

Reap & Sow

Screenplay by

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**FADE IN:**

SUPER: LOS ANGELES 2001

**INT. DINER-BATHROOM-AFTERNOON**

NICK, 27. A tall handsome man with wavy dark hair and brown eyes. A man with a lot of potential but does nothing to better himself.

SUZIE, 24. Sandy blonde hair, and hazel eyes. A smart and caring woman.

Her pants pulled down to her ankles.

Nick stands up, going back and forth from behind Suzie -- He grabs Suzie by her waist -- and leans his head onto her back --

SUZIE  
(moan)

Nick sits down on the toilet and pulls his pants up over his lap. Suzie reaches down and pulls her pants up. She looks at Nick.

SUZIE (CONT'D)  
Why are you so tired?

NICK  
Work.

SUZIE  
Well, if you don't mind, I better get back to mine. Will you be home later?

NICK  
Yeah.

Nick stands up and fastens his belt. He kisses Suzie on the cheek. He grabs ahold of the doorknob and pulls the door open. Nick walks out.

**EXT. PARKING LOT-MOTEL-AFTERNOON**

Nick sweeps the front porch to the office.

A car pulls into the parking lot of the motel. Nick stops sweeping. The passenger door opens. Nick's look in amazement at the sight of the woman getting out of the car.

RACHEL THOMAS, 25. A striking woman with dark hair, brown eyes and a body of a super model.

RACHEL'S CLIENT, 23. Tall, muscular built, and handsome.

Nick holds the broomstick close to him as if it is the only thing keeping him from hitting the ground after watching Rachel walk towards the office door and taking her steps past him. Rachel's Client looks at Nick. He points his finger at Nick.

RACHEL'S CLIENT

Hands off!

Nick turns around and returns to sweeping the ground.

**EXT. MOTEL-POOL-AFTERNOON**

Rachel swims in the pool. Nick walks past. He blows the dust and dirt with a leaf blower. Rachel swims towards the edge of the pool and pulls herself up. She looks at Nick. Rachel's Client walks towards her.

RACHEL'S CLIENT

I have to go to my meeting? Will you be alright by yourself?

RACHEL

Yeah.

Rachel's Client leans down and kisses her.

**EXT/INT. MOTEL ROOM #105-EVENING**

Rachel stands in front of the television. The remote control in her hand. She looks at Nick as he walks past the open door.

RACHEL

Sir!

Nick walks back to the door and leans his head into the doorway.

NICK

Yes?

RACHEL

The channels aren't coming up.

Nick walks towards Rachel and takes the remote from her. He looks at the number on the television.

NICK

The channel has to be on three and you must have hit the TV button by accident. Next time just hit the cable button.

Nick changes the television to live TV and hands the remote back to Rachel.

RACHEL

Thanks.

Nick steps away from Rachel. He reaches the doorway. Rachel looks at Nick.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Hey! Don't you want to stay for a while?

NICK

What about your boyfriend?

RACHEL

He's not my boyfriend --

-- Rachel walks towards Nick -- She touches his chin with the end of her finger -- She leans her mouth towards his -- and licks his lips --

**INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE-MOTEL-EVENING**

MOTEL MANAGER, early 40s. Manager for over ten years.

ON SCREEN

The Motel Manager watches Nick in the motel room with Rachel. Nick kissing Rachel.

BACK TO SCENE

The Motel Manager looks away. He steps out of the office.

MOTEL MANAGER

That's it!

**EXT. NICK'S APARTMENT-EVENING**

Suzie stands at the front door of Nick's apartment -- She knocks with aggressiveness --

SUZIE  
-- Come on, Nick!

**INT. MOTEL ROOM #105-EVENING**

Rachel lays on the bed -- Nick crawls towards her -- He slides his pants down -- and pulls Rachel's panties down to her feet -- Nick begins to go towards Rachel's face -- and lays his chest up against hers -- He goes back and forth --

RACHEL  
(moan)

NICK  
Oh! Baby!!

RACHEL  
(moan) Right there!

**EXT. PARKING LOT-MOTEL-NIGHT**

Nick walks towards the end of the parking lot.

The Motel Manager steps in front of Nick. A cigarette in his mouth.

MOTEL MANAGER  
Don't bother coming in tomorrow.  
You're fired!

The Motel Manager steps away from Nick. Nick rubs his fingers through his hair and walks away from the motel.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Nick lays on his bed. He looks at the ceiling and looks at the glow in the dark stars. Nick closes his eyes. The house phone rings. Nick covers his face with the palm of his hand. He gets up.

NICK  
What is it this time!

**INT. NICKS'S LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

Nick picks up the receiver and puts it to his ear.

NICK  
Hello?

SUZIE (V.O.)  
Oh, now you're finally home! I  
thought you forgot where you live?

NICK  
Look, I had a long day and I'm  
sorry I didn't call you.

SUZIE (V.O.)  
I'm right outside your door. Are  
you gonna take me to get a bite to  
eat or what?

**EXT. WEINER SCHNITZEL-PARKING LOT-NIGHT**

At a table, Suzie sits across from Nick. She eats her chili  
dog. Nick looks at her, and sips out of his cup.

NICK  
You must really be hungry?

Suzie swallows her food.

SUZIE  
Where were you?

NICK  
I was working.

SUZIE  
Really? I called your job and the  
manager told me he fired you. I  
asked why and he told me to ask  
you?

NICK  
I dozed off somewhere at the front  
desk or something like that.

SUZIE  
And that's the story you're  
sticking to?

NICK  
What are you, my mother?

SUZIE  
No. I'm pregnant.

NICK  
What!

SUZIE  
You knocked me up.

NICK  
But we did it today?

SUZIE  
You clearly don't remember how much  
we do it.

Suzie stands up, steps away from the table and looks at Nick.

SUZIE (CONT'D)  
I'm keeping the baby.

NICK  
What about us?

SUZIE  
It won't work. I can't take care of  
you too.

NICK  
Just like that, we're done?

SUZIE  
I still want you in our baby's  
life.

Nick gets up and turns. He looks at Suzie.

NICK  
I guess I'll call you and we can  
set something up?

SUZIE  
Yeah.

Suzie walks towards her car and opens the driver door.

NICK  
Drive safe.

Nick walks out of the parking lot. Suzie gets into her car  
and shuts the driver door.

**INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT-OFFICE-MORNING**

RESTAURANT MANAGER, early 40s. Manager for ten years.

The Restaurant Manager sits at his desk. He looks at Nick.  
Nick is nicely dressed in a white collared shirt and black  
khaki pants.

RESTAURANT MANAGER  
Are you good with the friars?

NICK  
Yes.

RESTAURANT MANAGER  
I'll see you tomorrow then.

The Restaurant Manager stands up. Nick stands up and shakes his hand.

**INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

The Restaurant Manager steps towards Nick.

