Mark.

MARK

Hang on mom, I'm going to the other phone.

He hangs up the phone and goes back into the kitchen.

MARK (CONT'D)

Okay mom, I'll call you in the morning.

BARBARA

If you need anything, you call me!
Okay?

MARK

Okay, talk to you tomorrow.

He hangs up the phone, goes to the living room and lays down.
Gray walks into the living room.

GRAY

Here's a pillow, thank you so much
for being here!

MARK

Of course! I'm not going anywhere!

Gray goes to bed and quickly falls asleep, she begins to dream. She is in her back yard, it's dark and cloudy. She is yelling for her dad but there is no response, she is alone in the dark. Gray wakes up screaming.

GRAY

Daddy, Daddy! Where did you go? I
can't find you!

Mark runs into the room.

MARK

Gray, what's wrong? Are you okay?

Gray wakes up and grabs onto Mark, she's crying.

GRAY

I had a dream, I couldn't find my
Dad!

MARK

Your okay, your dad's okay, come
on, calm down. (Mark sits on the
bed, his back against the wall and
hold Gray in his arms, they fall
asleep)

FADE TO BLACK.

MORNING TIME, THE SUN SHINES THROUGH THE CURTAINS. MARK WAKES UP FIRST, HE SLOWLY TRIES TO MOVE OFF THE BED, HE FEELS AWKWARD. GRAY WAKES FROM THE MOVEMENT

MARK

Hey!

GRAY

Hi, what's going on?

MARK

I guess we fell asleep after you told me about your dream. I didn't mean to stay here.

He moves to the edge of the bed and looks back at Gray and smiles.

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

GRAY

It's okay, I'm glad your here.

MARK

So am I. Are you hungry (quickly changing the subject)

GRAY

Actually, I am!

They go into the kitchen and Mark cooks them breakfast.

MARK

So, what happened to your mom?

GRAY

Well, it's a long story, and I just found out like two weeks ago!

MARK

That's okay, I have time!

He sits back to listen to every word.

GRAY

First of all, why are you so nice to me?

MARK

Because I think I need to know all I can about my future wife!

They laugh together.

GRAY

Yeah, okay!

MARK

Okay, well then, will you start by being my girlfriend?

GRAY

I thought we were talking about my life's story?

MARK

(smiling) This could be a part of it!

Gray ignores the question and begins on her story.

GRAY

Well, I remember us being a happy family. Then one day my dad woke up and my mom was gone! All he found was a note on the kitchen table. (she begins to tear up). This is hard, I don't think I can finish. Thinking about my past only puts more stress on the situation I am in now. Sorry, tell me about you!

MARK

Well, since I was seven, I played football. My dream has always been to play in the NFL.

GRAY

What team?

MARK

You'll probably laugh, but, the Oakland Raiders.

GRAY

Really? That's my favorite team!

MARK

Is it really? Or are you just saying that?

GRAY

It really is! That was my mom's favorite team too!

MARK

How cool is that?!

GRAY

Didn't you just make quarterback
for the school team?

MARK

Yeah. So you like football?

GRAY

YEAH! I love it! My dad and I watch
every year!

MARK

What was your guys favorite team?

GRAY

Ughh, he's not dead yet! The
Raider's of course!

MARK

Oh my God! I'm so sorry! I didn't
mean it like that!

GRAY

(smiling) it's okay, just messin
with you! So tell me more about
you!

MARK

Well.... I have a younger sister
and an older brother.

GRAY

Really? I never knew that! What's
their names?

MARK

My sister is Chloe, she's very into
dancing!

GRAY

Really? What's her favorite style?

MARK

Oh man, totally ballet!

GRAY

Really? I used to want to be a
ballerina! My mom gave me a
ballerina necklace. I still have it
I think! Wanna see it?

MARK

Sure!

Gray goes to her room and brings it back.

MARK (CONT'D)

Why don't you wear it?

GRAY

There's no use! All it does is make me sad and sorta angry. I mean I love it because she gave it to me, I just don't want to wear it is all. So, how about your brother?

MARK

Oh yeah, well, his name is Blake, he's a hockey player. He's hoping to get picked up by the NHL soon!

GRAY

Wow! Your family is pretty athletic.

MARK

Yea, I guess we are.

GRAY

So what team does he play on and what position?

MARK

He's on the Admirals and plays forward.

GRAY

That's so cool! He's a part of our home team!

MARK

Yeah, do you like hockey?

GRAY

I've never been to a game actually, but I've watched it on TV with my dad. It seems pretty exciting!

MARK

Would you like to go to a game sometime? We always have tickets! Like every week during season.

GRAY

Yeah! Sure and maybe my dad can come.

MARK

Of course!

GRAY

Speaking of which, I better get to the hospital!

MARK

Yup, let's get going!

FADE TO BLACK.

WALKING INTO JOE'S HOSPITAL ROOM.

GRAY

Hi Daddy! How ya feeling (trying to sound upbeat)

JOE

Better. Hi Mark! Thank you for looking out for Gray.

MARK

Any time Mr. Aiden, good to see your feeling better!

JOE

Thank you! Well honey, it looks like I need to stay another night. They are going to go ahead and begin the Chemo. The doc wants to make sure I handle it okay.

GRAY

(looking at Mark) You can go if you want. I'm going to be here for awhile.

MARK

Call me when your ready to go home, okay? I'll come and get you!

GRAY

Okay, thank you so much! (hugs Mark)

JOE

Again, thank you for your help!

MARK

No problem Sir, feel better.

Mark leaves the room.

JOE
He seems like a nice young man.

GRAY
He is Daddy, I really like him!

NURSE CINDY
(Walks into room) Hi, I'm Cindy! I
will be your nurse for the
Chemotherapy treatment.

JOE
Hi Cindy, good to meet you.

NURSE CINDY
And what's your name?

GRAY
I'm Gray, his daughter.

NURSE CINDY
Well, you look a little young to be
his girlfriend!

They all laugh.

NURSE CINDY (CONT'D)
Okay, we're going to try IV method.
Since you already have an IV
started, this is easier. You will
feel nauseated.

JOE
I'm ready!

GRAY
May I stay in the room?

NURSE CINDY
Yes, not a problem. Okay, your
hooked up, this will take about 35
minutes or so. I'll be back
shortly. Here are a few bags in
case you feel sick.

JOE
Thank you.

NURSE CINDY
You won't be thanking me here
shortly, so for now your welcome.

GRAY
So, what do we do now?

JOE

Well, what do you want to do? We can watch some TV.

GRAY

Okay, TV it is!

JOE

Were you able to get any sleep last night?

GRAY

Some, Mark stayed the night.

JOE

Excuse me?

GRAY

Not like that! Please Dad! I talked to his mom, she didn't want me staying alone. She wanted me to stay at their house, but, I didn't want to. He slept on the couch.

JOE

Well, that was nice of both of them!

GRAY

Yeah, I guess so. Have you talked to Amanda?

JOE

No, she probably thinks I didn't enjoy our date since I haven't called her.

GRAY

Do you want me to call her?

JOE

You'd do that?

GRAY

Sure, why wouldn't I?

JOE

I don't know, seems strange. You know honey, I'm not feeling so well.

GRAY

I'll get Nurse Cindy! (She hurries out of room) Nurse Cindy?! Nurse Cindy!

NURSE CINDY

What's wrong? (She comes from around a corner)

GRAY

He's not doing good! He looks real pale!

NURSE CINDY

(Hurries into room) Joe? You okay? You look like crap!

JOE

I feel like crap!

NURSE CINDY

Unfortunately Joe, this is normal, you'll be okay, it will pass soon.

GRAY

Will he always go through this?

NURSE CINDY

It's possible. You just never know! Chemo affects everyone differently. Some people get sick, some tired, and some may have their skin burn. Ya know.... There's a lady named....

GRAY

Jessie?

NURSE CINDY

Yes

GRAY

Dr. Wilson said I should get in touch with her.

NURSE CINDY

Yes! You should! When we are done here, you'll go back to your room, we are almost done, hang in there Joe!

