

THE QUANTUM STATE OF ADA

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FADE IN:

INT. ADA'S BEDROOM - DAY (1994)

ADA WILSON (15) wakes, slides her headphones off, and claims her glasses off the nightstand. She's slouchy and awkward.

She dreamily inspects her room: dozens of scholastic trophies, a music stand, an organized rack of cassette tapes. She laughs.

INT. WILSON LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ada drifts through the house, running her hands over books, gazing at family portraits, falling onto furniture, and laughing.

INT. WILSON KITCHEN - DAY

Ada's parents, SOPHIA and FRANKLIN (40s), sit, drink coffee, and read the newspaper. Ada bolts to her mother and hugs her.

FRANKLIN

There you are.

SOPHIA

We weren't awakened by your lovely flute this morning. We started to think you were ill.

Ada hugs her father. She smells his hair.

ADA

I forgot how young you two were.

SOPHIA

Are you feeling well?

ADA

I'm enjoying how lucid this is.

Ada picks up a newspaper.

ADA (CONT'D)

(reading)

'October sixteenth, nineteen ninety-four.' Makes sense -- I was thinking about ninety-four.

SOPHIA

Where's the midterm article?

ADA  
Ninety-four midterms... What  
happened in ninety-four?

SOPHIA  
You've been following this for  
weeks. 'The Contract With America.'

FRANKLIN  
(glibly)  
'Contract on America.'

ADA  
October. Right, it hasn't happened  
yet. This election is the...

Ada turns back to the newspaper.

ADA (CONT'D)  
(reading)  
'Simpson Jury Selection Continues.'

Ada thinks hard. She touches the coffeepot and winces. Her  
eyes grow wide. She flicks the kitchen lights on and off.

FRANKLIN  
Is intermission over already?

SOPHIA  
Ada, what's wrong?

Ada dashes out. Her parents stare after her for a beat, then  
shrug and return to their papers.

INT. ADA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ada hyperventilates: Rapid, shallow, wheezing breaths. She  
presses her hand to her breastbone.

ADA  
Breathe.

She sits at her desk, purposely tips her chair backward, and  
falls on the floor. She stares at the ceiling and continues  
her deep breaths.

The door opens and MONICA 'NICA' MENDEZ (16) confidently  
tromps in. She wears Doc Martens and flannel. The sides of  
her head are shaved.

NICA  
(calling)  
Yes, Mrs. Wilson, I promise.

ADA

Nica.

NICA

Your mom says you're sick. Don't sneeze in my mouth, Typhoid Mary.

ADA

How did. You get. Here?

NICA

I walked across the street, genius. Why you on the floor?

ADA

Just me. Focus. Breathe.

NICA

Whatcha flipping-out about?

Ada's breathing regulates. She rights herself.

ADA

Thought I was dreaming, but I'm not. It doesn't work this way.

NICA

You could be dreaming... But then I'd be a dream. Freaky.

ADA

My senses are clear, lights turn on and off, and I can read, therefore, I'm not dreaming. I even fell down, but that was a long-shot.

NICA

I read in dreams.

ADA

It's possible you recognize words in the context of dreams, but you can't actually read.

Nica seizes a sheet of music off the stand ('Syrinx by Debussy').

NICA

'Sri... Sphinx? By Dempsy... Debsy'... Bad example.

Nica flips a switch on the wall. Nothing happens.

NICA (CONT'D)  
Oh fuck, I'm dreaming.

ADA  
That's the fan.

Nica flips the other switch and the lights respond.

NICA  
Scared the shit outta me.

ADA  
Time travel shouldn't work like  
this. Too much causality. Paradox.  
I have to test a paradox.

EXT. WILSON FRONT YARD - DAY

Ada and Nica stand by a neighbor's house. Ada unceremoniously smashes a grotesque gnome statue.

ADA  
Now give it a second.

The girls wait several beats.

NICA  
What's supposed to--

ADA  
I don't know. If this were a closed  
time-like loop, I'd remember it  
breaking. But I still remember Mrs.  
Cooper being upset when it was  
stolen. It was Christmas and I was  
at Berkeley.

NICA  
We should prolly go on a rampage.

ADA  
So it works like it did before:  
Timelines have diverged and there  
aren't going to be paradoxes.  
Unless you can think of a better  
test of local causality.

Nica breaks a flowerpot.

NICA  
More of this.

INT. ADA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ada rifles through her closet. Nica studies her suspiciously.

ADA

This makes no sense. There's no incursion this far back. Am I trapped here? Do I have to live my whole life again?

NICA

Do you know how you sound?

ADA

(grunts)

Why are all my clothes so unattractive?

NICA

I dunno. Just your style.

ADA

Nineties clothes are awful... Wait, Unattractive is 'just my style'?

NICA

Are you high?

ADA

Nica, c'mon, it's me!

NICA

Look at me. Let me see your eyes. You held those stickers for me over the summer. Did you keep one? Stick it in a book last night, maybe?

Ada lies down.

ADA

Breathe. This is going to be fine. We have a prime universe that's intact.

NICA

Ada, I'm gonna get your mom.

ADA

You can't tell anybody. I know you love gossip, but you need to keep this to yourself for once. I'm scared.

NICA  
If you don't come down by school  
tomorrow--

ADA  
School.

Ada flips through a planner on her desk. It contains a map of the school, her schedule, locker number, etc.

ADA (CONT'D)  
Hah! Everyone made fun of me for  
being so anal-retentive, but see  
how helpful it is?

NICA  
You know you're bonkers, right?

ADA  
Why did it have to be high school?  
Nineteen ninety-four... I made so  
many mistakes last time.

Ada picks up a tape case and inspects the J-card.

ADA (CONT'D)  
Lucy...

NICA  
That one of her mixtapes?

ADA  
This is when it all went wrong. I  
broke her heart, Nica. I don't want  
to do that again.

NICA  
How did you already do it?

ADA  
I did it, but not yet.

NICA  
Ada are you fucking with me?

ADA  
No!

NICA  
(muttering)  
Shit, how do I do this again?

Nica takes Ada's hands.

NICA (CONT'D)

Breathe.

Ada takes a deep breath.

NICA (CONT'D)

I can't understand you because  
you're being insane.

ADA

I imagine it seems that way.

NICA

I'm gonna ask you questions and you  
answer, 'kay?

ADA

'Kay.

NICA

And you're like a million percent  
real when you say you're not  
fucking with me?

ADA

Yes!

Nica needles Ada with a look. Ada throws her hands up in  
defense.

NICA

Fine... Here we go... Are you  
psychic?

ADA

No.

NICA

Do you know the future?

ADA

I know everything that happened  
last time I was in nineteen ninety-  
four.

NICA

This is ninety-four for me, but  
it's ninety-four for you... again?

ADA

Right.

Nica thinks and then plays along.



NICA

So not psychic... but you have  
'cheat codes.'

ADA

Sure.

NICA

Will you get in trouble for using  
cheat codes?

ADA

It's not like there's a Novikov  
self-consistency police department.  
Besides, this isn't a closed time-  
like loop.

NICA

Nobody knows what any of that  
means.

ADA

It means no, I can't get in  
trouble.

NICA

'Kay, if you fucked-up the last  
ninety-four, don't fuck up this  
ninety-four.

ADA

That's... oddly simple. Could work.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

A sea of HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS mill around lockers, talk in clumps, dash down the corridors. Ada walks carefully to avoid being bulldozed and stealthily consults her map of the school.

She passes THE SLUT PATROL: EMILY, a queen bee surrounded by her swarm, LITTLE AMY, MARISOL, and other girls (all 14-17).

JAKE (17), the quarterback alpha male, slams a student against a locker.

JAKE

Watch where you're going!

Ada backs away and bumps into a random student. She gets pushed aside and drops her books.

STUDENT 1  
Watch it, bitch!

Ada gathers her books. Someone helps her. She looks up...

LUCY LOWE

She's a tomboy. Short messy hair, baggy jeans, and a blue flannel (16). She brandishes a rakish, heart-melting grin.

LUCY  
Let me help you.

Ada freezes, lost in a stare. Lucy holds out a book. Ada returns to the real world, flustered. She grabs the book and rushes down the hall.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

Ada enters and sits next to Nica. The HISTORY TEACHER (40s) stands by the board.

ADA  
I hate this. Was school always this crowded?

LUCY (O.S.)  
You keeping it warm for me?

Ada turns. Lucy stands expectantly by the desk. Ada makes some noises, first in an attempt to speak, then expressing her frustration regarding her inability to speak.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
Outta my seat, goofball.

The BELL RINGS.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
Or I bet there's room on my lap.

HISTORY TEACHER  
(to the class)  
Seats, please.

Ada vacates the chair quickly.

HISTORY TEACHER (CONT'D)  
Miss Wilson. Seat, please.

ADA  
I... I don't know where I sit.

The class laughs.

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY

Ada stares at students filing in. SARAH (17) arrives.

SARAH

You were supposed to call last night so we could study.

Ada squints at her.

ADA

I was sick. Sarah? Sarah! Where do I sit, Sarah?

SARAH

Where do you sit? Next to me. Are you okay for this test?

ADA

Differential Equations? Pft.

The girls sit a few seats away from ZACH (17). The MATH TEACHER (50s) distributes tests.

SARAH

You're positive you're ready? You and Zach are tied for the top of the class, but if you blow this test...

ADA

He was always such a weasel.

ZACH

You ready to go down, Wilson?

ADA

You were always such a weasel.

The BELL RINGS.

MATH TEACHER

Fifty minutes.

Ada flips the test and starts flying through the answers.

SARAH

Are you still going to count the chapter review as extra credit?

MATH TEACHER

Up to twenty points, so those of  
you falling behind might want to...

Ada turns the first page. Students start to look over.

MATH TEACHER (CONT'D)

Fifty minutes, Ada. You can take  
your time and think about the  
problems.

ADA

(without looking up)  
If I finish early, can I go to the  
library?

ZACH

Is this an old test or something?

MATH TEACHER

I wrote it last week.

Ada stops working and stares blankly into space. She blinks  
back to life and returns to her test. She doesn't look up  
while she talks.

ADA

(whispering)  
Sarah.

SARAH

(whispering)  
What?

ADA

(whispering)  
We can't be friends anymore.

SARAH

What?!

MATH TEACHER

Let's all focus on our own tests.

SARAH

(whispering)  
What are you talking about?

ADA

(whispering)  
I've decided to fix some little  
things in my life. I'm concerned I  
have a negative impact on you.

(MORE)

ADA (CONT'D)

In the long term, I think it will  
beneficial.

SARAH

(whispering)

Have you gone completely insane?

Ada hands her test to the Math Teacher and leaves the room.

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Students study. Ada sits alone, eats a peanut butter and  
jelly sandwich, and scribbles in a blue notebook. Lucy sits.

LUCY

How ya feeling?

ADA

Busy.

Ada looks up. She realizes who it is and freezes.

LUCY

Whatcha writing?

STUDENT

Shhh!

LUCY

'Shhh,' yourself.

(to Ada)

What is that?

Ada's breathing quickens.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You cool? Nica said you were fried  
yesterday...

Ada starts hyperventilating. Holds her breastbone.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Shit... You just need to relax,  
right?

Lucy takes Ada's free hand and squeezes it.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Listen to my voice. Just us  
talking.

Ada stares into Lucy's eyes. Her breathing regulates.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
You cool?

ADA  
I'm cool.

LUCY  
Maybe you'd be less stressed if you weren't doing homework during lunch on a Monday.

ADA  
It's not homework. I had a theory... but it's wrong. I have to start over.

The girls realize they're still holding hands.

LUCY  
I guess we don't need to...

Ada pinkens like a strawberry. Lucy releases her hand.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
You're doing stuff so I'll go...  
Hey. Come outside and eat lunch with us... With me. Sometime.

Lucy leaves. Ada buries her face in her hands.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Passing period. Ada swaps books from her locker. Emily and Jake walk by. Jake tries to kiss Emily and she pushes him away playfully.

JAKE  
C'mon, don't be such a bitch.

EMILY  
(laughing)  
Not at school, I told you!

Ada watches them walk down the hall.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

The football team runs drills. Emily, Marisol, and Little Amy watch the flag squad run a routine... poorly. Ada approaches.

ADA  
Emily?

EMILY  
 (into megaphone)  
 No, you whores! What did I just  
 say? Start over!

LITTLE AMY  
 Bless their hearts.

MARISOL  
 Just put 'em out of their misery.  
 Do we really need a flag squad?

EMILY  
 I don't understand how these skanks  
 keep getting worse.

ADA  
 Emily. Do you have a minute?

The cheerleaders glance over with disdain.

EMILY  
 You wanna join the team? No.

LITTLE AMY  
 She couldn't be worse than them.

EMILY  
 I can tell she's a piece of shit  
 just looking at her.

Marisol cackles.

EMILY (CONT'D)  
 (into megaphone)  
 Stop! I haven't seen so much  
 sucking since Homecoming! Now get  
 off your slut knees and start over!

ADA  
 (firmly)  
 It's not about the team.

EMILY  
 Then I don't have time for it.

INT. ADA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ada and Nica sit on the floor, consult papers and a yearbook.  
 A CASSETTE plays ALTERNATIVE MUSIC.

ADA

Jared Smith. You're sure she didn't say anything bad?

NICA

All Lucy said is she talked to you in the library. I thought you were over losing your shit when you two hang out. Jared's a dork, but not a dork like you.

ADA

Technically I'm a nerd, not a dork.

NICA

There's a difference?

ADA

Nerds possess a combination of intelligence, obsession, and social ineptitude. Dorks only--

NICA

God, you are a nerd. Who's next?