RESTAURANT MANAGER  
Hey, Nick? There's a lady over at that booth that wants you to take her order personally. She says she knows you?

Nick walks towards the booth. He looks at his order pad, and holds a pen to it but does not look at Rachel.

NICK  
What can I get for you?

RACHEL  
Hello!

Nick looks at Rachel.

NICK  
What are you doing here?

RACHEL  
I was just in the neighborhood.

NICK  
You can't be in here unless you're gonna order food?

RACHEL  
Fine.

Rachel reaches into her purse and pulls out a hundred dollar bill. She hands it to Nick. Nick takes it.

NICK  
This is too much.



RACHEL

You can keep the change. Just get me two cheese burgers and large fries.

Nick walks towards the cash register.

**EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT-EVENING**

Rachel sits on the hood of her car. Her nice smooth legs crossed. Nick walks out. He looks at her.

NICK

If I didn't know any better, I'd say you were stalking me?

RACHEL

Maybe I got something I was missing.

NICK

And what about him?

RACHEL

I was only with him to make him look good.

Nick looks at her with a confused look on his face.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I'm an escort, Nick!

Nick looks away, and walks towards the restaurant.

NICK

(whisper)  
I had sex with an escort?

RACHEL

You did.

Nick looks at Rachel and steps towards her.

NICK

What do you want? Money?

RACHEL

Oh, Nicky pooh! I don't want anything but a good time like we had last night.

NICK

What's in it for me?

RACHEL  
You get me.

Rachel pulls Nick closer -- She kisses him --

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
What do you say we take this party  
to my bedroom?

NICK  
Fine with me.

**INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-EVENING**

Rachel lays underneath the covers -- Nick leans himself against her -- the covers going up and down -- Nick grips his hands onto her -- Rachel pushes him to the side of the bed -- Nick lays on his back -- Rachel goes up and down under the covers --

RACHEL  
(moan)

Rachel leans on Nick.

NICK  
(breath)

**EXT. CARNIVAL-NIGHT**

At the carnival, Nick holds on to Rachel's hand. Rachel runs towards a photo booth and gets in. Nick jumps into the booth.

**INT. PHOTO BOOTH-NIGHT**

Nick and Rachel sit in the photo booth. A snap from the camera. Rachel kisses Nick on the cheek. He pulls her closer towards him. She smiles and he kisses her on cheek.

**INT. GAME ROOM-NIGHT**

At the skee-ball games. Nick rolls balls towards the holes and scores enough tickets for a prize.

RACHEL  
Wow!

Nick grabs the tickets. Nick tosses the tickets on the display case of the prize table. Rachel stands alongside Nick, and grabs his arm.

GAME ROOM EMPLOYEE, late teens. A two year employee.

NICK  
What can I get with these?

The Game Room Employee points at the watches.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Those?

GAME ROOM EMPLOYEE  
Yes.

Nick looks at the pink one with a unicorn on it and points at it.

NICK  
That one.

Nick looks at Rachel.

NICK (CONT'D)  
For you.

The Game Room Employee rolls his eyes. He grabs the watch from behind and lays it on the desk. Rachel lays her left hand on the desk. Nick wraps the watch strap around her wrist. He kisses her.

RACHEL  
You want to go somewhere with me?

NICK  
Where?

RACHEL  
To meet a friend of mine.

NICK  
What friend?

RACHEL  
You'll see.

Rachel grabs Nick by his hand and pulls.

**EXT. MANSION-NIGHT**

Rachel steps towards a GUARD, early 30s. The Guard looks at Nick.

GUARD  
Who is he?

RACHEL  
He's my date.

GUARD  
He looks like he's from the wrong  
neighborhood.

RACHEL  
He looks fine to me.

GUARD  
Go ahead.

Rachel walks in, and grabs Nick by his hand.

**INT. LIVING ROOM-MANSION-NIGHT**

Rachel pulls Nick through the living room. He looks at all the guest. Some of the guest are sitting on the couch, kissing each other and having sex.

NICK  
Where are we going?

RACHEL  
I want you to meet my friend.

NICK  
Who?

RACHEL  
The man that took me off the  
streets.

NICK  
Wait! What?

RACHEL  
What are you scared of?

NICK  
Did you forget about what we did  
last night?

RACHEL  
So?

NICK  
He's gonna break my legs. I know  
how these things work.

RACHEL  
You watch too much TV.

Rachel pulls Nick to the stairs.

**INT. OFFICE-MANSION-NIGHT**

XANDER, early 30s. A Russian mob boss and brothel owner. Ruthless, aggressive and dangerous.

A cigar in his mouth. Xander turns his office door. A gentle knock from the other side.

GUARDS #1 and #2, early 30s. Xander's personal guards for two years.

Guard #1 opens the door. Rachel steps in. She pulls Nick into the office and smiles at Xander.

RACHEL

Xander!

Xander walks around his desk and walks towards Rachel. Rachel hugs Xander. He looks at Nick.

XANDER

And you must be the man that's keeping my top girl happy.

NICK

You can say that. I'm just an average man from California.

XANDER

Well Rachel here seems to find something great about you. Don't disappoint her.

Xander taps Nick on his shoulder and walks to his seat behind his desk. He sits. Xander tosses a stack of cash to Nick.

XANDER (CONT'D)

For you and my princess! Go to Vegas and have fun.

NICK

No offense, but I don't take bribes.

XANDER

It is not a bribe. Consider it a gift.

Nick walks the stack of cash to Xander's desk and sets it down in front of him. Rachel steps towards the desk and takes the cash.

XANDER (CONT'D)  
 Perhaps, you would be more comfortable if she held onto the money?

NICK  
 She can do whatever she feels. I'm not touching it.

Rachel looks at Xander. Xander nods his head. She puts the cash into her purse.

NICK (CONT'D)  
 It was good meeting you.

Nick walks towards the door.

XANDER  
 You too, Nick. See you soon.

**EXT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT COMPLEX-POOL-NIGHT**

Nick sits on the edge of the swimming pool. Rachel swims under water -- She grabs ahold of his legs -- and pushes her head out of the water -- Rachel leans her head on his lap --

RACHEL  
 Let's go somewhere. It doesn't have to be Vegas?

NICK  
 I can't go.

RACHEL  
 Why not?

NICK  
 I have responsibility here. I have an ex-girlfriend that's pregnant with my child.

RACHEL  
 Okay. I'll give you some of the cash to have her take care of it.

NICK  
 What are you talking about! I don't believe in abortion. Keep your blood money!!

Nick gets up and walks away from the pool. Rachel looks at Nick.

RACHEL  
Don't walk away from me, Nick!

**INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Nick grabs his shoes, pants and shirt from the floor.

**EXT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT COMPLEX-EVENING**

Nick walks towards the exit of the apartment complex. Rachel walks behind him. She gets in front of him.

