

**Christmas In North Point**  
**Hope Delivered By Christmas**

Written by  
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&  
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EXT GROUP HOME - DAY 4 YEARS AGO - FLASHBACK

INT DYLAN'S ROOM - DAY

DYLAN, a 10 year old boy, who lost his parents and has been in group homes since he was 6.

Dylan is sitting at his desk writing on a sheet of paper.

DYLAN (V.O)

*Instead of gifts this Christmas my wish is for a family. One that I can call my own, so please forgo all the toys and books and instead I want the gifts that last a lifetime.*

Dylan puts the letter in the envelope and seals it and places a stamp on it.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - DAY

On his way to school, Dylan finds the mailbox at the corner of the street, puts the letter in. The letter goes through the mailbox and gets stuck in a crack in the back of it.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - PRESENT - DAY

A girl meets her mom after school, gives her a letter to drop in the mailbox. The girl runs over, and drops it inside. As she's walking away she notices one that is flapping in the wind through a crack in the back. She pulls it out, inspecting it curiously. Her mom calls her over; she quickly puts it in her library book for safekeeping.

EXT - TOWN - DAY

Follows the journey of the girl with the letter in her book, making a stop

EXT THE LIBRARY - DAY

The girl puts the book in the library drop box with the letter inside. She watches the book fall in, remembering the letter too late.

INT THE LIBRARY - DAY

ANNA is a Librarian who loves books and words and uses them to express herself. She is recently divorced trying to move on with her life, wanting to enjoy being single or trying to when she is sent on the most unexpected journey.

Anna is working behind the counter going through all the books that were put through the drop box when she comes across one that has a letter inside. She puts the letter in her purse and takes off.

INT POST OFFICE - DAY

Anna walks up to the counter, gives the letter to the postal worker and explains it was found in a book. As she is walking out Reed is walking in and holds the door open for her.

REED is a father who lost his son 6 years ago and decides to move to a new town for a fresh start only to find he was sent there in a way that would change his life forever.

ANNA

Thank you.

REED

You're welcome.

Reed smiles and watches her walk away. Anna tries not to but glances back to see him, but by the time she does Reed closes the door and walks up to the counter.

INT THE BEAN - DAY

Reed is drinking coffee while filling out his application.

BROOKE - is Anna's very spunky and sassy high school best friend who is overly invested in her life, and would do anything to look out for her.

Brooke walks in and smiles at Reed as she walks up to the counter and can't stop glancing back at him. She gets her coffees and walks out the door.

JASON is Reed's good friend who is looking out for his best interests when he was struggling and moves with him to be supportive of making a fresh start.

Jason walks in and sits across from Reed.

JASON

Found you.

REED

The one person who I didn't want to find me.

JASON  
Why? because I know you, and why you  
are running from your past?

REED  
I'm not running, I am starting over.

JASON  
You can't change what happened.

REED  
No, you are right. I can't change the  
past but I can move forward and that  
is what I plan to do here, lay low  
where no one knows me... except you.

JASON  
What exactly is your plan?

REED  
Find a job that helps people, so I am  
going to work at the Dead Letter  
Office and help letters return to  
their rightful owners.

JASON  
If that is your plan I am sticking  
around to keep you on track.

Reed rolls his eyes, but continues on with his application.

INT THE LIBRARY - DAY

Brooke comes into the library with two coffees as Anna walks  
behind the counter and places down her things. Brooke hands  
Anna a coffee.

BROOKE  
Hey, so do you want to celebrate  
tonight?

ANNA  
I wouldn't call it a celebration.

BROOKE  
That your divorce is final from that  
bad man? It's a celebration. Trust me

ANNA

I just want to move on and be single for a while. I enjoy my job and being alone so I don't have to worry about what kind of mood he would be in.

BROOKE

OK, suit yourself.

Anna distractedly helps Brooke with checking in books, thinking about the man she ran into at the post office and for some reason she could not get him off her mind.

INT REED'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Reed is laying in bed trying to fall asleep when his head is going 1,000 miles a minute. He sits up and opens the dresser drawer, pulling out a rectangular wooden box. He opens it and takes out a stack of letters wrapped in a ribbon. His eyes are already glossy as he pulls the first one out. He smiles seeing the writing in various crayon colors and a little drawing in the corner. He traces his hand across

CHASE (WRITTEN) V.O.

*Daddy,  
I can't wait for you to come back home. I miss you. When you come home we can play together.*

REED

(says out loud  
softly)

I miss you. I feel so lost.  
Maybe being here was a mistake.

Reed sees a warm glow of light filter in the room and is surprised at the sight before him.

CHASE is the spirit of Reed's 8 year old son who enacts as his guide to finding forgiveness and what he needs to start a new life. He shows Reed it's ok to be happy again.

Chase appears on the bed next to him.

REED (cont'd)

(Unknowingly has  
teary eyes)

Chase?

CHASE

You are supposed to be here, dad.

REED

What do you mean I am supposed to be here?

CHASE

Time will reveal everything.

REED

What exactly are you doing here?

CHASE

Think of me as your guide.

REED

My guide?

CHASE

To show you why you are here.

Chase vanishes. Reed gets up out of bed, wondering if he officially lost his mind.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Reed walks through the middle of town.

REED

(V.O. internal dialogue)

Was coming here a mistake? Honestly, what could be my purpose for being here? Was I a fool to think I could get away from my past? To believe I could somehow make up for my past mistakes? I wish I believed in signs. I could really use one right about now.

Reed is surprised to see Anna sitting at a bench across the square. The street lamps on either side cast this beautiful glow around her. He makes his way over. Anna glances up from her sketchbook and sees Reed; she discreetly closes the book as he takes a seat next to her.

ANNA

Hello again.

REED

Hi, nice to see you again.

ANNA  
Are you new in town? I know most  
people around here.

REED  
Just moved here from LA.

ANNA  
That is a bit of change, isn't it?

REED  
Well, I needed it.

ANNA  
We all do, every now and again.  
(gives Reed a  
curious look)  
Have we met before?

REED  
I don't think so, maybe you met my  
twin?

ANNA  
Do you have a twin?

REED  
Not that I know of but they say  
everyone has a twin.

ANNA  
I sure hope your career path doesn't  
include being a comedian?

REED  
(Smirks)  
No it doesn't.

ANNA  
(smiles)  
Good.  
(gets up to walk  
away)  
I'll see you around.

REED  
Wait. What is your name?

ANNA  
It's Anna.

REED

Reed. Nice to meet you, Anna.

ANNA

Likewise.

Anna walks away and Reed smiles. This time when Anna glances back, Reed is sitting at the bench watching her walk away.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

ANNA

(v.o. Internal  
dialogue)

Life has a funny way of leading you down paths of self-discovery. Being married to someone I thought I loved and loved me but turning out horribly wrong has made me question everything I thought I knew.

INT ANNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Anna is sitting by the window painting while the snow falls.

ANNA

(v.o. Internal  
dialogue cont'd)

How could I possibly open my heart? It would take a miracle to have me trust anyone with my heart again.

INT LIBRARY - DAY

Anna is helping a guest check out when Brooke walks up.

BROOKE

I saw you last night.

ANNA

Saw me what?

BROOKE

I saw you talking to him.

ANNA

Him who?



BROOKE  
The new guy in town. Is he single?

ANNA  
Reed? I don't know. We just met.

BROOKE  
See you know his name.

ANNA  
So? He knows my name. I am not sure  
what the big deal is.

BROOKE  
The fact that he is perfect for you.

ANNA  
How could you possibly know that?

BROOKE  
(shrugs)  
I just do. Call it a feeling.  
(smirks playfully)

ANNA  
Well, I told you I am not interested  
right now. I want to be single.

BROOKE  
(rolls her eyes)  
If you say so.

ANNA  
I do, so leave me alone.

BROOKE  
You're no fun.

INT DEAD LETTER OFFICE - DAY

Reed swipes his key card. He takes in his new work space, awed that such a place existed. He wasn't sure how to proceed. He picks up a letter from a bin, when the doors swing open with a woman carrying a huge stack of papers and books. Reed watches her for a second, then drops the letter in his hand and quickly rushes over to help her, but she is much quicker, slamming the stack down on a desk.

QUINN is Reed's new co-worker who is smart and a bit sarcastic who tells it like she sees it.

QUINN  
Phew! Thank you!

REED  
Sorry, I didn't catch you in time.

QUINN  
No problem. You must be the new guy!  
I'm Quinn.

REED  
I suppose I am. Reed.  
(holds his hand out)

QUINN  
(shakes his hand)  
Finally! We have been looking for  
someone for a while.

REED  
You have? No wonder I got the job so  
quickly.

QUINN  
We have tried and tried to get  
someone who would be perfect here,  
but she repeatedly declines.

REED  
Oh good, so I am a last resort?

QUINN  
Oh! That's not what I meant, I'm sure  
you're- we are happy that you are-

REED  
(puts up his hand to  
stop her from  
babbling on)  
It's ok. I will try not to take it  
personally. So...how does this all  
work

INT - POST OFFICE SORTING

Follows the journey of the letter to make its way to the  
Dead Letter Office where Reed finds it.

INT- DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Quinn finishes explaining everything. Reed reaches the bin to pick up a letter again as someone walks in to give a form to Quinn, when a letter drops onto the floor. The person walks away too quickly. Reed picks up the letter that reads *'To who can find me a family'* Reed takes a seat, making sure there were no identifiable markers, simply a stamp, before opening it to read its contents. As he reads the heartfelt message enclosed, his heart inflates and he knows he has to find the owner of this letter.

INT LIBRARY- DAY

Reed walks in over to the computers. Brooke sees him, heads over and sits next to him.

BROOKE  
Hi, do you need help?

REED  
Hello. Sure, can you help me search records to find someone?

BROOKE  
I might be able to but I think Anna would be a better person to help you.

Anna notices Brooke talking to Reed, she rolls her eyes and wonders what she is up to and is a little afraid. She walks over, shoots a friendly smile to Reed, before she drags her friend up.

ANNA  
Can I speak to you for a moment?

Grabs Brooke's arm and takes her away behind the counter.

BROOKE  
Hey!

ANNA  
What are you doing exactly?

BROOKE  
I am trying to find out if he is single.

ANNA  
What part of I don't want to date do you not understand?

BROOKE

How long have you known me? You know  
I don't listen.

ANNA

Pretend to be different just this  
once.

BROOKE

I know your ex was horrible but not  
all men are.

ANNA

I just want to be alone.

BROOKE

And want to bury your head in books!

Brooke rolls her eyes and walks away. Reed works on the computer for quite a while; Anna can't seem to keep her eyes off him. After some time passes, Reed feels hopeless in his search, and makes his way over to the counter where Anna finishes checking someone out. He gives a friendly smile.

REED

Hello...Anna. Seems our paths keep  
crossing.

ANNA

(Thoughtfully)  
Yah, it appears so.

REED

So, you work here, huh?

ANNA

I do.

REED

Well, good, I could use your help.

ANNA

(catches Brooke as  
she is passing by)  
Brooke can help you. I have a thing  
to get to.

REED

A thing?

BROOKE

What thing? And you didn't tell me about it?

ANNA

Mhm, so I better go now. You help Reed.

Anna tries to discreetly give Brooke a look who rolls her eyes and takes Reed's arm dragging him along.

BROOKE

Fine Reed, I will help you.

Anna sighs as she gets her things. When she gets to the doors, she looks back. At the same moment Reed's gaze lifts to her, no longer paying attention to Brooke. He gives her a smile. She returns a small smile before she leaves.

INT ANNA'S HOUSE SUNROOM - NIGHT

Anna is working on a painting thinking about Reed and what it is about him that she can't get off her mind. Part of her was afraid of the connection that seemed to be there.

INT REED'S HOUSE FOYER- NIGHT

Reed walks in and sees Chase sitting on top of the steps and is startled again to see his son.

CHASE

Are you going to help Dylan?

REED

How do you know his name?

CHASE

I just do. You need him. And the girl at the library. I like her.

REED

Anna? What do you know about her?

CHASE

She needs you for reasons you don't even know yet.

REED

I still don't understand; why am I seeing you?

CHASE

It's time for you to forgive yourself; It was an accident.

Reed has tears in his eyes as he sits on the steps next to Chase and tries to touch him, but his hand just goes right through.

REED

It wouldn't have happened if I was more present. I failed my most important job.

CHASE

Find Dylan and everything else will fall into place.

Chase vanishes; Reed feels completely overwhelmed, wanting to make sense of his life, but the silence of his house and the empty space where his son just was makes him breakdown.

EXT REED'S HOUSE - DAY

Reed walks outside and gets ready to get in his car when Brooke comes home.

BROOKE

Hey there new neighbor!

REED

Wow, so we're neighbors?  
What are the odds of that?

BROOKE

Makes it seem purposeful, don't you think?

(as Reed looks at  
her thoughtfully)

So, you met my best friend Anna.

REED

You are up to something, I'm just not sure what that is yet.

BROOKE

What makes you think I want something?

REED  
Consider it this feeling I have.

BROOKE  
Fine, but maybe I am just being neighborly.

REED  
I don't get that vibe from you. You are always up to something.

BROOKE  
Can you blame me?

REED  
I'm not sure what you mean.

BROOKE  
(smiles)  
You know exactly what I am talking about, or should I say 'who'.

Reed can't help his mind from drifting to Anna, but doesn't want to give Brooke the satisfaction.

REED  
You don't take no for an answer, do you?

BROOKE  
No, I don't give up.

REED  
Yeah, I get that about you. I better go.

Reed gets in his car and drives off.

BROOKE  
This is going to be harder than I thought.

INT CHURCH- DAY

Reed walks into the church, his eyes clouding remembering Chase's funeral. Reed walks down the middle of the Church.

INT - CHURCH - FLASHBACK - DAY

Reed continues and stops at the front, at his son's picture.  
He reaches to touch it.

INT CHURCH - PRESENT - DAY

CHASE  
Dad?

REED  
(turns to see his  
son sitting on the  
bench)  
Chase, you're here again.  
How often will I see you?

CHASE  
When you need me.

REED  
Why now?

CHASE  
Because I needed to give you space  
until I knew you would be ok seeing  
me. You needed to go through that  
dark phase for reasons you will  
understand later. Now you are seeing  
me to help you see what you can't  
see.

REED  
So, what about you?

CHASE  
What about me? Dad, I am ok. It's you  
who isn't. You need to move on from  
that night of what happened to me.

REED  
I sent you outside to play and you  
were hit by that car. It's my fault.

CHASE  
No it's not. You told me never to go  
in the street and I did.

REED  
You will always be my son.



CHASE  
I know, dad, and I love you.  
Anna is here.

REED  
(can't hide his  
smile)  
Really?

Anna walks in and Chase vanishes. When Anna sees Reed she freezes at first and is about to leave the church, but something compels her to stay. She walks over.

ANNA  
Did Brooke send you here?

REED  
No, I came on my own.

ANNA  
Brooke knows I come here every  
Wednesday.

REED  
I haven't been in a church in 6 years  
but I feel like it's time I need to  
restore my faith.

ANNA  
Want to talk about it?

REED  
I'd rather not.

ANNA  
I understand, but if you ever do want  
to talk you know where to find me.

REED  
(smirks)  
That I do.

Anna and Reed sit for some time, both in their own thoughts, and prayers; They embrace the silence and say bye to each other and go their separate ways; both of them glance back at each other seconds apart.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Reed is sitting on a bench pulling the letter out of his pocket and reads it again and again. He looks up to the sky,

tears rolling down his cheek, and wonders if there is a reason he's yet to discover why he was supposed to end up in North Point. He puts the letter in his jacket pocket when a picture falls out and hits the ground, and Reed walks away.

A moment later Anna shows up to find it on the ground and picks it up. She smiles seeing the picture of a boy with a big smile. She figures she will put it at the library to see if anyone claims it, sure that whoever lost it will miss it.

INT THE PUB - NIGHT

Jason and Reed are sitting at a table.

REED  
I am seeing him now.

JASON  
Seeing who?

REED  
Chase shows up randomly.

JASON  
How?

REED  
He will just appear out of nowhere and he tells me I am here for a reason.

JASON  
What? In North Point?

REED  
And I think it's connected to this letter from this kid who is looking for a family.

JASON  
And what? You are the one to give him a family?

REED  
Maybe? I don't know. All I know is that my son who died 6 years ago is now showing up to tell me that I have to find this kid. None of this makes sense.

JASON

I am with you on that.

Anna and Brooke walk and sit at a table not too far from Reed and Jason. Anna can't help but watch Reed.

BROOKE

Remind me again why you won't ask him out? You can't stop looking at him!

ANNA

I told you I am perfectly happy being alone, especially after you know what happened.

BROOKE

But the perfect man has come to town, who seems different.

ANNA

How do you know he is the perfect guy? He could be just like the rest of them.

Reed catches Anna's gaze and looks at her with a half grin. She looks away, pretending to smile at something Brooke says.

BROOKE

The fact that you two keep showing up in the exact same place at the exact same time should tell you something.

ANNA

It's a small town and the places to go are limited.

BROOKE

You call it what you want but I call it fate.

ANNA

Whatever it may be, I'm not interested in him.

BROOKE

If you say so.

ANNA

I do say so.

Like a magnet, Anna's eyes gravitate to Reed again.

BROOKE

I see you looking at him.

Anna rolls her eyes at Brooke.

INT DEAD LETTER OFFICE - DAY

Reed spends the morning with Quinn solving a tall pile of lost letters and packages. He sits at his desk to take a minute and pulls out the letter from Dylan. Quinn notices.

QUINN

Hey, did you ever find out who that letter belonged to?

Reed shakes his head as he inspects it with a magnifying glass wondering if he missed something the first time.

REED

No, not yet.

Reed holds up the envelope. The way the light comes in through the window behind him reveals the faintest watermark in the top left corner. It seems to have faded due to weather elements.

REED (CONT'D)

Quinn, look, there is a mark here. It looks like some kind of seal maybe?

Quinn comes around his desk to stand next to him.

QUINN

Oo! You're right!

REED

It's hard to make out. Maybe I can take a picture. How can I find what the seal is for? Do we have a database for that?

QUINN

(her eyes light up)

I know the perfect person to help! She is a big history and art buff, I'm sure she will figure it out right away!

REED  
Great! Where can I find her?

QUINN  
At the library. Just ask for Anna.

REED  
(smiles in surprise)  
Anna?

QUINN  
Did I miss something?

REED  
We've already met.

QUINN  
Great, well, she is the right person  
to help you.

INT THE LIBRARY - DAY

Reed walks in; his eyes quickly find Anna over at a table talking to a few girls studying. Anna's eyes lift and meet him. He smiles as she excuses herself and walks over.

ANNA  
Hey? What are you doing here?  
Here to talk about finding your  
faith?  
(Teases)

REED  
(smirks)  
Not today. I actually need your help  
for a work matter. Can you help me  
figure out what the seal is for?

He takes out his phone and shows her the picture of the seal. Anna looks at it for a moment.

ANNA  
It's pretty hard to see clearly, but  
I think we can find out what it's  
for. Come with me.

Reed follows Anna over to a section toward the other end of the library. He watches her in fascination as she seems to be really in her element as she looks through the books and picks a couple out. She looks at him with a smile.

ANNA (cont'd)  
I think these will help, but let's go  
to a computer just in case.

As they go over to the computers, Anna greets and is greeted  
by everyone they pass. Reed looks at her with a smile.

REED  
Do you know everyone around here?

ANNA  
Mhm

Anna gives a playful smirk as she sits down at a computer.  
Reed sits next to her; he glances around and sees the  
teenage boy in the corner.

DYLAN, 14 year old boy who is always reading. and loves  
science, books and sports.

REED  
Ok, then who is that boy in the  
corner?

ANNA  
He doesn't really talk much; he likes  
science fiction, that I do know.

REED  
What is his name?

ANNA  
I don't know his real name but I call  
him SkyWalker. He is here almost  
every day.

REED  
hm...good kid?

ANNA  
Seems like it. He is pretty quiet and  
reserved. Always seems like something  
is on his mind, but really nice.

Reed ponders for a moment, then shows Anna the seal again,  
who looks at it more carefully.

ANNA (cont'd)  
I think that we are dealing with a  
group home.

REED

That makes sense considering the asking for a family, but how are you so sure?

ANNA

I help do book drives for the local group homes.