GRAY

Daddy? I'm going to go make some phone calls. I'll meet you back at your room.

JOE

That's fine honey, see you there!

Gray leaves the room and stops at the pay phone.

GRAY

Hi, I'm looking for Jessie Smith.

JESSIE

Yes, this is she. Who's this?

GRAY

My name is Gray Aiden. My dad has cancer and Dr. Wilson said I should call you.

JESSIE

Where is he now?

GRAY

Bayside.

JESSIE

I'll be there in an hour. You need to be there as well.

GRAY

I will be!

They hang up the phone and Gray returns to Joe's room.

JOE

Did you get in touch with her?

GRAY

How did you know?

JOE

Nurse Cindy told me about Jessie.

GRAY

How do you feel about it?

JOE

If it will help, then I'm all for it! (They smile at each other)

JOE (CONT'D)
I'm a little tired, I'm going to
close my eyes sweetie.

GRAY
That's fine, I'm not goin anywhere!

Joe closes his eyes and falls asleep. Gray stares out the
window.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

A LADY WALKS INTO THE ROOM, SHE IS WEARING A FLOWING SKIRT,
BLUE IN COLOR, HER BLOUSE IS MULTICOLORED.

JESSIE
Psst!

Gray turns around

GRAY
Yes?

JESSIE
Hi, (whispering) I'm Jessie. You
must be Gray?

GRAY
Yes, and this is my dad. He said he
needed to rest, should we wake him?

JESSIE
Not yet, let's talk a little. So,
how old are you?

GRAY
16.

JESSIE
Where's your mom?

GRAY
She died a few weeks ago.

JESSIE
Really?! I'm so sorry!

GRAY
Thank you, but it's okay, I didn't
know her.

(MORE)

GRAY (CONT'D)

She left us when I was 6, we never heard from her or anything.

JESSIE

I'm sure that doesn't help though, she was still your mom.

GRAY

Yes, that's true, I'm sad I never got to really know her. She played the flute like I do! That's pretty cool! I know my dad misses her. He did go on a date though the other night.

JESSIE

Really? How did that make you feel?

GRAY

I'm really happy for him! He needs some happiness! So, what are you able to do for my dad?

JESSIE

Well, I spoke with Dr. Jones and Dr. Wilson, they both gave me the low down on your dad's condition. I want you to know that there are no guarantees.

GRAY

I understand!

JESSIE

I want your dad to begin with this! The orange top, two pills four times a day. The green top, one pill twice a day. And the blue top three pills once a day. Every night you need to boil some water and add this mixture to it, get some rags and soak them in the mixture. I want you to lay the rags on his back for twenty minutes.

GRAY

Is all this written down?
(Laughing)

JESSIE

(Smiling) yes, of course! Now, every three days I will come over and do some acupuncture and cupping.

(MORE)

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Oh, I also want him to drink this tea three times a day! You can have some too! It's very good for the body!

Joe begins to wake up.

GRAY

Hey daddy! This is Jessie, the lady Doc told us about. She gave me directions for the meds you need to take.

JOE

Nice to meet you.

JESSIE

You too. Gray? Would you mind leaving us for about 15 minutes please? I need to talk to your dad a bit and get to know him.

GRAY

Sure, I don't mind. I have some phone calls to make anyway. I'll see you in a bit! (She leans over and kisses Joe on the forehead and walks out)

Gray is in the waiting area alone and uses the phone.

GRAY (CONT'D)

Hi, Amanda? This is Gray Aiden, Joe's daughter.

AMANDA

Hi Gray, how are you? Is everything okay?

GRAY

Well, I guess I'm okay, my dad is in the hospital.

AMANDA

What?!! (Excited) What happened? Is he okay??

GRAY

It's a long story, but he would like to see you and fill you in. He is at Bayside, room 542. He will be here for a few days I think.

AMANDA

Would it be okay if I come over now?

GRAY

Yeah! I don't see why not.

AMANDA

Will you let him know I'll be there shortly?

GRAY

Of course, bye!

She hangs up and dials again

GRAY (CONT'D)

Megan? It's Gray.

MEGAN

Hey! Where have you been?

GRAY

My dad has been in the hospital. I've been here. Can you come to Bayside? I have so much to tell you!

MEGAN

Of course, I'm on my way!

Megan runs into the kitchen where her mother is.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Mom! I need to go to the hospital! Gray's dad has been admitted!

JOAN

What? Why???

MEGAN

I don't know, gray said she will tell me when I get there!

JOAN

Of course honey, let's go!

They get into car and drive to hospital.

FADE TO:

MEGAN JUMPS OUT OF CAR IN FRONT OF HOSPITAL AND RUNS INSIDE.
THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN AND MEGAN AND GRAY SEE EACH OTHER,
GRAY BEGINS CRYING AND THEY HUG.

GRAY

Your my best friend! I am so sorry
I haven't talked to you earlier. I
guess I've been trying to just
figure things out!

MEGAN

It's okay, really! How's your dad?
Why is he here?

Joan walks up

JOAN

Gray, are you okay?

GRAY

Oh, Ms. Joan, I'm so sorry I didn't
call sooner!

JOAN

It's okay sweetie, just tell us
what's going on!

They walk over to the seating area and sit down.

GRAY

My dad has a terminal illness.

MEGAN

WHAT???

GRAY

Please just listen! About two weeks
ago, we found out that my mom had
died, the next day we found out
that my dad has this illness. The
doctors are going to give him
chemotherapy to basically delay his
death!

JOAN

Who's death?

GRAY

My dad!

JOAN

What?

GRAY

We just found out! The doctor's say
he can come home in a day or two.

JOAN

I need to talk to the doctor!

Joan walks to the nurses station and requests to see Joe's
doctor.

GRAY

God! Through all of this, Mark and
I kind got together!

MEGAN

He better not be using your dad as
a way in!

GRAY

No! It's not like that! You know I
have always liked him! Well, turns
out he has liked me too!

MEGAN

What's your dad think?

GRAY

Actually, Mark was over when my dad
collapsed. Mark, was a big help and
I think my dad really likes him!

MEGAN

Are we allowed to go see your dad?

GRAY

Yeah! Come on!

They walk into the room.

MEGAN

Hi Mr. Aiden! How are you feeling?

JOE

Not bad, I'd like to go home! Thank
you sweetie for coming to visit!

MEGAN

Of course, your like my second dad!
How could I not!

JOE

I appreciate that!

GRAY
Amanda is coming by.

JOE
Really?! How do I look???

MEGAN
Ooh, Mr. Aiden has a crush?!!

Joe grins, and in walks Joan.

JOE
Joan, hello! Thank you for coming by!

JOAN
Hey Joe. I just spoke with your doctor. Girls Joe and I need to talk!

The girls leave the room. They are walking down the hall.

MEGAN
You said it's terminal, how long does he have?

GRAY
We don't know. We are going to try some alternative methods like herbs, and acupuncture. But, I hope, it's years, ya know?! I don't know what I'll do without him!

MEGAN
Tell me about your mom.

GRAY
Oh man! She has been in Richmond all these years! She was in a mental hospital. That's where she died!

MEGAN
Oh my God! Are you okay?

GRAY
Yeah, I guess so. I'm not really sure how I feel. I mean, I never really knew her!

MEGAN
My mom loved your mom! She liked the way your mom was always so free spirited!

GRAY

I know, that's what everyone liked about her! That's what my dad loved most about her! I have to believe my dad will be okay! If I don't, my life will be over!

MEGAN

Don't think about that! Come on, tell me more about Mark!

Gray smiles and they huddle together in conversation. Amanda walks into scene.

AMANDA

Gray? Hi, how's your dad?

GRAY

Hi Amanda, he's okay. Looking forward to seeing you! Come on, I'll take you in!

AMANDA

Great! Thanks for calling me!

MEGAN

Hi Ms. Amanda!

AMANDA

Hi Megan, good to see you!

MEGAN

You too!

They walk into the room, Joan and Joe turn to look.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Mom! This is Ms. Amanda!

JOAN

Hi! Nice to meet you!