RACHEL  
Where are you going?

NICK  
In case you don't see it. You can't buy me! I'm not like you or any of those whore friends of yours. Stay out of my life!

Nick walks out of the apartment complex. Rachel stops.

RACHEL  
Don't you walk away from me you son of bitch!

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-MORNING**

Suzie sits back on a Examination Table.

NURSE, early 30s. A nurse for five years.

The door opens. Nick steps in, and he looks at Suzie.

SUZIE  
It took you long enough.

NICK  
Sorry I'm late.

Nick steps towards the chair on Suzie's right and sits.

NURSE  
Alright, are you ready?

Nick looks at Suzie.

SUZIE  
We're ready.

The Nurse puts **Gel** on Suzie's stomach and puts the **Ultra Sound Wand** against Suzie's pelvis. The picture on the monitor comes up. The waves on the **monitor** catch a **heart beat**. Nick kisses Suzie on her forehead. Suzie looks at Nick. Nick looks away.

NICK

Sorry. I guess I got caught up in the moment.

SUZIE

What are you sorry for? I actually liked it. The mother of your child being kissed feels good.

The Nurse gets up from her chair.

NURSE

I'll get your picture printed and give you two some privacy.

SUZIE

No need, nurse.

Nick looks at the Nurse, and then at Suzie.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

We can work something out. What do you say?

NICK

Life has been crazy without you.

Nick leans down and kisses Suzie.

**INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

Rachel sits on her sofa. A bottle of vodka in her hand. A party of people surrounds her. She sits in her red mink coat, and a red bikini. Rachel stands to her feet. She walks to the center of the room.

RACHEL

Does anyone have a phone?!!

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT(DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Nick walks into a dark hospital room. He looks around.

NICK

Hello, is anyone there?



Nick sees a **gray cat** sitting in front of him. A **scaly slug** appears behind the cat. Nick rushes towards it -- He grabs the slug -- and shuts its mouth -- Nick looks at the slug --

NICK (CONT'D)  
-- You're one ugly mother!

RACHEL (V.O.)  
Oh, Nick! That hurts.

NICK  
What is this!

RACHEL (V.O.)  
Don't you ever pay attention to anything other than where you can put your dick in and satisfy yourself for a day, or two.

NICK  
This isn't real. You're not really talking to me.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
Then wake up and answer the phone!

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-NIGHT(END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Nick lies in bed with Suzie. His bedroom phone rings. Nick opens his eyes and reaches for the receiver. He puts the receiver to his ear.

NICK  
Hello?

RACHEL (V.O.)  
Hey, Nick!! Thought I tell you that I'm having a party. You can come over and see which one of these girls you can hook up with!

NICK  
Are you hammered?

Suzie opens her eyes. She looks at Nick.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
No, I'm not hammered!! Come and see for yourself! Come on -- son -- of -- bitch!

Nick hangs up the receiver. He gets up and walks out of the bedroom. Suzie sits up.

**INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

Rachel stands on the edge of her sofa -- She takes a big gulp out of the bottle of vodka -- Rachel tosses it to the floor --  
-

RACHEL

Which one of you guys wants to take  
me to the bedroom and fuck me until  
I pop?!

PARTY GUY #1 and PARTY #2, early 20s. The two party goers approach her. Party Guy #1 lifts Rachel over his shoulder and walks her into the bedroom.

**INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Party Guy #1 lays Rachel on the bed -- He slides her underwear down -- He yanks down his pants -- and begins to go in deep --

PARTY GUY #1

-- Oh, shit!

PARTY GUY #2

Keep going, bro!

NICK

-- Yeah, keep going bro --

-- Nick pulls Party Guy #1 away from Rachel -- He punches him in the face --

PARTY GUY #2

-- Hey asshole --

-- Nick kicks Party Guy #2 in the groin --

Sirens sound.

PARTY GUY #2 (CONT'D)

Get up, bro! The cops are here!

Nick looks at Party Guy #1.

NICK

Stay down!!

Nick reaches down and covers Rachel with her coat.

POLICE OFFICER #1 and #2, mid 20s. On the force for two and three years.

Police Officer #1 points his gun at Party Guy #1, and then at Nick.

POLICE OFFICER #1  
What the hell's going on in here?!

Nick looks at Police Officer #1.

NICK  
Can you call an ambulance, please?!

Police Officer #1 looks at Rachel. He looks at Nick.

POLICE OFFICER #1  
What's wrong with her?

NICK  
Can you just get a ambulance,  
please!!

POLICE OFFICER #2  
Do you mind coming out of there,  
sir?

POLICE OFFICER #1  
And putting your hands on your  
head?

Nick raises his hands -- and puts them on his head. He walks towards the doorway. Police Officer #2 grabs Nick by his arm -- and walks him out --

**INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS**

Police Officer #2 brings down both of Nick's arms behind his back -- and handcuffs him -- Nick looks at Police Officer #2 --

NICK  
-- Can you please listen to me! Get  
that woman to the hospital!!

POLICE OFFICER #2  
Calm down, sir!

**INT. HOLDING CELL-COUNTY JAIL-NIGHT**

Nick sits on a bench. He leans his head back against the wall. He looks at Party Guy #1. Nick looks at his left hand handcuffed to the bar on the cell.

NICK

If I wasn't restrained, I would come over there and kick you in the balls so hard that they would fly out of your mouth!

GUARD #1, early 30s. Guard for five years.

GUARD #1

Valens?

NICK

Yes?

GUARD #1

You made bail.

NICK

By who?

GUARD #1

You're girlfriend.

**EXT. COUNTY JAIL-NIGHT**

Nick steps outside. Suzie stands on the edge of the sidewalk. She looks at Nick.

NICK

Thanks for bailing me out?

SUZIE

I didn't bail you out.

Suzie moves to the right and reveals Rachel to Nick.

NICK

Oh man!

Suzie steps towards Nick. She touches his face.

NICK (CONT'D)

I ended it -- I promise? She was drunk and was being raped -- I was doing what I was supposed to do.

SUZIE

I know and understand. This won't work. I wish it could but you're gonna choose her over me. I'll call you.

Suzie walks past Nick. He looks at Rachel.

**INT. DINER-DAWN**

Nick and Rachel sit in a booth. Rachel sips coffee from a mug. Nick stirs his coffee with a spoon.

NICK

I can't see you anymore.

Rachel looks at Nick.

RACHEL

If this is about what happened --

-- Nick slams his hand -- Rachel gets a jump scare --

NICK

-- We're bad for each other. I just didn't see it.

Rachel reaches for Nick's hand. Nick pulls his hand away. He gets up from the booth.

RACHEL

Nick? Please!

Nick walks towards the doors. He looks at Rachel.

NICK

Later.