Ada's notebook is filled with student names and descriptions. She writes 'dork' next to 'Jared Smith.'

ADA

Scott Sorenson.

NICA

He's one of those special ed freaks.

ADA

That's right -- Scotty. He's not a freak, he's autistic.

NICA

Tell me what the future is like.

ADA

Better and worse. Amy Talbert.

NICA

That's 'Little Amy.' You know her.

ADA

I know Little Amy.

NICA

Seriously. What important stuff happens?



Ada thinks hard.

ADA

Nothing. The less anyone knows about this, the better. Telling you could contaminate the timeline. I don't want things to get too different because then my knowledge won't be as useful.

NICA

You used to not make sense, but now you don't make sense and it's more. Wait. The sense you make is less than the sense you made before, which was already really low.

Ada scoffs.

NICA (CONT'D)

You know I don't believe you, right?

ADA

I believe you. You were my best friend last time. You were always there for me. Even when we grew apart, nobody was the same as you.

Nica hits her with a determined stare.

ADA (CONT'D)

Fine. Don't move to Oakland in ninety-nine. You'll hate it.

Nica laughs and pushes Ada.

NICA

No, real proof you're from the future. Win the lottery or something.

ADA

That doesn't work because of chaos. Besides, winning the lottery is a huge change. Anything I change needs to be local.

NICA

Local like in San Jose?

ADA

Local as in little changes. Like if I messed with the stock market, I could destroy the economy by mistake.

NICA

Cheat codes for small things, not big things.

ADA

Basically. Jennifer Thomas... Why do we have twenty-seven Jennifers at this school?

Nica knocks the notebook out of Ada's hands.

NICA

This is all wrong. You don't care about people at school. Why do you care now that you get to do it all again?

ADA

If I don't get up to speed, people will notice I'm acting strange.

NICA

(laughing)  
People know you're strange!

ADA

I don't want it to be 'locked-up' strange.

NICA

You only care about one person...

Ada holds her head.

NICA (CONT'D)

You're not normal. Lucy likes that you're not normal. So try leaving your brain for five minutes, speak like a teenager, not Bill Nye, and don't piss your Pampers when she talks to you.

(beat)

Who cares about the assholes at school? You have the cheat codes. Use 'em.

They sit in silence for a minute.

ADA  
 When I had a panic attack in the  
 library, Lucy held my hand.

Nica squeals in delight.

INT. WILSON KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sophia makes a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Nica enters.

SOPHIA  
 Oh Monica, you're still here.

NICA  
 Mrs. Wilson, can I ask you  
 something?

SOPHIA  
 Always.

NICA  
 Ada's weird, right?

SOPHIA  
 (laughing)  
 We consider it 'unique.'

NICA  
 When is unique... too unique?

Sophia stops packing the lunch.

SOPHIA  
 Elaborate.

NICA  
 She's right all the time, but does  
 she ever say stuff that sounds  
 wrong? Like really wrong?

SOPHIA  
 Franklin and I come from the  
 humanities, so when Ada talks about  
 particle physics or what-have-you,  
 it's a little over our heads. It's  
 hard to know if she's accurate or  
 not, but we trust her mad genius.  
 (beat)  
 What did she say that seemed wrong?

NICA  
 Nothing. I guess it's just... over  
 my head.

INT. BAND HALL - DAY

FLAUTISTS (15-17) stand impatiently by a closed door. Ada calmly writes in her blue notebook. A band teacher emerges and posts something to the door. The flautists circle around.

FLAUTIST #1  
Yes! Second Chair!

FLAUTIST #2  
Goddamnit... Wilson!

Ada looks up with irritation.

FLAUTIST #2 (CONT'D)  
Can't you even pretend to be excited about chair results? It's bad enough nobody ever gets a shot at First Chair, but you could at least act surprised.

ADA  
First Chair? I didn't even practice. My brain was scrambled yesterday.

FLAUTIST #3  
Fuck you. Seriously. Fuck you.

ADA  
(sotto)  
Haven't played in years. Didn't practice. Why would I do well?

Flautist #2 kicks a chair. Ada gathers her things.

ADA (CONT'D)  
You're a bunch of crybabies and I've exhausted my interest in this nonsense. When Mr. Park returns from making-out with whatever no-self-esteem freshman he's cornered, tell him I quit. He can take Concert Band and stuff it in his trombone case.

FLAUTIST #2  
You know what, you self-righteous--

A FIRE ALARM BLARES.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

SIRENS BLEAT. Small tufts of smoke rise from the school.

Emergency vehicles encircle the school. Firefighters rush in and out of the building. Police officers stand around a perimeter. Some students gawk, others run amok.

Behind the tape, the DRAMA TEACHER (30s) speaks to a police officer. Ada passes by, wringing her hands.

DRAMA TEACHER

I was away for two minutes! How  
could a glue gun cause all this?

A HIGH-PITCHED SQUEAL drowns-out everything else. Ada winces and grabs her head. Nobody else reacts. She stumbles away until she's free of the crowd.

Ada struggles with the pain. The SQUEAL FADES OUT and normal sound returns. Lucy places a hand on Ada's shoulder.

LUCY

I said, are you all right? Looks  
like you're dying.

ADA

It's too loud.

LUCY

C'mon, we're over here. People  
saying it's the Latin Kings or  
something.

ADA

What?

LUCY

Some cholos set the school on fire.

ADA

It was an electrical fire related  
to a hot glue gun.

LUCY

I liked it better when it was gang-  
bangers.

Ada stops in her tracks and looks away to mumble to herself.

ADA

Didn't happen last time. Something  
changed it.

(MORE)

ADA (CONT'D)

My actions are local, not going to affect people outside my circle of influence, which is relatively small. Some causality I'm missing. Chaos could affect the spread of an electric fire. Maybe it was caught in the other timeline. There could have been another event that--

Lucy touches Ada's shoulder.

LUCY

What are you muttering about? I don't understand.

Ada points at the school.

LUCY (CONT'D)

The fire?

ADA

I don't know what caused it.

LUCY

You said it was a hot glue gun.

ADA

Not that cause. The cause of the cause. Or the cause of that.

LUCY

Huh?

ADA

I don't want it to be me.

Lucy bursts into laughter.

LUCY

Did you start the fire?

ADA

Maybe indirectly.

LUCY

How do you not know?

Ada grabs her head in frustration.

LUCY (CONT'D)

C'mon.

EXT. SCHOOL - LUCY'S CAR - AFTERNOON

A group of kids (14-17) hang on Lucy's car and smoke cigarettes. Besides Ada, Lucy, and Nica, they include CHERYL, JENNIFER R, and DREA (the girls); RANDO, XIAN, and TOPHER (the guys). Each person wears their own style -- alternative, grunge, or metal.

CHERYL

No shit?

LUCY

You tell 'em, Ada.

DREA

Xian, you said it was the Kings.

XIAN

I heard it from Hector.

RANDO

What the fuck does that scrub know?

JENNIFER R

Nica, you never said your friend was a pyro.

NICA

Oh yeah, you don't fuck with Ada.

LUCY

She was born in a mental ward.

ADA

I'm not a pyromaniac. I didn't say I started the fire, just that it was correlated to me. Correlation is not causation.

DREA

Huh?

TOPHER

So if they never find your prints, they can't arrest you, right?

ADA

I didn't set the fire. I maybe--

Nica kicks Ada's leg. Nica turns to the others and laughs.

NICA

The cops are right over there.  
Everyone get the story straight?  
She didn't set the fire.

CHERYL

All fucking diabolical and shit. I  
love her.

ADA

(to Lucy)

Tell them I'm not an arsonist.

Lucy smiles and shakes her head.

XIAN

Fuck this. I'm leaving.

TOPHER

Shotgun.

RANDO

Topher, you're the shortest one,  
you get the back.

TOPHER

I called it!

The guys depart, arguing amongst each other.

DREA

Gotta stay. Dad's picking me up  
this afternoon.

CHERYL

Page him. Page him now.

DREA

You got a quarter?

LUCY

Y'all are sitting on my fucking car  
and nobody asks me for a ride?

JENNIFER R

We value our lives, thank you very  
much.

The three girls walk away, waving.

NICA

I have a death-wish. You drive me  
home?



LUCY

Love to.

ADA

Aren't we gonna get in trouble for leaving early?

NICA

Hopefully they'll think we died in the fire.

LUCY

You're right across the street from Nica. It's a waste of gas if I don't take you home.

ADA

The bus makes its route whether or not I'm there, so approximately the same amount of gas is consumed regardless of who drives me.

Nica kicks Ada.

EXT. WILSON FRONT YARD - DAY

LUCY'S CAR SCREECHES to a halt at the curb. Lucy and Nica exit the vehicle. Ada stumbles out.

LUCY

See? Not that bad, right?

NICA

We lived, so there's that.

Ada holds her head and steadies herself on the car.

LUCY

You okay?

ADA

I'm sure I'm dizzy for another reason.

NICA

I gotta piss like a racehorse. Y'all hang or whatever. Later.

ADA

I guess I should--

Nica kicks Ada.

ADA (CONT'D)

Stop!

NICA

(hissing)

Cheat codes.

She walks off, glaring at Ada.

LUCY

What does that mean?

Ada closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

ADA

Are you doing anything now?

LUCY

Hangin' with you. Unless you want me to take you back to school. I know you got clubs and stuff.

ADA

I quit everything yesterday.

LUCY

I thought you lived for Latin Club and Mathcounts and--

ADA

I have... new priorities.

(beat)

You're not that bad a driver. You have the technical skills, you just need to pay attention to other drivers... and pedestrians... and signs... traffic laws, in general.

LUCY

Ain't like you can do better.

ADA

I certainly can.

LUCY

You? You've never driven, ever. And I have a stick.

ADA

It's not that difficult.

LUCY

That right?

INT. LUCY'S CAR - DAY

Lucy sits shotgun. Ada sits behind the wheel and adjusts the seat, mirrors, and dashboard controls.

LUCY  
Any time now.

ADA  
There is no reason to be lax on safety precautions. Ready?

LUCY  
Take it away, Andretti.

Ada turns the key. The ENGINE SPUTTERS and stops. She tries again. The ENGINE TURNS OVER. Ada puts it in gear and car dies.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
Well, well, well.

ADA  
I know how to do this, but my left foot can't control the clutch. I can't feel the friction-point.

Ada tries once more. The ENGINE SPUTTERS AND DIES.

LUCY  
Don't worry, goofball. I won't tell anyone how much you suck.

ADA  
(realizing)  
It's muscle-memory. I absolutely know how to drive stick but my body doesn't have the muscle-memory to make it work. I can play the flute, but I haven't learned to drive stick yet. This is fascinating.

LUCY  
Weird explanation for just not knowing how to drive.

ADA  
You win. I can't drive. Hey, we wear the same size, right?

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lucy and Ada sift through clothes on the bed.

ADA

Do you have anything without a band on it?

LUCY

What's wrong with those?

ADA

Imagine the scenario where I wear this Soundgarden shirt. Someone approaches me and wants to talk about the tour it came from. How am I supposed to respond? 'Yeah, I like that one song from that one album. Please don't ask any follow-up questions.' Besides, doesn't this stuff depress you? You said grunge died with Kurt Cobain.

LUCY

Did I?

ADA

You know. Everyone sells-out. Alternative music becomes a cliché.

LUCY

Kurt died for our sins. No way grunge will ever sell-out. So what's the deal? You going as me for Halloween?

ADA

My clothes! Look at me!

LUCY

You're cute.

ADA

I'm a floppy hat away from looking like Blossom's less-cool sister.

LUCY

Blossom's her own less-cool sister.

Ada holds up a Misfits shirt.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Like it?

ADA

It will go perfect with my 'Jem' backpack!

LUCY  
I don't get it.

ADA  
Jem? Jem and the Holograms, the fictional band of the eponymous cartoon. 'Jem is truly outrageous, truly, truly, truly outrageous'?

LUCY  
Oh, those fucking pastel girls.

ADA  
Their nemeses were the Misfits.

LUCY  
The Misfits? The actual fucking Misfits? You're telling me Danzig was in a cartoon?

ADA  
Danzig? No, Pizzazz, Roxy, Stormer, and that jerk Jetta.

LUCY  
I didn't really watch girl shows. I was all about 'Thundercats.'

ADA  
Cheetara?

LUCY  
WilyKit.

Lucy holds up a yellow and black flannel.

ADA  
No way.

LUCY  
If you're going grunge, step one is flannel.

Ada grabs hold of the blue flannel Lucy wears.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
Fuck no.

ADA  
Is this the linchpin to your entire look? This single flannel?

They lock eyes. Lucy begrudgingly hands it over.

LUCY  
It goes with your eyes, anyway.

ADA  
Don't my glasses get in the way?

LUCY  
They make your eyes look so big...

There's a MOMENT... And then Lucy ruins it by putting a cigarette in her mouth.

ADA  
I forgot you smoked.

LUCY  
What are you talking about? You bug me every time.

Ada yanks the cigarette out of Lucy's lips.

ADA  
Smoking is bad.

LUCY  
Jesus Christ. I like to smoke. It may be bad, but it feels good.

Ada starts to speak, but Lucy cuts her off.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
Don't say cancer. Everything gives you cancer. You said all this shit last fucking week, remember?

ADA  
I know it's hard. Cigarettes use negative reinforcement to keep you addicted. When you quit, you're deprived of the dopamine boost your body's dependant on.

LUCY  
See? Quitting's impossible.

ADA  
New behavior is best-created when rewarded for specific actions. The promise of reward prompts a change in behavior to get said reward. Positive reinforcement.