AMANDA

Thank you, you too! Hi Joe!

JOE

Well hello there! Thank you for coming!

AMANDA

Of course! I'm glad Gray called!

JOAN

Well, we are going to get outta here! I'm going to take Gray home with us. She is welcome to stay the night!

JOE

That would be great! I'm sure she could use a good meal!

GRAY

That sounds great! I'm actually starving!

JOE

Give me a hug kiddo, and get some rest!

GRAY

Sounds good to me!

They hug good-bye and leave the room.

FADE TO:

MEGAN'S HOUSE, THEY WALK IN AND GRAY SITS ON COUCH, JOAN AND MEGAN GO TO THE KITCHEN.

JOAN

Gray! Dinner is about ready!

No answer from Gray, Joan goes into livingroom and finds Gray fast asleep. Megan enters.

MEGAN

Come on! What are you guys doing??

JOAN

Shhh! She's asleep! This young lady has had a rough two weeks, let's let her sleep!

Joan puts a blanket over Gray and they walk back into the kitchen.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

GRAY, JOAN AND MEGAN ARE IN THE FRONT YARD OF GRAY'S HOUSE. AMANDA AND JOE DRIVE UP. JOE SLOWLY GETS OUT OF CAR AND WALKS INTO THE HOUSE AND GRAY PUTS HER ARMS AROUND HIS WAIST IN ASSISTANCE.

FADE TO:

SCHOOL BEGINS, GRAY GIVES HER DAD A KISS AND LEAVES FOR SCHOOL.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

SPRING CONCERT, GRAY IS PERFORMING A SOLO.

FADE TO:

EIGHTEEN MONTHS LATER YEARS LATER, AT THE HOSPITAL, JOE IS TOLD HE IS IN SOME-WHAT OF REMISSION.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

BACK AT THE HOUSE, AMANDA AND GRAY ARE SITTING IN THE BACK YARD. JOE DRIVES UP.

JOE

Hey girls!

AMANDA

Hi! So, what did they say?

JOE

As we know, this is incurable,
however, my blood count is good and
the doc says I look good for a man
that's dying!

GRAY

That's not funny dad!

JOE

I know, I'm sorry! I need to stay
light hearted though!

GRAY

I know, but still!

AMANDA

Come on sit down and tell is what
the doctor said!

JOE

Okay, (sitting in chair) he said he
believes that the alternative
methods may have saved me to this
point. That I should keep doing
what I'm doing, and I will be
around for some time!

Amanda begins to cry.

JOE (CONT'D)

I thought this was good news!

AMANDA

It is! I'm just happy! It's been
two years now since we found each
other, I don't want to loose you!

JOE

Gray are you okay? (He hugs Amanda,
and she walks inside)

GRAY

Yeah, I am. It's just hard cause I
know you won't be here forever, and
I want you to be!

JOE

Honey-pot, no one lives forever!
Let's focus on the life we have
now!

GRAY

I know, I'm okay dad! Go spend some
time with Amanda! I'm going to just
sit here and enjoy the weather!

JOE

Okay, but I need to ask you
something!

GRAY

What's up?

JOE

How would you feel about Amanda
being around a lot more?

GRAY

(Looking at her book) If she around any more, she may as well move in!(Surprised) Wait! Dad, are you serious? Like.....

JOE

I want to ask her to marry me.

GRAY

Oh Daddy! I think that's awesome! I love her! When will you ask her?

JOE

Do you think tonight is to soon?

GRAY

Oh my God! Of course not! I'll have Mark come pick me up! You should order her favorite Chinese food, some wine! Do you have a ring?!

JOE

Actually, I bought this on my way home! (Showing her a ring)

GRAY

(Grabbing the box) Let me see! It's so beautiful!

JOE

You think she will like it?

GRAY

She'd be crazy not to! Okay, let me get outta here! (She runs into house)

Joe walks into the kitchen where Amanda is looking in the fridge.

JOE

Hey!

AMANDA

Hey, what would you two like for dinner?

JOE

Well, Gray is going out with Mark, so... ya know what? Why don't you let me take care of dinner and you go soak in the tub!

AMANDA
That sounds like a wonderful idea!
Are you sure?

JOE
Of course!

Gray walks into the kitchen smiling

GRAY
Amanda, Mark is here, we're gonna
get some food, do you need
anything?

AMANDA
Nope! Your dad says he's got
dinner, and I'm to go soak in the
tub! Why are you so happy?

GRAY
Well, we have dad a while longer,
you guys are great together, and I
love being around Mark! What more
could I ask for at this point?! I
need to get goin! Have a great
night!

AMANDA
Okay, be careful and have fun!

GRAY
K, be back later!

She skips out the door.

FADE TO:

AMANDA IS SOAKING IN THE TUB, JOE COMES THROUGH THE BACK DOOR
AND SETS UP THE HOUSE FOR HIS SURPRISE. AMANDA IS UNAWARE OF
WHATS GOING ON. THE CAMERA COMES DOWN THE HALLWAY TO BATHROOM
AND THE DOOR OPENS, SCARING AMANDA.

AMANDA
Honey, you scared me!

JOE
I yelled out and said I was home.

AMANDA
I didn't hear you, I'm so in the
moment of relaxation! Want to join
me? (Reaching for Joe seductively)

JOE
(Smiling, and tempted) Oh babe!
That's so tempting, but dinner is
ready! But it can wait!

Joe undresses and joins Amanda

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

BOTH ARE DRESSED WALKING INTO THE LIVING ROOM HOLDING HANDS.
AMANDA IS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE ROMANTIC GESTURE.

AMANDA
How beautiful! What have you done?!

JOE
Here, (he helps her sit on the
cushion) you look beautiful!

AMANDA
I'm not dressed for this beautiful
dinner!

JOE
It doesn't matter what your
wearing, your always beautiful!

AMANDA
Your so sweet, and I'm so lucky!

JOE
Honey, I've been thinking.

AMANDA
About?

JOE
Us!

AMANDA
Is there a problem? Do you think we
should slow down?

Joe moves and kneels in front of Amanda.

JOE
Are you crazy! I love you! I want
to be with you for the rest of my
life! Literally!

Amanda begins to tear up.

AMANDA

Oh Joe, I love you too!

JOE

I love you Amanda! Gray loves you and you have been a blessing in my life! Amanda, will you marry me?

AMANDA

Oh Joe, of course! YES! Wait, did Gray know about this?

JOE

Yes, why?

AMANDA

She was all smiles when she left earlier, I knew something was up, I just didn't know what!

JOE

That's my girl!

Joe shows Amanda the ring, and places it on her finger.

FADE TO:

ONE YEAR LATER. PROM NIGHT, GRAY IS GETTING READY AND AMANDA WALKS INTO THE ROOM.

AMANDA

Do you need help?

GRAY

I don't know, how do I look?

AMANDA

Beautiful, absolutely beautiful! I think your missing something though.

GRAY

Really? What?

Looking in the mirror at what she might be missing.

AMANDA

You need something right here!

Amanda stands behind Gray looking in the mirror. She places a necklace around her neck.

GRAY

Oh, Amanda! This is so pretty,
thank you so much! I promise, I'll
take care of it! And I'll give it
back as soon as I get home!

AMANDA

It's okay, it's your! I bought it
for you!

GRAY

(Turns around and hugs Amanda)
Thank you so much! I love it! I am
so happy your in our lives!

The door bell rings.

AMANDA

I bet that's Mark! You look
perfect, now don't keep him waiting
to long!

Amanda walks out of the room. Joe, Mark and Amanda wait in
the living room, Gray comes from around the corner.

MARK

WOW!

JOE

Honey-pot, you are beautiful!
(Walking to Gray and hugging her)
You look so much like your mom. (he
kisses Gray on the cheek) You two
be safe!

GRAY

Thank you Daddy!

MARK

I'll take good care of her!

Amanda is shooting pictures of the two as they leave the
house.

FADE TO:

INSIDE THE GYM FOR THE PROM. MUSIC IS PLAYING KIDS ARE
DANCING, MARK AND GRAY ARE MINGLING WITH FRIENDS AND A SLOW
SONG BEGINS.