Nick steps out of the diner. Rachel's eyes water.

RACHEL

(sob)

**EXT. PARKING LOT-MORNING**

Nick wipes his eyes, and fights back the tears.

**EXT. REHABILITATION CENTER-AFTERNOON**

Rachel stands in front of a rehabilitation center. She looks away and starts to walk. She looks at her watch.

The same one that Nick won for her by playing skee-ball.  
Rachel smiles and steps towards the doors.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT(DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Nick stands in the dark hospital room. He looks around.

NICK  
Why am I back here?

Slugs gather around a **baby doll**. Nick walks towards the doll.  
The slugs slither away. He grabs the doll from the ground.

NICK (CONT'D)  
What the hell is this!!

The dolls eyes open.

DOLL (V.O.)  
You stupid son of a bitch! You  
picked her over your own child!!  
What makes her so special!

Nick throws the doll to the ground and runs.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-NIGHT(END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Nick lies asleep. The phone rings. Nick grabs onto the  
receiver.

NICK  
Hello?

NURSE (V.O.)  
Mr. Valens?

NICK  
Yes?

NURSE (V.O.)  
You might want to get down to the  
hospital.

NICK  
Why?

NURSE (V.O.)  
Your girlfriend was rushed here in  
an ambulance.

NICK  
I'm on my way.

Nick hangs up the receiver. He stands up and rushes out of the room.

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

Suzie lies in a bed. She looks out the window, and pays no attention to the door being open or who comes in. Nick steps in. A boutique of flowers in his hand. Suzie looks at Nick, then turns back.

SUZIE

What are you doing here?

NICK

They called me.

SUZIE

Why don't you get out of here! It's over.

NICK

Suzie?

SUZIE

Get the fuck out!!

Nick turns around and walks out.

**INT. CLASSROOM-REHABILITATION CENTER-AFTERNOON**

A classroom of rehabilitation addicts. People in their early 20s and 30s. ADDICT #1 looks at Rachel.

ADDICT #1

You?

He points at Rachel.

RACHEL

Me?

ADDICT #1

Yeah. Tell us about yourself?

RACHEL

My name's Rachel. I'm addicted to cocaine. I came here to get clean.

ADDICT #2

What brought that on?

RACHEL  
My boyfriend.

ADDICT #1  
And how do you feel today?

RACHEL  
Better.

ADDICT #2  
That's good. Thank you for sharing.

The Addicts clap for Rachel.

**INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

Nick stands in front of the cash register. The Restaurant Manager steps towards Nick.

RESTAURANT MANAGER  
Hey, Nick?

NICK  
Hey?

RESTAURANT MANAGER  
Do you mind staying until closing time?

NICK  
No. I can close.

RESTAURANT MANAGER  
Okay. Thanks.

NICK  
No problem.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Nick walks into his bedroom. He falls face down onto his bed.

NICK  
Ahh!

The phone rings.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Oh! What now!!

Nick grabs the receiver and puts it to his ear.



NICK (CONT'D)  
Hello!

RACHEL (V.O.)  
Hey?

NICK  
Rachel?!

Nick sits up.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
(laugh)  
Yes.

NICK  
How are you?

RACHEL (V.O.)  
I'm doing good. I'm getting help.

NICK  
That's good.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
Look, I really like to see you. I  
can have visitors next week.

NICK  
I don't know.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
(sob)  
I understand.

Nick looks at the ceiling. He thinks to himself.

NICK  
I'll see you next week.

**INT. REHABILITATION CENTER-HALLWAY-NIGHT**

RACHEL  
Yes!! Thank you!

NICK (V.O.)  
Take care of yourself.

RACHEL  
I love you.

NICK  
I love you too.

Rachel smiles and hangs up the receiver.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS**

Nick lays down. He closes his eyes.

**INT. VISITING AREA-REHABILITATION CENTER-AFTERNOON**

Rachel sits at a table. Nick steps in.

SECURITY GUARD, early 20s. A security guard for a year.

The Security Guard walks Nick towards Rachel.

NICK

Thank you.

Rachel stands up. Nick hugs her. Rachel sits down. He sets a **water bottle** and a **Snickers** down on the table. Nick sits across from Rachel.

NICK (CONT'D)

I know it's not much but I didn't know what to get you. I know women love chocolate.

RACHEL

Thank you.

Rachel takes a gulp from the water bottle.

NICK

How are you doing here?

RACHEL

I'm making it day by day.

NICK

When do you get out?

RACHEL

Next week.

NICK

You want to ask me something? Don't you?

RACHEL

I can't live by myself. Not anymore.

NICK  
Did you come up with that or did they?

RACHEL  
They did.

NICK  
I'm not good for you. I see that. It's bad that you can't.

RACHEL  
I can do better.

NICK  
I can try. We can work together.

RACHEL  
Thank you.

Rachel reaches for Nick's hand. Nick grabs ahold.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Nick steps into the living room. He holds a box that is labeled *Rachel's Stuff*. Rachel walks behind Nick. She kisses him on the cheek.

RACHEL  
Thanks.

NICK  
For what?

RACHEL  
Everything. I never thanked you for what you did that night.

Nick touches Rachel on the cheek.

NICK  
Shh! Its fine.

Nick kisses Rachel.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Rachel is on top -- She hovers over Nick, going up and down -  
- Nick wraps his hands around her waist and back --

RACHEL  
(moan)

Rachel leans down. She kisses Nick. Nick kisses her.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-KITCHEN-MORNING**

Rachel switches on the radio. She dances to the music playing -- a wooden spoon in her hand. Nick walks in. Rachel spins in circles and stops -- She looks at Nick and feels embarrassed --

RACHEL  
-- This is a surprise.

NICK  
That's pretty good.

Nick walks towards Rachel -- She wraps her arms around him -- and kisses him.

RACHEL  
I made you French Toast.

Rachel grabs the plate from the counter and hands it to him --

NICK  
-- Thanks.

Nick steps towards the counter, and grabs a fork. He eats.

RACHEL  
Can we do something today?

NICK  
I have to work.

RACHEL  
What about after?

NICK  
We can go out to dinner after.

RACHEL  
You promise?

NICK  
I give you my word.

Rachel rushes towards the bedroom --

RACHEL  
-- Thank you!

Nick shakes his head and smiles.

**EXT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT-PATIO-EVENING**

At a table, Rachel sits across from Nick. Her legs crossed in a red dress. Nick looks at Rachel.

RACHEL  
What?

NICK  
You just look so good. It's hard to take my eyes off you.

RACHEL  
That was the plan.

Music begins to play.

NICK  
Really?

Rachel gets up and grabs ahold of Nick's hand.

RACHEL  
Come on!

NICK  
No.

RACHEL  
Please?

Nick stands up and walks with Rachel. She stops and wraps her arms around him. She slowly rocks herself in his arms and leans her head against his chest. He rocks her slowly. Rachel closes her eyes, feeling the warmth in his arms.