Reed looks at Anna with admiration. She glances at him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

So... let's see what we can find.

Reed takes one of the books, glances at her, and she does the same. While they are searching through the books, Reed can't help but admire her. Brooke is watching them from the desk, noticing how close they were sitting and how well they seemed to be working together. After some time of them searching through the books, Anna thinks she has found it but takes to the computer to confirm it's the one.

ANNA

I found it!  
Right here, St Mark's Home for Boys.

REED

(Looks from his phone to the computer to make sure it is a match)  
That's it! I couldn't have gotten this far without you. We make a great team.

ANNA

I am just helping you, this has nothing to do with me.

Reed looks at Anna in confusion, wondering what she meant by that. He hopes he didn't say something to make her upset. Anna gets up from the computer and looks at Reed.

ANNA (cont'd)

Uh...I'm sorry, it's getting late, I better go help with closing.

REED

Sure.

ANNA

Good luck with your work.

REED  
Thanks for your help again.

Anna rolls her eyes as she walks over to the desk where Brooke is waiting for her. Anna quickly takes to her closing tasks, trying to ignore the 'knowing' look she was getting from her friend.

BROOKE  
I saw youuu...

ANNA  
Saw me what?

BROOKE  
I saw you 'helping' Reed that whole time.

ANNA  
I was helping him. Nothing more, nothing less.

BROOKE  
Mhm...I will pretend I believe you. All I'm saying is you two looked awfully close.

Anna rolls her eyes at Brooke but is wondering if she was seeing something she was afraid to admit.

EXT ANNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Anna drives up and sits in her car pondering if she really is happy being alone or if she was just afraid of opening her heart again.

INT THE LIBRARY - DAY

Reed walks in. Anna quickly turns away and starts to act busy; she is hoping he just walks on by. He stops at the counter.

REED  
I was hoping you might want to help me find the owner of this letter. Now we know this kid is in a group home. And you know this town better than anyone. I am one step closer and you could really help me.



ANNA  
I'm sorry I really don't think I'm  
the right person to help you.

REED  
I think you are exactly the right  
person, but I respect your decision.  
If you change your mind...  
(gets ready to walk  
out)

ANNA  
That isn't going to happen.

Reed places the letter on the counter and wonders if there  
is something deeper to her defensive attitude.

REED  
What are you afraid of?

ANNA  
I'm not afraid.

REED  
If you ever need someone to talk to I  
can also do that for you.

Reed walks away, leaving the letter. Anna picks it up to  
call Reed back, but sees it is the letter she dropped at the  
Post Office. When Reed walks by the board, he sees the photo  
of his son. He picks it up; he feels in his pocket and  
realizes he forgot the letter at the counter. As Reed  
reaches the counter Anna looks at him.

ANNA & REED  
How did you get this?

Anna is holding up the letter; Reed is holding his son's  
picture.

ANNA  
I found it the other day on the  
ground. It's yours?

REED  
Yes, it's a picture of my son.

ANNA  
Y-Your son?  
I -I have to go!

Anna takes a cart full of books and goes in a different direction. Reed picks the letter up off the counter and heads out. At the shelves of books Brooke is waiting.

BROOKE  
Is everything ok? Why did you bolt from Reed?

ANNA  
Because he has a kid.

BROOKE  
And that made you run? I thought you always wanted kids.

ANNA  
Yeah my own kids. I never wanted to be a step parent.

BROOKE  
Are you afraid he is married?

ANNA  
That crossed my mind but he doesn't wear a ring.

BROOKE  
I've seen the way he looks at you. And the way you look at him.

ANNA  
I think this is all a big mistake.

BROOKE  
The only mistake happening is you running from getting your heart broken, but that could hurt you more than not taking a chance.

INT THE CHURCH- NIGHT

Anna couldn't stop thinking about all the events that have been happening between her and Reed. She needs to find her center. She walks into the church and hears voices. Reed is praying, and Chase is sitting on the pew.

CHASE  
I think Anna likes you.

REED  
(gets up and sits  
next to him)  
No she doesn't, she can't wait to get  
away from me.

CHASE  
That is because she is afraid.

REED  
Afraid of what?

CHASE  
Loving again.

REED  
What do you know about love?

CHASE  
What I do know is that you loved Mom  
and love me.

Reed is taken back for a moment. Anna walks over and sits on  
the opposite side.

ANNA  
Who are you talking to?

REED  
I am talking to G-God.

ANNA  
(smirks)  
Asking God what he knows about love?

REED  
You walked in on a private  
conversation.

ANNA  
Ok, I'm sorry. I will leave you to it.

Gets up and walks away to a different part of the church

INT REED'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reed is sitting on his couch playing his guitar; Chase is  
sitting beside him listening to him play.

REED  
So, is it officially safe to say I am  
haunted now?  
(jokes)

CHASE  
(laughs)  
You still need me.

REED  
I know I need to find this kid and  
find him a family.

CHASE  
I know you will.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Anna is people-watching, when Reed walks over.

REED  
You really do like it here?

ANNA  
It's where I come for inspiration.

REED  
(sits next to Anna)  
We need to talk about last night at  
the church.

ANNA  
OK.

REED  
I wasn't talking to God. I was  
talking to my 8 year old son who  
passed away.

ANNA  
How did your son die?

REED  
He was hit by a car. I was a big time  
sportscaster always busy with work.  
One night I was watching my son Chase  
and I was busy preparing for a big  
basketball game the next night. I let  
him play outside by himself and his  
ball rolled into the street. He went  
(MORE)

REED (cont'd)  
to go get it when a car came around  
the corner and hit him.

Reed has tears flowing down his face; as Anna listens, her own eyes are glossy.

REED (CONT'D)  
He was taken to the hospital but  
there was nothing they could do. My  
wife left me that night blaming me  
for his accident. I was lost and went  
into a depression for years, until I  
almost got into an accident myself. I  
knew I needed to make a change. I  
decided to make a fresh start, and  
now...I'm here.

ANNA  
So...why the post office?

REED  
I knew I wanted to help people. There  
was an opening at the Dead Letter  
Office and I knew that was what I  
could do to make a difference.

ANNA  
That is why this letter is so  
important to you.

REED  
Yes and I know there is a reason I'm  
meant to find this kid. Of all the  
letters, I picked this one that day.

Reed hands her the letter. Anna looks at it closely, knowing in her heart it couldn't be a coincidence that their paths keep crossing, and this letter somehow is linked to the both of them. She looks up at him as he stands up.

REED (cont'd)  
I better go.

Anna hands him back the letter. Reed goes on his way leaving Anna to ponder everything.

EXT THE POST OFFICE - DAY

Anna is pacing back and forth waiting for Reed to show up. When Reed gets out of his car he is surprised to see her.

REED  
Anna, what are you doing here?

ANNA  
We need to talk and I can't wait any longer.

REED  
Ok... please come on inside. We can talk in my office.

INT DEAD LETTER OFFICE - DAY

They walk in. Reed sits at his desk; Anna, across from him.

ANNA  
I will help you find the owner of the letter.

REED  
You will? That means a lot to me.

ANNA  
Yes, after hearing about your son, it made me realize the importance of finding Dylan.

Reed smiles at Anna, who looks at him in a new light.

REED  
Tomorrow, do you want to go to the group home with me?

ANNA  
Maybe we can actually find the official letter writer.  
I'll meet you in town square at 9am

REED  
I'll be there.

ANNA  
Great, I'll see you then.

Anna stands up. Reed's eyes never leave hers. They seem to be transfixed by each other, forgetting their surroundings when Quinn walks in and breaks the moment.

QUINN  
Anna!

ANNA  
Hi Quinn.  
(greeted her then  
looks at Reed)  
I better go. I have to get to the  
library. I will talk to you later.

REED  
(stands up from his  
desk)  
Ok, I will see you tomorrow.

Quinn looks between Anna and Reed and watches as Anna walks away with a smile and how Reed can't take his eyes off her as she leaves; Quinn lifts her eyebrow curiously when he finally manages to look away, and looks to her. She gives him a perceptive smile.

QUINN  
You like her.

REED  
It's not like that. We are friends. I think.

QUINN  
Funny, I see something different.

REED  
We are simply friends. Working together. Why can't anyone accept that?

QUINN  
Because the people without a blind eye see so much more. Is that a bad thing to see the connection you two seem to have?

REED  
There is nothing to see.

QUINN  
Pardon me but I don't believe that for one second.

INT The Library - Day

Brooke is standing behind the counter when Anna walks in.

BROOKE

You are an hour late. I was about to send out a search party.

ANNA

I had to make a stop on the way.

BROOKE

Let me take a wild guess. To see Reed?

ANNA

Yes, I agreed to go with him to find the owner of the letter.

BROOKE

What changed your mind?

ANNA

I am not sure I am at liberty to say.

BROOKE

But it's a start.

ANNA

Will you lay off?

BROOKE

Not until you say I am right and you like him.

ANNA

I'm starting to open up to the idea of possibly, maybe, someday.

BROOKE

Mhm, I can see right through you.

Anna rolls her eyes and walks away; she can't keep the smile back. Brooke shakes her head knowing how stubborn Anna could be.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Reed is sitting on a bench; Anna arrives.

REED

I was wondering if you were going to show.



ANNA  
We said 9am and it's 9am.

REED  
I was here 10 minutes early.  
And you are right on time.

ANNA  
Never early, never late, just on  
time.

Reed gives Anna a smile as if he knew that she would be.

INT ST MARK'S HOME FOR BOYS - DAY

Reed and Anna walk in and up to the group home leader and show her the letter. She writes down the name of the place where Dylan is, and they for the next group home.

INT ST PETER'S GROUP HOME FOR BOYS

Reed takes the lead, when they approach the front.

KATE  
May I help you?

REED  
I am looking for a boy named Dylan. I  
have a lost letter to return to him.  
Is he here?

KATE  
Let me see if he is available.

Soon Kate walks over with Dylan. Anna can't shake the feeling that she'd seen him before. It was difficult to see his face from the baseball cap, but when she sees the space shirt he is wearing she realizes he is the same kid who comes to the library every day.

Dylan and Reed go to sit away from everyone.

REED  
Hi I'm Reed and I work at the Dead  
letter office. I found this letter  
that was dated 4 years ago that I  
think belongs to you..

DYLAN  
The letter about me asking for a  
family?

REED  
How old are you now?

DYLAN  
I'm 14.

REED  
If you are still looking for a family, maybe I could help you.

DYLAN  
I would love it if you can help me. I just assumed the letter got tossed. I never imagined anyone getting a hold of it.

REED  
Well, I promise I will try to see your wish in this letter through.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Anna and Reed sit on the bench.

ANNA  
You will never believe this, but Dylan is the kid that comes to the Library all the time.

REED  
I didn't even put together that he was the same kid. I was so focused on the letter.

Anna looks at Reed contemplating how much things seemed to be connected.

ANNA  
What are you going to do?

REED  
I'm going to try to help him. He needs a family.

ANNA  
I think it's great that you want to help him, but how do you plan to do that ?

REED  
I'm not exactly sure yet, but I know  
I need to. I have to get back to the  
DLO. I'll see you later.

Reed walks away, leaving Anna with her thoughts again.

INT REED'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reed is playing his guitar when Chase appears.

CHASE  
If anyone can help Dylan it's you,  
dad.

REED  
What am I supposed to do?

CHASE  
Spend time with him. He could use a  
friend and so could you.

Chase vanishes and Reed is suddenly hit with all of these emotions that he is talking to his son.

INT - ANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

Anna is in the sunroom painting when she hears her phone. She picks it up to see a text from Brooke that her car was having issues starting. She responds she will be there.

EXT - BROOKE'S HOUSE TO REED'S HOUSE - DAY

Brooke is sitting on her front steps when she gets the text from Anna that she is a few minutes away. She smiles and glances at Reed's house, then gets up and walks over and knocks on the door. Within a few seconds he opens the door.

REED  
Brooke, how can I help you?

BROOKE  
Hello neighbor!

REED  
Ok, what do you want?

BROOKE  
What makes you think I want something?

She smirks off his knowing look.

BROOKE (cont'd)  
Oh fine. I think there is something wrong with my sink. Would you mind seeing it?

REED  
(shrugs)  
Sure. I'm not sure how much help I can be, but I'll check it out. I'll get my tools and be right over.

Brooke smiles as she turns to leave back over to her house.

EXT - REED'S HOUSE - DAY

Reed walks down the steps just as Anna pulls up and gets out of the car.

ANNA  
Reed? What are you doing here?

REED  
Brooke asked me to fix her sink.

ANNA  
Wait, you live next door to Brooke?

An amused smile crosses Reed's face at the crazy coincidence

ANNA (cont'd)  
I swear she is on another level and she seems to think we belong together, so she will do anything to get us in the same place.

Reed looks at Anna thoughtfully, and can't shake those words from his mind, but before he has time to think about it too much, Anna grabs his hand.

ANNA (cont'd)  
We are getting back at her!

REED  
What did you have in mind?

ANNA  
We are fixing her sink alright.

EXT - BROOKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Anna rings the doorbell. Shortly Brooke opens the door and smiles seeing them together.

ANNA  
Look who I ran into. Your neighbor.

BROOKE  
Great, the more the merrier.

She walks away toward the kitchen. Anna shakes her head, and glances at Reed who is smirking at her.

ANNA  
What?

REED  
(Smiles)  
Nothing, lead the way.

Anna gives him a curious smile, but walks inside to the direction of the kitchen.

INT - BROOKE'S HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Reed realizes instantly that Brooke lied about her sink having a leak, so pretends to fix it, finding this whole set up a little comical. Anna stands beside Brooke.

ANNA  
You never mentioned Reed was your neighbor.

BROOKE  
(smirks)  
I didn't? Guess I forgot.

ANNA  
Mhm, sure...

REED  
(gives Anna a look)  
I could use your help for a second.  
(when Anna comes over and gets under the sink with him)  
we need to get back at Brooke.  
You're right, the sink is fine.

ANNA  
(whispers)  
I knew it. What did you have in mind?

Reed & Anna share a look and smile, having the same thought.

BROOKE  
So, how's it looking down there?

Reed and Anna come up from underneath the sink together.

REED  
It's all fixed.

ANNA  
Yeah, but we should be sure. Here,  
let's try it out.

They slowly turn on the sink together, grab the nozzle extender, turn around and drench Brooke. She gasps, trying to shake some of the water, but she is completely soaked.

BROOKE  
You guys are dead!

EXT BROOKE'S HOUSE

Anna and Reed walk out, laughing.

REED  
That Brooke is something else.  
Why are you friends with her?

ANNA  
We've been friends since high school.  
She might get on my nerves at times,  
but she is a good friend and is  
always looking out for me. She is  
like a sister to me.

REED  
That's good, then. I'm glad you have  
someone like that. If you ever need  
another friend, I can be that for  
you, too.

ANNA  
Thanks.

REED  
Anytime.

Anna and Reed seem to be drawn together like a magnet, and go into a hug. Before they connect, Reed's watch goes off.

REED (cont'd)  
Uh, I-I should go.

ANNA  
Y-Yeah you probably should.

REED  
Well, this was fun. Set-up and all.

ANNA  
I guess it was. We can never admit that to Brooke!

REED  
Never!

Anna laughs. Reed can't take his eyes off her, but this time Anna's phone rings. She answers and gets called in. When she gets off the phone she looks at Reed with a smile.

ANNA  
Looks like I better get to work, too.

Anna and Reed go their separate ways but glance back at each other as they walk away.

INT DEAD LETTER OFFICE - DAY

Reed tries to focus on letters but all he can think about is Anna and Dylan. Quinn walks in.

QUINN  
Hey! Glad to see you here.

REED  
Sorry, I have been wrapped up in a letter.

QUINN  
And someone special.

REED

I don't know what you are talking about.

QUINN

You can't fool me.  
I think you and Anna have a lot in common. You both are lost souls.

REED

No I think you are confused, Anna and I are nothing alike.

QUINN

You are the one who is confused if you believe that for a second.

INT - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Anna is helping someone find a book. When she sees Reed come in, she is surprised by the excitement that fills her.

ANNA

(playful)  
Looking for someone?

REED

Hey Anna, would you come with me to the group home and see if maybe we can spend some time with Dylan?

ANNA

(hesitates for a moment)  
Yes I would love to go back with you.

REED

Great! Meet at our spot?

ANNA

Our spot?

REED

I think after more than three times of meeting there that bench in Town Square is officially our spot. Don't you think?

ANNA

I guess it is.



EXT - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

This time Anna is the one waiting for Reed to show up. When she sees him walking over with a surprised smile, she tries to hide her excitement as she gets up, feeling suddenly nervous, but Reed's smile erases that feeling.

REED  
Hey! You're early?  
For what, the first time?

ANNA  
Yeah, to think.  
Not to see you or anything.  
(says playfully)

REED  
(Smirks)  
Admit it, you couldn't wait to see me?

ANNA  
I don't think that's it.

REED  
(smirks)  
I see. You know, all the girls fought over me in high school. I am irresistible.

ANNA  
Maybe in your head.

REED  
But you did show up early to meet me.

ANNA  
Yeah, you keep thinking that.  
(they share a smile,)  
then Anna looks at her watch)  
We should be on our way.

INT ST PETER'S GROUP HOME FOR BOYS - DAY

Anna and Reed walk inside and up to the counter.

REED  
We would like to spend some time with Dylan.

KATE

I am sorry, we typically don't allow that, we don't like them to get too attached to people unless you both are looking to adopt him.

Anna sneaks a nervous glance at Reed.

REED

We just want him to know someone cares about him. You can't make an exception just for today? I promise we will stay close to here just for a couple of hours.

KATE

I'm sorry, I can't. I think it's noble of you to want to help him but I am not sure what you can do for him

REED

(notices Anna give him a look before she walks out)

Thank you for your time.

EXT ST PETER'S GROUP HOME FOR BOYS

Reed follows Anna out.

ANNA

I think I can help you spend time with Dylan.

REED

Thank you, that would be incredible if you can make this happen. It means a lot to me.

ANNA

I can see how much it does.

INT - LIBRARY - DAY

Anna finds Brooke putting away some books.

BROOKE

Hey, I thought it was your day off, what are you doing here?

ANNA  
I need a favor.

BROOKE  
(smirks)  
Interesting. Go on.

INT- THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE - DAY

QUINN  
(walks in, surprised  
to see Reed)  
Why are you sorting mail? I thought  
you were meeting with Dylan today?

REED  
Turns out that is not going to work  
out unless I am looking to adopt him.

QUINN  
Are you looking to adopt him?

REED  
No, I just want to show him that  
someone cares about him.  
And maybe help him with his wish.

QUINN  
I think that is a great thing you are  
trying to do .

INT - LIBRARY - DAY

Anna is reaching for a book when Brooke's excited voice  
makes her drop it.

BROOKE  
I got it!

Anna looks to her in confusion as she picks up the book.

ANNA  
Got what?

BROOKE  
I was able to get you and Reed to  
spend time with Dylan!

ANNA  
That's great!

BROOKE  
But, you only have until Christmas.

ANNA  
Well, it's better than nothing!

Anna isn't sure why she is so excited about the news, so she hugs her. Brooke laughs.

BROOKE  
Wow, this really does mean a lot to you, huh?  
(gives Anna a knowing smirk)

ANNA  
(surprised with herself)  
Yeah, I guess it does.

Brooke smiles and turns to leave. During the day Anna can't help but glance at the entrance of the library each time someone walks in hopes that it is Reed.

BROOKE  
Looking for someone?

ANNA  
No.

BROOKE  
Uh-huh

INT - DEAD LETTER OFFICE - DAY

Reed is working through a pile of letters when Anna walks in. He stands up from his desk, placing the letter that he had been looking over on top.

REED  
Anna.

ANNA  
I haven't seen you in a couple of days. I missed you. I mean- I - I missed seeing you.

Reed smiles as he places his hands in his pockets, enjoying her nervousness and embarrassment.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I mean you haven't come by to annoy me like you usually do.

REED

(amused, he walks around the desk and stands in front of her)

Well there was no reason for me to be around. You helped me as far as you could.

ANNA

Don't be so sure. You've underestimated me. If there is something I want, I will make it happen.

He looks at her intrigued. Anna gets a mysterious smile, resulting in a curious look from Reed.