Mark takes Gray's hand.

MARK
Let's dance!

GRAY
Okay!

They walk to the dance floor.

MARK
You know how much you mean to me
right?

GRAY
Ditto!

MARK
Um... I need to tell you something!

GRAY
God Mark, you sound so serious!

MARK
Well....

GRAY
Just say it silly!

MARK
I was accepted to Michigan
University for this Spring!

GRAY
What?!!

MARK
I just found out last night. I got
the phone call, it's an awesome
opportunity for me!

GRAY
I know! But what about us?

MARK
There will always be an us! I
promise!

Gray begins to cry, Mark holds her close and the song ends.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

MARKS CAR IS LOADED WITH HIS BELONGINGS. MARK AND HIS FAMILY ARE STANDING IN THE DRIVE WAY WITH GRAY AND JOE.

MATT

Well son, be careful driving. Do you have your map?

MARK

I will be, and yes, I sure do!

BARBARA

Call us as soon as you get there, okay!?

MARK

I will mom, promise!

JIMMY

Hey bro, don't have to much fun!
(He side hugs Mark and punches him in arm)

MARK

Yeah! I will! Just for you! Keep an eye on Gray for me!

JIMMY

You bet bro!

JOE

You take care of yourself! And don't be a stranger!

GRAY

Hey baby, you better call me! I'm gonna miss you!

MARK

Me too! I'll call you when I get there!

They hug.

MARK (CONT'D)

I love you!

GRAY

Ditto!

They kiss and hug, Mark gets into car and drives off. The families say their good-byes and go their separate ways.

FADE TO:

JOE AND GRAY DRIVING DOWN COUNTRY ROAD. GRAY STARES OUT THE WINDOW IN DISBELIEF AND SADNESS. THEY ARRIVE HOME AND GRAY WALKS INTO THE HOUSE.

AMANDA

Hey kiddo! How'd it go?

Gray walks past Amanda and goes to her room, Joe enters.

JOE

Hi honey!

AMANDA

Hi, she's not doing to good huh?
She walked in didn't say a word.

JOE

I think it's gonna be pretty rough
on her! It may take a few days!

AMANDA

I'm sure your right! I remember
those days of having to let go, not
easy! Are you hungry? Want a
sandwich?

JOE

Sure, sounds good!

They walk into the kitchen, camera scans down hallway into Gray's room where she is lying across her bed writing in her journal.

GRAY

I can't believe he left! I already
miss him so much. In two days I
will be a senior in high school,
without my boyfriend and Megan
still on vacation, I feel so alone!
So alone her I lie, in a cloud of
tears as I try to sigh, everyone
off living their lives while I lay
here feeling like I want to die,
where to go, who to see, nothing
left what about you and me? Left
alone and feeling scared Lord knows
I wish you were here!

Joe calls to Gray!

JOE

Gray! Come on, let's eat!

GRAY
I'm not hungry! (she yells back)

Joe walks into Gray's room.

JOE
I know your upset honey, but you still need to eat. Come have a sandwich, okay?

GRAY
Fine! Okay!

Gray walks into the kitchen, the phone rings and she answers it.

GRAY (CONT'D)
Hello?

JASON
Hey Gray, it's Jason. I was wondering if you can work for me. I'm not feeling good!

GRAY
Sure, why not! I'll be there in fifteen minutes!

JASON
Cool, thanks!

GRAY
Yep, no problem. (She hangs up phone) I'm going to go work for Jason. (She is looking at Joe)

JOE
Okay, you need a ride?

GRAY
No thanks, I'm gonna ride my bike!

Gray finishes eating and leaves on her bike.

FADE TO:

GRAY ENTERS STORE.

JASON
Thanks Gray, I really appreciate you coming in for me! I need to go home and get ready!

GRAY

Get ready> I thought you weren't feeling good? Where are you headed?

JASON

Yea, oh man, I'm sorry! The Evanescence concert is tonight! No one would work for me! So I just said I was sick. I'm sorry! I'll stay!

GRAY

It's okay! I don't have anything to do anyway! Go on, get outta here and have fun!

JASON

Sweet! Thanks so much! I owe you one! And hey, I'm sorry Mark left!

GRAY

(Smiling) thanks! Now get going!
(The phone rings)

MEGAN

Hey Gray! It's Megan! I just got home! We came in early!

GRAY

Yay! I felt so alone! I'm glad your back! Hey some people just walked in, I better go! These customers look like they are going to a halloween party! (She laughs)

MEGAN

Okay, well call me later!

Jason is shown grabbing his stuff and running out the door. He runs into a man entering the store.

JASON

I'm so sorry Sir! Are you okay?

DRUMMER

Yeah, I'm good. Your in a hurry!

JASON

Yeah, Evenescence is in concert tonight!

DRUMMER

Well have fun!

JASON

(Running off) thanks! Again, I'm sorry!

DRUMMER

Go on! Rock on buddy! (He enters store)

GRAY

Hi, how are you tonight?

DRUMMER

Great thanks! I need some drum sticks!

GRAY

They're back in the right corner.

DRUMMER

Thanks! (He walks off)

The door opens and in walks a woman wearing all black, silver studded belt, very Goth, yet glamorous.

GRAY

Good evening!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

Hey, how's it goin'?

GRAY

Great thanks! Are you in town for the concert too?

Amy and drummer look at each other and laugh.

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

Yeah, we're here for the concert. Aren't you going?

GRAY

No, I don't get outta here til nine.

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

Well Evenescence doesn't go on till ten!

GRAY

I wish I knew earlier, but I don't have tickets!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 Oh, bummer on the tickets! Hey, I'm
 looking for an original guitar.
 Something totally different! One
 that know one else has!

GRAY
 The only one we have is in the
 back, but it's really expensive!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 May I see it?

GRAY
 Sure, I'll be right back!

Gray brings out the guitar.

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 That's sick! Yo, dude, look at
 this!

DRUMMER
 No way! That's rad! Dude, he'll
 love it!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 I'll take it!

GRAY
 Ummmm, are you sure? It's like
 \$4,695.00!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 Cool, here you go! (She hands Gray
 a credit card, Amy sees a notebook
 on the counter) what's this?

GRAY
 Oh, it's nothing, just some stuff I
 write down! That's a poem.

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 You mind if I read it?

GRAY
 No, I guess not!

Amy reads the poem.

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 Hey, look at this! (She hands it to
 the drummer)

DRUMMER

That's rad! This should be a song!

GRAY

Really? I never thought about that!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

If you had ticket for tonight,
would you go?

GRAY

Of course!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

You have a friend that would go
with you?

GRAY

Of course! My best friend Megan!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

Well then, here have fun! (She
hands Gray two tickets) Maybe we
will see you there!

GRAY

No way! Thanks! This is awesome!
Are you sure?

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

Promise you'll go?

GRAY

Totally! I'm there!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

Cool then, thanks for the awesome
strings!

DRUMMER

Thanks for the sticks dude! See ya
tonight!

GRAY

Thank you so much!

They both walk out and Gray grabs the phone and calls Megan.

GRAY (CONT'D)

Meg, guess what just happened???

MEGAN

What?

GRAY

Those people that were all Goth like, they just gave me two tickets to Evanescence concert! This chick bought like our most expensive guitar too! Did you hear me?

MEGAN

Yeah! No way! Free tickets?

GRAY

Yeah! So, will you come with me?

MEGAN

Of course! How long til you get here?

GRAY

One hour! Be ready!

Gray closes the store early and rides her bike home. She enters the house out of breath.

JOE

What's the emergency? And why are you home?

GRAY

You won't believe this! I'm at the store and this couple walks in, all goth like. The guy wants drum sticks and this girl wants a guitar! Dad! She bought the Stratus from the back room!

JOE

What!? That's over \$4,000!

GRAY

I know! Then they gave me tickets to the concert tonight!

JOE

What concert?

GRAY

Evanescence!

JOE

Your kidding me!

GRAY

Seriously dad! Can I use the car daddy? Megan is going with me!