**INT. DINING AREA-FAST FOOD RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

Nick mops the floor in the dining area. Rachel steps towards Nick.

RACHEL  
Can we talk for a minute?

NICK  
Say what you have to say?

RACHEL  
I'm pregnant.

Nick drops the mop handle.

NICK

Your what?

RACHEL

I'm pregnant. You know, after we had sex?

NICK

I know how. Let me process this for a second here.

RACHEL

Oh. Fine for you. I'm the one that has to carry it for nine months.

Rachel sits down at a booth. Nick walks to the booth. He sits.

NICK

I'll be with you every step of the way.

Nick grabs ahold of Rachel's hand. Rachel leans towards Nick and kisses him.

She sits back down.

RACHEL

If this is gonna go exactly the way we want it. You're gonna have to get a better job.

NICK

What's wrong with working here?

RACHEL

You're only making five dollars an hour. Not enough to cover the rent.

NICK

What do you suggest then?

**INT. LOCKER ROOM-MIDDLE SCHOOL-MORNING**

In the middle of the boys locker room. Nick stands, holding a mop.

CUSTODIAL MANAGER, early 40s. Manager for five years. Nick stands in front of the Custodial Manager.

CUSTODIAL MANAGER

First, I want this entire floor  
mopped and the toilet's cleaned.  
Now, get to work!

The Custodial Manager walks out of the locker room.

NICK

Good working with you too.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-EVENING**

Rachel lays on her side of the bed. Nick walks into his bedroom. He lays face down. She caresses his hair with the ends of her finger. Nick looks at Rachel, and then at the size of her stomach. Nick lays his head on his pillow, and closes his eyes.

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-MORNING**

Rachel lies asleep. Nick walks into the room. Flowers in one hand and balloons in the other. He sets the flowers down on the counter. His newborn daughter lays beside Rachel in a incubator. Nick hovers over the incubator. He lifts the newborn up and lays her against his chest. Rachel opens her eyes. She smiles at the sight of Nick holding their daughter.

RACHEL

Good morning!!

NICK

Good morning, mommy.

RACHEL

You're good at this already.

NICK

Do you have a name for her?

RACHEL

Why don't we call her after her  
daddy.

NICK

Nicole?

RACHEL

No. Yuck! How about Nicola?

NICK

I like it.

Nick steps towards the bed and sits beside Rachel. He holds the newborn up close to his face.

NICK (CONT'D)  
She's gonna be amazing, isn't she?

RACHEL  
Like her daddy.

Nick leans towards Rachel and kisses her.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Rachel sits on the sofa. She nurses the newborn. A knock on the front door. She covers herself and lays the newborn in her bed. Rachel opens the front door.

GLADYS THOMAS, early 40s. A woman with a bad tan, and cheap make-up. A bad fragrance of perfume and worn out clothes.

GLADYS  
Hello, Rachel?

RACHEL  
Mom?

GLADYS  
Aren't you gonna invite me in?

Rachel opens the door. Gladys steps in, and looks around. She looks at Rachel.

GLADYS (CONT'D)  
Nice place you have here. Must be the boyfriend's, right?

RACHEL  
How did you find me?

GLADYS  
Your friend Xander told me you were hanging around some guy. I had to see it for myself.

Gladys walks towards the newborn.

GLADYS (CONT'D)  
And you must be my granddaughter?

Rachel follows Gladys.

GLADYS (CONT'D)  
What did you name her?



RACHEL  
Nicola.

GLADYS  
Beautiful.

RACHEL  
She is.

Gladys turns to Rachel.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
What do you want mom?

GLADYS  
What, a mother can't come and check  
on her own daughter's well being?

RACHEL  
The last time I saw you, you took  
money from me and ran off. I don't  
have any money. I gave up that life  
style.

GLADYS  
Everyone needs a little fix once in  
a while.

RACHEL  
I don't want what you have to offer  
me. I have everything I need right  
here. A boyfriend that loves and  
takes care of me.

Gladys reaches into her purse and hands Rachel a bag of  
cocaine -- Rachel smacks the bag from Gladys's hand -- It  
falls to the floor --

GLADYS  
-- That was rude!

RACHEL  
You're the devil.

GLADYS  
There's more where that came from.

RACHEL  
Get out!

Gladys steps towards the front door. She opens it, walks out,  
and slams the door shut. Rachel looks down at the bag of  
cocaine and picks it up.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BATHROOM-AFTERNOON**

Rachel leans down -- and opens the bag -- She dumps the cocaine into the toilet. Rachel gets some on her fingers. Feeling the urge to sniff it, Rachel steps towards the sink. She turns on the water. Her hand comes close to her face. Just underneath her nose.

RACHEL  
(sniff)

Rachel leans her head back, and looks at the ceiling.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Ahh!!

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS**

Rachel sits on the sofa. She's in a daze. The newborn crying. The front door opens. Nick rushes in. He lifts the newborn from her bed.

NICK  
Rachel!!

RACHEL  
Yeah!

Rachel looks at Nick.

NICK  
You don't hear the baby crying?!  
What is wrong with you?

RACHEL  
I don't know. I just put her down  
for a minute and then the next  
thing I know I'm on the sofa.

Nick rocks the newborn. Calming her.

NICK  
Shh! I got you. She needs to be  
changed!

Nick walks the newborn into the bedroom. He lays her down on the bed -- He takes off the old diaper -- and wipes -- Nick puts on a new diaper -- He lays her in the crib.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BATHROOM-CONTINUOUS**

Nick walks into the bathroom. He tosses the diaper into the garbage can. He looks at the zip lock. Nick grabs it and rushes out of the bathroom --

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS**

Nick walks towards Rachel. He holds the bag up over his head.

NICK  
What is this?!!

Rachel looks at the bag.

RACHEL  
It's just a bag.

NICK  
What's it doing in my house?!

The door still open. Gladys stands and knocks softly.

POLICE OFFICER, early 20s. A police officer for two years.

Nick looks at Gladys.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Who are you?

GLADYS  
I'm Rachel's mother. Did I come at a bad time?

Nick shows Gladys the bag --

NICK  
-- I take it you were here before?  
I can smell the cheapness from you in my house.

GLADYS  
I was just doing a wellness check on Rachel and I came at a reasonable time. See, I told you officer?

Nick looks at the bag and drops it to the floor.

NICK  
It's not mine?

The Police Officer walks towards Nick.

POLICE OFFICER  
Get your hands up, sir?

Nick raises his hands.

**INT. JAIL CELL-COUNTY JAIL-MORNING**

Nick sits against the wall.

GUARD, early 40s. A guard for twelve years.

The Guard steps towards the cell.

GUARD  
Valens? You made bail.

Nick stands up. The cell door opens.