ANNA (cont'd)

It's too bad. I had good news to share, but since you weren't around...  
(she pretends to leave, and sees the smile on Reed's face)

I was able to get Brooke to convince her friend, who is the supervisor, to get you to spend time with Dylan. You have two weeks with him. That is the best she could do unless you decide to adopt him.

REED

Two weeks? That gives me until... Christmas? I am going to have to work fast.

ANNA

I'll help you.

REED

You will?

ANNA

Sure. Like you said, I know this town better than you and most people.

(MORE)

ANNA (cont'd)  
And working in a library I know things. And I used to be on the town historic committee.

REED  
Why am I not surprised?

ANNA  
By the way, that letter you were investigating was mailed 8 weeks ago to someone in a town over.

Reed glances at the letter that is on his desk not knowing how she could possibly find that out without really looking at it.

REED  
Ok, how do you know that?

ANNA  
It's a secret.

REED  
You are no ordinary librarian, are you?

ANNA  
That's for me to know and you to find out.

Reed gives her an admiring look. Anna glances around the DLO to distract herself from the connection that sparks between them.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
I always found this place interesting.

REED  
Maybe you should be the one working here.

ANNA  
I'm flattered, but no thanks. I like my job at the library. I love being surrounded by books, and helping someone find the book they were looking for; it's my happy place.

REED  
Figures you would say that.  
(MORE)

REED (cont'd)  
(teasing smile)  
It's too bad. You're really good at  
this. Probably much better than I am.

ANNA  
You may be right. I was offered to  
work here many many times.

REED  
Why doesn't it surprise me that it  
was you who Quinn was talking about?  
No wonder she was disappointed I got  
hired.

ANNA  
(her eyes meet his)  
I think you are exactly who this  
place needed. You go out of your way  
to help someone. It's not just a job  
for you.

REED  
It means a lot that you think that.

Reed and Anna's eyes remain locked, the sparks clearly  
there. Anna is starting to feel completely swept away, but  
snaps herself back to earth and breaks eye contact.

ANNA  
uh...I should get back to the  
library. I left Brooke in charge and  
that is not a good idea.

REED  
You mean our matchmaker?

ANNA  
(blushes)  
She is relentless.  
She thinks I need to date.

REED  
Do you want to date?

ANNA  
Not right now. I just want to be  
alone for a bit to gather myself  
after what happened.

REED  
I understand that more than you'll  
ever know.

ANNA  
It's nice to have someone understand  
that.

REED  
Thanks for helping me.

Reed hugs Anna in gratitude but as they pull apart, their eyes meet and suddenly both look nervously at each other before Anna leaves.

INT - REED'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reed walks in and sits on the couch.

REED  
(internal dialogue  
v.o.)  
She must be starting to fall for me.  
Why else would she be so willing to  
help me?

CHASE  
Because she likes you, duh!

REED  
(looks to see Chase sitting over by his guitar)  
Can you read my mind now, too?

CHASE  
(laughs)  
No...not really. It's more like a  
feeling I get.

REED  
How do you know she likes me?

CHASE  
I'm a ghost, I'm not stupid.

Reed grins as he gets up to sit over next to Chase.

REED  
You think I should be with Anna and  
Dylan? Why them? How could a single  
letter lead me on this journey?



CHASE

The only thing I do know is that you need to forgive yourself for that night.

Reed picks up his guitar and starts to play.

CHASE (CONT'D)

I always loved when you played that for me. Especially at Christmas time.

REED

I loved playing for you and your Mom.

CHASE

Maybe someday you can share your gift with Anna and Dylan.

INT - THE BEAN - DAY

Anna grabs her coffee and turns to leave just in time to see Reed walking in with Dylan. The surprised smile he gets when he sees her makes her own smile surface.

REED

Anna, what a surprise to see you here.

ANNA

I am here for my morning coffee before I head to the Library. I need caffeine to deal with Brooke and her ways.

REED

Good idea. I can see she can be a bit much at times.

ANNA

At times? Try all the time.

Reed smiles; Anna glances back to see Dylan on his phone.

ANNA (cont'd)

I see you're spending time with Dylan.

REED

Trying to.

ANNA  
(looks at Reed with  
admiration)  
I think what you're doing is really  
nice.

REED  
I would offer for you to join us, but  
seeing you have to work...

ANNA  
Rain-check?

REED  
Looking forward to it.

Reed and Dylan sit at a table. Dylan is quiet as he drinks  
his hot chocolate watching people come in and out.

REED (cont'd)  
I like your hat. Are you a fan of  
baseball?(pause) You know I-

DYLAN  
So, what is this exactly? Are you  
going to hang out with me for a bit  
and then I'll never see you again?

REED  
What makes you think that?

DYLAN  
Because I have been down this road  
before where I get false hopes from  
people who want to spend time with me  
and then decide I'm not good enough  
for them.

REED  
I just wanted you to know someone  
cared. And I want to get to know you  
and hopefully help you with your  
wish.

DYLAN  
Don't you have better things to do?  
I'm sure there are way more of those  
lost letters that have better reasons  
to help than me.

REED

Wanting a family seems like a good reason to me.

DYLAN

(eyes become clouded)

I am not a charity case.

REED

Let's just take this one day at a time and see where it goes. so...do you like baseball?

DYLAN

Yeah, I love baseball. I have always wanted to play on a team but never been able to.

REED

What if I could help you get on a team?

DYLAN

You would do that for me?

REED

Everyone should know what it's like to play on a team. (off Dylan's hopeful smile)  
Guess what? I was there when the Chicago Cubs broke the over 100 year old curse when they won the world series in 2016.

DYLAN

You were there? That is amazing! Why were you there? Did you like the Cubs?

REED

I used to be a sportscaster.

DYLAN

Why did you leave that to work for the post office?

REED

That is a long story. A story for another day.

DYLAN  
Ok. (pause) Maybe you could teach me  
baseball?

REED  
(looks at Dylan as  
if he was looking at  
his own son)  
I would love nothing more. I will  
take you to the batting cages someday  
soon I promise.

DYLAN  
Wait, what about today?

REED  
You want to go today?

DYLAN  
No time like the present.

REED  
Alright, then as soon as you finish  
your hot chocolate we can go.

Dylan finishes his drink in record time; Reed laughs at his excitement. They get up to leave. As Reed opens the door, he sees a coin on the floor. When he picks it up, it is heads up with the Statue of Liberty on its face. In God We Trust and Liberty seem to stick out to him.

DYLAN  
What's that?

REED  
It's a 1920s Dollar coin.

DYLAN  
Cool! It must be good luck. Better  
hang on to it.

Reed pockets the coin with a smile as Dylan walks out.

EXT BATTING CAGES - DAY

They walk in the cage and Reed puts a coin in the machine. He walks up to bat as Dylan stands to the side. He watches Reed hit ball after ball with such precision in awe.

DYLAN  
Wow, you're good. Will you show me?

REED  
Of course I will. Come over here.

Dylan eagerly joins Reed, who for the next few minutes shows him how to hit a baseball. Once he thinks he is ready, Reed walks out as Dylan swings and misses the first few.

REED (cont'd)  
You got this.

Dylan swings at a few more, misses, then finally connects with the ball. Reed is excited for him.

EXT BASEBALL FIELD - FLASHBACK

Reed and Chase are playing catch

REED  
You are going to be a huge baseball star one day.

CHASE  
I want to be a sportscaster like you.

EXT BATTING CAGES - PRESENT - DAY

DYLAN  
Are you ok?

REED  
Yeah I am fine.

DYLAN  
Do you think we can hang out again sometime?

REED  
I think we can make that happen.

Dylan has a happy look. Reed checks his watch, and feels disappointed to see the time. He puts on a smile.

REED (cont'd)  
This has been fun, but If we want any chance of hanging out again, I need to get you back on time.

EXT ST. PETER'S GROUP HOME - NIGHT

Dylan and Reed walk up to the door.

REED  
I had fun today.

DYLAN  
Yeah, me too. Thanks for teaching me  
to play ball. Will I see you again?

REED  
Yes, you will see me again.

Dylan and Reed shake hands before Dylan walks inside. Reed takes out the coin from his pocket and plays with it for a second. He smiles as he looks up where Dylan left and knows in his heart he was meant to help Dylan.

EXT - TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Reed is walking through Town Square and finds the bench where he and Anna meet; his thoughts go to her.

INT - LIBRARY - DAY

Anna is just finishing helping someone find some books, when she sees Reed walking over.

ANNA  
Reed, what are you doing here?  
Need some help checking out books?

REED  
(Smiles)  
Not exactly. I need to talk to you.  
It's important.

ANNA  
Ok...let's go back here.

She leads him to a back section of the library and he sees it's a more cozy area for reading. She sits down and gestures for him to sit next to her. Reed is momentarily transfixed by her beauty.

ANNA (cont'd)  
Reed, what's going on?

Reed sits down and collects his thoughts.

REED  
I don't know what I am doing.  
(MORE)

REED (cont'd)

Maybe I have been so caught up in everything that I am afraid I am just going to let Dylan down.

ANNA

You're not going to let him down. What makes you think you will?

REED

I only have two weeks with him and I have no plans to adopt him.

ANNA

Maybe within the two weeks you find someone who will.

REED

I think that is an insane idea. I don't exactly know many people here yet. And I have no clue how to go about finding someone looking to adopt a kid.

ANNA

Well, we are just going to have to work together to make it happen. We are a team one way or another. Dylan will get his Christmas wish.

Reed can't shake the feeling that there might be something deeper with her wanting to help him, but he would gladly take any time she gave him.

ANNA (cont'd)

(gets up and looks at Reed with a warm smile)

Don't lose hope. If anyone can help Dylan make his wish a reality it's you.

REED

Why me?

ANNA

We all were chosen for a path. Sometimes it doesn't seem clear until you take the first step.

REED

So my path is Dylan?

ANNA  
Maybe Dylan is your path.

Anna leaves Reed; as she walks away she can't deny the hopeful feeling she continuously gets around him. When Reed gets up to leave, he finds her at the desk. Before he even approaches she looks in his direction. She gives him a playful smile as she leans against the desk.

ANNA (cont'd)  
I'm going to have to start charging  
you for coming in here without  
checking out any books.

REED  
Then I better get a library card next  
time or I have a feeling I'm going to  
go broke.

Anna smiles. Reed checks his watch somewhat distractedly at first, enjoying Anna's playfulness, but realizes the time.

REED (cont'd)  
Shi!-uh

Anna tries to stifle a laugh, while he gets flustered when he notices the little girl waiting behind him to check out.

REED (cont'd)  
Uh.. I better go. I'm late for work.

He leaves and Anna watches him with a smile, even though she is checking the girl out with her books. As soon as Anna finishes with the girl Brooke comes over.

BROOKE  
Oh my God, I saw that.

ANNA  
Saw what?

BROOKE  
You were flirting with Reed.

ANNA  
I was not!

BROOKE  
You totally were. And you liked it.  
I don't think I've ever seen you look  
this way.



Anna rolls her eyes, but wonders if Brooke is seeing something she is choosing not to. She is starting to have feelings that are getting more difficult to deny. Her face flushes with warmth just thinking about Reed.

BROOKE (cont'd)  
It is written all over your face.

ANNA  
What?

BROOKE  
The fact that you are falling for Reed even if you don't want to admit it. The day you admit you like him will be a celebration.

EXT - TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Reed takes a stroll through town. He sees a hot chocolate stand and as he is waiting to get his drink he glances across the street and sees Anna at her beloved spot, and smiles instantly. He orders another drink and makes his way over. She doesn't notice him until he sits next to her.

REED  
Mind if I join you?

ANNA  
Reed. Sure. What a surprise. What brings you here?  
( smiles as he holds out a cup of hot chocolate for her)

REED  
Maybe fate.  
(Her eyes meet his as she takes it from him,)  
then he smiles as he reaches in his pocket)  
Or Good Luck. I found this coin the other day.  
(He holds it out to her)

ANNA  
(She takes it to look it over)  
Nice.  
(She hands it back to him, and lifts her hot chocolate)  
And thank you.

REED

My pleasure.  
So... what are you working on?

Anna's face glows, unsure about sharing her art but decides to be brave and hands him her book with the painting she was working on top. Reed places his cup down on the other side of him and takes it from her. Anna watches him in fascination. He seems to be taking in every detail. He finally looks up at her with a smile.

REED (cont'd)

You're good. Is that us meeting at the library?

ANNA

It felt like a significant moment.

She tries to play it off. He starts to open the book, but looks to her to ask permission. Anna nods. Reed opens it and looks through the paintings inside. There were a few of her beloved Town Square decorated for Christmas, a few of her library with one of Brooke holding a book. He laughs. Brooke happens to be passing by when she sees them.

BROOKE

Well, look who we have here. My favorite pair!

ANNA

Brooke, what are you doing here?  
Are you spying on me again?

BROOKE

Last time I checked this was a public place. I see you two are hanging out again.

ANNA

That's what friends do.

BROOKE

Whatever you say, bestie. I'll pretend I believe you.  
Have fun with your friend.

Anna rolls her eyes as Brooke walks away, then looks at Reed, embarrassed for both their sakes.

ANNA

I'm sorry about that.

REED  
I'm surprisingly getting used to it.  
Brooke will always be Brooke, but I  
am glad about one thing.

ANNA  
What?

REED  
That we have become friends.

ANNA  
I am too. Brooke is a great friend  
and all but it's nice to be friends  
with someone who understands.

REED  
You are the one person I'm glad I met  
in this town.

Reed closes the book with her paintings, seeing the one on  
top of them at the library, he smiles and then looks at her.  
He holds out the book to her.

REED (CONT'D)  
You're really good. Your paintings  
are beautiful.

ANNA  
(Blushes)  
Thank you. I've never shown my  
paintings to anyone before.

REED  
You haven't? Not even Brooke?

Anna shakes her head, her heart lifts, realizing the  
magnitude of that.

ANNA  
Not even Brooke.

Reed looks at Anna, feeling deeply touched she shared  
something so personal and special.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
You understand me in a way that most  
people don't.

REED

What do you mean? Everyone seems to know and love you in this town.

ANNA

Yes, but this is a part of me that no one else sees. These paintings have always been my way of dealing with bad times and stress. Or to escape in my own beautiful world.

REED

Well, I'm here if you need me.

ANNA

Thank you, Reed.

REED

Thank you.

ANNA

For what?

REED

Where do I begin? Everything. For one thing, being here for me when I needed a friend.

ANNA

I think we are exactly what each other needs.

REED

And thank you for sharing those paintings with me. They are really beautiful. It's pretty crazy how Brooke showed up while I was looking at the painting you did of her.

ANNA

Yeah. That was certainly interesting timing.

REED

Maybe your paintings have a magic touch.

ANNA

Maybe they do. It is Christmas time, after all.

REED  
(picks up his hot  
chocolate and lifts  
it)  
Then cheers to Christmas.

ANNA  
(knocks her cup  
against his)  
Cheers.

INT - LIBRARY - DAY

Anna can't get Reed off her mind and the nice time she had with him, so when she glances up from her cart full of books, her heart skips when she sees Reed walk in and smile as soon as he spots her. He walks over and she looks at him with a smirk.

ANNA  
You know if you keep coming in here  
people are going to start thinking  
you read a lot.

REED  
Maybe I'm not here for the books.

ANNA  
Is that so? Then what are you here  
for?

REED  
You and me, tomorrow afternoon.  
What do you think if you and I take  
Dylan hiking and then to the park?

ANNA  
Of course, I'd love to. That sounds  
like a great plan.

REED  
Great! Dylan and I will pick you up  
at 1pm sharp.

ANNA  
You don't know where I live.

REED  
(He places his hands  
on the cart and  
smiles playfully)  
You could tell me.

ANNA  
(Jokes)  
I could tell you but then I might  
have to kill you.

REED  
(Raises his eyebrow;  
he lets go of the  
cart)  
Ok... or, I could pick you up here?

ANNA  
(Laughs)  
Fine, I live at 2200 Firestone Lane.

REED  
(locks eyes with her)  
Great, then I will see you tomorrow?

ANNA  
mhm.

REED  
(stares at her for a  
moment, enamored by  
her)  
Uh...I have to get to the post  
office, and uh.. work.

He is flustered as if he was a boy asking out his crush,  
especially seeing the amused look in her eyes.

ANNA  
Ok.

REED  
(starts to walk away  
backwards)  
I better...

ANNA  
Yeah.

Once Reed leaves, Anna laughs and starts to put the books  
away again, when Brooke comes out from behind the bookcase.

BROOKE  
I Knew it!

ANNA  
You know nothing.

BROOKE  
Other than Reed just asked you out on  
a date.

ANNA  
It's not a date! We are friends.  
I am just helping him out with Dylan

BROOKE  
It's a date in every sense of the  
word.

Anna shakes her head as if she knows Brooke is right but  
doesn't want to admit that.

INT DEAD LETTER OFFICE -DAY

Reed can't stop daydreaming about Anna. Every time he tries  
to focus on his work tasks his mind drifts to her. Quinn  
walks over and shakes him.

QUINN  
Woah. Are you ok?

REED  
Yeah I am fine, why?

QUINN  
You look like you are lost in  
thought.

REED  
Sorry, I was thinking about Anna.

QUINN  
Wow, you really do like her, huh?

REED  
Yeah, she is pretty amazing.

QUINN

Everyone loves her. After she and her ex broke up everyone basically ran him out of town.

REED

Is that a warning?

QUINN

You are nothing like her ex. He was never right for Anna. All he wanted was a perfect wife who took care of him but I'll let her tell you the rest when she is ready.

Quinn walks away. Reed wonders what the story is about her ex, but he is sure Anna would tell him when she felt comfortable.

INT ANNA'S SUNROOM - NIGHT

Anna is sitting with her cup of tea next to her and her paints ready, only tonight her mind is occupied with thoughts of Reed even though she swore to herself she would never date or fall in love again. She tries to paint but she can't seem to focus. She puts the paintbrush down.

INT REED'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reed walks in and turns on the light and sees Chase sitting by his guitar.

CHASE

You seem happier here. I think your job delivering lost letters and Anna and Dylan are good for you.

REED

I'll always need you in my life. I can't bare to lose you again. You will always be my son even if we are worlds apart.

CHASE

We are never really apart. I'm with you everyday even if you can't see me.

Chase disappears. Seeing the empty space next to his guitar, Reed feels overwhelmed by the sudden onslaught of feelings, he can't bear to be in his house at the moment. He turns around and walks out the front door.



EXT THE BRIDGE- NIGHT

Reed walks across the bridge and stands looking up at the stars in the sky. Anna walks up and is surprised to see Reed here of all places. Brooke's words seem to echo in her mind.

*BROOKE (V.O)*

*The fact that you two keep showing up in the exact same place at the exact same time should tell you something.*

*ANNA (V.O.)*

*It's a small town and the places to go are limited.*

*BROOKE (V.O.)*

*You call it what you want but I call it fate.*

ANNA

Reed? What are you doing here?

REED

I needed to think about things, and this seemed like a nice spot to stop and do that. What are you doing here? It's nearly midnight!

ANNA

The same thing you are. I needed to sort things out in my head.

REED

What's on your mind?

ANNA

I don't really want to talk about it.

Anna steps over beside him and looks up at the stars as he was before. Reed watches her.

REED

If this is your spot to think away from Town Square I will move along.

ANNA

(grabs Reed's arm as he starts to leave)  
Reed, wait! You don't have to leave, you can stay. Please stay.

Reed smiles as he rejoins her; they stand side by side with their thoughts thinking about each other. After several minutes of silence, Reed reaches for Anna's hand, but hesitates. Anna glances at Reed and then back up at the sky trying to hide her smile, wondering what he was thinking about. She sensed he could use something to lighten his pensive mood.

ANNA (cont'd)  
You know stars don't actually twinkle.

REED  
You don't say?

ANNA  
It simply appears that way because of Earth's atmosphere.

Reed smiles as he admires her looking up at the stars. She smiles before she looks at him.

ANNA (cont'd)  
Lucky for us we get to see them look even more beautiful.

Reed can't take his eyes off her, finding her more enchanting the more he is around her. Their eyes are locked on each other, the spark that seemed to be present between them continuously flickering. Anna looks away.

ANNA (cont'd)  
I-I think I better go.  
Good night Reed.

REED  
Good night, Anna.  
(as Anna starts to walk away)  
We're still on for tomorrow right?

ANNA  
(turns back and gives him a smile)  
Looking forward to it.