Ada gives the cigarette to Lucy.

ADA (CONT'D)

I'll make you a deal. For every  
cigarette you don't smoke, I'll...  
give you a kiss.

Lucy smiles and hands the cigarette back. Ada leans in,  
places a quick kiss on Lucy's lips, and tosses the cigarette  
into a trash can.

Lucy passes over a second cigarette. Ada kisses her. Lucy  
gets a chance to kiss back this time. They break. Ada trashes  
the second cigarette.

Lucy withdraws a third cigarette. Ada kisses her before it  
even changes hands. Ada breaks suddenly and breathes hard.

Lucy looks at her cigarettes and hands over the whole pack.

LUCY

Eleven.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

Students enter the room. Ada sits, wearing the blue flannel.  
Across the room, Lucy slips into her seat next to Nica. Nica  
gives her a look.

LUCY

What?

Nica gestures toward Ada. Lucy acts confused.

NICA

She's wearing your clothes.

LUCY

You borrow stuff.

NICA

Not that flannel. You fucking love  
that flannel.

LUCY

Whatever.

NICA

How did yesterday go?

LUCY

Any day I get outta school early...

NICA

How did it go with Ada?

LUCY

It was fine. We talked. Has she said strange stuff to you? She seems really...

Nica narrows her eyes.

LUCY (CONT'D)

What did she say?

NICA

I dunno, what would she say?

Across the room, Ada looks back at them. They wave.

INT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM - DAY

Lucy, Ada, and other students attend class. The physics teacher, Ms. LEDESMA (30s), lectures. Ada reads a book.

LEDESMA

Here's another resistance-free example: We have two balls--

Some students snicker.

LEDESMA (CONT'D)

Keep it together.

(beat)

One ball falls from the top of the platform to the floor. The other rolls from the top of the platform along the staggered path to the floor. At different points in their journey, each ball has different forces working on them.

STUDENT

(loud whisper)

Working on the balls.

LEDESMA

Last warning.

(beat)

Ada, will you start us off?

Ada keeps reading.

LEDESMA (CONT'D)

Ada. Your attention, please.

ADA

Sorry, I wasn't listening.



The class laughs.

LEDESMA  
Is this boring you, Ms. Wilson?

ADA  
Oh, quite.

More laughter. Ledesma picks up Ada's book.

LEDESMA  
Ada is reading... 'Chaos in  
Classical and Quantum Mechanics.'

Ledesma gives Ada a curious look. Ada shrugs.

LEDESMA (CONT'D)  
Ada can easily pass a quiz on this  
chapter. Can the rest of you?  
(waits for a response)  
I thought not. Ada. We have a ball  
atop the platform. The forces are?

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

The alternative girls eat lunch. Ada leans against a tree and  
stares into space.

LUCY  
Ms. Ledesma goes, 'Am I boring  
you?' Then Ada's all, 'Uh, yeah.'  
Right to her fucking face.

The girls laugh.

CHERYL  
I heard Firestarter pissed-off the  
gifted math class.

NICA  
Cuz she's a polymath.

JENNIFER R  
A what?

NICA  
I dunno, something she says.

Lucy pokes Ada. No reaction.

JENNIFER R  
What's she doing?

Cheryl waves her hand in front of Ada, but she doesn't blink.

DREA

Freaky.

NICA

I dunno. 'Screen saver' mode?

JENNIFER R

Dreaming about flying toasters?

Lucy sits next to Ada.

LUCY

(whispering)

Hey goofball, wake up.

Ada blinks and comes to life.

ADA

Sorry, I was thinking.

DREA

What's a polymath?

ADA

Someone expert in multiple and usually diverse fields. I'm one.

JENNIFER R

Not just math?

ADA

Is this about Zach? That weasel's mad I killed his precious curve.

CHERYL

Not just math or only math?

ADA

Anything.

JENNIFER R

Can you help us study for stuff?

ADA

Sure. I guess I didn't offer last time because--

Nica hits Ada.

NICA

She means she's been tutoring me since she was in elementary school.  
(MORE)

NICA (CONT'D)

I'm just real shy about it.  
(looking hard at Ada)  
Right?

ADA

What she said.

CHERYL

Nica, you bitch! You've been hiding  
a fucking super-genius?

JENNIFER R

A super-genius pyromaniac.

ADA

I didn't start that fire!

DREA

Then it's decided! Pick a subject.

Drea dumps books into Ada's lap.

INT. WILSON DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The whole gang sits at the table, surrounded by books,  
papers, notebooks, and a stack of pizza boxes. Ada has a  
peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

ADA

Time for the rules. One: There are  
no stupid questions.

CHERYL

Even Nica's questions aren't  
stupid?

Laughter.

ADA

If you have a question, write it  
down, ask, and then write the  
answer. Two: Ask me to try again if  
my words don't make sense.

NICA

You say something weird? Never  
happens.

Laughter.

ADA

Words work in my head but they don't always work when they come out of my mouth. I'll try until you understand. Three: Nobody left behind. We stay on a subject until everyone gets it.

XIAN

Shit, that's why we have so much pizza. We're gonna be here forever.

ADA

Four: Walks around the block every hour. We need to keep blood pumping to your brains.

(whispering)

And no smoking.

The kids sigh.

ADA (CONT'D)

Nicotine restricts blood flow. You need blood in your brains.

LUCY

(whispering)

Some positive reinforcement, maybe?

ADA

Hush, you.

DREA

Why do we have pizza and you just have a peanut butter sandwich?

ADA

It's a balanced meal: Grain, protein, fiber, carbohydrates, fruits, and vegetables.

RANDO

What fucking vegetables?

ADA

Peanuts are peas, which makes them a vegetable.

The kids groan.

ADA (CONT'D)

Hour one starting... Now. History, chapter three, go!

## STUDY - MONTAGE

## A) INT. WILSON DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Hands dive into pizza boxes. Pages turn. Ada talks. Highlighters glide over lines of text.

## B) EXT. WILSON HOME - NIGHT

The gang walk in clumps, talk, laugh.

## C) INT. WILSON DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Kids read through text books. Lucy and Ada sit across from each other. Under the table, they play footsie. Keds and Doc Martens rub against each other.

## D) INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Ada sits with Cheryl and Drea. She marks-off questions on a worksheet and hands it back to them.

## E) EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Ada and Lucy sit together under a tree. Ada edits an essay. Lucy says something to her and they laugh.

## F) INT. WILSON DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Nica, Lucy, Xian, and Cheryl study. Ada stares into space. Xian snaps his fingers at Ada, who doesn't react.

## G) INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

A teacher drops a graded test onto Rando's desk. A big red 'A' sits at the top. The teacher pats Rando's shoulder.

## H) INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Ada, Jennifer R, and Topper talk at a locker. Jennifer excitedly waves a graded paper at Ada.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. WILSON HOME - NIGHT

Ada and Lucy stand close by her car.

LUCY

Thanks for helping us. My mom's gonna be excited about my grades for once.

ADA

I wouldn't do any less for my friends.

LUCY

You coming-with tomorrow night?

ADA

I hate Halloween.

LUCY

But I want you there.

ADA

I've been putting off my own stuff. I have to figure things out.

LUCY

And here I thought you'd figured everything out.

ADA

(kissing Lucy)  
I figured you out.

Ada breaks and walks back toward her house.

LUCY

I don't know what changed with you, but I'm glad it happened. You're really special, Ada.

ADA

Don't you forget it!

INT. ADA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ada sits at her desk in front of her blue notebook. Her WALKMAN PLAYS ALTERNATIVE MUSIC. The notebook pages show a complicated mass of calculations.

A HIGH-PITCHED SQUEAL. Ada stops the tape. The SQUEAL CONTINUES. Ada holds her temples and winces.

The SQUEAL CREEPS LOUDER and LOUDER... then SUDDENLY STOPS.  
Ada sighs and holds her head in her hands.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Passing period. Ada shifts books between her backpack and locker. Across the hall, Jake harasses a FRESHMAN (14).

JAKE  
How much ya got?

FRESHMAN  
Nothing, I swear.

Jake grabs the freshman by his collar.

JAKE  
Not even a dollar? I bet you have a  
dollar for me, you little faggot.

Ada closes her locker and approaches a COACH (40s) and an administrator talking off to the side.

ADA  
Will you go over there and stop  
that?

COACH  
Stop what?

Ada gestures to Jake.

COACH (CONT'D)  
If there was a problem, the kid  
would say something.

ADA  
That's bullying. You need to go  
over there and stop it.

COACH  
Hey sweetie, boys will be boys.

Ada turns back. Jake and the freshman are gone.

INT. SCHOOL - GIRL'S RESTROOM - DAY

Ada washes her hands. Emily exits a stall. She's been crying.  
Ada walks to the door. She hesitates, then turns back.

ADA  
What's wrong?

Emily dabs at her eyes.

EMILY

I have some annoying bitch in my business.

ADA

Seriously.

EMILY

Seriously fuck you up if you don't get outta my face.

Emily reapplies eyeliner. Her sleeve rides up, revealing bruises shaped like fingers.

ADA

Emily, will you talk to me?

EMILY

Last chance to leave before I kick your ass.

ADA

Where'd you get that bruise?

EMILY

Our front spot dropped me during a routine. What do you care?

ADA

Is that really what--

Emily gets in Ada's face.

EMILY

Don't fuck with me. If you wanna say it, say it.

ADA

I'm trying to help. If you--

EMILY

I don't need your help. I'm in control of my life.

ADA

Do you have someone else to talk to? Your friends maybe?

Emily sighs and sits on a bench.



EMILY

They're not my friends. All it takes is some upstart being meaner than me and they'll anoint her queen... I was that upstart once.

A girl enters the bathroom.

EMILY (CONT'D)

(to the girl)

Leave, bitch!

The girl scampers out. Ada sits next to Emily.

ADA

You can be a queen without being a tyrant.

EMILY

You know anything about history? Scapegoats, cruelty, fear -- that's how you keep people in control.

ADA

You don't get to talk like this much, do you?

Emily exhales like she's been holding her breath for years.

EMILY

You have no idea.

ADA

What's gonna happen when your cronies defect? If you've alienated everyone...

EMILY

I can't help it if I have nothing in common with the proletarians at this school. To survive, you gotta align with one clique or another. Speaking of, what the hell are you doing, hanging with the Alternaskanks instead of the Brainiacs?

ADA

They have something to say that's not always about college credit and orchestra gossip.

EMILY

Swapping pocket protectors for flannel doesn't make you part of their caste.

ADA

This isn't even my flannel. It's Lucy Lowe's. I wear it because it smells like her.

Emily stares for a bewildered beat, then gets it.

EMILY

Why the hell would you tell me that? I could destroy you!

ADA

Why? You have nothing to gain from outing us.

EMILY

I ruin girls' lives because that's what I do!

Emily pinches her face and lowers her voice.

EMILY (CONT'D)

C'mon, genius... This is the part where you negotiate.

ADA

I don't understand.

EMILY

Offer me with something. Give me a reason to spare the pathetic things you and Lucy call your lives.

ADA

Keep quiet or... I'll tell everyone you're faking this bimbo act.

Emily scoffs.

ADA (CONT'D)

I'll tell them Jake hurts you.

EMILY

No way I'd let you get away with that.

ADA

Then it's mutually-assured destruction.

EMILY

...Nice.

ADA

Will you tell me about that bruise?

EMILY

What's to tell?

ADA

Jake is really bad news.

EMILY

'Mr. Hyde' can be contained.

ADA

Don't underestimate him.

EMILY

Time's up. I've subjects to order around and a flag squad who couldn't run a routine if their lives depended on it.

(sincerely)

Thanks for... whatever this was.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Passing period. Ada swaps books at her locker and Lucy waits.

ADA

Nica and Cheryl are coming over to study. Sunday afternoon?

Emily arrives.

LUCY

What the fuck do you want, Emily?

EMILY

Chill, I ain't stealing her heart.

(handing Ada a book)

Learn some history. 'The Guns of August.' First five chapters.

(to Lucy)

All yours, Romeo.

Emily leaves. Lucy points at Emily and then back at Ada.

ADA

I'll explain later. You have English class with Drea, right?

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Emily, Marisol, and Little Amy watch the flag squad.

MARISOL

And we're sure none of them are retarded?

EMILY

It's like 'Stand and Deliver.' How do you motivate complete failures?

Drea arrives and presents herself with a smile.

EMILY (CONT'D)

What?

DREA

Someone told me you needed help, so help is here.

LITTLE AMY

You want to join flag squad? You?

DREA

Six years of ballet, one year of tap.

Emily extends her arm toward the field.

EXT./INT. WILSON HOME/LUCY'S CAR - NIGHT

Ada and Lucy make-out in the backseat. ALTERNATIVE MUSIC PLAYS from the STEREO.

They kiss furiously. Hands move under flannels. Lucy kisses Ada's neck and snakes a hand into Ada's jeans.

Ada pushes away and hyperventilates. She presses on her chest and wheezes. Lucy reaches out and tries to relax her. Ada brushes her away.

ADA

I'm. Sorry.

Ada flees the car, still gasping for breath.

INT. WILSON HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Ada and Nica stare at a COMPUTER as it GRINDS and WHIRS. The 'WINDOWS 3.1' logo appears on the screen. Ada drops her head to the desk.

ADA  
I'm pathetic.

NICA  
Glad you said it so I didn't have to.

ADA  
I'm sure I've given Lucy blue-balls about a dozen times.

NICA  
I don't think it works that way.

ADA  
And this slow piece of junk! How did we ever live this way?

NICA  
Are computers faster in the thirtieth century?