JOE

Sure, I guess so! You better be careful!

AMANDA

Have fun!

GRAY

Thanks! (Gray runs to her room and gets ready and runs out of the house)

FADE TO:

MEGAN RUNS OUT OF HER HOUSE AND JUMPS IN CAR!

MEGAN

Tell me! What all happened!

Gray shows Megan the tickets and begins tell her what happened as they drive away!

FADE TO:

CONCERT HALL, GRAY AND MEGAN WALK UP TO THE TICKET TAKER.

TICKET TAKER

Awesome!

MEGAN

What's that?

TICKET TAKER

Your seats! Don't you know where your sitting?

GRAY

(Laughing) nose bleed section?

TICKET TAKER

No way man! Your back stage!

GRAY

What? You must be kidding or something! Is this a joke?

MEGAN

What are we on some prahn reality show?

TICKET TAKER

Well, that's what your tickets say, hang on. (He uses his walkie talkie) Hey Jack! I need an escort for back stage!

JACK

On my way!

MEGAN

Your serious! Oh my God! Why would they just give you these tickets?

TICKET TAKER

Where did you get them?

GRAY

This couple came into my music store tonight, bought some drum sticks and a guitar, the girl gave them to me!

TICKET TAKER

Rad! That's what they were talking about!

GRAY

Who? What?

TICKET TAKER

That was the lead singer, Amy and her drummer for Evenescence.

MEGAN

No way!!!! How cool is that!

GRAY

Sweet!

Jack arrives to walk them back stage. He hands them their personal passes.

JACK

Let's go! Have you ever met a famous person?

MEGAN

Are you kidding> we're from here! We never meet anyone! It's rare for Evenescence to be here!

JACK

Well, you are in for a great night!

Jack opens the back stage door, they walk down a brightly lit hallway, there are guys and girls walking around laughing, having a great time, talking about the concert. Guys are checking out Gray and Megan.

A door opens, Amy sees Gray.

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
Hey! I'm glad you made it! This must be your bestie!?

GRAY
Hi! Yes, this is Megan! Thank you so much!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
Hey Megan! Welcome!

MEGAN
Hi! Thank you so much! This is sick!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
You haven't seen nothing yet! Come on, you two are my personal guests tonight!

GRAY
Really? We don't want to get in your way!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
Oh please! Come on!

They walk off into the croud.

STAGE HAND
Five minutes everyone!

The band hussles around, getting ready to go on stage. The stage hands has Gray and Megan sit to side of stage. The music begins.

FADE TO:

AMY WALKS TO MICROPHONE

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
Good evening everyone, thanks for comin out tonight!

Crowd responds loudly.

AMY (EVANESCENSE) (CONT'D)
 Awesome! Well, I have a special
 guest here tonight! So I want to
 say hello to my new friend Gray and
 her bestie Megan! (She turns to
 Gray and waves)

Camera shows Gray and Megan waving back.

AMY (EVANESCENSE) (CONT'D)
 You know everyone, my friend Gray
 here, well, I'm sure I'm going to
 totally embarrass her, but she is
 an up and coming song writer!
 Today, she allowed me to read one
 of her songs, (Amy turns to Gray)
 Do you mind Gray? May I share with
 everyone?

GRAY
 Sure! (Gray nods her head saying
 yes, smiling)

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 (Amy sings a short verse and the
 crowd explodes with cheers!

FADE TO:

AFTER CONCERT BACK STAGE. AMY STOPS TO TALK TO GRAY.

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 So what di you think?

GRAY
 That was awesome!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 Here, this is for you!

GRAY
 What's this for?

AMY (EVANESCENSE)
 For allowing me to sing your song.
 I really want you to finish it!
 Here is my personal number, when
 you finish it, please call me! We
 will put it to music! But make sure
 you copy write it so no one can
 steal it!

GRAY

(Looking at the check) Wow! This is an awful lot!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

It will be well worth it when it's done! I look forward to singing it!

GRAY

That would be awesome! Thank you!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

Well, I have enjoyed the two of you! But I need to get going, have interviews to do!

MEGAN

Thank you again I had a blast!

GRAY

Yes, thank you! I will definitely call as soon as it's done!

AMY (EVANESCENSE)

I'm counting on it! I'll talk to you soon then!

Amy walks off and is surrounded by reporters.

FADE TO:

NEXT DAY, IN THE MUSIC STORE. GRAY SITS AT THE COUNTER AS CUSTOMERS COME IN. A GROUP OF KIDS ENTER.

TEEN 1

Oh my God, that's her!

TEEN 2

Hey, are you the girl the evanescence sang your song?

GRAY

(Shyly) yep, that's me!

TEEN 3

How did you meet them?

GRAY

Actually, they came in here and bought some stuff.

TEEN 4
How cool is that!?

TEEN 1
No kidding, that's rad!

TEEN 2
How did whe get your song?

GRAY
I was here working, she saw it and
read it, then she gave me some
tickets.

TEEN 4
Man! That's so cool!

A woman walks to counter.

WOMAN
Excuse me! Will you show me where
to find the trumpet book for middle
school?

GRAY
Yes, of course! Gotta go guys!
Thanks for comin in!

Gray walks over to the woman and shows her the books.

FADE TO:

SIX MONTHS LATER, MARK IS LEANING UP AGAINST HIS CAR IN FRONT
OF THE HIGH SCHOOL. THE STUDENTS EXIT THE SCHOOL, MARK SEES
GRAY, BUT SHE DOESN'T SEE HIM. MEGAN SEES MARK AND TELL GRAY.

GRAY
(Excited) MARK!!!! (Running to him,
they hug)

MARK
Hey baby!

GRAY
When did you get home?

MARK
Late last night, I wanted to come
over, but I knew you had school! I
thought this would be more fun!

GRAY

Yay! (Hugging him) I'm so glad your here! Oh, Guess what?

MARK

What?

GRAY

Do you remember when Megan and I went to that concert? And the singer asked me to send the rest of my song to her! Well, I finished it and sent it!

MARK

Really? Did they do anything with it?

GRAY

Yeah! They recorded it! They had to change some of the words, but it sounds awesome!

MARK

What's it called?

GRAY

My Immortal! I'm so excited!

MARK

That's awesome! Congrats Baby!

GRAY

Thanks!

FADE TO:

THEY DRIVE UP TO GRAY'S HOUSE. THEY WALK IN.

GRAY

Dad! Look who's here!

JOE

Well, lets see, could it be Mark?

Gray and Mark walk into the kitchen.

GRAY

How did you know?

JOE

I've known since yesterday morning!

GRAY
And you didn't tell me?!

JOE
And miss all this excitement!

GRAY
Your all just mean! (Smiling)

JOE
So, how's college going Mark?

MARK
Very well, thanks! I thought it was going to be a lot harder! But the girls are all worth it! (Smiling)

Gray hits Mark on the arm.

GRAY
Hey! Very funny!

Mark laugh and pulls Gray onto his lap.

JOE
How long are you in town for?

MEGAN
I need to get back on Sunday. We just got a couple of days off because the professors have some conference going on.

JOE
Does your family have plans tonight?

MEGAN
Yes sir! We're going to dinner. So you need to go get ready! (He pats Gray on the leg)

GRAY
OMG! What to wear??? (She runs off to her room)

JOE
So, what's college like these days?

MARK
Probably not much different! It's actually pretty nice.
(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

My classes are all near each other
and only a building away from my
dorm, that's make it easy!

Gray walks back into the room.

GRAY

Okay, I'm ready!

JOE

Do you have a room-mate?

MARK

Yeah, he's pretty cool! Very
organic! He's got me eating
healthier!

JOE

Very nice! We all need that! Well,
you two better get going! You have
school tomorrow so don't be out to
late!

GRAY

But Daddy!

JOE

Don't but daddy me! Your teachers
will be there and so will you!

GRAY

Fine!

MARK

That's fine, I'll pick you up after
school. See ya Mr. Aiden, Ms.
Amanda!

AMANDA

Bye, have fun!

JOE

See you kids later, nice to have
you home!