**EXT. COUNTY JAIL-MORNING**

Nick opens the door. He looks at Suzie and smiles.

NICK  
You bailed me out? Why?

SUZIE  
I'm a paralegal now, Nick. I come here to visit my clients from time to time. I saw them booking you. What happened?

NICK  
I don't know. Can you take me to my apartment?

SUZIE  
Sure.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Nick pushes the door open. He walks in. The sofa and coffee table flipped over. Nick walks to the bedroom.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-BEDROOM-AFTERNOON**

Nick pushes the door open. Clothes scattered all over the room. Nick steps into the bedroom and falls to the floor. He sits and leans his back against the bed. Nick covers his face with the palm of his hands.

NICK  
(sob)

Suzie steps into the bedroom. She crouches down to Nick. His head falls into to her lap.

SUZIE  
Shh!

**INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

Suzie sits across from Nick. Nick looks down at the table, and does not blink. Suzie slides the other half of her sandwich to Nick.

SUZIE  
You really need to eat something,  
Nick?

NICK  
I can't. Not until I get my  
daughter back.

SUZIE  
Maybe I can help a little. The  
first question their gonna ask you  
is how did you find the bag in the  
garbage can?

NICK  
Empty in my bathroom can.

SUZIE  
Okay. What was the plaintiff doing  
when you walked into the apartment?

NICK  
She was under the influence.

SUZIE  
You do have a case but I can't help  
you. I do suggest you go and find a  
another paralegal.

NICK  
How am I supposed to do that?

SUZIE  
I know a few but I would look for  
myself if I were you.

NICK  
Good thinking.

SUZIE  
I better go. My boyfriend is  
waiting.

Nick looks down. He looks at Suzie.

NICK  
Wait.

Suzie looks at Nick.

SUZIE  
Yes?

NICK  
I'm sorry for the way things ended  
between us. I never meant for it to  
happen.

SUZIE  
I know. You take care.

Suzie gets up and kisses Nick on the cheek. She walks away.

NICK  
Thank you, Suzie!

SUZIE  
Your welcome.

**INT. LIBRARY-AFTERNOON**

At the law section, Nick looks through a book and shuts it.  
He steps towards the librarian's desk.

LIBRARIAN LADY, early 40s. A librarian for twenty years.

NICK  
Can I check out this book, please?

LIBRARIAN LADY  
I'm sorry but we're not allowed to  
lend out these books.

NICK  
Please?

The Librarian Lady smiles.

LIBRARIAN LADY  
Okay.

NICK

Thank you.

Nick turns and walks out of the library.

**EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON**

Nick holds the book open. He reads through it and pays no attention to what's up ahead. Nick steps on something and falls to the ground. He falls and drops his book. Nick sits up and looks at a woman.

BRENDA MICHAELS, 21. A paralegal. Dark brown hair, and brown eyes. A down to earth woman.

Brenda holds her hand as it seems to be injured from Nick stepping on it. He rushes towards her.

NICK

I'm sorry!

Nick grabs onto her hand.

BRENDA

Oh!

Nick slides closer towards Brenda. He grabs a hold of her injured hand, blows on it and rubs away the pain.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

(laugh)

What are you doing?

NICK

Mom always said to blow on someone's injury.

Brenda pulls her arm back.

BRENDA

Thank you. It actually feels better.

NICK

I'm sorry. I really didn't see you here. I was reading. Oh, where's that book?!

Brenda grabs it from alongside Nick and hands it to him.

BRENDA

Here you go.

Nick takes the book.

NICK

Thanks.

BRENDA

Are you having trouble with something?

NICK

Kind of. I'm trying to get visitation rights to see my daughter.

BRENDA

I'm a lawyer. Do you want me to help?

NICK

If you can spare some of your time?

BRENDA

I was just sitting here, having lunch and studying. Do you want to join me?

NICK

Yeah, sure. Maybe for a little bit.

BRENDA

My name is Brenda?

NICK

My name is Nick.

Nick reaches for Brenda's hand. She grabs a hold of his hand and shakes it gently.

BRENDA

What do you do when you're not walking in the park and stepping on a woman's hand?

NICK

I'm a custodian. I clean a couple of schools.

BRENDA

Do you like working as a custodian?

NICK

It's not bad. It puts a roof over my head and food in my stomach.



BRENDA  
You got to have that.

Nick looks away for a second and then looks at Brenda.

NICK  
Do you mind if I call you sometime?

BRENDA  
I'm sorry. I just got out of a bad relationship.

NICK  
What'd he do, if you don't mind me asking?

BRENDA  
He was with another woman. I'll take your number?

NICK  
Do you have a pen?

Brenda hands Nick a pen. He writes down his home phone number. Nick hands her back her pen along with his phone number.

NICK (CONT'D)  
I make it home thirty minutes after five. I'm free Saturday's and Sunday's.

BRENDA  
(laugh)  
Okay.

NICK  
I better get going. I got a lot of studying to do.

Brenda grabs her bent tuba ware from the ground. She hands it to Nick.

BRENDA  
Take this?

NICK  
Thanks.

Nick touches Brenda on her injured hand and shakes it gently. He gets up and walks away.

**INT. CAFETERIA-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON**

Nick mops the floor. He looks at all the teenagers pass him by.

NICK  
Just a few more hours.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-LIVING ROOM-EVENING**

Nick walks in. He shuts the door and walks a brown paper bag towards the kitchen. He hits the button on the **answer machine** to play his messages.

**INT. NICK'S APARTMENT-KITCHEN-EVENING**

Nick sets the paper bag down on the counter.

ANSWER MACHINE (V.O.)  
Message one!

BRENDA (V.O.)  
Hi? This is Brenda from the park. I just called to see how you were doing. If you're not busy, maybe you would like to come over and I could help you with your case. Here's my address --

-- Nick grabs a pen and rips the paper bag to write on.

**EXT/INT. BRENDA'S HOUSE-EVENING**

The front door opens. Brenda stands in front of Nick. A smile on his face and flowers in his hand.

NICK  
I hope you like lilies?

BRENDA  
I do. Thank you. Come in?

Nick steps in. He looks around. Brenda shuts the door and walks Nick into her living room.

**INT. BRENDA'S LIVING ROOM-EVENING**

The coffee table is set with food, drinks and snacks. Nick looks at the set table.

NICK  
You really did go all out!

BRENDA  
Please have a seat?

Nick sits -- Brenda falls back -- and lands on Nick's lap --  
Brenda looks at Nick. She moves over to her right.

NICK  
Sorry about that.

BRENDA  
It was my fault.

Nick reaches for a plate and hands it to Brenda.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

Brenda closes her eyes and prays to herself. Nick looks at  
Brenda. She opens her eyes and starts eating. Brenda looks at  
Nick.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
It's just something I do all the  
time before I eat.