ADA  
Decades later and I'm doing the exact same thing. Hot and heavy, then I lose my air and clam-jam myself. Another night whacking-off and lamenting.

The computer loads and Ada CLICKS the MOUSE angrily.

NICA  
You got cheat codes. So what if stuff takes time? You got a shit-ton of time. The other stuff you're changing is working, right?

ADA  
I have no clue if my changes will affect anything. Just as useless as this stupid hunk of crap.

Ada CLICKS the MOUSE. DREADFUL SQUEALING and CHATTERING ERUPTS as DOT MATRIX PRINTER STARTS PRINTING. Ada drops to the floor dramatically. Nica joins her.

ADA (CONT'D)  
I can't re-live another twenty years of misery.

NICA  
Did the other Lucy love you?

ADA  
Yes, but--

NICA  
Then this one loves you. You're the  
smartest person in the universe.

ADA  
Hardly.

NICA  
Well, you're my smartest person in  
the universe. And I know you'll  
make it work this time.

Ada looks up. Less than half a page hangs off the printer.

NICA (CONT'D)  
How long is this thing?

ADA  
Fifteen pages, so forty-five  
minutes left. Thanks for being  
here.

NICA  
I got nothing else to do.

ADA  
You know what I meant.

They hug and listen to the printer for a few beats.

NICA  
What's 'clam-jam' mean?

INT. WILSON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ada's parents watch NEWS COVERAGE on TV. Ada enters.

SOPHIA  
Did Monica leave?

ADA  
Yes and it took less than forever  
to finish printing. Thank you,  
archaic technology.

SOPHIA  
Our printer is brand-new. They're  
talking about the Midterms.

FRANKLIN

You were so confident about a G.O.P. landslide, I thought you'd be glued to the tube tonight.

ADA

I have no interest in watching history repeat itself.

FRANKLIN

I have to admit, kiddo, you had me genuinely concerned Congress might change hands.

Ada stares at the TV in confusion.

ADA

(muttering)

Clinton was re-elected in ninety-six and with the Republican majority so he had to constantly...

(aloud)

This doesn't make sense, what about Newt Gingrich?

SOPHIA

He lost to... 'Otter,' was it?

FRANKLIN

'Cooter.'

Ada collapses into the couch.

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

The precincts aren't all in yet, but it's safe to say 'Prop One-Eight-Six' passed.

SOPHIA

Maybe now the Clintons will have the guts to introduce single-payer to the rest of the country... Ada, what's wrong?

FRANKLIN

I think our little prognosticator is upset.

INT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM - DAY

The BELL RINGS. Ada apathetically gathers her things.

LUCY  
You coming?

ADA  
I've got some stuff. You go.

Lucy gives Ada the briefest of hugs and leaves.

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Ada sits, slumped in her chair at an odd angle, eyes open.  
Emily flips through Ada's blue notebook. Ada jolts to life.

ADA  
How long have you been here?

EMILY  
I dunno, a minute or two. You  
rebooting or something?

ADA  
This is a bad time.

EMILY  
What's this mean?  
(reading from the  
notebook)  
'The Personal Unconscious must  
possess all states of activity, not  
unlike the concept of cloud  
storage, the capacity for  
simultaneous interaction with a  
shared conscious space.'

Ada snatches her notebook.

ADA  
That's personal.

EMILY  
Right. Me and Jake is your  
business, but you write something  
kinda interesting and I'm not  
worthy. What the fuck good are you  
if we can't talk smart stuff?

ADA  
It's not ready yet... I didn't  
start your book.



EMILY

I gave up my lunch for you, Brain Queen. If we ain't talking about my stuff, we're talking about yours.

Ada thinks for a beat.

ADA

Pick an event in history. Anything.

EMILY

Anything? I dunno... The Civil War.

ADA

If you could go back in time, how would you stop the Civil War?

EMILY

Easy, kill what's-his-name... the father of the secessionist movement... Christopher Memminger.

ADA

Secession was already on the table even without him, right? Maybe that delays the war by a year or two.

EMILY

Ugh, fine, then farther back... Convince Madison and Jefferson not to be dicks when they draft the Constitution.

ADA

Doesn't that destroy the economy of the southern states?

EMILY

Whatever. Get England to abolish the practice of slavery before they found the colonies.

ADA

How does America get wealthy enough to afford the Revolution?

EMILY

I don't know!

A student in the background slams a book and moves tables.

EMILY (CONT'D)

What's your point?

ADA

There are laws in physics, rules particles follow. That's causality that makes sense. But history? How do you prevent history? How do you make changes when there's no beginning and no end?

EMILY

History is over and done with. You can't change it.

EXT. LOWE HOME - NIGHT

MUSIC and MUFFLED PARTY NOISES SEEP from the house. Shadows flash across the lit window blinds.

INT. LOWE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ALTERNATIVE MUSIC BLARES. The gang's all there, except Lucy. Everyone is super-high. Ada sits alone.

NICA

Stop moping. Lucy is coming right back. She's getting MUNCHIES!

EVERYONE ELSE

MUNCHIES!

Nica offers Ada a bong. She waves it away.

ADA

I've hit it enough. It's not working. Weed is so weak in the nineties.

NICA

Why you been pouty all week?

ADA

I shouldn't be here. I don't think my mood is going to change.

XIAN

Ada! What's wrong?

ADA

Xian, everything is fucked.

JENNIFER R

Something wrong at home?

ADA

Something is wrong with the  
fundamental mechanics of the  
universe.

RANDO

That sounds bad.

ADA

I assumed things I changed wouldn't  
affect anyone unless I purposely  
intervened in their lives. I now  
realize how myopic that is. It  
doesn't factor how chaos works in  
classical systems.

NICA

(whispering)

Ada, shut up.

ADA

Chaos... Something happens. If you  
re-do that thing in exactly the  
same way, you get a different  
result due to chaos.

RANDO

I thought chaos was a butterfly.

ADA

The flap of a butterfly's wings is  
a simplification of how chaos  
affects weather patterns. In  
reality, a single butterfly flap  
can't change things. Butterflies  
don't flap their wings once and  
disappear. Real butterflies flap  
their wings multiple times per  
second, and they're part of a  
flight, and that flight migrates  
annually between Mexico and Canada.

Everyone stares at each other blankly.

ADA (CONT'D)

Lottery numbers are random so  
they're different every night  
because of chaos. If you repeat the  
day, even if people make the same  
choices, you still get different  
lottery numbers because chaos makes  
every random event different.

TOPHER  
You just blew my fucking mind.

DREA  
Why do butterflies make you sad?

ADA  
Guys, just--

NICA  
(shaking Ada)  
Shut up!

RANDO  
Nica, chill and let her talk.

ADA  
I'm stuck in an alternate universe.  
It's all going to be different, no  
matter what I do...

CHERYL  
You have a fucked-up life.

EXT. LOWE HOME - NIGHT

MUSIC and MUFFLED EXCITEMENT CONTINUE. Lucy's car pulls into  
the driveway.

INT. LOWE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone talks and laughs.

DREA  
Wait, wait, wait. Uncle Jesse?

ADA  
No, Uncle Joey! So he dumps her and  
she gets really mad. Then she  
writes this song--

JENNIFER R  
Is it D.J.?

ADA  
No, a teeny-bopper you never heard  
of from Canadia. Wait. Can-a-di-a.  
Sounds weird when I say it.

Ada examines her hands, then looks around groggily.

ADA (CONT'D)

I was wrong. I am really high.

Everyone laughs.

LUCY (O.C.)

Who's hungry?

Lucy enters with junk food. The kids tear into bags and boxes like hungry bears.

CHERYL

This night just got perfect!

TOPHER

You got munchies and Ada is telling us stuff from the future!

ADA

Alternate future.

She collapses against Lucy, who keeps her upright.

LUCY

The future! Something awesome happen? Does Nica become president?

NICA

(sternly)

Don't listen to anything she says, she's baked out of her mind.

XIAN

Your first act as president should be to declare war on the North Pole!

DREA

There's nothing on the North Pole but pelicans.

ADA

Not pelicans. Panda bears. Not panda bears. The other ones.

LUCY

Polar bears?

ADA

First time in weeks my brain doesn't hurt. I missed you so much.

Nica grabs Ada and pulls her away.

NICA

Let's get outta here. You don't know what you're saying.

ADA

Causality doesn't matter. I'm gonna do whatever I want. I'll create my own link analysis algorithm and delete Jar-Jar Binks and discover the God particle.

(gasping)

Guys, guys -- we're gonna stop September Eleventh!

RANDO

Okay, she's totally lost it.

LUCY

Hey goofball, tell me my future.

Ada plants a kiss on Lucy's lips.

ADA

You're gonna get your world rocked in about two minutes.

Everyone stares. Ada waves emphatically to the others.

ADA (CONT'D)

Bye!

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The girls stumble in.

Ada presses in for a kiss and throws their bodies against the DOOR with a SLAM.

Ada frees buttons on Lucy's flannel. Lucy snakes a hand under Ada's sweater and raises the hem, revealing the blue flannel. She tugs it over Ada's head.

They tumble onto the bed.

Lucy shrugs off her flannel. Ada works at the buttons of her own flannel. She finally wriggles it off, revealing her undershirt.

Lucy kisses her way down Ada's bare throat. Her hands fumble with the button on Ada's jeans. Over and over, her fingers try to push the button free.

LUCY

What the fuck am I doing wrong?

ADA

Tug the buttonhole. Pull the top.  
No, pull up.

They both struggle. Lucy gives up. She moves to her Docs and pulls the laces, but they knot.

Ada unbuttons her jeans, kicks her Keds off, and works the jeans off her butt, revealing leggings.

LUCY

Jesus, you're overdressed.

Lucy grabs a pair of scissors and starts cutting at her shoelaces. Ada worms out of her jeans.

Ada kisses Lucy's neck. Lucy abandons her boots, turns, and kisses Ada back. She tugs at Ada's leggings. Ada unbuckles Lucy's belt and opens her jeans.

ADA

Ow!

Ada knocks the pair of scissors off the bed. She returns to yanking at Lucy's jeans.

Lucy frees Ada's leggings and tosses them away. She grabs Ada's face and they return to kissing.

Lucy's jeans bunch at her feet. Ada pushes with a foot.

ADA (CONT'D)

Boots!

Lucy breaks and searches for the scissors. Ada pushes clothes and sheets off the bed. Lucy finds the scissors and returns to hacking at her laces. Ada tugs her undershirt off.

ADA (CONT'D)

Hey.

Ada tosses the undershirt and hits Lucy in the face. Lucy shucks off one boot, then the other, and finally kicks off her jeans.

Ada holds her arms out. They rejoin, kissing furiously. Lucy pulls her sports bra over her head and tugs her boxers down.

They lock eyes. Ada breathes heavily, she starts to wheeze. Her breaths quicken. Lucy embraces Ada's trembling body.

LUCY

Breathe.

Ada's eyes water. She gasps for breath. Lucy presses on her breastbone.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Slowly. In. And out. Like me.

Lucy leads the breathing. Ada follows along.

ADA

You need. To know.

LUCY

Don't talk. Just breathe.

ADA

I waited. So long.

LUCY

I love you.

ADA

Need to know. What I'd. Do for you.

LUCY

I know. Don't talk.

Their synchronized breathing slows. Eyes still locked.

EXT. TREELINE - EARLY MORNING

Roofs and treetops highlighted by the cobalt blue of the pre-dawn sky.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Ada sleeps, wrapped in Lucy's arms. Lucy runs her fingers through Ada's hair. Ada wakes and starts patting the bed.

ADA

Glasses.

LUCY

Can't see without those things?

ADA

I can barely see with them... Which is weird. Eyesight is getting worse.

(MORE)



ADA (CONT'D)

Gets worse over time, of course,  
but I didn't need new glasses yet.

Ada finds her glasses and returns them to her face.

LUCY

You said something before.

ADA

I'm sorry I fell asleep. I know we  
were talking.

LUCY

Is my love boring you, Ms. Wilson?

ADA

I see how it is. Get mad when the  
girl with the breathing problem  
passes out.

LUCY

Then we'll go easy from now on.

ADA

Don't you dare.

LUCY

I love you.

ADA

I love you, too. Is what you wanted  
to hear?

LUCY

It's nothing. Guess I'm getting  
used to you saying stuff inside-  
out.

ADA

Next Friday. We need to spend all  
night outdoors. Fowler Creek Park,  
maybe. It's the Leonid meteor  
shower. Earth moves just in time to  
pass through the meteoroid stream  
ejected by the Tempel-Tuttle comet.

LUCY

Sounds dangerous.

ADA

Meteoroids ignite when they hit the  
atmosphere and become meteors...  
shooting stars.

(MORE)

ADA (CONT'D)

It's one of the most beautiful celestial events you can see with the naked eye. There's nobody in the entire universe I'd rather see it with.

LUCY

So does this mean... we're going out?

Ada narrows her eyes.

ADA

Aren't we going out?

LUCY

We never talked about it.

ADA

This is so freaking 'high school.'  
Of course I'll go out with you.

LUCY

Well... Okay, then.

ADA

I've wanted this for a long time.

LUCY

We met last year so not any longer than me.

ADA

Longer than you can imagine.

They kiss. Ada 'walks' her fingers across the sheets. Her fingers lift back the covers and crawl inside. Lucy giggles.

INT. LOWE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ada cleans up remnants of the party. Nica sleeps on the couch.

ADA

Get up. We have to leave before  
Lucy's mom gets off her shift.

Nica groggily holds her head and groans. A SHOWER starts RUNNING elsewhere in the house.

ADA (CONT'D)

Everyone left?