They walk out and drive away.

FADE TO:

GRAY'S FASHION DESIGN CLASS. THE STUDENTS ARE DESIGNING THEIR OUTFITS FOR THE END OF THE YEAR FASHION SHOW. THE PRINCIPLE WALKS INTO THE CLASS AND APPROACHES THE TEACHER.

PRINCIPLE MARY
Is Gray Aiden in clas today?

MS. HART
Yes, she's over at the sewing table. Would you like me to call her over?

PRINCIPLE MARY
No, that's okay, I'll go to her.

She approaches Gray.

PRINCIPLE MARY (CONT'D)
Hi, nice job!

GRAY
Thank you.

PRINCIPLE MARY
Do you mind if I sit with you and talk?

GRAY
No, not at all!

PRINCIPLE MARY
Gray, I need you to stop working for a moment? Honey, I have some news to tell you.

GRAY
Okay. (Looking confused)

PRINCIPLE MARY
Apparently this morning your father was admitted into the hospital.

GRAY
(Raising her voice) WHAT! Is he oaky? What happened? (The classmates turn to listen) I need to go!

PRINCIPLE MARY
Gray, please wait! There is an officer on his way to pick you up and take you to the hospital. I have no other information, I'm sorry honey!

GRAY
Sorry! Is he dead?

The students are talking amongst themselves, Megan approaches Gray.

MEGAN
What's wrong? Who's dead?

PRINCIPLE MARY
No one id dead that we know of!

GRAY
My dad, he's in the hospital!

Gray begins to cry.

MEGAN
I'm sure he's okay!

They hug and the officer walks into the room.

PRINCIPLE MARY
The officer is here, you better get going!

MEGAN
May I go with her Mother Mary?

PRINCIPLE MARY
No, you need to stay in class.

MEGAN
If something has happened to her dad, she has no family! She should be left to go alone!

PRINCIPLE MARY
Are you on file to check yourself out?

MEGAN
Yes ma'am!

PRINCIPLE MARY
Okay then, go ahead.

Megan puts her arm around Gray as they walk out of the room.

MEGAN
I'm coming with you!

GRAY

Thank you! I don't think I could do this alone!

FADE TO:

EXT.

Police car pulls up to front of hospital. Gray and Megan exit the car and run into the hospital. Gray approaches the information desk.

GRAY

I'm looking for my dad! His name is Joe Aiden!

NURSE HAYS

Have a seat please, I'll be with you in a moment.

GRAY

Have a seat?! My dad may be dead and your telling me to have a seat!!!!

Megan tries to calm Gray down and leads her to the seating area.

MEGAN

Come on Gray, let's sit down.

GRAY

I don't want to sit down! I want my dad!

DR. WILSON

Gray!

Gray runs to Dr. Wilson.

GRAY

Where's my dad? Is he okay? What happened?

DR. WILSON

Calm down honey, I have a lot to tell you. (They sit down) First of all, your dad is stable, however, it's not looking good.

GRAY

But the cancer is gone!

DR. WILSON
It moved to his brain!

GRAY
What? How? I don't understand! May
I please see my dad?

DR. WILSON
Of course, come with me.

They walk down the hallway leaving Megan in waiting area, she picks up the phone. Camera back on Gray and Dr. Wilson at Joe's room.

DR. WILSON (CONT'D)
He is very sedated Gray, keep that
in mind.

GRAY
Okay.

Gray opens the door and walks into the room. Joe's eyes slowly open.

JOE
Honey-pot, is that you?

GRAY
Hi Daddy! It's me, I'm right here!
(She holds his hand) I'm not
leaving you daddy! (She begins to
silently cry)

Dr. Wilson walks away. Gray crawls into bed with Joe.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

JOE SLOWLY OPENS HIS EYES. HE SEE GRAY LAYING NEXT TO HIM AND HE BARELY SMILES. HE CARESSES HER FOREHEAD AND GRAY WAKES UP.

GRAY
I love you Daddy!

JOE
I love you too! We need to talk.
(His voice is quiet and raspy)

GRAY
We can talk at home, okay?

JOE
We don't have time for that
sweetie!

GRAY
Sure we do!

JOE
Honey, I'm not going home.

GRAY
Don't say that Daddy!

JOE
Gray, I love you, but honeypot, my
time has come to an end. The cancer
is so advanced that there is
nothing that can be done. It's
terminal, the amount of time I have
is so unknown.

GRAY
Please Daddy! Don't say this!

JOE
Honey, it needs to be said, I'm
dying. We need to finalize things.
I know you don't want to hear this,
we have talked about this time.

GRAY
I just don't want you to leave me.
Your all I have! What will I do
without you?

JOE
You'll be okay, I promise! My
attorney came in earlier, I signed
everything over to you. I'm sorry
this is happening to you honey.

GRAY
Me too!

JOE
Promise me you'll still go to
college. You'll still write your
music and poems and please keep
playing your flute. Promise me!
Promise me you'll keep designing
your own clothes line, you can sell
the store if you want, I
understand! Just don't give up your
dreams!

GRAY
The store is your life!

JOE
If you want, I understand!

GRAY
I promise Daddy! All of it, I
promise! I will make you proud! And
the store will be your legacy!

Joe drifts off to sleep, Gray silently cries.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

MARK ENTERS THE ROOM, GRAY IS ASLEEP, HE TOUCHES HER
SHOULDER. GRAY SLOWLY MOVES OFF THE BED. THEY WALK AWAY FROM
THE BED AND MARK HOLDS HER WHILE SHE CRIES.

MEGAN
How's he doin? I came as soon as
megan called.

GRAY
He's not doing good at all! He's
really dying! There's nothing they
can do! My dad said it's just a
matter of time.

MARK
A matter of time?

GRAY
I know right?! Dad says I'm taken
care of. How? If he's gone, I have
no one!

Gray begins to cry again, and Mark holds her.

MARK
I'm so sorry babe!

GRAY
I know, thank you. I'm so glad your
here! I wouldn't know what to do
you if you weren't!

MARK
I'm right here babe!

The heart machine begins a steady beat (flat line) the doctor and nurses rush into the room.

DR. WILSON
Code Red!!!! Code Red! Get the
machine in here now!

GRAY
Oh my God! What's happening?

DR. WILSON
Gray, you need to leave the room,
please!

Mark takes Gray out of the room, she is hysterical. Back in the room, Dr. Wilson revives Joe.

DR. WILSON (CONT'D)
Joe, you with me?

Joe is groggy and opens his eyes.

JOE
Gray?

Gray runs into the room.

GRAY
Daddy, I'm here

JOE
I saw a light!

DR. WILSON
He needs to rest. Joe don't talk,
sleep. Gray we need to talk.

They walk into the hallway.

DR. WILSON (CONT'D)
He's stable for now. I don't know
how much more he can take Gray.

GRAY
I'm going back in.

She returns to Joe's side.

JOE
Honey? Don't cry, I love you,
you know that right?!

GRAY
Of course Daddy, I love you too.

JOE
Your mom loved you too. She is
still so beautiful!

GRAY
Have you seen her?

JOE
Oh yes, she's waiting for me.

GRAY
Tell her to go away! You need to
stay with me!

JOE
Oh honey, I'll always be with you,
always! I promise! I'm so tired!

GRAY
Daddy, Amanda is here, she wants to
see you.

JOE
Amanda? I would like to see her!

Gray goes and has Amanda, Mark, and Megan enter the room.

AMANDA
Hey sweetie!

JOE
Honey, thank you for coming.

AMANDA
Of course silly! I love you!

JOE
I love you too. I'm sorry we
couldn't get married! Just know I
love you!

AMANDA
I know honey, I love you too!

Mark and Megan walk to Joe.

MARK
Hey Mr. Aiden

JOE
You take care of my baby!

MARK
I will sir, I promise!

JOE

Megan! You keep on track young lady! Your like my daughter, I love you!

MEGAN

(Crying) I will Mr. Aiden, I love you too!

They walk away from his bedside and Gray returns. Gray lays down beside Joe, he begins caressing her forehead.