REED  
Great.

Anna smiles and turns to walk away, wondering if maybe her heart wasn't as locked as she thought it was. Each time she was around Reed she found it unlocking more and more.

Reed watches Anna leave and then looks back up at the sky.

INT REED'S BEDROOM - DAY

Reed is awakened by Chase jumping up and down on his bed.

CHASE  
Good Morning Dad! Today is the day!

REED  
And what day is that?

CHASE  
The day you finally hang out with  
Dylan and Anna together.

REED  
(laughs)  
What do you really think is going to  
happen? We are going hiking.

CHASE  
The journey is just starting. All  
will be revealed at the right time.  
Now get up out of bed. You have to  
look nice!

REED  
You are a bossy ghost. And hey, what's  
that supposed to mean?

CHASE  
I know how you can be, you always  
need that extra push in the right  
direction.

REED  
Oh, you know how I am, do you?

CHASE  
Yes I do. I might be a ghost, but  
I'm still your kid!

REED  
You know, I didn't know ghosts were  
so sarcastic.

CHASE

Well this one is. Now chop-chop! Time's ticking! You need to get up or you are going to be late.

In a glow of light, a watch appears on Reed's wrist.

REED

How did that get there?

CHASE

I have my ways.

Reed gets out of bed, grinning at his son. He couldn't believe he was actually talking to his son. As a ghost! It was crazy, but he was starting to really enjoy getting to see him more and more.

INT ANNA'S SUNROOM - DAY

Anna is in her sunroom thinking about the plans she has with Reed. She checks her watch and realizes she is running behind. She puts down her book and heads to her room.

INT ANNA'S BEDROOM - DAY

She is flustered as she pulls out clothes while standing in front of the mirror and gets dressed.

ANNA

It's not a date.

It's not a date.

Yeah...

(rolls her eyes)

Yeah right. Thanks Brooke.

EXT ST. PETER'S GROUP HOME - DAY

DYLAN

(gets in the car)

I'm kind of excited. I've never been hiking before.

REED

I found this awesome spot that I think you will like. We are picking up my friend, Anna, who will come hiking with us. It should be fun. You actually know her. She works at the library you go to all the time.

Dylan looks intrigued, but remains silent. They set off to go and pick up Anna at her house.

EXT ANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

When they park, Anna is just exiting her house. As soon as Reed sees Anna step out of her front door, he can't stop himself from getting out to greet her. Dylan also gets out.

DYLAN

Hey!

ANNA

Hi Dylan, nice to see you again. Or should I call you Skywalker?

Dylan laughs. Anna pats him on the shoulder, when Reed comes around.

REED

Hi

ANNA

Hi.

They both are happy to see each other. The smiles and looks linger until the looks they give become electric. Anna feels overwhelmed by the increasing connection they have and tries to tell a joke to distract from the intensity. She laughs before she even says her joke; Reed smiles.

ANNA (cont'd)

(grinning)

What did the letter say to the stamp?

REED

What?

ANNA

(pushes his shoulder  
playfully)

Stick with me and you'll go places.

Reed laughs, and that results in Anna to laugh a bit more. He then smiles seeing this joyful side of her and doesn't miss the opportunity to tease her.

REED

I sure hope you're better at hiking than you are at telling jokes.

They both laugh, Anna feels her face warm. Dylan watches them in amusement.

DYLAN  
You can take shot-gun this time,  
Anna.

ANNA  
Oh! Thank you.

Reed reaches for the door to open it for her as she is; when their hands touch they look at each other and share a smile. As they all drive together, Dylan sees sparks flying between Reed and Anna, he wonders if they like each other.

EXT - HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Reed, Dylan and Anna hike through the beautiful winter forest. Anna looks at Reed with a smile, realizing just how amazing it was that he was doing this. Reed notices Anna looking at him. She walks ahead, glancing back at him before she catches up to Dylan.

ANNA  
Hey, having a good time?

DYLAN  
Hey, yah, I am.

ANNA  
(nudges his shoulder  
playfully)  
It's great to see you outside of the  
library.

DYLAN  
(gets a little  
embarrassed)  
Yeah, I guess it is. This is a lot of  
fun being here with you both. I love  
this place.

ANNA  
Can I tell you a secret?  
(off Dylan's nod)  
I am having a blast, too.

DYLAN  
(smirks)  
Why is that a secret?

ANNA

I think you and I have a lot in common. We immerse ourselves in books to escape into a different world.

DYLAN

How did you know that I did that?

ANNA

Call it a feeling.

Nearly an hour into their hike...

DYLAN

So, where is this cool place you said you found? Are we almost there?

REED

Special things take time. It's about another half hour. Trust me it's worth it. Why don't we take a few minutes to recharge?

They agree and find some fallen trees to sit on.

ANNA

(leans into Reed)

So, you found a special place, huh?

REED

(looks at her with a smile)

I have a feeling you will love it.

ANNA

You do?

REED

It made me think of you.

Anna has an admiring look, but then she sits up and closes her eyes taking a deep breath. Reed watches her for a moment, seeing how beautiful and carefree she looks.

DYLAN

Ok, let's go! I can't wait to see this place. It better be awesome!

Dylan is already walking ahead. Reed and Anna laugh at how excited he is. Reed gets up and holds his hands out for Anna. She smiles and places her hands in his and he pulls

her up. Their eyes meet for a moment, before Anna moves past him, brushing his shoulder as she does. Nearly half an hour later they reach a stream.

REED  
We are almost there. Just on the other side of this stream and through all those trees ahead.

Dylan quickly makes his way across the stream. Anna watches him, a smile forming, seeing just how happy he is to be here. She isn't paying attention enough and slips, surprised when Reed catches her, his arms wrapping around her. Between the cold air, her slip, his swift movement and their eyes meeting, it's impossible to deny sparks are flying.

REED (cont'd)  
I knew it!

ANNA  
(breathless tone)  
Knew what?

REED  
That you are just as bad at hiking as telling jokes.

Anna shoves his shoulder. Reed laughs and helps her up. They both smile, but the look in Reed's eyes soften.

REED (cont'd)  
Don't worry, I still think you're amazing.

He holds his hand out for her, she takes it, but stares at him as they cross the stream together. Dylan notices the connection they have, and smiles when they reach him.

EXT - MAGICAL WINTER FOREST HIDEAWAY - DAY

They walk through rows of snow-capped Christmas trees that create a pathway to a small clearing. As soon as they walk through the landscape opens up into a cascading waterfall. Reed grins as he sees the expressions from Dylan and Anna.

DYLAN  
Woah!! This is awesome!

Anna stares on for a moment, completely enthralled before she looks at Reed in awe.



ANNA  
How do you know about this place?

REED  
I just found it.

ANNA  
This can't be possible.  
(eyes are shining)  
I always used to come here, uh...  
whenever I fought with my ex, to just  
get away from everything.

REED  
Are you serious?

ANNA  
I've always come here a different  
way. Your way is so much more  
beautiful.

Reed stares at her for a long moment, seeing the glossiness in her eyes, how stunning she is, and how much he feels, he can't stop himself from taking her hand in his. She squeezes his hand, but her eyes stay ahead for a moment before she looks at him, the look in her eyes taking his breath away.

EXT THE PARK -DAY

Dylan, Reed and Anna are walking through the park and go past a basketball court.

DYLAN  
Hey Reed, do you play basketball?

REED  
Yes, I love basketball, it's one of  
my favorite sports. It was the last  
game I covered... before...

DYLAN  
Feel like losing today?

REED  
Such big talk coming from someone  
shorter than me.

DYLAN  
I am a bit cocky, but I play all the  
time at the group home, and my team  
always wins.

REED  
I see, huh, well let's go play. I see  
a ball over on the court.

They walk over to the court. Dylan goes to grab the  
basketball. Reed looks at Anna with a playful smile.

REED (cont'd)  
Want to play, too?

ANNA  
I think I'll sit this one out. Why  
don't I grab us all some hot  
chocolate and Christmas cookies?

REED  
I will never say no to hot chocolate  
and Christmas cookies.

Anna laughs.

DYLAN  
Hey Reed, catch!

In an instant Reed catches the basketball that Dylan threw  
at him. As soon as his hands touch the ball, he freezes, and  
the sound of the ball hitting the floor echoes in his head.

EXT -DRIVEWAY - FLASHBACK - 6 YEARS AGO - NIGHT

The basketball bounces several times on the driveway.

CHASE  
Dad, watch me! I can make the shot!

As Chase shoots the ball into the basket, Reed's phone rings  
and he answers.

CHASE (CONT'D)  
Yay! Dad, did you see?

REED  
Good job, bud.

Reed pats his son's shoulder before he walks into the house,  
and ties his tie, Reed is so wrapped up in his phone call,  
he forgets that his son is outside playing. All he hears is  
the chattering on the other end of the phone and the light  
bouncing of the ball.

EXT BASKETBALL COURT PRESENT - DAY

Anna tries to get Reed's attention, but it's like he is in another world. She steps closer and places her hand gently on his shoulder. He seems to finally snap out of the daze he is in, and looks at Anna with a glossy look in his eyes. Concern takes over Anna.

REED

( voice cracking )

The last time I played basketball was with Chase before the accident. I haven't played or even touched a basketball in 6 years. Today brought back all those memories from that night.

Anna watches his eyes, seeing all that sadness make its way to the surface

ANNA

Do you want to talk about it?

REED

Later but now is not the time. I have to do this for Dylan.

ANNA

But you know I am always here for you whenever you are ready to talk.

REED

Thank you, that means a lot to me.

She takes his hand and gives it a gentle squeeze.

DYLAN

Hey, are we going to play or what? Did you chicken out?

ANNA

(her eyes drift from  
Reed's to Dylan)

I'm going to get some hot chocolate and cookies? Want some?

DYLAN

Yeah, that would be great. Thanks Anna.

Anna smiles at Dylan, and gives Reed a reassuring look before she walks away. Reed takes a calming breath and

bounces the ball. Soon enough with each movement and seeing Dylan happy gives him the courage to keep going. Reed checks the ball to Dylan, who pulls a fade away move on him and heads straight to the basket and scores.

Anna comes back over and sits down to watch. She can see they are having a good time. Dylan notices Reed's eyes light up as soon as he sees Anna walk back over; and notices the continued sneaking glances from Reed to Anna while they play. Tied with one more basket, Dylan looks at Reed with a smirk.

DYLAN (cont'd)  
 (In a low voice so  
 only he can hear  
 directed at Reed)  
 You are so toast!

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
 (Dylan looks at Anna  
 and waves)  
 Hey Anna! Check this out!

Like he guessed would happen, Reed looks from him to Anna. In that split second, Dylan charges ahead, takes a spin around Reed, and runs up slamming the basketball in the hoop.

REED  
 How'd you do that?

DYLAN  
 (grins)  
 Never let your guard down.

Dylan glances at Anna, and at that moment he knew that Reed knew he had found out his secret. Reed shakes his head, trying to hide his embarrassment. Dylan laughs.

DYLAN (cont'd)  
 Score's now 20-18! Looks like I win!  
 What a shocker. You better stick to  
 baseball.

REED  
 Rematch is coming your way

DYLAN  
 Bring it on! I will be ready anytime  
 you are.

Dylan runs over as Anna gets up, giving her a high five.

ANNA  
Nice move back there.

DYLAN  
Thanks! I found out Reed's weakness.

ANNA  
Oh yah, and what's that?

Dylan glances back to Reed who was walking over and then smiles as he looks at Anna.

DYLAN  
(leans close and  
pretend-whispers)  
I'll tell you next time.

ANNA  
(smiles and pretend-  
whispers back)  
Ok

Anna laughs as Dylan runs off and picks up the basketball as he does. Reed joins Anna who smiles at him.

REED  
Well, that was a bust.

ANNA  
You had some tough competition.  
You'll get him next time.

REED  
I'm not so sure. He's pretty good.

ANNA  
He did mention that he knows your  
weakness.

REED  
(tries to read  
Anna's expressions)  
He did, huh? Did he say what it was?

ANNA  
Nope, but he did say he will tell me  
next time, so I'll keep you posted.

Reed's heart races at the cute and playful smile she has and knows he is in big trouble. It's becoming almost impossible to hide his feelings about her. Anna nudges him playfully.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Now, come on. I got you a star cookie.

Reed laughs as he takes the cookie and chocolate from her, his eyes never leaving hers. Her smile lifts his heart and he forgets all of his worries and problems with her.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(she leans close and whispers)

You did an amazing thing for him today. I know it couldn't have been easy.

Dylan, Reed, and Anna have their hot chocolates and cookies, chatting in between.

DYLAN

I had so much fun today being with you both.

REED

I had fun, too. It's the most fun I've had in a long time.

Reed notices a glow before Chase appears on the court in the distance and gives him a smile before he turns and throws a basketball into the net, disappearing as he does.

ANNA

I had a lot of fun today, too. We should hang out again sometime.

DYLAN

That would be cool. I am always available since I am on Christmas break. That's why I'm at the library all the time.

ANNA

Come by anytime.

DYLAN

I will.

Reed is watching Anna with Dylan and knows he is falling in love with her. He checks his watch.

REED

Hate to break this party up, but we have to take you back home. We must play by the rules in order to keep spending time with you.

DYLAN

Ok. Then I guess we have to.

EXT TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Reed walks through town and sees Anna in her spot. He goes over and notices her looking sad. He sits next to her.

REED

Hey, are you ok?

ANNA

(looks up from her book)

Hey! Yeah, I am ok.  
(she can sense he is skeptical but appreciates that he listens)  
I had a great time today with you and Dylan.

REED

Today was a blast. Dylan is a pretty great kid. And I love spending time with you.

ANNA

It definitely was the best day I have had in a long time just being with you and Dylan. It reminded me it's ok to be happy, something I haven't felt in a long time, but it also brought back a lot of pain from my past.

Reed wants to ask but doesn't want to push her, so he watches her for a minute as she returns to her sketch. He smiles seeing that it's of him and Dylan playing basketball

REED

Do you always paint everything you see?

Anna smiles as she pulls out a painting of them all at the waterfall surrounded by the snow and Christmas trees.

ANNA

Yes, I love making them. Sketching and painting was my escape when my marriage was going south. I would do them to help with the sadness I felt.

REED

Can I ask what happened?

ANNA

I wanted kids and he didn't so we grew apart and argued all the time. One day he finally left and I haven't seen him. I just got my divorce finalized.

REED

Is that why you had a good time today with me and Dylan?

ANNA

It's one of the reasons.  
(smiles and playfully bumps his shoulder)  
I also like hanging out with you.

Their eyes meet for a moment, Reed tries to hide his smile.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a question?

REED

Of course.

ANNA

Why North Point?

REED

I'm starting to see it was to meet you.

ANNA

Me?

REED

And Dylan, of course.  
(MORE)



REED (cont'd)  
(Anna smiles nudging  
his shoulder again;  
Reed smirks)  
But really, I just needed to start  
over so I picked a place as far away  
from LA as I could get.  
Or maybe this place picked me.

INT REED'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

INT REED'S BEDROOM - DREAM

Reed catches the basketball in his hands.

CHASE  
Dad, you need to go to North point!

REED  
North Point? Why am I needed in a  
small town?

Reed tosses the ball back to Chase and they continue to toss  
it to each other as they talk.

CHASE  
Just trust me, it's where you can  
start over. You can make a real  
difference.

REED  
I guess I am going to North Point.

Chase smiles and tosses the ball one last time that fades  
into another flashback.

INT REED'S DINING ROOM - FLASHBACK - DAY

Reed is sitting at the kitchen table working on his laptop  
when Jason walks in and sits down.

JASON  
Hey, what are you up to?

REED  
Plotting my next move. I am leaving  
LA. I can't be here anymore. I will  
never deal with what happened and be  
stuck in this endless loop if I don't  
move on with my life.

JASON

Where are you going to go?

REED

A place called North Point. I think it's exactly what I need. It's a small town where I can finally heal and become myself again, where no one knows what happened or who I am.

JASON

Then I'm coming to North Point with you in case you need me.

EXT - TOWN SQUARE - PRESENT - NIGHT

ANNA

Well, whatever brought you here, I'm glad.

(they smile at each other)

It's nice having someone I could trust after everything that happened.

Reed looks at Anna thoughtfully, knowing that couldn't have been easy for her to do.

REED

I'm glad I can be here for you. No matter how you feel about me I will always be your friend.

ANNA

Thank you.

INT REED'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reed walks in, turns on the light and sees Chase sitting next to the guitar.

CHASE

You looked really happy today with Dylan and Anna.

REED

Yeah I had a great time.  
(sits down next to Dylan but feels guilty for feeling happy)

CHASE  
I think they are what you need in  
your life to help you move on.

REED  
I don't want to move on. Not away  
from you.

CHASE  
I will always be with you. Everything  
will be ok. With you, me, Dylan.  
(Teases)  
and Anna.  
I see the way she looks at you.

REED  
Is that so?  
Yes, I must have officially lost it.  
I have been chatting with a ghost.

CHASE  
(laughs)  
Someone had to show you the way that  
you were not seeing.

REED  
You will always be my son. I love you  
and I am sorry about that night and  
if I could change that night I would.

CHASE  
I know that Dad and I forgive you.

Chase vanishes, leaving Reed in tears.

INT THE BEAN - DAY

Anna and Brooke take their coffees at the counter and go to  
find a table.

BROOKE  
So, tell me everything!  
How was your date?

ANNA  
It wasn't a date.

BROOKE  
It sure sounded like a date.

ANNA

We were just two people hanging out hiking. And spending time with Dylan..

BROOKE

mhm... keep living in that denial.

ANNA

We are friends and nothing more.

BROOKE

Fine! whatever!

ANNA

Not fine, whatever! We are.

BROOKE

You are my best friend. I know you. And I don't believe you for a second. If I had a guy like that wanting to be with me who I have a connection with I would be with him no matter what my past told me.

ANNA

Then I will be happy for you.

BROOKE

Gosh, you're stubborn! Not all men are your ex. Some actually have a heart.

ANNA

I am just not there yet. I'm not ready to love again.

BROOKE

Will you ever be ready?

ANNA

I don't know.

BROOKE

Well don't wait too long or you might miss out on someone special.

Anna stares at her coffee, contemplating Brooke's words, hating to admit, even to herself, knowing she was right. Her

thoughts go to Reed and how much she has enjoyed getting to know him and wonders if he could be her someone special.

EXT THE BRIDGE - DAY

Reed is looking up at the sky imagining what his son is doing in heaven, Jason walks over.

JASON  
Hey! Where have you been these days?  
I was getting ready to send a search  
party for you. I haven't seen you.

REED  
Yeah, I have been busy.

JASON  
Still seeing your...you know... ghost  
son?

REED  
(looks sad)  
Yeah.

JASON  
Isn't that a good thing?

REED  
No, because when he leaves he will  
really be gone. I'm not ready for  
that.

JASON  
(Places his hand on  
his shoulder)  
So did you ever see that kid? The one  
with the letter?

REED  
Dylan. Yeah. We have connected. He is  
a great kid.

JASON  
Then what's the problem?

REED  
The problem is he needs a family!  
and I don't know how I'm going to  
make that happen by Christmas!

JASON  
By Christmas?

REED  
Exactly! The thing is the more time I spend with him the more I know I need to make his wish come true.

JASON  
You're getting close to him?

REED  
He is not the only one I'm getting close to. I think I'm falling for Anna. She is really amazing. We've become friends, but the more time I spend with her.

JASON  
The more you like her. Look, I'm happy you have a friend in her, but just be careful. I don't want to see you getting hurt.

REED  
I appreciate you looking out for me.

JASON  
I'll see you later. I just wanted to make sure you're good.

Jason leaves Reed, and Reed wonders what he is going to do now that he is falling in love, and how he is going to help Dylan find his family.

EXT THE PARK - DAY

Dylan and Anna grab some hot chocolate and stroll through the park.

DYLAN  
Reed is probably at work, huh?

ANNA  
Probably. I know you like Reed, I hope it's ok that we hang out?

DYLAN  
Definitely, you're pretty cool.

ANNA

I think you're pretty cool, too. I had a lot of fun with you and Reed on the hike.

DYLAN

Me too!

ANNA

So... how are you? Besides knowing what you love to read and seeing you in the library all the time, I don't know much about you.