NICA

After you two went all lesbionic,  
it got super uncomfortable so they  
split. I stayed to keep an eye on  
you.

ADA

That's sweet... and pervy.

Nica walks to the hallway, listens to the SHOWER, and turns  
back.

NICA

You gotta cut the future-talk  
around other people.

ADA

What did I say? Everyone was high  
last night, I'm sure nobody took me  
seriously.

NICA

Hey, really, like don't tell anyone  
else, especially not Lucy.

ADA

I'm sure she--

NICA

(grabbing Ada)

She's not gonna understand. Not  
like I do. Talk about fucking-up  
the future...

Ada sternly returns to cleaning-up.

ADA

'Sapphic.'

NICA

What?

ADA

'Lesbionic' isn't a word. The  
proper adjective is 'sapphic.'  
'Lesbionic' makes us sound like  
cyborgs.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Ada walks with Emily. Across the hall, Jake and a random thug  
loom over SCOTTY (17).

ADA  
What the hell?

EMILY  
I know.

ADA  
Scotty's autistic. How low can your  
douchebag boyfriend get?

EMILY  
I'll say something.

ADA  
Emily, he's--

Jake punches a locker and Scotty flinches.

ADA (CONT'D)  
Oh, forget this.

Ada stomps down the hall.

EMILY  
Ada, come back!

ADA  
Hey!

Jake and the thug turn around. Some students stop to watch.

JAKE  
What the fuck do you want?

ADA  
Leave Scotty the fucking hell  
alone, you piece of shit.

JAKE  
Whoa. We're just talking with him.

ADA  
You two should be ashamed of  
yourselves. Scotty, come here.

Jake looms over Ada. The crowd of students is thicker now.

JAKE  
Bitch, we're not done talking.

ADA  
Scotty, go over to Emily, okay?  
(to Jake)  
(MORE)

ADA (CONT'D)

We're done. I don't want to waste any more time on you.

JAKE

You hear this bitch? Oh, I can make us done talking.

ADA

Whatcha gonna do? You wanna punch a girl, big man?

Nica pushes through the crowd.

EMILY

Jake, leave her alone!

Ada shoves Jake.

ADA

You think you can go around, doing whatever the hell you want?

Jake pushes Ada to the floor. The students circle tightly. An ADMINISTRATOR yells from the distance.

ADMINISTRATOR (O.C.)

Hey! Break it up!

Emily throws herself in front of Jake.

EMILY

Goddamnit! Stop, Jake!

He tosses her aside.

JAKE

When this cunt shuts the fuck up!

Ada stands.

ADA

You pathetic waste of a Y chromosome. You should have rotted away in a condom somewhere.

Jake clocks Ada in the face. The students go nuts. Within seconds, administrators are there, pulling Jake back.

The world goes blurry. A SHARP SQUEAL RINGS-OUT. Things start to focus. The SQUEAL FADES and B.G. SOUNDS CRASH BACK IN.

Nica rushes to Ada. She tries to hold Ada back, but she rights herself. Cracked glasses fall from her face.

NICA  
Oh fuck, oh fuck, oh fuck.

ADA  
(calling)  
That make you feel good, Jake? You  
a big strong man now?

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Sophia, the PRINCIPAL, Coach, and a police officer are closed-up in the cramped room.

SOPHIA  
Was I not exceedingly clear when I  
said 'fullest extent of the law'?

PRINCIPAL  
Mrs. Wilson--

SOPHIA  
A suspension? I'm certain you hear  
this all the time from parents, but  
I urge you to take this seriously.  
You have not begun to--

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Nica and Emily stare at the closed door to the Principal's office. SOPHIA'S VOICE is muffled through the door. It's indistinct but starts increasing in volume.

The girls stare at each other, aghast.

INT. SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE - DAY

Ada's left eye is bloody. A NURSE applies butterfly bandages to her split skin. Lucy stands close and holds Ada's glasses.

ADA  
It would make a better closure than  
what you're using now. Ow!

LUCY  
Be careful.

NURSE  
I'm not going to squirt superglue  
into your cut. I'll be right back.

Lucy stares blankly at Ada.

ADA

Don't worry. I'll pass on enraging Neanderthals in the future.

LUCY

Jesus Christ! What the fuck were you thinking?

ADA

Nobody stopped it last time. Even if things could be different on their own, I can't risk it with a clear conscience.

LUCY

What are you talking about? No, wait -- I don't want to hear your nonsense right now.

Ada opens her mouth but Emily and Nica burst in. They run over and hug Ada.

EMILY

I'm so sorry, Ada.

NICA

Your mom is scary when she's mad...

ADA

It's my fault.

EMILY

The hell it is. I'm breaking-up with that bastard tonight.

NICA

...Like witness protection scary.

ADA

Emily, promise you won't see him.

EMILY

Phone break-ups don't work.

ADA

Please listen to me.

Sophia enters and takes Ada's hand.

SOPHIA

I'm sorry girls. Ada needs to come home right now.

Ada takes her glasses from Lucy. Their hands slip apart.

INT. WILSON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ada fights with her parents.

SOPHIA

What is happening with you?

ADA

I said to myself, to hell with my notions of cause-and-effect. My changes are important, so I might as well make the most of them.

SOPHIA

That doesn't excuse reckless behavior. You've become someone else overnight.

ADA

I'm not roiling inside anymore. I'm not going to be paralyzed by fear and anxiety. The person I became was me. The real me.

FRANKLIN

Sarah called last week while you were out doing who-knows-what. Your teachers and friends are concerned about you.

Ada paces furiously.

ADA

Sarah's not my friend, even if she thinks she is. She resents me. She's resigned to pitiful deference to someone a two grades below her.

FRANKLIN

We gave you the option of college--

ADA

You offered it to me in the same breath you told me I was emotionally stunted.

SOPHIA

We never said that.

ADA

I wanted to be some great accomplishment of yours and you made me feel incapable of human relationships.



SOPHIA  
That wasn't our intent. Seeing you  
with Nica's friends--

ADA  
My friends!

FRANKLIN  
We're happy you have friends. It's  
just strange to see you spending  
all your time with Lucy when--

ADA  
Dad, she's my girlfriend.

SOPHIA  
Girlfriend? Like...

ADA  
My lover.

Stunned silence.

FRANKLIN  
Ada, we didn't--

SOPHIA  
There's no way Lucy is spending the  
night this Friday.

ADA  
Mom! It's the Leonids!

SOPHIA  
You're too young to--

ADA  
I'm an adult!

SOPHIA  
You're fifteen!

ADA  
I'm not fifteen! I'm not going to  
drop myself in an oubliette and  
just disappear. Not again!

Ada storms out.

INT. ADA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ada lays in bed. Her WALKMAN BLARES ALTERNATIVE MUSIC. She stares at the ceiling. The room starts to turn slowly. The SQUEAL BEGINS.

Ada starts to hyperventilate. She presses on her chest. The room spins faster and the SQUEAL GETS LOUDER.

EXT. WILSON HOME - DAY

Ada stands next to Lucy at her car. Her black eye is swollen shut. Ada's glasses are taped together poorly.

ADA  
Wanna come glasses-shopping?

LUCY  
How you feeling?

ADA  
I'm thinking green frames to match my black eye.

LUCY  
It's not funny.

ADA  
Says you. What am I missing during my week-long vacation from school?

LUCY  
Somehow the story's that you stabbed Jake and the principal is covering it up cuz you're an honors student.

ADA  
Is this better or worse than rumors I'm an arsonist?

Lucy sighs heavily.

ADA (CONT'D)  
This Friday is gonna be awesome. I'll have to sneak out because my parents are being--

LUCY  
What's going on with you?

ADA  
I'm planning our night. It'll be--

LUCY  
It's like you flipped a switch.

ADA  
(coyly)  
You flipped my 'switch.'

LUCY  
Jesus Christ, I'm being serious!  
You're acting crazy.

Ada takes a step back.

ADA  
I'm... trying to focus on what I  
want. I have an objective and I--

LUCY  
How do you go from shy and sweet to  
whatever the fuck this is?

ADA  
I didn't get what I wanted when I  
was shy and sweet. I was a bad  
person. I was a bad friend.

LUCY  
I don't think that.

ADA  
Maybe not yet...

Ada stomps toward her house. Lucy hangs her head.

EXT. WILSON BACK YARD - NIGHT

A starry, cloudless night. The Lenoid meteor shower streaks  
through the sky. Ada lays in the grass and watches.

ADA  
...And under Cassiopeia is her  
daughter, Andromeda. The upside-  
down 'A.' She's chained to a rock  
as a sacrifice to a sea monster.  
The box right below her is Pegasus.  
(beat)  
Andromeda is my favorite. It's hard  
to see in the city, but next to her  
right knee is a little smudge. It's  
the Andromeda galaxy, always  
aligned with her constellation.

Ada looks at an empty spot in the grass next to her.

ADA (CONT'D)

The myth goes that Perseus flew to  
Andromeda with winged feet. He  
rescued her and saved the day.  
Pegasus wasn't even there.

Ada turns back to the sky. Constellations and shooting stars.

ADA (CONT'D)

But it's just a myth. Stars are  
real. Look at their position. If  
Perseus breaks the chains,  
Andromeda doesn't land in his arms,  
she lands on Pegasus... And she can  
just fly away, wherever she wants.  
She's this normal-looking girl with  
a whole galaxy hidden inside.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Cheryl and Jennifer R stand under a tree and smoke. Lucy  
approaches.

LUCY

Can I get one of those?

She clicks the lighter repeatedly, trying to get a flame.  
Nica crosses the schoolyard in a determined path.

CHERYL

You're fucked.

LUCY

Nica...

Nica shoves Lucy.

NICA

What's wrong with you?

LUCY

What did I do?

NICA

You skipped the fucking asteroid.  
Any idea how upset Ada is?

JENNIFER R

She set the theater on fire for  
kicks. Hate to see what she does  
when she's mad.

CHERYL  
 Yep, totally fucked.

LUCY  
 I tried for days to talk to her but  
 it didn't work. She didn't get what  
 I said and fuck if I understood  
 what she was talking about.

NICA  
 I don't give a shit if you have to  
 bring the Encyclopedia Britannica.  
 You get in there and talk with her.

Lucy looks at the unlit cigarette in her hand.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Ada stares into her open locker. The black eye has partially  
 healed. Lucy approaches.

LUCY  
 Let's talk.

ADA  
 Lucy, I doubt a conversation we  
 have in the five minutes remaining  
 before first period will be of any  
 consequence.

Ada closes her locker and walks away.

INT. HISTORY CLASSROOM - DAY

History Teacher's LECTURE DRONES in the B.G. Ada scribbles in  
 her blue notebook. Lucy stares at Ada across the room.

INT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM - DAY

Lucy sits at her desk. Ada enters, drops her backpack and the  
 blue notebook on her desk, and brings a VHS cassette to Lucy.

ADA  
 I would like to talk now.

LUCY  
 Right now? We have a test in about  
 two minutes.

ADA  
 We can go outside.

LUCY  
Can't this wait 'til lunch?

ADA  
No, I'd like to talk right now. You missed the Leonids, which is a shame because ninety-four is when they start to get really good.

Ada hands the videotape to Lucy.

LUCY  
Ada. Later.

ADA  
This is '120 Minutes' from two weeks ago. Michael Stipe is the host, and it's my favorite episode ever. We were going to watch it together, but you ruined it when you chose to not return my calls. You should watch it at least once before I destroy it.

LUCY  
(hushed)  
Ada. Stop.

The BELL RINGS. Students in the room start to watch them.

ADA  
I choose not to stop because I'm unconcerned with your feelings right now.

LEDESMA  
Seats everyone.

ADA  
(to Lucy)  
You have one more opportunity to leave class with me so we can talk. If you don't want to, that's fine because I am happy to say everything right now in front of everyone.

LEDESMA  
Ada, do you want to have a seat?

ADA  
No, thank you.  
(to Lucy)  
(MORE)

ADA (CONT'D)

Being with you is more important  
than you think. It's important on a  
cosmic scale--

Ledesma touches Ada's shoulder.

LEDESMA

Come on, Ada.

ADA

I said I will not take my seat, and  
I meant it! Not until Lucy  
acknowledges that, not just this,  
but everything, my everything, is  
in her! I can't breathe without  
you! Do you fucking hear me, Lucy?!

Lucy covers her face.

LEDESMA

Out. Now.

ADA

Excellent. Any excuse not to take  
your motherfucking test.

Ledesma grabs Ada's arm and tries to march her out. Ada pulls  
away and dashes around the room, evading capture.

ADA (CONT'D)

(to the class)

Ms. Ledesma lied to you. They all  
lied to you! They're not teaching  
you anything. It's busy-work,  
designed to keep you occupied until  
you turn eighteen. The city gives  
schools money based on our test  
scores. The only reason they want  
you to get good grades is so they  
can get paid more! You're nothing  
to them. They're babysitters!

Ledesma finally catches Ada.

ADA (CONT'D)

If you take this test, you'll be  
complicit in your own subjugation.  
Revolt and be free!

The class laughs and cheers as she's dragged out.

ADA (CONT'D)  
(calling)  
Centrifugal force doesn't exist!  
It's just centripetal force!

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

The SCHOOL BELL RINGS. A door marked "DETENTION" swings open. A collection of stoners and gangsters file-out, followed by Ada. A hand grabs her arm and yanks her off-camera.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Cheryl pushes Ada out a set of exterior doors. Nica pushes Lucy out another set.

CHERYL  
You two stay out here.

NICA  
You have all of lunch. Talk!

Cheryl and Nica reenter the school. Ada and Lucy stare at each other.