NICK  
How does it make you feel after?

BRENDA  
Good.

Brenda looks at the food on her plate. She looks at Nick.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
This might seem like a weird  
question but how do you feel about  
being a father?

NICK  
It feels good.

BRENDA  
And that's why you want her back?

NICK  
I want her to be safe and away from  
the lifestyle her mother is going  
to expose her to.

BRENDA  
How did you meet?

NICK

I was working in a motel and she showed up with a client.

BRENDA

Oh.

NICK

I understand if you don't want to see me again --

-- Nick raises his hands --

BRENDA

No. Continue, please?

NICK

I wasn't thinking. We broke it off a couple of times. She went to rehab and called me. I took her back. She got pregnant. Her mother showed up and planned on sending me to jail for an empty cocaine bag left in my garbage can.

BRENDA

Wow.

NICK

I'm sorry. I really didn't want to lay my drama on you like this.

BRENDA

You don't have to apologize. I'm gonna take your case.

NICK

Really?!

BRENDA

You're honest and that will help. We're well prepared for it.

Nick looks at Brenda. Brenda looks at Nick. Nick touches Brenda on her cheek. Nick kisses Brenda. He backs up.

NICK

I'm sorry.

BRENDA

Why are you sorry?

Brenda leans towards Nick and kisses him.

**INT. COURTROOM-COURTHOUSE-MORNING**

Nick sits along with Brenda at their table.

BAILIFF, early 30s. A Bailiff for five years.

BAILIFF

All rise for the Honorable Judge  
Sherman Matthews!

JUDGE SHERMAN MATTHEWS, early 50s. A judge for twenty years. Nick and Brenda stand up. Nick looks at Gladys and Rachel sitting on the opposite side of him.

Judge Sherman Matthews takes his seat.

JUDGE SHERMAN MATTHEWS

Please be seated!

Everyone sits.

BRIAN COLEMAN, early 30s. A district attorney and a man with a great reputation for settling cases fast. He is cocky, manipulative and has no compassion for blue collar workers.

JUDGE SHERMAN MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

Mr. Coleman, please make your  
opening statement?

Brian steps towards the jury. All members of the jury are in their late 40s and 50s. Four of them are Caucasian, two of them are Asian and six are Latin-American.

Brian stands in front of the jury.

BRIAN

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury,  
we are here on behalf of joint  
custody for an infant girl. Mr.  
Valens was in possession of a bag  
that contained cocaine. We are here  
to determine, does Mr. Valens have  
what it takes to raise a child or  
care for one. It is without  
question that he does not take his  
life serious. How could he take her  
life serious. He can't do it on his  
own for one day. How could my  
client trust him with their  
daughter's life. It is for the best  
interest of the child, not the  
father. Thank you, your honor.

Brian steps towards his table and sits. He looks at Brenda.

JUDGE SHERMAN MATTHEWS  
Ms. Michaels?

Brenda stands up and walks towards the jury.

BRENDA  
We should all ask ourselves do we  
have it takes to go home and raise  
our children. I can tell you one  
thing, I have no clue. That man  
does.

Brenda points at Nick. She lowers her arm.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
His only concern was to make sure  
his daughter is looked after by him  
and her mother. Not to be taken  
away like she's a piece of property  
or a toy. Nobody has the right to  
take that away from him. Before you  
judge someone, get to know them. He  
was there when his daughter was  
born. Something his own father  
didn't do. I ask you, don't put him  
down. Thank you, your honor.

Brenda walks towards her table and sits next to Nick. She  
looks at Nick.

JUDGE SHERMAN MATTHEWS  
The Prosecution may call its first  
witness?

Brian stands up.

BRIAN  
The court calls Gladys Thomas.

Gladys stands and walks towards the witness stand. The  
Bailiff holds the bible in his right hand, and swears Gladys  
in.

BAILIFF  
Place your hand on the bible?

Gladys lays her hand on the bible and raises her right hand.  
She looks at Nick.

BAILIFF (CONT'D)  
Ma'am, look at me, please?!

Gladys looks at the Bailiff.

BAILIFF (CONT'D)

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, so help you God?

GLADYS

I do.

BAILIFF

Please have a seat?

Gladys sits in the witness seat. Brian approaches her and stands at a distance.

BRIAN

Mrs. Thomas? On December 2nd, when you were at your daughter's place of residence, what happened?

GLADYS

Her boyfriend was in the living room yelling at her about a bag.

BRIAN

Do you have any idea of how it got there?

GLADYS

I do not.

BRIAN

What made you decide to see your daughter after two years?

GLADYS

I heard she had a baby and I wanted to make sure she was being taken care of.

BRIAN

Something a good mother does, right?

GLADYS

Right.

BRIAN

Does Mr. Valens strike you as a good guy, Mrs. Thomas?

BRENDA (O.S.)

Objection, your honor! The court does not validate if my client is a good guy!

JUDGE SHERMAN MATTHEWS  
Over ruled! Answer the question,  
Mrs. Thomas?

GLADYS  
No, he does not.

BRIAN  
What gave you that idea?

GLADYS  
He insulted me and accused me of  
being in the apartment earlier that  
day.

BRIAN  
Were you?

GLADYS  
No.

BRIAN  
No further questions, your honor.

Brian walks back to his table and sits. Brenda stands and  
grabs a **cassette player** from the table. She steps towards  
Gladys.

BRENDA  
Mrs. Thomas, are you sure about the  
story your telling? That you  
weren't in my clients' apartment?

GLADYS  
Yes.

BRENDA  
That's your story?

GLADYS  
Yes.

Brenda walks towards the table and Nick. She takes an **audio  
cassette tape** from her briefcase and puts it into the  
cassette player.

BRENDA  
Your honor, let the court show that  
my client records every morning of  
everyday that the plaintiff was  
left alone. He provided us with the  
cassette tape.

Brenda presses the play button.



GLADYS (V.O.)  
Hello, Rachel?

RACHEL (V.O.)  
Mom?

GLADYS (V.O.)  
Aren't you gonna invite me in?

GLADYS (CONT'D) (V.O.)  
Nice place you have here. Must be  
the boyfriend's right?

RACHEL (V.O.)  
How did you find me?

GLADYS (V.O.)  
Your friend Xander told me you were  
hanging around some guy. I had to  
see it for myself.

GLADYS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And you must be my granddaughter?

GLADYS (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
What did you name her?

RACHEL (V.O.)  
Nicola.

GLADYS (V.O.)  
Beautiful.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
She is.

RACHEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
What do you want mom?

GLADYS (V.O.)  
What, a mother can't come and check  
on her own daughter's well being?

RACHEL (V.O.)  
The last time I saw you, you took  
money from me and ran off. I don't  
have any money. I gave up that life  
style.