DYLAN

(Shrugs)

I like comic books, science and sports. Basically anything with space and superheroes.

ANNA

Hence telling me your name was Skywalker.

DYLAN

Yeah, I didn't want you to know my real name.

ANNA

How come?

DYLAN

I don't like telling anyone my name or getting attached to people, because they always leave.

ANNA

You know that Reed and I are not going anywhere and are here for you always.

DYLAN

I know it's different with you two. I feel lucky to have met you both.

ANNA

I feel lucky too.

Anna and Dylan walk through the playground, and Dylan gives her a smirk.

DYLAN  
Want to go on the swings?

ANNA  
Sure.

They take to the swings.

DYLAN  
(grinning)  
So, do you like Reed?

ANNA  
What? No!  
(responding to  
Dylan's look)  
Maybe!

DYLAN  
(laughs)  
I knew it.

ANNA  
(blushes)  
Why do you ask?

DYLAN  
Besides the fact you two can't stop  
looking at each other.  
(gives her a knowing  
smile, as Anna feels  
her face get warmer)  
I figure if you like Reed, and I like  
both of you, maybe you could become  
my family.

Anna doesn't know how to respond; she still isn't sure this is what she wants to have happen.

DYLAN (CONT'D)  
I bet I can swing higher than you!

Anna watches him run back and swing forward. She tries to put on a brave smile; in her mind she is nervous about what Dylan just confessed to her. When she takes Dylan back to the group home, before he goes inside he hugs her tightly.

DYLAN  
Thank you for a great afternoon.



ANNA  
I had a nice time, too.

She says quietly as she returns his hug. When Dylan releases himself and walks inside, Anna sheds a tear down her cheek realizing what she was missing when she was with her ex.

EXT REED'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Anna pulls up in front. She gets out of the car and walks up to the door, hesitates for a moment, then finally knocks. Reed opens it.

REED  
Anna, what are you doing here?

ANNA  
Can I come in?

REED  
Of course.

After she walks inside, they both sit on the couch; he can see how nervous she is.

REED (cont'd)  
Are you ok?

ANNA  
I'm not sure at the moment. I took Dylan to the park this afternoon and we had a great time.

REED  
Ok...what's the problem?

ANNA  
(eyes get glossy)  
The problem is he is looking for a family! I am worried we are only going to break his heart, and ours if we get too attached to each other. We need to talk about where this is going because I don't want us to all wind up heartbroken if this isn't going anywhere.

Reed stands and starts pacing. The look on his face shifts.

REED  
The truth is I don't know yet.

ANNA  
This can't be a halfway thing.

REED  
You think I don't know that!

ANNA  
What's wrong?

Reed continues pacing for a moment. He faces the window, but then picks up the photo from the mantle and shows it to her, with tears in his eyes.

REED  
This is my son Chase. He was 8 years old in this photo. It was the last one I took of him before I let him die.

ANNA  
(walks over to him and places her hand on his arm)  
It was an accident.

REED  
I can't let him down again.

ANNA  
What do you mean?

REED  
(sighs and runs his hand through his hair)  
You will think I'm nuts, but I'm still seeing my son...only, he is a ghost. He thinks that I'm the one to help Dylan find his family.

ANNA  
And do you believe that?

REED  
How else do you explain to me starting at the post office that led me to Dylan's letter?

ANNA  
Reed, I-

REED

I know this must sound crazy to you, but it can't be a coincidence that Dylan's letter was my first letter here. I was meant to be the one to see it and help him.

ANNA

I believe you.

REED

You do?

ANNA

Yes, how else can we explain all this? This is now not only Dylan's Christmas wish, but your son's, yours and mine. I will not rest until we find Dylan a family together.

Reed looks at Anna, and knows that he was falling in love with her. He is deeply touched that she wanted to help him.

REED

Thank you.

The look in Reed's eyes takes Anna's breath away, so her response comes out in a quiet tone.

ANNA

I'm happy to help.

REED

Why don't you stick around for a while? Can I make you something? I ran out of coffee. Do you like tea?

ANNA

Sure. I love tea.

As Reed walks into the kitchen, Anna watches him and she smiles wondering how she could deny the strong connection she has to him.

INT BROOKE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

She looks through the window seeing Anna's car still there.

BROOKE

I knew it.

INT REED'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reed and Anna lose complete track of time having such a good time talking.

REED

Ok, so let me get this straight. You were president of the art club and captain of the science, math and chess teams? And you worked at the library between classes?

ANNA

Mhm...

REED

I knew it!

ANNA

Knew what?

REED

That you are secretly a nerd.

ANNA

(blushes)

There's nothing wrong with being a little nerdy.

REED

No, there isn't. It's one of the things I love about you.

Anna stares at Reed, her heart inflating at his words and sweet gaze. She glances at her watch to break some of the magnetic force that seems to be intensifying between them.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Wow, I had no idea it had gotten so late. It's after midnight. I should get going.

REED

Guess you lose track of time when you are with great company.

Anna stands up and gets ready to leave when Reed stands and grabs her hand gently.

REED (cont'd)

I had a really great time tonight. I'm glad you came over.

ANNA

So am I.

Their eyes meet and the sparks seem to intensify the more they interact with each other.

REED

Tomorrow I am picking Dylan up and taking him to the ballpark. Do you want to come?

ANNA

I'd love to!

Reed smiles, but then Anna shakes her head, slipping her hand from his.

ANNA (cont'd)

Except, I just remembered, I can't tomorrow. I have to be at the library until late.

REED

Ok. Then, next time.

Reed stares at her, transfixed by her. Anna is caught up in his looks, but breaks the moment to head for the door; Reed walks up to open it for her. They wind up really close, their eyes meet again, this time the pull is too strong, and Reed leans in to kiss her. Anna is caught up in the moment. Before their lips nearly meet, she turns her face and he catches her cheek. He looks at her and can't help the smile that forms seeing her embarrassed look.

ANNA

(Laughs nervously)  
Why can't you go to the world's biggest library?

REED

(playful smile)  
Why?

ANNA

It's always overbooked.

He laughs, and feels even more enamored by her.

REED

Good night, Anna.

ANNA

Good Night.

EXT REED'S HOUSE - NIGHT

As Anna walks outside to her car, she glances back and sees Reed still at the door watching her with a smile. She smiles, her heart lifting. She hadn't felt like this before.

INT - DYLAN'S ROOM - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

Dylan is sitting on his bed tossing a ball at the wall and catches it. He reaches under his pillow and takes out a book - Journey To The Center of The Earth - and opens the front cover.

*Mom's writing**Happy birthday to my special boy.**You are the light of my life now and always will be.**No matter how far apart we are, I will always be with you.**I hope you always find adventure, and remember:**"While there is life there is hope"**Love, mom.*

INT DYLAN'S HOUSE KITCHEN - FLASHBACK - DAY

Dylan is sitting at the kitchen counter with his book open reading out loud while his mom is baking cookies. She takes the cookies from the oven, and Dylan hugs her as soon as she places them down.

INT DYLAN BEDROOM - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Dylan lays in bed as his mom reads from the book.

DYLAN'S MOM

'You are reasoning like a man with no will-power or energy. Then haven't you given up hope?' I cried

irritably. 'No, certainly not,' the Professor replied in a firm voice.

'What! You still think there's a chance of escape?' 'Yes, I do. As long as this heart goes on beating, I can't admit that any creature endowed with will-power should ever despair.'

'What splendid words!'

Dylan's Mom closes the book. Transition to present.

INT - DYLAN'S ROOM - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

Dylan closes the book, and quickly wipes the tear from his cheek. He cuts out the light and places the book back under his pillow.

INT LIBRARY - DAY

Anna can't keep the smile away as she helps patrons check out books. Brooke notices how much she was in positive spirits the whole day. When she is on break and Anna is putting away books in the kids section, Brooke comes over.

BROOKE  
Look at you!

ANNA  
What?

BROOKE  
You're glowing!

ANNA  
(blushes)  
What? Don't be ridiculous.

BROOKE  
(grinning)  
Oh my God, why don't you just admit that you like Reed!

Anna's eyes grow, how loud Brooke was making her nervous and shushes her; Brooke laughs.

BROOKE (cont'd)  
What, like these kids are going to tell?

Anna blushes, realizing how silly that was, and that Brooke was right about her liking Reed.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
So I take it things are going well? I saw your car over by his place.

ANNA  
Fine, I admit, it's going well, but what are you doing spying on me?

BROOKE

He is my neighbor. Just happened to  
look through the window.

Brooke casually picks up a few books from the cart to help  
put them back.

ANNA

At midnight?

BROOKE

Ok, it was like 9 when I checked and  
your car was still there!

(Her eyes grow in  
realization and she  
drops one of the  
books in her hand)

Wait! Midnight?! Oh my God, you are  
totally in love with him!

ANNA

I am not!

BROOKE

Uh-huh! Keep telling yourself that.

Anna holds up the book to shield them from the kids nearby  
and whispers.

ANNA

Can you keep a secret?

BROOKE

(Grins)

yes!

ANNA

Shh!

(whispers)

I think I do like him.

BROOKE

(cheers with a  
beaming smile)

AHH! I knew it!

ANNA

(smacks her with the  
book she was  
holding)

I said shh! This is a library!

Anna smacks her again with the book before she walks away  
leaving her with the task of putting the books back.



BROOKE

hey!

The kids see the interaction and giggle. Brooke looks at them.

BROOKE (cont'd)

At least she finally admitted it!

Brooke puts the books back as quickly as she can and walks over to catch Anna as she speeds up, trying to get away from her but they meet back up at the counter.

EXT - BALLPARK - DAY

Dylan notices Reed seems more happy than usual. While they are playing ball, Reed strikes out badly.

DYLAN

Hello!! Are you on Earth?  
Or are you dreaming about Anna?

Reed is surprised, but then shrugs, the simple mention of Anna getting him smiling.

REED

Can you blame me?

DYLAN

(laughs)

Nah, she is pretty cool. I like her.  
She has always been really nice to me  
whenever I come to the library and I  
love spending time with you two.

REED

(pats him on the  
back)

You're up. I am focused now, so  
better not strike out!

DYLAN

Yeah right, all I have to say is  
Anna, and you will forget everything!

Reed smiles and pulls Dylan close, draping his arm across his shoulder.

REED

Come on, let's play a few rounds,  
then burgers and shakes on me.

DYLAN  
Cool! Prepare to pay up!

REED  
What? money? How much?

DYLAN  
No! Though, I could use \$10,000  
bucks!  
(laughs)  
I'm kidding, I just meant we will go  
to the arcade if I hit a home run.

REED  
Batter up!

Reed tosses the bat to Dylan who smiles as he catches it.  
They play for a while.

DYLAN  
Just admit it! I'm way better at  
baseball than you are!

REED  
Alright, I might be a little off my  
game.

DYLAN  
Yeah, because you can't stop dreaming  
about Anna.

Reed gently shoves him, making Dylan laugh.

REED  
Let me take you to the arcade.

DYLAN  
(smirks)  
I have a better idea.

INT - LIBRARY - DAY

Brooke finally finishes putting away books and helping out  
people coming in , and comes over to the desk where Anna is  
checking someone out.

BROOKE  
I knew I would break your shell  
eventually.

ANNA

Alright, I finally admit it! Are you happy?

BROOKE

Yes, because you admit I was right all along.

ANNA

Fine, will you lay off now?

BROOKE

Not a chance.

ANNA

You are the worst best friend ever.

BROOKE

Maybe so, but you love me! I knew I was right. I know you better than you think. I saw it from the moment you two laid eyes on each other.

ANNA

I didn't want to believe it before, but I admit it. I like him. How could I not like him? He is the complete opposite from my ex. He actually listens to me when we talk.  
(has a dreamy look)  
He makes me feel...nice.

BROOKE

(smiles and says  
flirtingly)  
And Special?

ANNA

(nods with a smile)  
Yeah. I showed him my paintings!

BROOKE

What? No way! You don't even show me your paintings!

ANNA

(Whispers)  
I know.

BROOKE

Wow. He's really something, huh?

ANNA

Yeah, he is. He genuinely wants to help others. He also likes kids. He is going out of his way to try to make Dylan's wish come true, this kid he doesn't even know.

BROOKE

And we know how your ex felt about kids.

Dylan and Reed walk in with hot chocolates and a bag of pastries. They see Anna talking with Brooke. Reed decides to surprise Anna. He approaches and is intrigued by the conversation he is stumbling upon.

ANNA

Reed is just...different.

BROOKE

(nudges her friend playfully)  
And don't forget, he has dashing good looks.

ANNA

(smiles)  
Yes! That too! He is really charming.

BROOKE

(smiles and hugs her)  
I am so glad to see you so happy.

ANNA

I haven't felt this way in a long time.

BROOKE

(gives her a sad smile)  
Well, now you are.

Brooke notices Reed coming up behind Anna and her eyes grow bright. She tries to remain neutral, but can't help the smile on her face.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

Enjoy every minute of it.

Anna smiles and takes her hand giving it a thankful squeeze. Reed taps Anna's shoulder.

REED

Surprise.

Anna turns around quickly, hearing his familiar voice.

ANNA  
Reed! Uh... When did you get here?

REED  
Not long, but long enough.  
(raises his eyebrow  
playfully)

ANNA  
What did you hear?

REED  
I heard about my dashing good looks.

ANNA  
Oh, You heard that, huh?

REED  
Yeah, I did. And that I'm really  
charming? Makes me wonder what else  
you said about me.

ANNA  
That is not important.

Reed gives Anna a knowing look. Brooke comes over and takes the tray of hot chocolates and bag from him and Dylan.

BROOKE  
Thank you! That is so nice of you  
both to get us this! Definitely a  
keeper, don't you think Anna?

Dylan is watching with amusement, seeing how embarrassed Anna is and how much Reed and Brooke are enjoying teasing her. Brooke leans close to Reed and whispers.

BROOKE (CONT'D)  
Don't listen to her. We were  
definitely talking about you!

ANNA  
Brooke is full of it and none of it  
is true!

BROOKE  
Who are you going to believe?

REED

I think I am going to have to believe  
Brooke on this one.

Anna gives Reed a shy look. Reed looks in her eyes with a smile. Brooke sees the connection is there as she walks around the counter with her chocolate.

DYLAN

Hey Anna, I remember you said you  
love chocolate. We got you a  
chocolate danish, too.

ANNA

(looks to him with a  
smile;  
wraps her arm around  
his shoulder)  
Thank you. That was so sweet.

DYLAN

(smirks)  
You know it was pretty embarrassing  
playing with Reed at the ballpark  
earlier.

ANNA

Oh?

DYLAN

Yeah, you should have been there to  
watch me kick his butt. The reason  
why he was so bad is he couldn't stop  
daydreaming about you.

BROOKE

I knew it.

Anna glances at Reed, trying to fight her smile, but failing.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(comes over next to  
Dylan)  
They suck at hiding it.

DYLAN

(laughs)  
Yah, they do.

REED

Remind me why I am spending time with you again?

DYLAN

Because you found my letter.

ANNA

And because Dylan is special.

(Dylan smiles, and so does Reed)

Since you both are here, what do you say I take my break now and we all head to the park and have some fun together?

REED

What did you have in mind?

ANNA

I have some ideas up my sleeve.

REED

Should I be afraid?

ANNA

No, I don't think so.

Anna leads Dylan ahead and says something quietly to him, then glances back at Reed with a smile. Reed looks to Brooke who shoots him a wink.

BROOKE

Have fun.

EXT THE PARK - DAY

Dylan stays behind as Reed and Anna walk ahead. Dylan surprises Reed by hitting him with a snowball. Anna laughs. Reed turns around and throws one back at Dylan.

DYLAN

Now it's on!!

ANNA

(When Reed throws one at her)

Did you really just throw a snowball at me?

REED  
 (smirks playfully)  
 I did. What are you going to do about  
 it?

ANNA  
 You have no idea that you started a  
 war. You will soon see I am an expert  
 snowball thrower!

REED  
 (has a cocky grin)  
 Take your best-

Before he even finishes his threat Anna has already hit him  
 with a snowball. He looks at the remnants of snow on the  
 front of his coat.

REED (CONT'D)  
 -shot

He looks at Anna in surprise who shoots him a playful smirk  
 and look. Dylan laughs, but gets snowballs thrown at him  
 from Anna and Reed. At first they all try to get each other.

ANNA  
 Dylan, we should team up against  
 Reed.

DYLAN  
 Oh, he is going down! Deal!

They run to opposite ends behind trees. Anna notices Reed is  
 missing. She peeks around to see, but is shocked when Reed  
 takes her hand and pulls her to him so they are now hidden  
 behind the tree. She nearly hits him with a snowball, but  
 Reed wraps his other hand around her wrist stopping her.

REED  
 Wait, truce. What will it take for  
 you to be on my team?

ANNA  
 (She gets swept in his eyes, then  
 smiles)  
 We go on a date and you spend  
 Christmas with me.

REED  
 (looks in her eyes,  
 surprise evident in  
 his)  
 then smiles) I would be happy to.



ANNA

Great...

REED

Great. On my count, I will create a diversion, and you go for it.

His eyes are still locked on hers. She nods in agreement. Anna is a bit flustered from what just happened but she is able to regain her focus and hits Dylan with a snowball.

DYLAN

Hey! I thought you were on my team!

REED

Not anymore.

DYLAN

(Dylan looks from  
Reed to Anna)

It's not fair. That's treason! This is war now!

REED

I'm just more charming than you-  
(Snowball hits his  
chest)

Reed and Dylan look at Anna in surprise; she gives a devious smirk.

ANNA

I didn't say I wouldn't still be on Dylan's team.

As Dylan bursts out laughing, Reed looks at her, intrigued.

REED

I didn't realize I was working with a double agent.

ANNA

(locks eyes with  
him, giving a  
knowing smile)

I think I discovered your weakness.

REED

I see.

She smiles, then Dylan runs over.

DYLAN  
Anna! That was awesome!!

She gives Dylan a high five, and notices Reed watching her in fascination;she blushes.

DYLAN (cont'd)  
(to Reed) she got you good!

REED  
(looks at Anna with  
a smile)  
It was worth it.

INT LIBRARY - DAY

Anna walks in and immediately Brooke comes up to her.

BROOKE  
How was your date?

ANNA  
It wasn't a date.

BROOKE  
Whatever it was. You spent time  
together doing something fun.

ANNA  
Why are you so desperate to get Reed  
and I together? Shouldn't you focus  
on your own life?

BROOKE  
Your life is way more fun.Besides you  
and I both know you need to move on  
and Reed makes you happy.Guys like  
that don't come around everyday.

ANNA  
Don't I know it! After that winner I  
ended up marrying.My stupid high  
school love, what was I thinking?

BROOKE  
You know how I always felt about him,  
but it was like a switch in his head  
after you two got married. He changed  
so much.

ANNA

And now this amazing man has to come to town and I am so lost because I like him. Maybe I am overthinking all this.

BROOKE

100% certainty you are.

ANNA

You're always trying to play matchmaker.

BROOKE

I just want to see you happy again.

ANNA

I'm happy.

BROOKE

No you are not, you are living day by day, always here.

ANNA

I love my job.

BROOKE

I know you do, but you use your job as an escape from facing your problems and feelings. I worry about you. You haven't been happy for a long time. But seeing how you light up around Reed I see glimmers of the Anna I've always known.

ANNA

(eyes glossy)

I didn't realize you could see that.

BROOKE

Of course I do. You're my best friend. You gave up a lot. It's now your turn to finally be happy with everything you want.

ANNA

Why do you have to be reasonable?

BROOKE

Because clearly your head is in the clouds.

ANNA

I have a lot to think about after everything that has happened and that might happen.

INT - CHURCH - NIGHT

Reed walks in and sits at the front. He takes in the space and lets out a deep sigh. He closes his eyes trying to find some peace when he hears his son's voice.

CHASE

You're sad.

REED

(Opens his eyes and looks to Chase)

The more time I spend with Dylan, the more I care for him and want to make his wish a reality. I'm just not sure how to do that.

CHASE

I believe in you.

He gives a knowing smile before he vanishes in time for Anna to walk over and sit next to Reed. She looks ahead at all the lights and colored glass of the church for a minute; reflective.

ANNA

The light shines in the darkness.

Reed watches her with a smile. She looks at him with a smile.

ANNA (cont'd)

You know there is a quote from my favorite book, *The Secret Garden*, 'there must be magic in the world, but people don't know what it is like or how to make it.'