ADA  
How did--

LUCY  
Ms. Ledesma canceled the test and we all had to write essays on influential scientists.

ADA  
It figures class gets good as soon as I leave.

LUCY  
Why am I upset?

ADA  
Is this rhetorical?

LUCY  
I'm testing your comprehension.

ADA  
Good, I'm excellent at tests.

LUCY  
Answer the fucking question.



ADA

You are mad at me because you're a secret Buddhist and abhor my confrontational demeanor.

LUCY

Jesus Christ. Do not evade, change the subject, or use science you're perfectly aware I don't understand. Rule Two: If your answer doesn't make sense, you try again.

Ada fights with herself.

ADA

Ask. Ask and I'll answer.

LUCY

Why did you pick a fight with Jake?

ADA

Because he's a bully hate him for what he did to Emily.

LUCY

What did he do to Emily?

ADA

He's abusive. I saw that, myself. The other stuff I only heard about. I can't know for sure, because I wasn't friends with her. I know he got some full-ride somewhere and didn't go to jail.

LUCY

You saying he assaulted her? When?

ADA

At the end of her senior year.

LUCY

Ada, Emily's a junior.

ADA

Which is why I wanted to prevent it or a similar situation from occurring in this timeline. I have approximately a year and a half to prevent it, and last week seemed like a good opportunity.

Lucy sits down and sighs.

LUCY

I can't be with you if this is how you're gonna act.

ADA

You're upset I used my fore-knowledge to prevent acts of violence?

LUCY

I'm upset you're using nerd-talk to justify your actions. Stop lying.

Ada's eyes start to water.

ADA

I'm not lying. I'm... from the future.

LUCY

Jesus Christ.

ADA

I'm from twenty-four years in the future and I'm trying to fix all these things I screwed-up. I'm trying to save us.

LUCY

Twenty-four years in the future and you look the exact same age?

ADA

It's just my mind that went through time, not my body. Obviously.

LUCY

Obviously! So tell me about this future of yours with flying cars and robot butlers and time machines.

ADA

I'm not kidding. The future I came from doesn't matter anymore. I have a chance to keep us together.

LUCY

You think that's what's gonna stop us from breaking-up? Telling me you're a goddamned time traveler?

ADA

Think about it. How did I change over one weekend? How did I get the courage to make the first move instead of letting you take your sweet time? Why am I so comfortable with myself while you're just a baby-dyke in training-wheels?... How do I know what you pray about at night?

LUCY

(shocked)

You... You shut up! You don't know anything about me if you think I'm gonna believe this.

Lucy walks to the doors.

ADA

In the other timeline, I ran from you because I was scared. But I'm not scared anymore. Everything I do is because I love you. I loved you when I was fifteen and I loved you when I was thirty-nine. It's not something I outgrew or forgot about or ever got over. I would do anything--

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY (SECONDS LATER)

Lucy bursts in with Ada at her heels. Nica and Cheryl sit on the floor.

ADA

Lucy.

Lucy nearly knocks Nica over trying to get past. Nica grabs her arm.

NICA

Hey, what the fuck?!

ADA

Lucy, please.

LUCY

I will not spend another second around this nut-case.

Ada starts to cry.

NICA  
 (to Lucy)  
 What's wrong with you?

LUCY  
 Wrong with me? Wrong with this  
 lying bitch.

NICA  
 Don't talk about her like that!

Passing students stop and watch. Ada slides down the wall  
 until she's sitting on the floor.

ADA  
 (sobbing)  
 Lucy. You have to believe me.

LUCY  
 Say it. Go on. Tell 'em!  
 (to the others)  
 Ada's a time traveler.

CHERYL  
 What?

LUCY  
 You heard me, she's from the future  
 and came here to fuck with my head!

NICA  
 Lucy!

Ada winces and covers her ears. Cheryl sits next to her.

CHERYL  
 Ada, are you okay?

LUCY  
 (to Nica)  
 She's so crazy she'll say  
 absolutely anything to get her way.

ADA  
 (to Cheryl)  
 Lucy hates me again.

NICA  
 (to Lucy)  
 Stop calling her that. She's not  
 crazy!

CHERYL  
(to Ada)  
What happened?

Ada looks around the crowd.

ADA  
Why are they still here? Everyone's  
still here.

CHERYL  
Ignore them.

LUCY  
Nica, she says she's from the  
future! I'm not gonna stick around  
to get mind-fucked.

NICA  
You don't get it. She's in love  
with you.

ADA  
(to Cheryl)  
Is it a drill?

CHERYL  
A drill?

ADA  
The bell. Everyone's ignoring it.  
It's so... loud...

Ada stops wincing and stares out into space.

LUCY  
Be her friend for all I care. In  
fact, fuck you, and fuck everyone  
else. Maybe I'm crazy for not  
wanting to date a compulsive liar.

NICA  
We'll sit down. You, me, and her,  
and we'll talk about this okay?

LUCY  
She fucking--

NICA  
I know! I know what she thinks so  
shut up about it already!

LUCY  
What?

Cheryl shakes Ada, but she doesn't react.

NICA

She told me. She told me she's repeating everything so she can be with you. The weirdo things she says is all the stuff she remembers from doing this before.

CHERYL

Guys!

LUCY

(to Nica)

She says something absolutely--

NICA

I don't care what I think is real. It's real to her. That's all that matters.

LUCY

Jesus Christ. Nica, if it's real to her, then...

Lucy and Nica look back at Ada. She's still frozen, gripping her ears. Blood drips from her nose.

CHERYL

Something's wrong with her.

Lucy rushes over and shakes Ada a little.

LUCY

C'mon. Wake up.

Ada blinks back to reality.

ADA

Bell was so loud...

Ada takes her hands away from her head. Her ears and palms are bloody. She starts to hyperventilate.

ADA (CONT'D)

What? Why--

LUCY

Easy, easy, I'm here.

CHERYL

(to the gawkers)

Get someone. Get the fucking nurse!

Lucy presses on Ada's breastbone but her breathing still quickens. She gasps desperately.

LUCY

Just relax. Breathe. Look at me,  
Ada. I'm here. Breathe with your  
tummy. Come on.

Ada's face reddens as she tries to breathe. Her eyes roll back in her head.

INT. HOSPITAL TRIAGE - DAY

Ada jolts awake. She's on a gurney. A TRIAGE NURSE (30s) holds her down. Hospital staff bustle around the room.

TRIAGE NURSE

Easy, Ada. Lay back.

The Triage Nurse lifts back Ada's eyelids and shines a light.

TRIAGE NURSE (CONT'D)

E.M.T.s say it's not head-trauma.

ADA

Didn't hit my head.

TRIAGE NURSE

Don't talk, just nod. They're gonna  
ask you a hundred times: Did mom or  
dad give you that shiner?

Ada shakes her head.

TRIAGE NURSE (CONT'D)

Epilepsy? Allergies? Chronic  
conditions?

Ada shakes her head.

TRIAGE NURSE (CONT'D)

Headache, right?

Ada nods. The Triage Nurse holds out his hand.

TRIAGE NURSE (CONT'D)

Three fingers?

ADA

Two fingers. One thumb.

TRIAGE NURSE

Joking's a good sign.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAM ROOM - DAY

Ada wears a hospital gown. Sophia sits nearby. DR. BHANDARI (50s) conducts an evaluation.

BHANDARI  
Follow my finger with your eyes.  
What's two times two?

ADA  
Assuming you mean the integer two,  
two squared is four.

BHANDARI  
(laughing)  
'The integer two'... You like math?

ADA  
Not as much as physics.

INT. M.R.I. TUBE - DAY

Ada lays on the table. Her head is secured with a plastic cage. She makes a pained face as the SCANNER WHUMPS LOUDLY.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAM ROOM - DAY

Bhandari hands Ada a sticker.

BHANDARI  
What color is this?

ADA  
Purple.

BHANDARI  
Scratch and sniff for me. Physics,  
huh? What's Newton's Third Law?

ADA  
*'Actioni contrariam semper et  
æqualem esse reactionem: sive  
corporum duorum actiones in se  
mutuo semper esse æquales et in  
partes contrarias dirigi.'*  
(re: sticker)  
This is disgusting.

BHANDARI  
My Latin is a little rusty. What  
does the sticker smell like?



ADA  
Grape. I hate grape. Newton's Third  
Law: 'Every action has an equal and  
opposite reaction.'

Bhandari unwraps a lollipop and hands it to Ada.

ADA (CONT'D)  
Seriously?

BHANDARI  
Give it a taste.

Ada complies and immediately spits it out.

ADA  
Grape! Just told you I hated grape.

INT. HOSPITAL IMAGING ROOM - DAY

Ada lays on the bed of a CT scanner and stares at the ceiling  
as IT HUMS SOFTLY.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAM ROOM - DAY

Ada stands, feet together.

BHANDARI  
Walk the line and back, arms out.

Ada walks, slow and wobbly.

BHANDARI (CONT'D)  
Your mom said the only thing you  
ate was peanut butter and jelly.

ADA  
I like strawberry. I hate grape.

Ada returns to her starting point.

BHANDARI  
Touch your fingers to your nose.

Ada touches her cheek. She readjusts and touches her nose.

INT. HOSPITAL IMAGING OFFICE - DAY

An IMAGING TECH (30s) and Bhandari review computer screens  
with images of Ada's skull and brain.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAM ROOM - DAY

Bhandari continues his questions.

BHANDARI

What day of the week is it?

ADA

Tuesday.

BHANDARI

And the month?

ADA

November. I'm tired of these questions. My brain is fine.

SOPHIA

Ada...

ADA

What's wrong with me? If this was a cranial bleed, I'd be vomiting and falling over. You don't think it's my limbic system, because you'd give me a lumbar puncture.

BHANDARI

Let's wait for our test results before we jump to conclusions.

Ada starts to hyperventilate. Sophia puts a hand on her shoulder, but Ada brushes her away. She closes her eyes and wheezes.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Ada and her parents wait-out the night. Sophia shares the small bed with Ada. Franklin sits and squeezes Ada's hand.

INT. BHANDARI'S OFFICE - DAY

Ada sits between her parents. Bhandari references large photographs from Ada's skull.

BHANDARI

...Here, on the sides. There's not much contrast, which is a bit unusual. However, if you compare it to the scan of a normal brain... These lesions on the temporal lobes stand out.

(MORE)

BHANDARI (CONT'D)

Their mass-effect is what caused your intracranial hypertension.

ADA

Lesions on my brain...

BHANDARI

It's difficult to determine which of your symptoms were caused by the I.C.H., since lesions on the temporal lobes can also result in issues with your senses and memory.

ADA

Tumors...

BHANDARI

The lesions are likely the cause of your small seizures, some of your behavioral changes... and the false memories.

ADA

I don't have false memories.

FRANKLIN

Ada...

ADA

I've answered all your questions correctly. It's Wednesday, November twenty-third, nineteen ninety-four. I'm at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Stanford, California. The president is Bill Clinton. My parents' names are Sophia and Franklin. My--

SOPHIA

Monica told us what's been happening.

Ada grunts.

ADA

That was taken completely out of context.

BHANDARI

Ada, the belief that you--

ADA

Brain tumors don't make sense.

BHANDARI

I know it seems unfair--

ADA

I haven't been exposed to radiation. No family history of conditions that cause brain tumors. Never had any diseases or infections worse than a cold. Certainly no neurological issues.

Bhandari pats Ada's hand.

BHANDARI

Ada. Time travel does not exist.

ADA

It wasn't physical, it was psychic.

BHANDARI

False memories like these are called 'fantastic confabulations.'

ADA

That's filling-in the gaps when the brain can't access the existing memory. I don't have gaps! Ask me more questions. I can account for every single hour -- what I was doing, who I was with.

BHANDARI

But you 'remember' things from the future. When did that start?

ADA

Sunday, October sixteenth, nineteen ninety-four. I slept in, Nica came over to study with me, I listened to music, I--

BHANDARI

Tell me about October fifteenth, the day before.

Ada opens her mouth... She thinks hard.

ADA

(flustered)

I have memories too complex to be the result of delusions. Twenty years of people and events.

BHANDARI  
 Memories of things like... the  
 Midterm elections?

ADA  
 Yes! The Republicans swept the  
 Midterms. 'Silent Majority' and all  
 that bullshit.

BHANDARI  
 But those memories were wrong. The  
 Republicans didn't win a  
 Congressional majority, did they?

ADA  
 Because this is an alternate  
 universe! Where I came from, future  
 memories were always synced to a  
 prime universe, and it was chaos  
 and free will that created changes.  
 But... It wasn't supposed to work  
 this way. I had a theory, it's... I  
 just need time to figure it out.

Bhandari puts his arm around Ada.

BHANDARI  
 We'll get you time.

INT. CHILDREN'S WARD REC ROOM - DAY

Ada, Lucy, Nica, and BETHANY (8) sit at a low table. Bethany  
 wears a knit cap and colors a Thanksgiving scene.

ADA  
 ...Probably non-surgical.

NICA  
 Then how are they gonna get it out?

ADA  
 Depending on the results of the  
 biopsy, they might treat it  
 medically.

BETHANY  
 Ada, you're gonna get in trouble if  
 you don't eat your sandwich.

LUCY  
 (to Ada)  
 You have to get a second opinion.

ADA

(to Bethany)

It's American cheese and ham. It's disgusting. Cannibals claim human tastes identical to pork products.

NICA

You can take medicine for it?

LUCY

Get a second opinion.

NICA

Just take the medicine.

BETHANY

'Medicine' means chemotherapy, doofus.

NICA

Shut up, Bethany.

BETHANY

Chemotherapy kills your immune system. They won't do that unless they can't do anything else.