JOE

I love you so much (He says weakly)
I will always be with you.

Joe closes his eyes and passes away.

GRAY

I love you to Daddy! (Not realizing he has passed away)

Mark walks back into the room and touches Gray's arm.

MARK

Babe, (Gray opens her eyes) He's gone.

GRAY

(Crying) Daddy! No!

Dr. Wilson returns to the room.

GRAY (CONT'D)

He's just sleeping!

DR. WILSON

Gray, he's gone. I'm sorry honey!

Mark leads Gray out of the room unwillingly. Gray is crying. Amanda, Megan and family are there to comfort Gray

MARK

Can I do anything?

GRAY

Yes, please just take me home!

They leave the hospital. Gray is holding her father's belongings.

FADE TO:

GRAY'S HOUSE, GRAY AND MARK ARE AT THE FRONT DOOR.

MARK

You want me to come in?

GRAY

No thank you, I think I just want to be alone for a while. I'll call you later, okay?

MARK

Okay, but if you need anything at any time, you call me!

GRAY

I will!

She walks into the quiet house and looks around. She looks over the pictures and walks into her dad's bedroom. There is a shirt at the end of the bed, she picks it up and holds it to her face, taking in his smell. She takes off her shirt and puts his on. Gray lays in his bed crying herself to sleep.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

THE PHONE IS RINGING. GRAY WAKES UP AND ANSWERS THE PHONE.

GRAY

Hello?

JASON

Gray! You need to get to the store like now! I'm not sure what's going on!

GRAY

I'm on my way!

Gray leaves for the store.

FADE TO:

OUTSIDE THE MUSIC STORE. PEOPLE ARE LAYING FLOWERS, CARDS, AND CANDLES FILLING THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE STORE. GRAY IS SILENT, TEARS IN HER EYES! SHE IS IN DISBELIEF AS SHE LOOKS AT THE CARDS AND FLOWERS. CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TRY TO CONSOLE HER GIVING HER THEIR CONDOLENCES.

JASON

Gray, what's going on?

GRAY
My dad died last night.

JUSTIN
Oh my God! I'm so sorry! I had no
idea!

GRAY
Thank you Justin.

Gray walks into the store and into the office, she is talking
to herself.

GRAY (CONT'D)
What am I going to do? I don't know
how to do this stuff! Dad! You
better be with me!

Mary knocks on the door and opens it.

MARY
Honey, may I come in?

GRAY
Of course Mary!

MARY
Can I do anything?

GRAY
Can you do the book-keeping?
(Smiling)

MARY
Really?

GRAY
I need to stay in school, I can
work nights after school, but I
won't be able to run this place,
you interested?

MARY
Of course I am! I'll do all I can!

GRAY
Well, we need to stay open and make
this place work for my dad! Thank
you Mary, I need to go home!

MARY
Okay, we got this! Everything will
be fine!

They hug and gray walks out.

MARK, HIS FAMILY, MEGAN AND HER FAMILY AND AMANDA ARE AT GRAY'S HOUSE WAITING FOR GRAY TO ARRIVE.

AMANDA

Gray, I'm so sorry honey. (She begins to cry and Gray hugs her)

GRAY

I'm sorry too.

AMANDA

Don't apologize.

MEGAN

Hey girl, I'm here for you.

GRAY

I know, thanks! Come in everyone. I'm sorry I don't have much food right now.

JOAN

Don't worry honey, I'll make something for you to eat.

GRAY

Thank you!

Gray walks into her room and lays on her bed, she picks up her journal and begins writing. Everyone is in the kitchen talking. The men are in the yard raking and cleaning.

BARBARA

Poor girl, I feel so helpless.

JOAN

I know what you mean, I do too! Megan even asked me if Gray can move in with us.

AMANDA

She's always welcome at my place.

MEGAN

She's not going to leave this house! This is her home!

BARBARA

Well honey, she needs to stay with someone, she's not even 18 yet!

MEGAN

She will be in a few days!

There is a knock on the door. A black car in the driveway, a lady in a gray suit and a police officer.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Yes, may I help you?

OFFICER

We're here to pick up Grayson Aiden.

MEGAN

And why? (Confused)

OFFICER

She's a minor with no family, we need to take her to a foster home.

MEGAN

OMG! Mom! Mom, come here!

Joan walks up to the door.

JOAN

What's the matter?

MEGAN

They want to take Gray to a foster home!

JOAN

What?!

OFFICER

May I ask who you are?

JOAN

A close friend of the families, and you?

OFFICER

Family Services, we are here to pick up Grayson Aiden.

JOAN

Gray is fine, she will be staying with us!

OFFICER

Sorry, but it doesn't work like that, you have to go to court and file the paperwork, will you please get Grayson.

MEGAN

She's not here! She hasn't come home yet!

Joan looks at Megan with surprise.

OFFICER

Ma'am, (looking at Joan) Is she here?

JOAN

No, no officer, she hasn't shown up yet.

OFFICER

Well, as soon as she does, please call us, here's my card.

JOAN

Fine, thank you!

She shuts the door.

MEGAN

Mom! What are we going to do?

AMANDA

What's going on?

JOAN

It was Social Services. They want to take Gray to a Foster Home.

BARBARA

You have got to be kidding me? Her father just passed! And they are already knocking on the door?! Now what?

AMANDA

She can stay with me!

MEGAN

Can't you be considered next of kin since you and Mr. Aiden were gonna get married?

AMANDA

I really don't know. I will call a friend of mine.

Amanda walks away to make the phone call. Megan goes to Gray's room and knocks on the door.

GRAY

Come in!

MEGAN

Hey, so... Social Services was just here. My mom told them you weren't here.

GRAY

Why were they here?

MEGAN

Because your not 18 yet, they said you had to stay a Foster Home.

GRAY

What?

MEGAN

I know, right?!

GRAY

Perfect, what next?

Gray walks into the kitchen.

GRAY (CONT'D)

Now what do I do?

JOAN

As of now, they don't know where you are.

MARY

You can stay with me tonight honey, won't think about looking for you there!

BARBARA

Maybe you should miss school tomorrow, since your birthday is in 2 days.

MARY

Oh my dear, that's right!

GRAY

This is the worst month ever!

JOAN

Come on now, please remember the wonderful times, it's so important! Remember what your dad told you!

GRAY

What? That everything will be okay? That he will always be with me? Is he going to be in that Foster home with me, NO! Does he have to go back to school and watch everyone pretend like they care? How is this going to be okay? I don't get it!

JOAN

Gray! Come here, and sit down!

Gray sits in the chair, arms crossed and angry.

AMANDA

Listen here! Your dad is here with you, maybe not physically but spiritually! You have been the joy of his life! No matter what he had to deal with in his life, he made sure you had as little pain in your life as possible! He has always wanted the best for you! He asked you to please continue with your path, to never give up, don't you dare give up now!

GRAY

I know, your right! Everything you said is true! But damn it! I'm mad! My best friend ever is dead! So what do I do?

MARY

You'll be okay, you will, I can feel it!

GRAY

Thank you everyone! For everything! Your words, your kindness, but I really just want to be alone! Do ya'll mind?

Everyone gathers their belongings and leave. Gray turns out the lights and goes to her room. She crawls into bed and snuggles with her favorite stuffed animal.

FADE TO:

MORNING, GRAY WAKES UP, SOMEONE IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR. SHE PEEKS OUT THE WINDOW AND SEES A POLICE OFFICER. SHE QUIETLY GOES TO HER ROOM AND DRESSES, GRABS SOME BELONGINGS STUFFS IT IN HER BACK PACK AND SNEAKS OUT THE BACK DOOR. THE OFFICER AND SOCIAL WORKER WALK AROUND TO THE BACK OF THE HOUSE JUST AS GRAY RUNS AROUND A BUSH, THEY DON'T SEE HER.

CUT TO:

MARK'S HOUSE, FRONT DOOR GRAY IS KNOCKING, LOOKING OVER HER SHOULDER.

Joan answers door.

BARBARA
Honey, what's wrong?

GRAY
They were at my house again!