REED

What are you saying? Do I have to go to a school for magic to find it?

Anna laughs and bumps his shoulder playfully.

ANNA

I'm saying that magic is all around us. We just have to be open to see it. Belief is a powerful thing. It can make the impossible possible, and what better time to believe than Christmas, where miracles happen.

Reed watches her as she speaks. Her eyes light up.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Just think, us meeting all those times, you and I finding Dylan's letter, connecting us together, your son guiding you, us always winding up in the same place. Seems pretty magical to me.

REED

(stares at her with  
pure admiration)  
You're amazing.

ANNA

So are you. Now promise me, you won't lose hope.

She holds out her hand extending her pinky. He grins and hooks his pinky with hers.

REED

Promise.  
Besides, I'm not sure it's possible to lose hope with you around.

INT - DEAD LETTER OFFICE - DAY

Reed is sitting at his desk looking over a damaged package.

CHASE

Hey Dad!!

Reed looks up to see Chase over by the mail shoot and smiles

REED

Chase, what are you doing here?

CHASE

This place is cool!

REED  
Figures you would like it here.  
(smiles wistfully)  
You remember how you used to write me  
letters?

CHASE  
Before you would leave to cover the  
big sports stories.

REED  
I remember that.

CHASE  
Is that why you wanted to work at the  
post office?

REED  
One of the reasons.

CHASE  
I used to count the days with Mom  
until you would come home.

REED  
I used to miss you so much. I regret  
all the days I spent away from you.

CHASE  
I always knew you would come back  
with the best stories.

Anna walks in and hears Reed..

REED  
I always loved telling you my  
stories. Only thing that would have  
made it better is you being there  
with me.

Reed notices Anna, who looks around the room curiously  
before she looks back at him with her eyebrow raised and a  
light playful smile.

ANNA  
Talking to God, again?

Reed smirks as he gets up from his desk and walks around,  
placing his hands in his pockets.

ANNA (cont'd)  
Is he here now?  
(off Reed's smile  
and look  
acknowledging her)  
You are the only one who can see him?

CHASE  
I wish Anna could see me! She is  
really cool!

Reed laughs, and Anna gives him a questioning look.

REED  
He says he wishes that you could see  
him. And that he thinks you are  
really cool.

ANNA  
(grins)  
Aw, well, you tell him that I wish I  
could see him, too.

REED  
I wish you could see him, too.

Reed looks in her eyes; Anna gives Reed a look that she is falling more and more in love with him even though she is afraid to admit it. Reed is just as caught up in the connection that was present between them.

REED (cont'd)  
Uh...what brings you by?

ANNA  
We need to help Dylan find his  
family. We can't let his wish not  
come true.

REED  
I would love nothing more. But I am  
kind of busy here at work, you know.  
(teasing)

ANNA  
Well, what if I help you?  
(She already starts taking off her  
scarf and coat)  
I have the whole day. You know how  
resourceful I am.

REED

That I do. We do make a pretty good team.

ANNA

Mhm...so, let's do this!

She picks up a letter from the top of his desk. Within a few short minutes, she figures out the recipient of the letter and places it in the done pile. Reed is in awe.

REED

Seriously, how do you do that?

ANNA

(gives a playful  
mysterious look)

Magic!

(at Reed's  
questioning look)

I've always believed in magic,  
especially at Christmas time.

REED

Christmas has not been all that important to me since Chase died.

ANNA

It will be again. We will get you back in the Christmas spirit. Because Christmas is the time to believe that anything is possible and magic is upon us.

Anna and Reed spend the next few hours tackling packages and letters together, and when they are finally done place their last letters in the bin.

ANNA (cont'd)

There! We are all done!

REED

(looks at Anna with  
fascination)

Are you sure you don't want to work here? You are way too good at this!

ANNA

I admit it is pretty fun.



REED  
See? I can tell you love puzzles and putting things together. Is there anything you aren't good at?

ANNA  
(playfully)  
Nope!

Reed laughs. He gives her an admiring look, but Anna tries to break the tension.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Now, let's get to it. We have a mission and that's to make Dylan's wish come true.

REED  
Right... How are we going to do that exactly?

Anna goes over to her things and pulls out her laptop.

ANNA  
Let's see if we can find any families or couples looking to adopt in town.

Reed looks a bit disappointed/uncomfortable with the idea.

REED  
Why would we do that? Are you sure that is the best way to go about this?

ANNA  
It's a start, unless you want to adopt him.

She says passively, but deep down the thought keeps coming to her mind. They share fleeting questioning looks, but otherwise remain silent. Anna takes a seat in front of his desk, and Reed takes a seat in the chair next to hers. Anna opens her laptop and within a few minutes pulls up a database filled with couples and families on adoption lists.

REED  
How did you find that?

Anna smirks, but keeps her eyes on the laptop screen.

ANNA  
I told you I'm very resourceful. I know a lot of things.

REED  
(looks at her in  
amazement)  
Clearly.

ANNA  
(glances at him with  
a smile, then looks  
back to her screen)  
Here, this list is of families within  
400 miles looking for a child to  
adopt.  
(Reed gets up and walks around)  
Are you ok?

REED  
Yeah, I am just fine.

ANNA  
You don't seem fine. You know you can  
tell me if something is bothering  
you.

REED  
Nothing is bothering me.

ANNA  
Ok but if it is you can tell me. I  
will always listen.

REED  
(sighs and takes a  
seat)  
Alright, what do we have?

Anna looks at Reed for a moment, and can tell that he is not  
himself.

REED (cont'd)  
What?

ANNA  
We may not know each other that long  
but I can tell when someone is  
hurting.

REED  
I think we should think this through  
before we go too far.

ANNA

But we need to come up with a game plan, he may only be in our lives until Christmas.

REED

I know we do, I just can't think about him losing people again. He has already lost so much.

ANNA

Hopefully wherever he ends up will be his final stop.

REED

Can we please put a pause on this today? I need some air.

EXT POST OFFICE - NIGHT

Reed walks outside to feel the fresh air to think about everything and is entirely conflicted. Anna walks out and stands over beside Reed.

ANNA

I can't imagine how hard this must be for you. Dylan is not the only one who lost so much.

REED

I just want him to know he is loved and that someone cares about him.

ANNA

I think you are doing a good job of that. He can tell you care about him. All of the great lengths you went to find him and all you are doing for him. He is lucky his letter found you. I will give you some space. I think you need to recenter. It's getting late, anyway. I should go.

REED

(grabs her hand as she starts to walk)  
Or wait, maybe we could go grab dinner?

ANNA

Together?

REED  
Yes, together. Why not? It's just  
dinner. You spent this whole day  
helping me, it's the least I can do.

ANNA  
Ok. I would love to.

EXT - ICE CREAM SHOPPE - TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Anna and Reed are walking out each with their own ice cream  
cones.

REED  
You do realize it's winter time,  
right?

ANNA  
Yes?

REED  
And we are having ice cream.

ANNA  
(she takes a lick of  
her ice cream)  
Mhm, what's your point?

REED  
It's freezing outside and you wanted  
to go get ice cream.

ANNA  
Yes, I'm still not seeing your point?

REED  
I know a great place that serves hot  
chocolate.

ANNA  
Not interested.

REED  
It's a good thing I like you. I  
wouldn't do this with just anyone.

ANNA  
Now you know my secret: I love ice  
cream in the winter time.  
It's part of my charm.

REED

That it is.

Reed and Anna exchange admiring looks.

ANNA

So...you are really starting to connect with Dylan.

REED

Yeah I am, he is a good kid who has been given a tough break in life.

ANNA

I know someone else who has been given a tough break.

REED

It was my fault that I lost my son. It wasn't Dylan's fault he lost his parents.

ANNA

Still, you need to cut yourself some slack. It was an accident.

REED

It is easy for you to say since you don't know the whole story.

ANNA

I know enough and you need to forgive yourself. I know it's easier said than done. I can see in your eyes you have suffered enough. It's time to let yourself be happy. You will never forget your son, but you can find some peace from that night.

REED

That means a lot to me that you still want to spend time with me.

ANNA

Everyone makes mistakes. What you do after that shows a lot of your character. Everyone deserves a second chance. Besides, I happen to think you're pretty great.

INT - LIBRARY - DAY

Anna is sorting some books, but notices Reed as soon as he walks into the library. She smiles and reaches him.

ANNA

Hey there, stranger. I've missed you.

REED

I missed you too. Things have been busy at work. There was an influx of lost letters, and I wanted to deliver as many as I could before Christmas.

ANNA

See, you were the right person for the job.

Reed looks at her with admiration; when she leans close to him it makes him want to kiss her.

ANNA (cont'd)

(smirks and  
whispers)

You know you never did get that library card you promised you'd get.

REED

I guess you'll just have to fine me for coming in here without checking out any books.

ANNA

I just might do that.

He smiles, getting swept up in her but she surprises him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Actually, I'm glad you could stop by. I have something for you.

REED

You do?

She starts walking back over to the counter. He follows her.

ANNA

Mhm... Think of it as an early Christmas present.

She reaches around the counter and brings out a present. She faces him and hands it to him.

REED  
(smiles as he takes  
it, then teasing)  
I wonder what it could be?'  
(He shakes it near his head and  
smirks)  
It sounds like a book.

ANNA  
Of course it's going to be a book.

REED  
Well now you spoiled the surprise.

ANNA  
Oh come on, just open it.

Reed laughs, then tears the paper and sees the book in surprise.

REED  
The Sword in The Stone? This is my  
favorite book. How could you possibly  
know that?

ANNA  
(playful)  
I do now.  
(He looks at her in  
wonder; she smiles)  
I'm really good at figuring out what  
someone's favorite book might be.  
It's a gift.  
(she blushes under his admiring gaze,  
as he looks at her in fascination)  
Aren't you going to say something?

REED  
(He looks deep in  
her eyes)  
Thank you.

ANNA  
You're welcome.

REED  
My grandfather used to take out his  
pocket watch whenever he was going to  
read to me. He would say time is your  
best friend if you know how to use  
it. And then he would sit with me for  
hours reading to me.

ANNA  
Sounds like a kind and wise man.

She smiles as she watches him look at the book, then look at her, his eyes reflecting his gratitude. They are swept up in each other for a moment.

REED  
(Quiet tone)  
Are you free tonight?

ANNA  
I will be at 6:30.  
Why? Got any plans?  
(Playful tone)

REED  
I believe I promised you a date.

ANNA  
You did, didn't you? I was starting to wonder when that might be.

REED  
I was waiting for the perfect time.

ANNA  
Oh so tonight is that time?

REED  
It will be if you say yes.

ANNA  
I'd love to.

REED  
Great. We will meet in Town Square at 7:30.

ANNA  
Great. It's a date.

EXT - TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Reed is walking and sees Anna sitting at her favorite bench. He is struck by how breath-taking and radiant she is. Seeing her waiting for him, makes him feel extremely lucky. He takes out the coin in his pocket and smiles as he flips it.



CHASE  
Don't worry, dad. She will love it  
all.

Reed looks to see Chase leaning against the streetlamp; he  
smiles.

REED  
How do you know?

CHASE  
Trust me

REED  
How do I look?

CHASE  
You clean up nice!  
Just one more thing.

Light glows around Reed. He sees a scarf draped across the  
front of his coat, and a single red rose in the chest pocket

CHASE (cont'd)  
Good night, Dad.

Within a moment Chase disappears. Reed wipes the stray tear  
from his cheek, and takes a breath before he heads for Anna.  
It seems the closer he gets the more radiant she is.

REED  
Hey...

She looks at him. The smile on his face and admiring look in  
his eyes makes her own smile surface. He holds his hand out  
for her. She places her hand in his, and he pulls her up.

ANNA  
Hi.

REED  
You look gorgeous.

Reed takes the rose from his pocket and holds it out to her.

ANNA  
Thank you.  
You look rather dashing.  
(Teases)

Reed laughs, then pulls out a scarf from his coat pocket.

ANNA (cont'd)  
What's that?

REED  
Do you trust me?

ANNA  
Yes...why?

REED  
Turn around please.

She does so, a little hesitant. Her breath catches when he steps closer behind her, then brings the scarf in front, placing it over her eyes, tying it in the back. His hands slide from the ties in her hair and rest on her shoulders.

REED (cont'd)  
Are you ready for your surprise?

ANNA  
I'm not sure. I don't like not seeing.

REED  
I promise, it's a good surprise.

ANNA  
Ok. Where are we going?

REED  
Just to the end of the street.

ANNA  
What if I trip?

REED  
I won't let that happen.

He takes her hand and leads her to the end of the street and turns her to face a specific way.

REED (CONT'D)  
Ready for your first surprise?

Instead of speaking, Anna squeezes his hand. Reed pulls the scarf loose, slipping it from her eyes. As soon as she sees the horse and carriage her eyes light up.

ANNA  
Oh wow, it's beautiful.

REED  
Yeah...it is.

Reed is much more fascinated by Anna's reactions. They get in the carriage. The ride takes them through town.

ANNA  
I have to say when you agreed to take me on a date I never imagined anything like this. You really pull out all the stops. My Ex never cared about date night.

REED  
Your ex didn't know he was missing out on the best thing.

Reed puts his arm around Anna and she rests her head on his shoulder.

EXT - OUTSKIRTS OF NORTH POINT - OVERLOOKING TOWN - NIGHT

Reed leads her to what is waiting for her; a candle-light dinner, at a perfect spot overlooking the town, looking magical and enchanting. Colored lanterns create a pathway until the table set-up. Anna is in awe by all of it.

ANNA  
How did you know this was my favorite place?

REED  
(looks equally surprised)  
I didn't. I just found it one night and it made me think of you.

ANNA  
(stares at him in fascination)  
I can't believe you did all of this.  
(Her nerves come through a bit and she teases)  
Do you do this for all of your dates?

REED  
(looks in her eyes)  
I've never done anything like this before.

Anna looks at Reed for a long moment, then at the set up and town looking so magical, and knows she is ready to open her heart. She looks back at him, her eyes shining.

ANNA  
It's amazing.

REED  
I can say the same about you.

He holds his hand out to her. She takes it, and the simple touch is like they fit perfectly together. He leads her to the table. They gaze into each others eyes as if they are the only two people on the planet. Once they remember their dinner, they enjoy it and the moment of being together.

ANNA  
This is the best date I have been on in a long time. Actually, maybe ever.

REED  
I'm glad. I hope I can be the one to bring some magic to you.

ANNA  
You have. This is all incredible and more than anyone has ever done for me.

REED  
You deserve it. I like spending time with you. You are helping my heart heal after all the loss and pain.

ANNA  
I like spending time with you. I never thought I could open my heart to anyone again. It's amazing that we found something special between us. And you ended up here of all places.

REED  
I had no idea moving here would lead me to you and Dylan. Everything that I didn't know I needed to be happy again was waiting for me in North Point of all places. I never imagined I'd love being in a town like this.

ANNA  
What's not to love? It's very charming. And this view is really beautiful.

Anna gets up from the table and walks over to stand in the perfect spot to look over the town. Her eyes get glossy, seeing it look so pretty with the lights, and that Reed had planned this special night for her. She feels him before he steps over beside her. She looks at him.

ANNA (cont'd)

I love being here.

REED

I'm glad. I love being here with you. You make my life better. I feel like I have purpose again.

ANNA

You make my life so much better, too. You have brought back that magic that I have been missing for a long time.

REED

I think we are exactly what we were missing.

After some time, Reed and Anna are sitting on the ground, overlooking the town, enjoying the night, the view and being together. Anna subconsciously rubs her arms from the cold.

REED (cont'd)

Maybe we should head back. It's gotten colder.

ANNA

I don't want to leave. I love it here. I'm in no hurry for this date to end, are you?  
(teases)

REED

Not a chance.

Reed remembers the scarf and drapes it across her shoulders. He laughs. Anna gives him a curious look.

REED (cont'd)

I can't believe I'm even saying this out loud, but my son, who is a ghost, gave me that scarf.

ANNA

Hmm... maybe it's an enchanted scarf since it brought us closer together.

REED  
Yeah, maybe it is.

Reed gets a look in his eyes like he wants to kiss Anna but he is not sure if she is ready, so instead he gets up. She gives him a curious look before he holds his hand out for her. She places her hand in his. He pulls her up and starts to dance with her. They look into each others eyes.

EXT - TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Anna and Reed walk to their favorite bench. It starts to snow lightly, and Reed looks up. Anna watches him for a moment, her feelings for him becoming more apparent.

ANNA  
It's been such a magical night.

REED  
It has.  
(he looks at his  
watch)  
What do you know, it's nearly  
midnight, our favorite time.

ANNA  
Definitely my favorite time, I've had  
a great time with you.

REED  
So have I.

ANNA  
So...I guess this is Good Night...  
(she holds her hand  
out for a handshake)

Reed takes her hand with a smile, finding her completely adorable, and pulls her into a hug. Anna hugs him back. The energy between them is magnetic. When they pull apart Anna looks at him thoughtfully, struck by how much Reed was filling the space in her heart she was sure she wanted to keep locked away. His understanding of her feelings fills her with deep gratitude and takes her breath away.

ANNA (cont'd)  
(in a quiet voice)  
Thank you.

REED  
(gives her a warm  
smile)  
Good Night Anna

Though Anna doesn't want this night to end, finds the momentum to walk away. Reed can't help but watch her.

INT REED'S BEDROOM-DAY

Reed is asleep in his room and he hears loud noises coming from downstairs.

INT Hallway - Day

He gets up and looks over the banister and sees Anna and Dylan pulling in a huge tree and Christmas decorations scattered everywhere in the foyer.

REED

What are you guys doing here?

DYLAN

Getting you in the Christmas spirit!

ANNA

Are you just going to stand there or do you want to help?

REED

Yes, of course I want to help.

Reed comes down stairs and gives Dylan a hug, then looks at Anna with a loving smile before he hugs her. When they pull apart he gives her a curious look.

ANNA

What?

REED

Not that this isn't a delightful surprise at

(glances at his watch)

6:05 in the morning, but how did you two get in my house?

Anna and Dylan exchange glances, fighting back laughs.

ANNA

If you didn't know by now you have a very sneaky neighbor who happens to know that you put a spare key in the plant next to your door.

REED

Why does that not surprise me?

ANNA

Nothing should surprise you about Brooke considering she is the one who would have married us off if she could.

REED

True but remind me I need to have a chat with her later about boundaries.

ANNA

Be my guest. I have been trying for YEARS. You see how that worked out for me.

Reed and Anna laugh.

DYLAN

I hope you're not mad we're here.

REED

(smiles and hugs  
him)

Are you kidding? I love it. I enjoy every minute with the both of you.

Dylan and Anna smile at his words, but Anna and Reed's eyes lock for a moment longer.

DYLAN

Cool, I like your place. It looks nice. This is the first time since my parents' accident that I get to decorate anything for Christmas.

REED

Well, be my guest.

Dylan gets excited and picks out some of the decorations. Reed looks at Anna.

REED (CONT'D)

So, how were you able to get Dylan so early?

ANNA

I have my ways.

REED

I'm sure you do. Remind me to thank Brooke for telling you where the key was.



ANNA  
Let's not give her that satisfaction.

INT REED'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Reed and Dylan pull the tree in the corner close to the fireplace. Reed steps over next to Anna to see how it looks.

REED  
What do we think?

DYLAN  
It's going to look so awesome with  
all the lights and ornaments!

ANNA  
I agree. It's a perfect spot.

Reed looks at Anna with an admiring look. She smiles and looks at him.

REED  
I'm happy you're here.

ANNA  
I'm glad.

REED  
Admit it.

ANNA  
Admit what?

REED  
You had such a great time on our date  
you couldn't wait to see me again.

ANNA  
Is that what you think?

REED  
Mhm...so you fabricated all of this.

ANNA  
Maybe, maybe not. You will never  
know.

Reed and Dylan are placing ornaments on the tree as Anna tries to unravel the lights. She watches them talking and joking together, eyes glossy, when Reed looks at her thoughtfully, then gives her a teasing look for watching him. She smiles, resuming her task, but is surprised when Reed joins her on the floor, leaning into her.

REED

Is there a reason you were watching me?

ANNA

(blushes)

Nope...what makes you think I was watching you and not the ornaments you were placing?

(as Reed gives her a knowing look, she relents)

Fine. You look happy.