NICA

Fucking know-it-all baby.

NURSE LORI (20s) arrives. She swaps Ada's sandwich out for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. She holds her finger to her lips, smiles, and walks away.

ADA

See? I don't have to eat it.

Bethany sticks out her tongue.

ADA (CONT'D)

Lori loves me.

LUCY

Ada!

ADA

I'll get a second opinion, but we need biopsy results first.

Ada takes Lucy's hand, but she pulls away.

LUCY

I don't want them to cut you open.  
I don't want you to be here.

NICA  
 (to Ada)  
 Oh! What if they tribade you?

Ada stares blankly.

NICA (CONT'D)  
 Is that a really bad idea... or a  
 really good idea?

ADA  
 Why would that help my brain?

NICA  
 You know what I mean. Tribading  
 makes people magically better.  
 They've done it for ten thousand  
 years or something.

ADA  
 Define 'tribade.'

NICA  
 They drill a hole in your head and  
 it lets ghosts out or whatever.

ADA  
 Trepan. 'Tre-pan.'

NICA  
 Isn't that what I said?

BETHANY  
 You said 'tribade.'

NICA  
 Well, shit, I dunno. You know what  
 that means, smarty-pants?

Bethany shrugs. Lucy breaks eye-contact.

NICA (CONT'D)  
 See? I don't know, Bethany doesn't  
 know, Lucy doesn't know.

ADA  
 Trust me, she knows.

LUCY  
 I can't be here anymore.

Lucy rises. Ada breaks after her.

ADA

Don't leave. I need you.

LUCY

Why aren't you scared?

ADA

The only ways to develop brain tumors are radiation, diseases I don't have, and metastasized tumors, and tests don't show cancer cells in the rest of my body.

LUCY

Ada, doctors are gonna cut your fucking brain open.

ADA

It's just a needle--

LUCY

You have this thing in your head and they want to kill it.

Lucy starts tearing-up.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I talked to your dad. The way you're acting could all be the tumors.

ADA

Listen to me. My mind is unaffected by whatever this is.

LUCY

They're gonna kill it and then you'll be different. That girl I'm in love with, that girl who loves me, she's gonna disappear.

ADA

All these feelings are real and have been burning inside me for--

LUCY

Jesus Christ. You're sick and don't even realize it. I'm supposed to guess what shit is real and what shit is just your fucked-up brain?

Lucy bursts into tears.



LUCY (CONT'D)

When I met you, I fell in love. I was so lonely and I fell so hard. I asked my dad to make you understand. If you understood, maybe you'd love me back.

(beat)

But it's all bullshit! He's not in heaven watching over me, he's dead. And you're not in love with me, you're brain-damaged.

Lucy bolts out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Ada sits on the examination table. Lori shaves the sides of Ada's head. Bethany watches.

BETHANY

You're gonna look funny.

ADA

It's how Nica shaves her head. Does Nica look funny?

BETHANY

Yes!

ADA

What do you think, Lori?

LORI

It'll look awesome.

ADA

Lori thinks it'll look awesome.

BETHANY

My mom says she'll make you a cap like mine. I hope you don't end-up like me.

ADA

You're pretty with or without hair.

BETHANY

Why was your friend mad at you?

ADA

Lucy? Because no matter how many times I repeat my life, I always mess it up somehow.

Bethany pats Ada's hand.

BETHANY

She's just scared. You should tell  
her it's okay to be scared.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAM ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Ada lays on a gurney. Her parents stand nearby.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

A tech examines Ada's scans and adjusts a metal frame.

INT. HOSPITAL PRE-OP - EARLY MORNING

Ada lays on a cot. A nurse reviews a chart.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

The SURGEON (60s) and OR staff scrub-up.

INT. CHILDREN'S WARD REC ROOM - DAY

Nica watches 'Barney' on TV, eyes are glazed and bloodshot.  
Bethany sits on the floor and colors.

Ledesma appears through a large sound-proof window facing the  
hall. She talks to Lori. She turns to leave but sees Nica.  
She says something to Lori. Lori nods.

NICA

I was wrong. This show is amazing.

Ledesma enters the room, clutching Ada's blue notebook.

LEDESMA

Monica.

NICA

Ms. Ledesma. Bringing Ada homework?

LEDESMA

Of course not. She's hospitalized.

NICA

She likes homework.

LEDESMA

I was looking for Ada's parents. Do you know when they'll be back?

NICA

I forgot. The autopsy is supposed to take forever.

BETHANY

She means 'biopsy' but I stopped correcting her an hour ago.

NICA

Shut up, Bethany.  
(to Ledesma)  
Why you looking for them?

LEDESMA

Have you seen this before?

NICA

It's Ada's notebook. She notes in it. Why you have it?

LEDESMA

She left it in my classroom. Has she ever talked to you about it?

NICA

No. But I looked at it. Science stuff I'm too stupid for.

Bethany scoffs. Nica kicks her.

NICA (CONT'D)

You can wait with me if you want... Barney.

LEDESMA

I don't know what to do with this.

NICA

Get baked? I'm gonna get baked.

LEDESMA

You're not baked right now?

NICA

I am, but today sucks so I dunno.

Nica's PAGER BUZZES.

BETHANY

Are you a drug dealer, too?

NICA  
You're mean for a five year-old.

BETHANY  
I'm almost nine!

NICA  
Lucy's downstairs so I'm gonna...  
You wanna come-with?

Ledesma smirks.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Ada lays face down, body covered in sheets. The shaved portion of her head is uncovered, attached to the metal frame. A HEART MONITOR BEEPS.

The surgeon begins injections in the back of Ada's temple.

INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL - DAY

Ada's parents sit in a pew.

FRANKLIN  
Sophia, you know this won't change anything.

SOPHIA  
I remember an undergraduate who believed in the power of good vibrations.

FRANKLIN  
That same undergraduate also smoked a lot of hash. Speaking of, did you catch a whiff of Monica? Whew.

SOPHIA  
Please do this with me.

FRANKLIN  
Who am I going to pray to? Santa Claus? The Easter Bunny? I thought we agreed about this.

SOPHIA  
Right now it's different.

FRANKLIN  
What voodoo rituals shall we perform afterward?

SOPHIA

Let me posit something: Human cultures, worldwide, have many shared beliefs. They include rewarding good deeds, punishing bad deeds, asking others for help, and thanking those who provide help. These beliefs date back countless millennia. They may even predate *Homo sapiens*.

Franklin stands and faces the religious imagery on the walls.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)

We have these concepts of altruism laced into our being, but what happens if there's nobody to thank or blame? Urges to complete these rituals don't dissipate because of rational thought. They're tucked into our genes.

FRANKLIN

I'm failing to see your point.

SOPHIA

Franklin, there's nobody to blame. There's nobody who can guarantee her safety. We're feeling those urges right now, but they have no place to go. I need to do something with these feelings because they're killing me.

FRANKLIN

All I hear is further explanation of why it's imaginary.

SOPHIA

I'm explaining why I need to pray. There doesn't have to be someone listening. The act of asking is enough.

EXT./INT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT/LUCY'S CAR - DAY

Lucy, Nica, and Ledesma get high.

LUCY

You do this a lot?

LEDESMA

I haven't smoked weed in forever.

LUCY  
I meant with students.

NICA  
(laughing)  
She's here to bring Ada homework!

Lucy flips through Ada's blue notebook.

LUCY  
You understand any of this?

LEDESMA  
It's quantum physics. Have you seen her working on it?

LUCY  
Sure. Never said what it meant or anything. Important enough to talk to her folks about in the hospital?

LEDESMA  
I wanted to speak with them before Ada began any treatment.

LUCY  
Yeah, well, too late.

LEDESMA  
It's just a biopsy.

Lucy lands on a page. 'Lucy' is scrawled in a heart. She closes the notebook.

NICA  
She get the right answers to all the polymath in there?

LEDESMA  
My first thought was she was regurgitating someone else's work. This is complex, too complex for a high school student.

NICA  
She's a super-genius.

LUCY  
She's insane.

LEDESMA  
Have you heard of Occam's Razor?

NICA

That a metal band? Sounds hardcore.

LEDESMA

It's a principle which says the answer with the fewest assumptions is normally correct.

The girls stare at her blankly.

LEDESMA (CONT'D)

See that tree over there? Where did that branch under it come from?

LUCY

The tree.

LEDESMA

Did you see it fall off?

LUCY

No.

LEDESMA

Something else could have happened. A guy pulled his truck over, threw the branch out, and it just happened to land under the tree.

NICA

Whoa.

LEDESMA

That could happen, right?

LUCY

It could happen, but c'mon.

LEDESMA

Exactly. Let's confirm everything. Ada starts acting unusual--

LUCY

She was always unusual. She started acting crazy.

LEDESMA

The doctors determine she has tumors on her brain. Brain tumors can cause personality changes, misperception, and so on. What does Occam's Razor say about the way she's acting?

LUCY

Crap in her brain makes her crazy.

Ledesma stares at the notebook.

LEDESMA

Newton was crazy, but he was also brilliant.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

A section of Ada's skull is removed, revealing her brain. The SCRUB TECH (40s) hands the Surgeon an extremely long needle. He lines it up with the frame and inserts it into the brain.

INT. LUCY'S CAR - DAY

Lucy hits the pipe, but it's cached. Nica dozes-off.

LEDESMA

In theoretical sciences, there aren't always labs where you can test things. Scientists use thought experiments. That's what's in Ada's notebook. It's not finished but it's ground-breaking. She writes about how the mind could transcend space and time.

LUCY

Every stoner's come up with that shit before. I don't care if she does explain how she sent her brain back in time. Still crazy.

LEDESMA

What's in here isn't a pipe-dream. It's physics behind... Wait, send her brain back in time?

Ledesma flips through the notebook, looking at key pages.

LUCY

Yeah, she 'remembers' things from the future, like a fucking lunatic.

Ledesma laughs.

LEDESMA

The Beatles paradox.



LUCY

Huh?

LEDESMA

I showed this to a friend at Berkley. He's never seen anything like it before. He said it sounds like it came from someone who'd been in academics for decades, but was too radical for current theories, which means it couldn't have come from anyone in academics. At the same time, it couldn't come from a high school student because it's too professional for someone so young.

(beat)

He called it the Beatles paradox.

LUCY

I don't get it.

LEDESMA

You know the Beatles, right?

Lucy rolls her eyes.

LEDESMA (CONT'D)

The Beatles have that sound. You know the Beatles when you hear them. Reading this is like hearing the Beatles for the first time. But if it came from a high school student, it should sound like 'Meet the Beatles.' Instead, it sounds like 'Revolver.'

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

The scrub tech pours fluid from one vial into another.

SURGEON

That's it. Let's close.

INT. CHILDREN'S WARD WAITING ROOM - DAY

Sophia and Franklin sit together and hold hands.

INT. HOSPITAL POST-OP - NIGHT

Ada lays in bed, connected to machines and fluids, head wrapped in a bandage. She wakes and lays still. Her eyes widen suddenly.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Lori and another nurse explore the hall.

LORI

How far can she go? She's hooked-up to an--

Lori pushes a door open and enters

INT. EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

Ada writes on a long sheet of paper unrolled over an exam table, still attached to her IV drip.

LORI

Ada. What are you doing out of bed?

Dense calculations cover the paper. Ada pulls out another few feet of blank paper and continues writing. Lori grabs her.

LORI (CONT'D)

Ada. Look at me.

ADA

Lori, I found it.

LORI

Let's go back to recovery.

ADA

Look at it. It's beautiful.

RECOVERY - MONTAGE

A) INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy lays in bed and listens to her Walkman.

B) INT. CHILDREN'S WARD DORM - NIGHT

Ada lays in bed and stares at the ceiling.

C) EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Nica lights a joint and offers it to Lucy.

D) INT. BHANDARI'S OFFICE - DAY

Ada wears a knit cap over her bandaged head. Bhandari tests Ada's reflexes.

E) INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Sarah tapes a 'Get Well' card to Ada's locker.

F) INT. CHILDREN'S WARD REC ROOM - DAY

Ada sits on the floor, surrounded by long sheets of exam table paper covered with calculations.

G) INT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM - DAY

Ledesma grades papers. Lucy knocks on the door frame.

H) INT. CHILDREN'S WARD REC ROOM - NIGHT

Sophia sleeps on a couch. Ada works on her calculations.

I) INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy rifles through piles of tapes and CDs.

J) INT. CHILDREN'S WARD REC ROOM - NIGHT

Franklin flips through Ada's blue notebook curiously.

K) INT. CHILDREN'S WARD TREATMENT ROOM - DAY

Bethany sits in a recliner for her chemo. Ada sits on the floor next to her and stares at a collection of papers.

L) INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy drops a stack of CDs next to her stereo. She breaks the seal on a blank cassette.

M) INT. CHILDREN'S WARD REC ROOM - NIGHT

Franklin and Sophia eat an unappealing Thanksgiving meal. Ada eats a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and writes.

N) INT. SCHOOL HALLWAYS - DAY

Ada's locker is completely covered in cards, stickers, and other decorations. Little Amy ties a balloon to the handle.

Lucy watches from across the hall, listening to her Walkman. She stops the tape and slips her headphones off.

END MONTAGE.

INT. DOCTOR'S LOUNGE - DAY

DR. AARONSON (40s) rummages through her mailbox.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAYS - DAY

Aaronson walks and sips coffee. She waves and smiles at passing staff as she enters a door marked 'PATHOLOGY LAB'.

INT. PATHOLOGY LAB - DAY

Everything is pristine and organized. Aaronson sits and nudges her microscope a few millimeters -- PERFECT!