BARBARA
Who was at your house?

GRAY
Social Services!

BARBARA
Come in, Mark! Gray is here!

Mark enters room!

MARK
Hey babe, you okay?

BARBARA
Social Services showed up again!

MARK
Really? What happened?

GRAY
I snuck out the back door!

MARK
For real!

GRAY

Mark, will you take me to the lake?

MARK

Yeah! You bet, let me get some things and we're outta here!

GRAY

Thank you!

BARBARA

I'll make you two some lunch!

GRAY

Thank you, let me help! (Gray grabs the bread)

SCENE OF THE LAKE, THE CAR COMES TO A STOP.

GRAY

It's so beautiful here!

MARK

That's only cause your here!

GRAY

Haha! Come on! Get the blanket and I'll get the food!

They find a spot and lay out the blanket

MARK

Last on to the water is a rotten egg! (He runs for the water)

GRAY

Not fair! You had a head start!

They begin playing in the water, feeling become intense and they begin kissing. They both become excited but Mark pulls away.

MARK

Babe, slow down, what's going on?

GRAY

I just thought, I feel like, I don't know!

MARK

I love you!

GRAY

I love you too. I wish you weren't
leaving again!

MARK

But at least I'm here for your
birthday!

GRAY

Yay! That makes me happy!

MARK

What do you want?

GRAY

To be with you!

MARK

You are with me silly! Girl, come
on let's eat some food!

They dry off and go through the basket of food.

FADE TO:

LATE AFTERNOON, THE SUN IS SETTING AND GRAY AND MARK ARE
LYING ON THE BLANKET WATCHING THE SUN AND THE BIRDS, NAMING
THE CLOUDS.

MARK

You know we need to head back soon.

GRAY

I'd rather just stay here!

She cuddles up to Mark.

MARK

Me too! But reality awaits!

GRAY

Then let it wait! Let's just stay
here a little longer!

MARK

Sounds good to me

FADE TO:

NIGHT TIME IN FRONT OF MARK'S HOUSE. IT'S DARK INSIDE.

GRAY

Are your parents in bed? It's only
nine o'clock!

MARK

I don't know, they probably went
out to dinner!

GRAY

Maybe I should go home?

MARK

I don't think my mom would be very
happy with me if I let you go home,
you know she doesn't want you alone
right now.

GRAY

Good point!

They walk into the house, Gray first, Mark turns on the
lights, all of Gray's friends are there.

PARTY GOERS

SURPRISE!!!

Gray is shocked and excited!

GRAY

Oh my God! Thank you so much! (Gray
turns to Mark) Did you know about
this?

MARK

Of course I did!

Gray punches Mark in the arm. Megan approaches Gray.

MEGAN

Hey! Happy Pre-Birthday! Surprised?

GRAY

Yes! I had no idea!

People gather around Gray, the band begins to play.

FADE TO:

MEGAN APPROACHES BARBARA

MEGAN

Ms. Barbara? Can Gray open her gifts!

BARBARA

Sure, if she wants to, it's her party!

Megan rushes over to Gray.

MEGAN

Open your gifts!

GRAY

Okay!

MARK

Excuse me everyone! Gray is going to open her gifts now, come join us!

BARBARA

Okay, we are going to do this a little differently. With each card Gray reads, she will say who its from and that person will come forward and have their picture taken with the birthday girl!

GRAY

Sweet! Okay! Marsha!

FADE TO:

MEGAN IS EXCITED AND HOLDS UP HER GIFT

MEGAN

Oh, this one is from me!

GRAY

(Opens box) Megan! This is beautiful! Thank you so much! I love it!

MEGAN

Your totally worth it! Here I'll put it on you, go ahead grab your next gift.

GRAY

Mark? Mark this one is from you.

MARK

Oh yeah! (He pretends to run to Gray) It's a big one!!!!

Gray pulls a large box towards her. As she opens the large box there is a smaller box, another box is opened and the boxes get smaller and smaller, she gets the last box.

GRAY

What's this? (She opens the box to find a ring) Mark, this is beautiful!

MARK

Gray, we have been together for two years now. You are a huge part of my life! Of course we are too young to get married, but I wanted you to know how much you mean to me. With that said, I bought you this promise ring, I want you to know that you mean my heart and that I love you very much.

Gray smiles and tears up.

GRAY

Thank you babe! I love it and I love you!

They hug, the party continues.

FADE TO:

INSIDE THE SCHOOL, GRAY'S CLASSROOM, STUDENTS ARE WORKING, SOCIAL SERVICES ENTER.

OFFICER

We are looking for Grayson Aiden

GRAY

I'm Grayson Aiden.

OFFICER

You need to come with us young lady.

GRAY

Why?

OFFICER

We can talk about this outside.

GRAY

Ms. Foster, if you don't mind I would rather they talk to me here.

MS. FOSTER

That's okay with me.

OFFICER

Fine, due to your father's death, you need to be placed in Foster care.

GRAY

Why?

OFFICER

Because your a minor, you can't take care of yourself.

GRAY

Actually, I'm 18! That's of age isn't it?

OFFICER

Well, yes, however; your unable to support yourself.

GRAY

I have a business to run and it makes a profit! I can support myself just fine!

The officer and the social worker look at each other in confusion with nothing to say.

GRAY (CONT'D)

I'll either be at work or home tonight if you have further questions, but I need to get back to my schoolwork now.

The officer and social worker leave the room, there is silence, Gray looks at Ms. Foster.

MS. FOSTER

Well, you handled that very well! Good job!

GRAY

Thank you!

The class continues!

FADE TO:

TWO MONTHS LATER, GRADUATION DAY. STUDENTS ARE WALKING TOWARDS THE STAGE AS NAMES ARE CALLED.

PRINCIPLE MARY
Grayson Aiden!

People in the audience cheer and yell and whistle. Gray receives her diploma and walks across the stage.

FADE TO:

GRADUATION COMMENCES, CAPS ARE THROWN INTO THE AIR

FADE TO:

SIX YEARS LATER, INTERIOR OF MUSIC STORE, GRAY IS AT THE COUNTER ASSISTING A CUSTOMER. IT LOOKS AS IF GRAY DID NOTHING WITH HER LIFE, JUST STAYED IN THE SMALL TOWN RUNNING THE MUSIC STORE. HOWEVER, AS GRAY IS HELPING THE CUSTOMER A YOUNG LADY WALKS IN FROM AN ADJACENT DOOR.

JOSIE
Excuse me Gray, Ms. Francis is on the phone.

GRAY
Thank you Josie (She hands the customer her bag and goes to the adjoining room)

SHE ENTERS THE ROOM, IT'S A FASHION DESIGN COMPANY. THERE ARE PEOPLE WALKING AROUND VERY BUSY. GRAY HANGS UP THE PHONE.

GRAY
Hey! Everyone! Excuse!! (The employees turn and look at Gray, the room becomes quiet) We got the contract!

The employees cheer! Mark walks in.

MARK
What's all the excitement?

TAMI
We just got a huge contract!

MARK
(Sees Gray) Hey Babe!

GRAY

Hi!

MARK

Congrats!

GRAY

Thanks! It's so awesome! (Looking around) Where's Emma?

MARK

Next door at the music shop.

GRAY

Let's get outta here!

They walk next door and pick up Emma. She is six years old.

EMMA

Mommy! Look what I can play! (She holds up a flute, Gray picks Emma up)

GRAY

How wonderful! Your going to love it! (They walk out of the store)

MARK

You know Emma, your mommy plays the flute!

EMMA

Really? Mommy, you play the flute!?

GRAY

I do! I began playing when I was about your age! And I loved it!

EMMA

Can I see it?

GRAY

Of course you can! I will even show you your Grandma's flute!

EMMA

Grandma Barb?

MARK

(Laughing)

No honey! Grandma Barb never played an instrument!

GRAY

It belonged to my mom!

EMMA

Oh, mommy! How special! Can I play
yours?

GRAY

Well, we will see about that!

They walk off down the sidewalk, Emma in between Mark and
Gray as they swing her back and forth!