REED

I guess I am. This is what I was looking for when I moved here, a fresh start. My work, you, and Dylan, have given me a sense of purpose again.

(he looks in her eyes with a smile)

I like having you in my life.

ANNA

I like you in mine, too.

DYLAN

(plops himself down next to them)

Hey, do you think we can all go to the Christmas Eve festival?

REED

I don't see why not.

DYLAN

All three of us?

ANNA

Yes, all three of us. It will be fun.

They finish decorating. Reed watches as Dylan places one last ornament on the tree and Anna hangs some lights around the mantle. He surprises Anna by taking her hand and spinning her toward him. They dance together, having a lot of fun. When Reed spins Anna into him a final time, his hands find her waist and her arms wrap around his neck.

Their proximity and eyes meeting turns the fun and playful moment into something much deeper. Anna feels the lock that she had around her heart break. It's like a magnet pulling them together, they are about to kiss, when Reed's phone starts ringing. Flustered by the interruption, he reaches into his pocket and sees that it's the Group Home.

REED  
I'm sorry, I have to take this.

ANNA  
I will give you some space.

Anna joins Dylan; she discreetly tries to watch Reed and notices as soon as he hangs up that he looks upset. He tries to put on a brave face as he comes over.

ANNA (cont'd)  
Is everything ok?

REED  
Yeah, of course.

Anna can tell he is lying. Reed pats Dylan on the back.

REED (CONT'D)  
It looks great, but I think it's time to light this tree up.

DYLAN  
I'm sure it's going to look so cool.

Reed plugs the light and turns the switch. The tree fills the room with light and color. They step back to take it in. A glow fills the room and Reed sees Chase appear beside him.

CHASE  
Wow! That looks amazing, dad.

REED  
(whispers)  
It does look pretty great, doesn't it?

DYLAN  
Your house looks even better now.  
Thank you for letting me help decorate it.

Reed's eyes blur, but he tries to fight it.

CHASE

Don't worry, dad, everything will work out. Don't be afraid. I know you will figure out what to do.

Anna looks at Reed. Reed nods acknowledging what she was thinking. She smiles and takes his hand, squeezing it gently, her eyes reflecting warmth and understanding. Dylan surprises Reed with a big hug. Anna smiles seeing the look on Reed's face who hugs Dylan back.

DYLAN

(pulls away,  
embarrassed)

Uh, I know I already said it, but thanks again for letting me and Anna decorate your house. It was a lot of fun.

REED

It was. I'm really glad you did. I'm sorry, but there is something I need to take care of.

ANNA

(notices a  
conflicted look in  
Reed's eyes)

I will take Dylan home.

INT - REED'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

Anna and Dylan get ready to leave and Dylan hugs Reed.

DYLAN

I had a lot of fun.

REED

I did too. I will see you later.

Dylan walks outside. Anna looks at Reed with a smile before she gives him a hug.

ANNA

I am here if you need me.

INT - REED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Reed walks in and sits on the couch. The glow fills the room before he sees Chase next to him.

REED

What am I supposed to do?

CHASE

Just follow your heart, Dad.

REED

I am not ready to adopt Dylan.

CHASE

I think you are. He needs you and you need him.

REED

Someone else wants to adopt him.

CHASE

You have to say that you are interested in adopting Dylan. You are the family that he needs.

REED

What about Anna? What if she isn't ready for both of us?

CHASE

I think she loves him as much as you do. You both are broken. Dylan can bring you together. Ask Anna what she wants. Maybe that will give you the answer you need. There is a reason the letter ended up coming to you.

REED

You are the wisest kid, uh ghost? I have ever met.

CHASE

(laughs)

"It's up to you how far you'll go. If you don't try, you'll never know"

REED

Merlin, The Sword in the Stone? How do you remember that? The last time I read that book to you was when you were five.

CHASE

That is why I remember it.

EXT ST. PETER'S GROUP HOME - DAY

Anna parks. Dylan looks at her as he unbuckles his seatbelt.

DYLAN

Thanks again, Anna.

ANNA

I'm glad you had a good time. I know I did.

DYLAN

Yeah, I had a great time. I always have fun with you and Reed. uh... I wish you could be my family.

Anna feels her heart twist for a moment; she gives him a thoughtful smile.

ANNA

You know, there is a quote I've always loved that I use in my life. "There are friends, there is family, and then there are friends that become family." After spending all this time together I'd like to think we've become friends. The great thing about friends, especially good ones, is whenever you need them they are always there. As long as we are friends, I will always be there for you.

Dylan smiles as he listens.

ANNA (cont'd)

So, what do you say? Are we friends?

DYLAN

Yeah. We're friends.

ANNA

(holds her pinky out)

Promise?

DYLAN

(laughs and locks his pinky with hers)

Promise.

Dylan soon gets out of the car and waves goodbye to Anna. Once he disappears inside Anna smiles, then starts the car.

INT THE LIBRARY

Anna is shelving books when Brooke walks over.

BROOKE

Was the key where I said it would be?

ANNA

In the exact spot.

BROOKE

So what are you doing here? How did it go? I thought you were taking the day off?

ANNA

It was going really great until he got a phone call then he seemed really upset. He pretty much asked me and Dylan to leave.

BROOKE

Well, that's too bad. Was it at least a good time?

ANNA

It was perfect until the phone rang.

BROOKE

Maybe it had nothing to do with you and everything to do with something else.

ANNA

I know, you are right. I am just worried about him.

BROOKE

Because you care about him.

ANNA

I am starting to fall for him big time. I never thought I would ever fall for anyone else again.

BROOKE  
When the right person comes along it  
changes everything.

ANNA  
I am starting to believe that.

BROOKE  
So I was right about you liking Reed?

ANNA  
Fine, yes, you were right all along,  
are you happy? I like him. I think  
part of me did from the beginning.  
(off Brooke's  
knowing look, Anna  
gives her a faint  
smile back)  
You are loving this, aren't you?

BROOKE  
Of course I am! You never admit when  
I'm right. So you must really like  
him.

ANNA  
(smiles)  
I do.

BROOKE  
He is your perfect match.  
Brooke smiles as if she knew she was right all along.

ANNA  
Wipe that smile off your face.

BROOKE  
Or what? you stop being friends with  
me?

ANNA  
You know I could never stop being  
friends with you. We've been through  
too much for us to ever stop being  
friends.

BROOKE  
That is true. Besides, we know too  
many dark secrets about each other to  
not be friends forever.



## INT REED'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Reed is lying in bed but feels restless. He gets up and opens the closet. The box with Chase's letters falls. He collects the letters and puts them on the bed, looking at them with tears sliding down his face.

## INT REED'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Reed walks in with the box with Chase's letters. The picture of Chase sitting on the mantle falls. He picks it up, and can't help the smile on his face seeing his son's smile in the picture. He places it back, then sits down and looks at all the notes and drawings. He knows he must fight for Dylan

## EXT TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Reed walks through town. He reaches the bench, taking a sip from his coffee before placing it down next to him. He pulls out the last letter that Chase wrote to him before the accident. He is caught up in the letter when Anna walks over. He quickly hides it in his pocket.

ANNA  
What do you have there?

REED  
N-nothing.

Anna looks at him curiously as she takes a seat next to him.

ANNA  
Ok then I am sure when you are ready  
you will tell me what you are up to.

REED  
I may never tell you.

ANNA  
I know you will.  
(playful tone)

REED  
Oh, you do? And how do you know this?

ANNA  
I just do.

Anna reaches for Reed's hand. Reed looks at her, her warmth transmitting to him. They sit in silence for a moment.

ANNA (cont'd)  
You know whatever it is you can  
always tell me. I am a pretty good  
listener.

REED  
It is not that I don't want to tell  
you I am just not ready to yet.

ANNA  
I understand that completely. Just  
know that I am here for you.  
(checks her watch  
and sees that she  
has to leave)  
I'm sorry, but I have to go. I'm  
meeting up with Brooke.

REED  
Sure. Have fun.

ANNA  
(looks at him  
thoughtfully)  
In time everything turns out exactly  
as it is meant to. You just have to  
keep the faith.

Anna walks away. Reed watches her walk away, thoughtfully.

EXT - ST. PETER'S GROUP HOME - NIGHT

Reed is sitting outside at a bench waiting for Dylan, his  
mind is swirling with thoughts, flipping his 'lucky coin'  
looking for some kind of answer when Dylan walks out.

DYLAN  
Hey Reed, what are you doing here?  
(sits next to Reed)

REED  
I just wanted to see you.

DYLAN  
It was fun at your house today. It  
really felt like Christmas.

REED  
I'm glad you had a good time. I liked  
having you in my house.  
(MORE)

REED (cont'd)  
It's been a long time since I've  
really celebrated Christmas.

DYLAN  
How come?

REED  
(eyes glossy)  
I had a son. Chase. I lost him like  
you lost your parents. It's been 6  
years, but I still think about him  
every day. And Christmas just makes  
me miss him more. That is why I want  
to make your wish come true, because  
I know how it feels to lose your  
family.  
(Off Dylan's sad  
look, Reed takes a  
breath)  
I have something for you.  
(holds out his coin  
to Dylan)

DYLAN  
Your lucky coin?

REED  
I want you to have it.  
Whatever happens, I want you to know  
that if you ever need me I'm here.

Dylan takes the coin from Reed and flips it a couple times.

DYLAN  
Thanks.

REED  
(stands up, and  
Dylan does the same)  
You should probably get back.

Dylan hugs Reed tight; Reed's eyes blur. Dylan runs back and  
Reed sighs as he watches him disappear into the building.

EXT THE BRIDGE- NIGHT

Reed stops in the middle and looks up at the sky filled with  
stars, his eyes are clouded. He sees a star shine a bit  
brighter than the rest before he sees that familiar glow  
beside him. He looks to Chase.

CHASE  
You know what to do, dad.  
Just follow your heart.

INT - LIBRARY - DAY

Reed walks in and quickly finds Anna. Anna smiles.

REED  
Hey, can I talk to you?

ANNA  
Of course.

They sit at a table. Anna notices he is nervous and waits for him to say what's on his mind.

REED  
That phone call I got at the house. A couple is interested in adopting Dylan.

ANNA  
(her eyes light up)  
What! That's great!

Anna throws her arms around him in a hug, but quickly realizes that Reed is not hugging her back and not as happy as she thought he would be. She pulls away and sees the sad look on his face.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Why aren't you happy about this?  
Isn't this what you wanted? To make  
Dylan's wish come true.

REED  
(sighs and runs a  
hand over his face)  
Things changed.

ANNA  
What are you saying?

REED  
(takes a breath)  
I'm saying...I want to adopt him.

ANNA  
You want to adopt Dylan?

REED

Yes, I have become so fond of the kid. I can't let him go.

ANNA

Adopting a kid is a huge responsibility. It is a big commitment that is completely different than just spending time with him. You have to be sure or you could wind up breaking his heart.

REED

I'm well aware of all of it but I can't stand the thought of losing him. I really care about him.

ANNA

I really don't know if this is such a good idea.

REED

Why not?

ANNA

(Sighs sadly)

I think we need some space because I'm not ready for that just yet. It's too much for me.

REED

I get that, I do. But no matter what you think I am going forth with it.

ANNA

Before we both say something we might regret, let's just take some time apart and think things over.

REED

Take all the time you need. I'm not going anywhere.

Reed walks out. Anna sits for a moment, feeling a sudden weight on her. She gets up and walks behind the counter.

BROOKE

What was that about?

ANNA

Reed wants to adopt Dylan and I don't think I'm ready for that.

BROOKE

Are you prepared to lose everything good that has come into your life?

ANNA

Honestly, I don't know what I want. That is why I am hoping Reed and I give each other some space. It will make things more clear.

BROOKE

This is always what you wanted, a family, and now that it might actually happen you are backing out.

ANNA

I always thought this is what I wanted but now it might happen, I don't know how I feel. I am going to my favorite spot and doing some thinking. Do you think you can cover for a while?

BROOKE

Of course, go ahead. I've got your back.

ANNA

Thanks.

(she starts to  
leave, but comes  
back)

Don't forget the plan for tonight.

BROOKE

I couldn't even if I wanted to. You can count on me.

Anna takes Brooke's hand, giving it a thankful squeeze.

EXT THE BRIDGE - DAY

Reed is at the bridge thinking. Jason walks over.

JASON

What's going on?

REED

I want to adopt Dylan.

JASON

Wow, how does Anna feel about it?

REED

She is not so sure she is ready and that is why we are giving each other some space.

JASON

I know you care about Anna. And with Dylan it's the happiest I have seen you since the accident and I think he has been good for you, so if you are ready to adopt Dylan I say go for it. I think Anna will come around.

REED

I hope you are right. I can't imagine my life without her.

JASON

You love her?

REED

Yes, I've fallen in love with her.

JASON

I think she just needs time to sort things out. Remember what your grandfather said. Time is your best friend if you know how to use it.

Reed listens, then his eyes grow bright.

REED

That's it! Thanks man, I know exactly what I have to do! I have to run because I promised Dylan we would hang out and I'm not about to break a promise to him.

Jason watches him leave, and smiles.

EXT THE PARK - DAY

Reed reaches the park and finds Dylan at the swings. They greet each other with their secret handshake and then go into a hug. Reed wraps his arm around Dylan and tells him something, which makes Dylan nod with an excited smile.

INT THE LIBRARY - DAY

Dylan walks in and scopes out the area and makes sure there is no sight of Anna. He gives Reed the sign that the coast is clear and Reed walks in and walks up to the counter.

REED

Hey, I need a favor. I need your help to make sure Anna isn't home when I drop off a gift there.

BROOKE

You need me to stall her?

REED

In whatever way you can.

BROOKE

December 24th I know she will be here until 6pm.

REED

Christmas Eve?

BROOKE

Trust me, she will be here. I'll make sure of it.

REED

OK then I will follow your lead.

BROOKE

What are you planning exactly?

REED

A way to get Anna back with a very special gift and note.

BROOKE

Good luck with whatever you are planning.

REED

It's going to work. I know this is what she needs.

BROOKE

I have no doubt. You got this far. I was starting to lose faith that Anna would ever be able to open her heart again.



REED

That's because she was with the wrong person before.

BROOKE

You have no idea.

REED

What do you mean by that?

BROOKE

Oh, nothing, just that you two are full of surprises. And couldn't be more right for each other.

REED

(looks at her  
curiously)

You sure you can stall her on Christmas Eve?

BROOKE

You don't even know half of what I am capable of.

REED

I can only imagine.

BROOKE

Just think of me as your super fabulous Christmas Assistant who is the brilliant mind of how you two get together.

REED

(rolls his eyes)

Will I approve of this plan?

BROOKE

Do you want to be with Anna or not?

REED

What do you think?

BROOKE

(smirks knowingly)

Follow my lead.

REED

OK you win! Since I don't have any other options, you can help me but please keep it legal.

EXT - ST. PETER'S GROUP HOME - NIGHT

Anna is outside waiting for Brooke, who pulls up in her car. As soon as Brooke gets out, Anna shakes her head.

ANNA

You're late!

BROOKE

I got the time wrong.

ANNA

Yeah right, we've planned this for days.

BROOKE

Fine, sorry, I got held up.

Anna is suspicious; before she has time to question Brooke further, Dylan is coming outside.

ANNA

Hey! Ready to do this?

Dylan nods; his eyes light up when he sees the inside of Brooke's trunk as it opens. There are a few boxes with a bunch of Christmas decorations, stockings with every kid's name on them filled with presents.

DYLAN

Woah!

Anna takes one of the boxes out and holds it to him.

ANNA

Here, why don't you take this one?

Brooke and Anna each grab the other two. As Dylan walks ahead, Brooke leans into Anna and whispers.

BROOKE

Why didn't you ask Reed to come?

ANNA

I just need some time.

BROOKE

You know you love him. You can't hide it from me.

ANNA

For once please just stay out of it. This is between me and him.

BROOKE

I can't stand to see you two not speaking.

ANNA

You know how I feel about kids.

BROOKE

Even more reason to be with Reed. You can be a mom to Dylan who needs you. I can see how much you care about him.

ANNA

I care deeply for him. I am just not sure I'm ready for that next step.

BROOKE

You are. You will be amazing. You already are with Dylan. He has been on his own since his parents died. He needs you and Reed. I think they will be the family you've always dreamed of. This is the happiest I've seen you in a long time.

ANNA

Why do you always have to make sense?

BROOKE

Someone has to. That is what friends are for to see what the other one doesn't see.

ANNA

Yes, but it worries me when you are the one to make sense!  
(teases)

BROOKE

Hah-ha, very funny!

INT ST. PETER'S GROUP HOME - NIGHT

Anna, Brooke and Dylan decorate the group home together.

Dylan helps place all the stockings on the post at the edge of each kid's bunk. Once they are done they share a proud smile. Anna gives Dylan a look, who smiles and clicks the power on the stereo system. Christmas music filters the room. Everyone starts to wake up, and get excited to see the decorations and that they each have presents. Anna, Brooke and Dylan smile seeing everyone happy. Anna looks at Dylan.

ANNA

Why don't you check out your stocking?

DYLAN

There wasn't one.

ANNA

Hmm... are you sure about that? You might want to take another look.

Dylan's eyes light up when he sees one hanging by his bunk with his name on it. Anna smirks as she watches him quickly go over and grab it off the hook. He comes back over.

DYLAN

Where did this come from?  
I didn't see it!

Anna and Brooke share a smile. Dylan looks inside to see it filled with candy and Christmas cookies, and a game, but what really catches his attention is the book inside. He pulls it out-The Secret Garden- and sees the bookmark. He opens the book and reads the inside cover.

V.O. ANNA (WRITTEN)

*Dylan,  
This is my favorite book.  
I hope it inspires you as much as it  
has always inspired me.  
With love, your friend forever, Anna.*

Dylan looks at her, his eyes are glossy. He quickly embraces her in a hug. Anna hugs him back. Brooke is watching them knowing that Anna would realize what she had in her life soon enough.

DYLAN

Thank you. You and Reed have made this the best Christmas ever.

BROOKE

Ehmm...

Dylan and Anna laugh.

DYLAN

And Brooke!

Brooke smiles as he hugs her.

BROOKE

Thank you. I deserve some credit for all the work I've done this Christmas

ANNA

You always want something.  
(teasing)

BROOKE

It's exhausting keeping you in line with what you should do, it's not easy. You just have to get used to the fact I'm always right.

ANNA

In your dreams, maybe.

BROOKE

If I didn't do it, who would?

ANNA

I can take care of myself. I've been doing it since I was 16.

BROOKE

That is when we met.

ANNA

I know. What's your point?

BROOKE

So I have been taking care of you as long as we've been friends. Just admit it, you would be lost without me.

ANNA

I'll never admit that.

BROOKE

You don't have to. I just know. I know a lot of things.

ANNA

Mhm...you keep thinking that.

BROOKE

Just like I know that you and Reed are perfect for each other.

ANNA

Wow! You went a whole hour without bringing that up.

BROOKE

I went as long as I could.

DYLAN

She has a point, Anna.  
You and Reed are awesome together.

BROOKE

(smiles  
triumphantly)

See!

INT - LIBRARY - NIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

Brooke is at the counter checking the time again and again, when her phone pings and makes her jump. Anna looks at her curiously, but doesn't say anything and continues with her task of logging in books. Brooke opens the text.

REED (TEXT)

*Here. It's a go.*

Anna comes over and Brooke nearly drops her phone.

ANNA

Who is that?

BROOKE

None of your business.

ANNA

Says the person who is ALWAYS in my business.

BROOKE

Don't you have books to check in?

Anna eyes her friend, but shakes her head as she walks away.

EXT - ANNA'S HOUSE FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Reed and Dylan drive up, then get out of the car. Reed is holding the present as they go up the stairs to place it at the front door. As soon as they sit it down an alarm sounds.

REED  
RUN!!!!!!!

Dylan and Reed duck in the bushes.

INT THE LIBRARY

Anna reaches for her purse as if she is going to leave, but Brooke goes to stop her.

BROOKE  
Where are you going?

ANNA  
My motion alarm just went off.

BROOKE  
It's probably just a raccoon. You know how they get around Christmas.

ANNA  
(Looks at Brooke  
strangely)  
I'm going to see what's going on.  
(she grabs her bag)

BROOKE  
(grabs the straps of  
her bag back)  
Wait! You're overreacting. I'm sure it's nothing really. You should stay and finish shelving those books.