She loads a slide, reviews a folder, looks in the microscope, then back to the folder. She furrows her brow. She changes slides. Microscope, folder, microscope, folder. She thinks.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

The alternative girls share a table gloomily. Lucy takes an unpleasant bite of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

LUCY

Jesus Christ. How can Ada eat this  
for every fucking meal?

Emily and her crew appear.

EMILY

What the fuck is happening here?

CHERYL

We're moping.

MARISOL

Moping cuz y'all are lame or moping  
cuz of Ada?

DREA

Ada.

LITTLE AMY

Think positive thoughts!

JENNIFER R

We're not feeling it today.

EMILY

We're bored. Would Brain Queen want  
you to sit around like lumps of  
shit or would she tell you to come  
outside with us and cause some  
trouble?

CHERYL

What kind of trouble?

MARISOL

Throw rocks at Mr. Pace's car.

NICA

Fuck that guy. We could let the air  
out of his tires!

The gang perks-up.

LITTLE AMY

See how easy that is? Grumpy Bears  
to Funshine Bears in two seconds.

Marisol stops Lucy.

MARISOL

Except this bitch.

LUCY

I'll break his fucking windshield,  
I don't care.

EMILY

Your boo's brain melted and the  
first thing you did was dump her.

LITTLE AMY

Lucy, you're in the doghouse for,  
like, ever.

The other girls leave. Lucy collapses into a chair.

INT. HOSPITAL TECH LAB - DAY

Aaronson speaks with a LAB TECH (30s).

AARONSON  
You're sure you did it correctly?

LAB TECH  
Totally.

AARONSON  
There's no way you could've mixed  
them up with other samples?

The tech examines a clipboard.

LAB TECH  
No other brain biopsies last week.  
Must be right. Unless the samples  
were corrupted before I got them.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Lucy sits under a tree. Nica approaches.

LUCY  
Aren't you supposed to be having  
fun without me?

NICA  
Was that the first time?

LUCY  
Huh?

NICA  
The first time anyone said anything  
about how you treated her?  
(smiling)  
You're a fucking asshole.

LUCY  
Thanks.

NICA  
A piece of shit, dirt-bag loser.

LUCY  
Nica--

NICA  
Tuna-stank, scabies-having--

LUCY

I get it.

NICA

Feel better? Thought so. Let's go.

LUCY

You heard 'em. I'm banned from having fun.

NICA

The hospital, lame-ass. We can smash shit on the way home.

INT. SURGEON'S OFFICE - DAY

Aaronson faces the surgeon and his scrub tech.

SCRUB TECH

Everything was absolutely normal. I held the collection tubes and poured them into their vials. This is not the hardest part of my job.

AARONSON

And the biopsy went fine?

SURGEON

Take a look for yourself.

The surgeon hands over a file. Aaronson examines Polaroids from the surgery.

SURGEON (CONT'D)

I almost wish it would go surgical. I want a closer look at that gorgeous brain.

SCRUB TECH

(glaring)  
God forbid.

SURGEON

Of course! God forbid.

The scrub tech shakes her head.

INT. CHILDREN'S WARD REC ROOM - DAY

Ada sits at a table, gaze locked to one of her papers. Bethany stands next to her with a box of checkers.

BETHANY  
Are--

ADA  
Sh.

BETHANY  
Can--

ADA  
Sh.

Bethany waits a beat, then opens her mouth.

ADA (CONT'D)  
How many moles of atoms are in the  
human body? Rough estimate.

BETHANY  
I... I don't know what that means.

Ada and Bethany look up...

NICA AND LUCY

A few fat beats.

ADA  
(to Bethany)  
About eleven-point-six moles of  
atoms per human. That's seven times  
ten to the twenty-seventh atoms.  
See how cool science is?

LUCY  
Did we...?

ADA  
Absolutely perfect timing. Lucy and  
I are going to talk. Keep her outta  
trouble.

Ada gathers her papers, grabs Lucy's arm, and yanks her away.

NICA  
Ugh. Stuck babysitting the baby.

BETHANY  
She was talking to me, doofus.



INT. HOSPITAL ATRIUM - DAY

Ada fits together her pages on the floor like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Lucy holds a mixtape.

LUCY

...Just to give you something to listen to that's not Raffi or whatever they play for the kids.

Ada takes the tape from Lucy. Their hands linger. Lucy breaks eye-contact. Ada moves the last paper into place.

ADA

I fixed it, Lucy. It was flawed, but now... Ta-da!

Lucy stares at the giant calculation wordlessly.

ADA (CONT'D)

In the other timeline, I had a theory. It stopped fitting when I synced to this timeline. Chaos and free will explain some changes, but this timeline is too different. I tried to make it work with my previous assumptions. Making the numbers fit the theory -- bad physicist, I know. I blame stupid teenage brain. Or skull ghosts. One of the two. Unless--

LUCY

Ada.

ADA

The original conceit was that the timelines diverged when future memories synced. But I had it wrong. This universe diverged before I even arrived. Thus, ta-da!

LUCY

For a minute I thought you were gonna try and explain how you weren't crazy. Silly me.

ADA

I try to keep my ego in check but I've really outdone myself. It's all so elegant and gorgeous.

LUCY

Fine, I give up. Be crazy. Tell me what this nonsense is.

ADA

It's the theory of how subatomic histories are stored in a trans-dimensional space and how organisms are able to access this space.

(touching a calculation)

But this is the part I want you to see. It's how I know we're destined to be together.

INT. HOSPITAL IMAGING OFFICE - DAY

Aaronson and the Imaging Tech examine scans of Ada's brain.

IMAGING TECH

If you see something I'm missing, point it out.

AARONSON

Why isn't there contrast on the lesions?

IMAGING TECH

Not all tumors react to contrast.

AARONSON

Is it possible they're not tumors at all? Under both scans they look like gray matter. Under the scope they look like gray matter.

IMAGING TECH

I see lots of brains. This isn't a normal brain.

AARONSON

Frontal lobes look good, right?

IMAGING TECH

Pristine.

INT. HOSPITAL ATRIUM - DAY

Ada and Lucy sit in front of the massive calculation.

LUCY

(laughing)

That's why you're crazy!

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

You don't believe in destiny and love isn't proved in math.

ADA

It's physics and it describes love the way it works between two people. I can explain this in a way you'll understand... Rule Two: If you get confused, stop me and I'll try again. Okay?

LUCY

Knock yourself out.

ADA

There's this seventh-dimensional construct--

LUCY

Nope. Start over.

ADA

Easier. I can make this easier... Humans have free will. There's no way to absolutely predict what humans will do. If we go down as small as we can get -- the quantum scale of things -- those rules change. We can look at an electron and predict its entire history, every place it's been and every place it will be.

(pointing to a page)

We describe it in a calculation like this. This is the electron's quantum state -- its destiny. It's theoretical in the sense that it deals with possibilities, but if we plug in the numbers we can tell exactly where it is in space-time.

LUCY

You're talking about atomic particles, not people.

ADA

Subatomic particles, but yes. So let's get back to people. The brain controls the body by sending electrical impulses -- moving electrons. The emotions you feel for me are just electrons moving back and forth. You don't have destiny--

LUCY

But the electrons have destiny.

Ada grabs a stack of blank pages and draws squiggly lines.

ADA

This page is your feelings for me in this universe. This next one is your feelings for me in my universe. Similar, but different, see? This one is from a universe where you always hated me. Three universes -- the same electrons but different destinies. Now we stack them together...

Ada holds the papers together against a window. Light shines through the pages.

ADA (CONT'D)

See how some of these lines overlap? That third universe where you hate me, there's no overlap with anything, but the love is darker where they intersect. And this isn't just three universes. There's an infinity of universes and the more of them with aligning--

LUCY

The darker the lines... the stronger the feelings.

INT. ONCOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY

An ONCOLOGIST (40s) examines the pictures of Ada's brain, biopsy samples, and brain scans. He speaks like a yoga instructor.

ONCOLOGIST

Our lives rely on a delicate balance between order and chaos, yin and yang. Maladies emerge from imbalances in these forces. Consider tumors: The body's own cells replicating incorrectly, illogically, purposelessly. Chaos masquerading as order.

AARONSON

That's nice and all, but what does this look like to you?

ONCOLOGIST

Rogue growths on the brain.  
Seemingly chaotic. Yet they appear  
almost as if they do have purpose,  
just one that's occluded. Order  
masquerading as chaos.

AARONSON

So they're not tumors?

The oncologist drops the act and uses a normal voice.

ONCOLOGIST

For juvenile temporal lobe tumors,  
we'd expect ganglioneuroma,  
ganglioglioma, or pilocytic  
astrocytoma. It's clearly not any  
of those. You're the pathologist.  
What's your gut say?

AARONSON

They're not tumors.

ONCOLOGIST

'Intuition will tell the thinking  
mind where to look next.'

Aaronson sighs.

INT. HOSPITAL ATRIUM - DAY

Ada and Lucy stare at the backlit stack of paper.

LUCY

I think I kinda get how that works  
for you, since you're 'from another  
universe,' but nobody else  
remembers stuff from other  
universes.

ADA

This isn't remembering, it's  
feeling. Your brain feels traces of  
what those electrons did somewhere  
else.

Lucy's gears grind. Light bulb! She grabs Ada.

LUCY

Signals. Radio signals. Each universe broadcasts the feelings and when you're broadcasting the same signal, it gets boosted, so it comes in clearer.

(beat)

Not just signals. Music. Like a soundtrack we don't know we're hearing.

ADA

That's brilliant!

(holding up a new stack to the window)

That's you, this is me and they line up here. An infinity of us, playing the same song.

LUCY

If there's an infinity of us, isn't there a bigger infinity without us?

ADA

Yes, but we're looking at the set of universes with us, with matching radio towers.

LUCY

Then tell me why this hurts. Why does the same song that makes me so happy also make me so sad?

Ada looks away.

ADA

Because I run. More than once. An uncountable number of times. I leave when it matters most. And these signals aren't just from now, they're from the past and the future.

(trying not to cry)

But me -- this me -- I've suffered through that and there's nothing I wouldn't do to stay with you.

Lucy turns Ada's head and kisses her.

ADA (CONT'D)

I know it hurts, but I'm asking you to trust me and listen to the song the way it's supposed to be heard.

(MORE)

ADA (CONT'D)

Listen to what you're feeling --  
what all of you are feeling.

INT. BHANDARI'S OFFICE - DAY

Aaronson talks with Bhandari, surrounded by the scans.

AARONSON

I hear fantastic confabulation, I  
think Korsakoff's syndrome.

BHANDARI

Her B-one levels are fine and  
there's no obvious trauma to the  
frontal lobes.

AARONSON

Confabulation this complex could be  
progressive dementia. Pick's  
disease?

BHANDARI

You should talk to this girl. If  
there's one thing she doesn't have,  
it's aphasia or any degradation of  
verbal expression.

AARONSON

She keep a journal?

BHANDARI

The Children's Ward is filled with  
stacks of papers she writing.

AARONSON

Personality changes, hypergraphia.  
That's Geschwind syndrome.

BHANDARI

Why would we dismiss the lesions?

AARONSON

Because if this isn't cancer, the  
only symptoms we're seeing are from  
the temporal lobe epilepsy. Maybe  
this is a birth defect.

BHANDARI

She hasn't seized since she started  
the blood-thinners. All the  
epileptic symptoms could be from  
the cranial pressure.

AARONSON

Not this degree of confabulation.

Bhandari flips through a file.

BHANDARI

We have a date this started.  
October sixteenth... She overslept.

AARONSON

Temporal lobes swell to this size  
in a month and a half? Growth-rate  
like that takes us to radiation,  
and there's been no exposure. That  
leaves some other sort of  
environmental factor.

BHANDARI

Exposure nobody's ever seen...  
Exposure we have no experience with  
in neurochemistry.

AARONSON

Such as?

BHANDARI

(realizing)

Memories... Twenty-four years of  
memories, absorbed overnight.

Both doctors stare at the scans.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAYS - DAY

Ada and Lucy walk, clutching the mass of papers.

LUCY

What about one where dinosaurs are  
still around?

ADA

Unlikely. A huge asteroid hit the  
planet. This is seventh-dimensional  
physics, so the timelines only  
extend to a light-year radius  
around Earth. Now if we're talking  
the eighth dimension--

Lucy makes a game show buzz sound.

LUCY

What about one where Kurt Cobain  
didn't kill himself?



ADA

There you go. That's totally possible.

LUCY

Wait. Super famous and super rich. Then he's four-hundred pounds and has a heart-attack on the toilet.

ADA

But you could finally get 'A Very Merry Nirvana Christmas Album.'

LUCY

What about one where you go to college and meet girls fifty times smarter than me?

ADA

Now you're just being cute.

LUCY

What about one where you get hit by a car or slip and break your neck or, I dunno, get brain cancer? Can you teach me how to swap to another timeline so I can be with you again?

ADA

I don't even know how I did it. No idea where I'd even start to teach someone else.

LUCY

Ada, how do I move on with my life after that, knowing this person I'm trans-dimensionally destined-for is gone forever?

ADA

But we were together. I've seen a life where we stayed apart. There's nothing worse than that.

They turn a corner, reaching the

INT. CHILDREN'S WARD - DAY

At the far end, Ada's parents talk with Bhandari and Aaronson.

LUCY  
Those your doctors?

ADA  
It'll be fine.

Ada holds out her hand.

LUCY  
I almost wish this was all made-up.  
Like it would be easier if you  
really were crazy.

ADA  
I never said I wasn't crazy.

Lucy takes her hand.

FADE OUT.