ANNA  
(gets more  
suspicious)  
I think the books can wait until after Christmas. As you can see it's an empty library and we close in 10 minutes.  
(she pulls her bag  
back)

BROOKE  
 (pulls back on her  
 bag)  
 10 minutes is still 10 minutes.  
 Someone could come in and need that  
 book.

Anna gives Brooke a look and knows she is up to something.

EXT ANNA'S HOUSE- NIGHT

DYLAN  
 What is your plan, genius? This was  
 your idea!

REED  
 I didn't account for the alarm.

DYLAN  
 Clearly! If you did, we wouldn't be  
 stuck in the bushes.  
 (Reed accidentally  
 kicks a button  
 behind him and the  
 sprinklers go off.)  
 Now look at what you did.

REED  
 We have to get out of here before  
 someone catches us.

DYLAN  
 With your luck, someone will!

REED  
 I think we can make a run for it.

INT - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Anna rolls her eyes seeing that it was finally time to  
 leave, so drops the book she is holding and grabs her bag.

ANNA  
 Ok. Closing time. I'm off now. See  
 you.

BROOKE  
 No! Wait!  
 (she grabs Anna  
 back)



ANNA  
What is going on?

BROOKE  
Nothing. I just wanted to give you a  
Christmas hug before you leave.

Brooke hugs Anna tightly who thinks Brooke has lost it.

ANNA  
Am I free to leave now?

EXT - ANNA'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Dylan and Reed jet towards the car and get in when Reed sees headlights in the distance. He steps on the gas and drives away so fast leaving tire marks in the driveway.

REED  
That was a close call.

DYLAN  
(looks back and  
laughs)  
You know that was just two kids  
riding their bikes right?

REED  
Yeah, of course I did.

DYLAN  
(smirks, shaking his  
head)  
Yeah, right.

INT - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Brooke's phone pings with the incoming text. She lets go of Anna quickly and opens the text.

REED (TEXT)  
*All clear.*

Brooke lets out a relieved sigh.

ANNA  
What is that about?

BROOKE  
 (stands up straight)  
 Nothing! What are you still doing  
 here? Shouldn't you go check on your  
 house? It could be on fire and you're  
 still here!

She starts pushing Anna towards the doors.

ANNA  
 (sighs)  
 You know, it's days like this I  
 wonder about you.

Anna leaves without another word, leaving Brooke to shake her head and lean back against the counter like she just ran a marathon. She gets another ping of an incoming text.

REED (TEXT)  
*Thanks again. I owe you one.*

BROOKE  
 (says to herself)  
 You sure do.

EXT - ANNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Anna pulls into her driveway and notices a box sitting on her front porch. She gets out of her car and wonders who was at her house. She gets to the door and picks up the present, smiling curiously. She opens the card hanging off the ribbon, already having an idea who it was from but when she reads the card, her eyes become glossy and she can't keep her smile back.

REED (WRITING) V.O.  
*I will wait for you however long it  
 takes. I'm not going anywhere.*

She pulls the ribbon and opens the box to see a picture of her, Reed and Dylan from decorating Reed's house. Her heart lifts as she picks up the picture. When she looks in the box she sees the pocket watch and takes it out, seeing how beautiful it is. She opens it and admires it, but when she notices the time her eyes light up. She knows exactly where she needs to be.

EXT - CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL - NIGHT

Dylan and Reed are walking through the festival. They reach the tree and Reed's thoughts quickly go to Anna. He looks at his watch to see the time; he is certain she will show up.

DYLAN  
 Hey, Reed, look, Anna is here.

Reed looks in the direction Anna is in; their eyes meet instantly. He can't contain his happiness. She rushes over and they embrace in a hug in time for the tree to illuminate. Reed holds her for a moment then places his hands to her shoulders and looks at her with a loving smile.

REED  
You're here.

ANNA  
I am.

DYLAN  
Anna, did you see your gift?

ANNA  
(laughs)  
I did, so I take you two are the raccoons who set off my motion detector?

Reed and Dylan share sheepish looks.

ANNA (cont'd)  
(looks in Reed's eyes)  
Thank you. It meant a lot to me that you would give me such a special gift. And your words.

REED  
(picks up her hands)  
Anything to show you that you mean a great deal to me.

ANNA  
You made that very clear.

The Christmas tree light show begins creating a magical spectacle of light. Reed places his arm around Anna; she relaxes into him. Reed notices a light next to him before he sees Chase, who looks at him with a smile, then back at the Christmas Tree. They walk through the festival together, Dylan a little ahead of Reed and Anna who are holding hands. Reed and Anna look at each other, silently communicating that they wanted to do this together.

REED  
Hey Dylan, why don't you get us all some of those fancy Christmas treats?

Reed hands him some money.

DYLAN  
Sure, those look really good!

Reed and Anna smile as he runs off to the stand; Reed takes out his phone and looks in Anna's eyes.

REED  
Are you sure you want to do this?

ANNA  
(eyes glossy)  
I'm sure. I've never felt happier than being with you and Dylan. I can't think of a better Christmas gift than all of us getting the family we've all been searching for.

Reed smiles and presses send on the call. As soon as someone picks up, he holds the phone up between both of them.

Split Scene

EXT CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL/INT ST PETER'S MAIN OFFICE - NIGHT

REED  
Hello, it's Reed and Anna. We want to adopt Dylan.

ST PETER'S GROUP HOME REP  
Oh, I'm sorry to say, we received the documents earlier this afternoon from the couple who were interested in him

REED  
I knew there was another couple interested in adopting him but we are the ones who have been spending time with him. He is already a part of our lives. Is there anything you can do?

ST PETER'S GROUP HOME REP  
In most cases once the process is started there isn't anything that can be done, but let me see. I will call you back soon.

Reed hangs up as if he had just been punched. Anna is just as heartbroken, but looks at Reed with an optimistic smile.

ANNA  
Let's not lose hope. Tomorrow is Christmas. Anything can happen.  
(MORE)

ANNA (cont'd)

REED

How can you be so sure?

ANNA

Because Christmas is about believing in miracles and knowing that anything is possible if we really believe it.

REED

(smiles as he looks at her with admiration)

Magic?

ANNA

Exactly!

Reed pulls Anna into a hug, and Dylan runs over excitedly with a tray of cupcakes and cookies.

DYLAN

Hey, what's going on?

Reed and Anna pull apart and look at him with a smile. Anna wraps an arm around Dylan.

ANNA

I was just telling Reed after the festival we can go to church. When I was little my nana used to take me and say that if you say a prayer or wish on Christmas Eve it was more powerful and more likely to come true, especially if you believed in it with all your heart.

DYLAN

That is a great idea. I know exactly what to wish for.

REED AND ANNA

Me too!

They share a look and smile.

INT CHURCH - NIGHT

Dylan, Anna and Reed are standing in the pue, each holding a candle. Dylan looks at Reed and Anna and knows what his wish is. Reed laces his hand with Anna's. She looks at him with a

smile, squeezing his hand warmly, then closes her eyes and makes her prayer. Reed sees a glow next to him at Chase who looks happy. He closes his eyes and really believes he is exactly where he is meant to be.

EXT - REED'S HOUSE - CHRISTMAS DAY

It is not even 7 o'clock as Anna pulls up in her car in front of Reed's house. She walks up the steps. As she is about to knock on the door, the door swings open.

REED

Hey! I was just coming to see you.

ANNA

Have you heard anything back?

REED

No!

ANNA

Let's pick up Dylan together.  
Technically we can spend time with him today. No matter what happens we can give him a special Christmas.

Reed smiles as he looks at her and knows he is completely in love with her.

REED

I'm so glad I have you in my life.  
You make everything better.

ANNA

You make my life better too.

(She looks in his  
eyes, but softly  
says)

We should go.

Reed closes his door and locks it. When he looks at Anna he holds his hand out for her, and she takes it. They run over to her car and get on their way to pick up Dylan.

EXT ST PETER GROUP HOME - DAY

Dylan walks out to see Reed and Anna waiting by the car. He greets them with a hug, excited to spend Christmas together. Dylan feels the energy in the air is shifting and thinks he may never have to go back to the group home.

INT REED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

They all sit down. Reed and Anna glance at each other.

REED

There is something we need to tell you. We want to adopt you, but there is another family wanting to.

DYLAN

That isn't fair! You are the family I want, not some strangers I've never met! As far as I can tell you are my family, the both of you.

REED

Trust me, we want that as much as you

Dylan gets up, and walks outside. Anna and Reed share a sad look. Reed's phone rings; he answers quickly, the hope cut within seconds at the response. He hangs up with a sigh, his eyes glossy; Anna takes his hand, her sadness mirroring his.

REED (cont'd)

Since the other couple already started the process and are ready to move forward, there is not much they can do. They want to take him home for Christmas in a few hours.

ANNA

(disappointed)

So, we won't even be able to spend Christmas with him?

REED

(cracking in his voice)

How are strangers better than someone who actually spent time with him?!

ANNA

(Squeezes his hand)

Spending time with you and Dylan I can see how much he means to you.

REED

We always knew we only had two weeks but the more I got to know him the more I fell in love with him.

ANNA  
Then we fight for Dylan.

Reed looks in her eyes, surprise and gratitude reflected.

REED  
You would do that for me?

ANNA  
I would be lying if I didn't say I  
kind of fell in love with Dylan, too.  
So, we will fight for him. Together.

REED  
(smiles)  
And we know what a great team we  
make.

ANNA  
(playful)  
The best!

EXT - REED'S HOUSE - DAY

Dylan is sitting on the steps, clearly upset, as Anna and  
Reed come outside, Anna sits next to him.

ANNA  
Dylan, the other couple is wanting to  
take you home today, so Reed and I  
have to take you back- (gets cut off)

DYLAN  
But that's not fair, I want to be  
with you and Reed.

REED  
(sits down on the  
other side of Dylan)  
We are going to try our best, I  
promise.

ANNA  
We are not giving up on you.  
(off Dylan's hopeful  
look)  
But I need you to do something for  
us.

DYLAN  
What?



ANNA

I need you to have hope. There is this saying from a book I like... "As long as the heart beats, as long as body and soul keep together, no creature endowed with a will has need to despair"

DYLAN

(eyes grow bright)  
That is from my favorite book!

ANNA

Oh, is it?  
(notices the knowing look that Reed gives her, and smiles)

DYLAN

(teary eyes)  
My mom used to tell me that hope is the best superpower to have.

Anna gets a curious look, having a feeling she's heard that before but can't pinpoint where.

REED

(places his arm around Dylan)  
Well, then if your mom said it, you have to listen.

Dylan smiles and wipes a tear from his cheek.

ANNA

So, what do you say, promise to not give up?

DYLAN

Yah, I promise.

Dylan wraps his arms around Anna in a hug.

INT - ST PETER'S GROUP HOME - DYLAN'S SPACE - DAY

Dylan places his backpack on top of his bed, picks up the book Anna gave him with a smile before placing it inside, then removes the pillow and finds his book underneath, his eyes glossy. When he finishes placing everything he cares about in his backpack he zips it up; he takes out the coin Reed gave him from his pocket and flips it a couple of times, feeling hopeful.

INT - THE FRONT OFFICE OF THE GROUP HOME - DAY

Reed and Anna walk up to the counter.

REED

We need to speak to someone in charge. We want to adopt Dylan.

KATE

Let me get you in touch with my boss. She is the one to make the final decisions about all adoptions.

INT SARAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Sarah is working on her laptop when Reed and Anna walk in and sit down.

SARAH

I understand you want to adopt Dylan, but-

(gets cut off by Reed)

REED

Yes, we know that the other couple is moving forward, but we have spent the last two weeks with him, getting to know him, and he wants to be with us. I think that since he is 14 he should have a say where he lives.

SARAH

The other couple completed all of the tasks to be able to adopt him.

Reed takes out Dylan's letter and places it on top of the desk.

REED

I didn't find his letter by accident. His Christmas wish was for a family, and we have created that for him. Not to move in with two strangers. Please let us be the ones to adopt Dylan.

ANNA

We actually care about him and know him. There must be something you can do.

SARAH

I get what you are saying. Let me see.

REED

Ok Thank you.  
 (Reed and Anna get  
 up to leave)

SARAH

Don't thank me yet. It will take a  
 miracle to pull this off.

REED

It's Christmas.  
 (looks at Anna with  
 admiration)  
 the best time to believe in miracles.

INT - ST PETER'S GROUP HOME WAITING AREA - DAY

Anna is sitting down, getting increasingly nervous from  
 Reed's pacing back and forth. She grabs his hand and yanks  
 him down next to her, causing him to look at her in surprise.

ANNA

You are going to walk a hole right  
 into the floor

REED

Sorry, I'm nervous.

ANNA

(teasing)  
 I wouldn't have guessed.  
 (off Reed's smile)  
 Here, let's do this. Close your eyes  
 and take a deep breath.

Reed gives a skeptical look.

ANNA (cont'd)

Just trust me.

Reed closes his eyes and takes a breath, Anna does the same.  
 Now, what do you call an elf that  
 runs away from Santa's workshop?

Reed keeps his eyes closed, but has a smirk on his face.

REED

What?

ANNA

A rebel without a Clause.

Reed opens his eyes, laughing, causing Anna to giggle. After a few seconds Anna opens her eyes to see Reed staring at her with a loving look. His admiring gaze is like a magnet that pulls her in. They are about to kiss, when Sarah comes rushing over.

SARAH  
It wasn't easy, but I wouldn't take  
no for an answer.

REED  
(as he and Anna  
stand up)  
So, what does that mean?

SARAH  
(beams)  
You can adopt Dylan!

Reed and Anna instantly look at each other and go into a big hug, their happiness overflowing.

EXT - ST PETER'S GROUP HOME - DAY

Dylan walks outside looking sullen, but then surprised and confused to see Reed and Anna waiting in front of her car.

DYLAN  
They told me my new family was  
waiting out here.

Reed and Anna share a look and smile.

REED  
We are your new family. We can adopt  
you.

DYLAN  
(his eyes light up)  
Both of you?

Anna looks at Reed with a smile as they take each others hand.

ANNA  
Yes, both of us. Is that OK with you?

DYLAN  
I don't want to be with anyone else!

Dylan hugs them, happy to finally have his biggest wish come true. As Anna hugs Dylan, her heart lifts, knowing she made the right decision.

INT - REED'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Reed finds the box by the tree and brings it to Dylan, who is surprised and opens it; his eyes light up when he pulls out a baseball mitt, but is even more excited to see his name stitched in leather.

DYLAN

This is really for me?

ANNA

It has your name on it, unless your name really is Skywalker?  
(teases; Dylan laughs)

REED

You're going to need it when you're playing for a team.

Dylan hugs Reed. Anna watches them with a smile; her eyes meet Reed's. He sees the loving look in Anna's eyes and knows more than ever how much he loves her. He takes out the letter from his jacket and holds it out to her. She looks confused as she takes it, seeing simply *Anna* on the front.

ANNA

Is this for me?

REED

It made its way to me. I thought you could help me figure out who it belongs to.

ANNA

You think because my name is Anna I can help you find this person?

REED

Exactly.

Anna looks at him curiously before she looks to the letter.

ANNA

It has no return address or stamp, are you sure it was meant to be delivered?

REED

I am 100% positive this letter needs to be delivered to the rightful owner.

Reed glances at Dylan, and they share a discreet smile.

ANNA

There is no way to know who this is for without opening it.

REED

Then you should open it.

Anna opens the envelope and pulls out the letter.

ANNA (READING ALOUD)

*Dear Anna, from the moment we met I knew there was something special about you. You are beautiful and kind, and charming, and a little nerdy.*

Anna laughs as she looks at Reed in surprise as he picks up from the letter.

REED (VO)

You make me a better person. Knowing you has made me believe in fate and magic and miracles, something that I never thought I could believe in again. (holds his hands out for Anna to take and pulls her up) I love every moment with you and have fallen completely in love with you.

Anna looks in his eyes, hers reflecting all the love she has been feeling for him.

ANNA

I'm in love with you too.

Reed smiles as he takes her face in his hands and kisses her like he's wanted to since they met. Anna wraps her arms around him, completely giving in to her feelings, passion overflowing. When they pull apart, they both have smiles, their eyes shining, but are surprised when they get a big hug from Dylan. They laugh, and hug him back.

EXT REED'S HOUSE - DAY

They head outside to play in the snow, and have fun throwing snowballs at each other. Reed takes a step back, watching Anna and Dylan together, but starts to notice a familiar light before he sees Chase at the edge of the forest. The light seems to grow brighter this time.

EXT THE WOODS

Reed follows Chase into the forest until he sees a white light. Chase turns back to look at him.

REED  
Where are you going?

CHASE  
It's time for me to go now.

REED  
To go where?

CHASE  
To completely cross over to the other side because you no longer need me.

REED  
I will always need you.

CHASE  
No you don't. You have Dylan and Anna in your life now. I will always live in your heart but you will no longer see me.

(as Reed wipes the tears from his eyes)  
This is not goodbye, this is see you later. One day we'll be together again. I love you Dad.

REED  
I love you, too, Chase.

CHASE  
It's time for you to finally forgive yourself and be happy.

Anna notices Reed at the edge of the forest and a beautiful golden light shining through the trees. Anna sees the silhouette of a boy within the light before she sees Chase. He glances back at her, and gives her a smile and wave. Her eyes are shining as she waves at him before he turns away and disappears into the light. Dylan comes over next to Reed, who puts his arm around Dylan.

INT REED'S HOUSE - NIGHT  
Dylan sits by the Christmas tree writing in his journal.

DYLAN V.O.

Four years ago I made a Christmas wish and it finally came true. Like my mom always said, as long as you have hope anything is possible. I finally got the family I wished for.

Anna is by the window painting, glancing at Reed as she does

ANNA VO

I never saw myself falling in love again or ever having the family I always dreamed for, but I found love and a family in the most unexpected way, when things seemed hopeless I found exactly what I was looking for. That is the thing about Christmas and miracles, is they happen when you least expect it.

Some time later, Reed walks into the kitchen to help Anna with the food. He gives her a sweet smile as he takes the plate from her about to leave, when Anna pulls him back and places a kiss to his cheek. Their eyes meet. They smile and lean in for a kiss when the doorbell rings.

ANNA

Ooh, saved by the bell.  
(teases)

REED

For now.

He sneaks a playful kiss on her cheek before he leaves. Anna can't keep her smile back as she follows him out. Dylan opens the door to Brooke and hugs her, then Anna and Reed greet her. Jason knocks on the open door before he comes in and hugs Reed.

They all head over to the dining room. Brooke catches a glance at Jason who looks at her with a charming smile. As they go to sit, they reach for the same chair, and their eyes meet. Jason pulls the chair for her. When Brooke takes the seat, she can't hide away a smile that Anna notices. Reed takes in the moment of everyone here together.

REED V.O

When I came to North Point to start over I never imagined I would be in the perfect place. I was destined to find Dylan's letter that unknowingly led me on a journey to find true love  
(MORE)



REED V.O (cont'd)  
and a family, and restored my faith  
that miracles do happen.

Later on that evening Reed and Anna are sitting by the  
fireplace.

REED  
Today was the best Christmas I've had  
in a long time.

ANNA  
Yeah, it is definitely one I'll  
always remember. And actually, I have  
one more present for you.

Anna comes back with a present and hands it to Reed. He  
opens it to see a painting of the three of them outside in  
the snow, with rays of golden and white light filtering  
through the trees. Reed looks at her with a surprised smile.  
The look in their eyes reflect the spark and connection they  
have with each other. There is a glow before a mistletoe  
appears hanging off the mantle of the fireplace, sparkling  
with light.

REED  
(smirks playfully)  
Merry Christmas.

ANNA  
(returns the playful  
smile)  
Yes, it is. Merry Christmas.

Reed and Anna gaze into each others eyes, and kiss. They  
pull apart and still look into each others eyes, both  
reflecting a happiness they haven't felt in a long time.

REED  
I can't wait to see where this  
journey takes us.

ANNA  
(smiles playfully)  
It's been pretty magical so far.

They kiss as the mistletoe continues to sparkle with light.  
Scene transitions from being real into one of Anna's  
paintings of her and Reed sharing a kiss in front of the  
fireplace with all of the Christmas decorations.

Fade Out...