GLADYS (V.O.)  
Everyone needs a little fix once in  
a while.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
 I don't want what you have to offer  
 me. I have everything I need right  
 here. A boyfriend that loves and  
 takes care of me.

A scuffle in the background.

GLADYS (V.O.)  
 That was rude!

RACHEL (V.O.)  
 You're the devil.

GLADYS (V.O.)  
 There's more where that came from.

RACHEL (V.O.)  
 Get out!

Brenda stops the tape. She looks at Gladys.

BRENDA  
 Are you sure about that story now?

Brian rubs his head and shakes it.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 Nothing further, your honor.

Brenda walks around her table. She sits. Nick looks at  
 Brenda. Brenda looks at him.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
 There you go.

NICK  
 Thank you.

**EXT. PLAYGROUND-AFTERNOON**

Nick sits on a bench. Rachel steps towards Nick, and pushes  
 the stroller towards him. A night bag on Rachel's shoulder.  
 She hands Nick the bag.

RACHEL  
 There's enough clothes and diapers  
 in there for two days.

NICK  
 Good, thanks.

RACHEL

Nick? I never meant for any of this to happen. I miss you. Do you think we can make it work?

NICK

No. It's too late. The damage is done.

RACHEL

I'm sorry for everything.

NICK

I forgive you. Take care.

Nick turns the stroller around and pushes it. Rachel looks at Nick. Her eyes water and she starts walking.

**EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON**

Brenda sits on her blanket. An anxious look on her face. Nick pushes the stroller towards Brenda. He takes his infant daughter out of the seat. Nick sits down, gently sitting the infant on his lap. Brenda looks at Nick and then at the infant.

NICK

Do you want to hold her?

BRENDA

Yeah.

Brenda takes the infant from Nick. She holds her close.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

She's beautiful.

NICK

You both are.

Brenda smiles.

NICK (CONT'D)

Thank you for your help.

BRENDA

She was worth it.

NICK

Now we're all together.

Nick moves close to Brenda. He wraps his arm around her and kisses her.

**INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-AFTERNOON**

Nick stands at the altar. He wears a black tuxedo. Brenda starts walking down the isle. Nick looks at Brenda.

PASTOR, early 50s. A pastor for twenty years.

Brenda steps towards Nick.

BRENDA'S FATHER, early 50s. Tall and average built. A well mannered and down to earth man. Reddish hair and green eyes.

Brenda's Father walks Brenda to Nick. Nick takes Brenda's hand. He tosses her veil over her head. She looks at him. He looks at her. Brenda's hands in Nick's.

**INT. VALENS RESIDENCE-BEDROOM-MORNING**

Brenda lies in bed, asleep. Nick walks in. A tray of food in his hands. He sets it on the nightstand. Nick sits on the edge of the bed. He touches her face. Brenda's eyes open. She smiles. Nick kisses her.

NICK

Good morning.

BRENDA

Good morning to you.

NICK

How'd you sleep?

BRENDA

Good. Real good.

NICK

Sorry about our honeymoon. Maybe we can go next week.

BRENDA

Yeah, maybe.

NICK

I better get to work. Are you sure you don't mind watching Nicola?

BRENDA

No. Go ahead.

NICK

I love you.

BRENDA  
I love you too.

Nick kisses her and stands up. He walks out of the room.

**EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS-AFTERNOON**

Rachel steps towards her car, she unlocks it with her key. A **Black Escalade** follows Rachel to her car. The window rolls down.

**INT/EXT. ESCALADE-AFTERNOON**

Xander leans his head out the window.

XANDER  
Hello, Rachel?

Rachel turns around and looks at Xander.

RACHEL  
Xander? This is a surprise.

XANDER  
Heard you were living down here. Do you need a little fix?

RACHEL  
No thanks. I'm trying quit.

XANDER  
Come on! One little hit won't hurt you. A little stress can go away in a heart beat.

Xander pulls out a little zip-lock bag and holds it out for her to take. Rachel walks towards the Escalade and takes the bag.

RACHEL  
Thanks.

**INT. CAR-AFTERNOON**

Rachel sits down in the driver seat. She shuts the door. Rachel opens the bag and puts it underneath her nose.

RACHEL  
(sniff)

Rachel leans her head back on to the head rest.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 Ahh! What a rush!

She starts the car, puts the automatic into DRIVE and starts driving towards the busy intersection. Rachel's eyes start to water.

RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 (cough)

She falls into the steering wheel -- the car swirls into other cars -- and flips in circles --

**EXT. FREEWAY-AFTERNOON**

The car sits in the middle of the busy road. Rachel's arm lays out of the broken window. The pink watch on her wrist.

**INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT**

Nick sits in the waiting room. Brenda brushes her hands through his hair.

NICK  
 This isn't right. She was fine the last time I saw her.

BRENDA  
 I know.

NICK  
 Its my fault.

BRENDA  
 No, it's not. You can't take responsibility for her.

NICK  
 What am I gonna tell Nicola when she grows up.

BRENDA  
 Tell her the truth. Her mother loved her.

Nick looks at Brenda.

NICK  
 What if I don't have the strength?

BRENDA  
 I'll be here. I'll help you. Okay?

NICK

Okay.

Gladys walks into the waiting room. She looks at Nick.

GLADYS

You can go in. I don't see why you get to. You weren't even married to her!

Nick stands up and steps towards Gladys.

NICK

She's the mother of my child. I did everything in my strength to help. Don't get any bright ideas. I will get custody.

Gladys steps past Nick and runs her shoulder into him.

**INT. MORGUE-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON(DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Nick walks in. He steps slowly towards Rachel's BODY. He uncovers her face.

NICK

(gasp)

Nick looks at Rachel's face -- She looks at him -- and gives him an evil look --

RACHEL

-- You stupid son of a bitch! You let me die!

NICK

No!

RACHEL

You will die painfully --

**END DREAM SEQUENCE**

-- Nick covers his face. Brenda pulls his hands down --

BRENDA

-- Nick!

Nick looks at Brenda -- He hugs her -- Nick looks at Rachel. Brenda backs away. Nick reaches across the table -- he grabs the pink watch from Rachel's left wrist. He looks at it --

NICK

I won this for her on our first date. Nicola would want it.

BRENDA

She would. Come on, let's go home.

NICK

Yeah. Let's get out of here.

Nick and Brenda walk out of the room.

**EXT. VALENS HOUSE-BACK YARD-AFTERNOON**

Brenda sits on a bench. She holds Nicola on her lap. Nick stands by a **GAZEBO**. He is painting it white. Nick looks at Brenda and Nicola.

**INT. VALENS HOUSE-NICOLA'S BEDROOM-AFTERNOON**

Brenda stands behind Nicola. She holds her in front of a mirror.

MONTAGE

-- Nicola at 5 years old.

-- Nicola at 8 years old.

-- Nicola at 10 years old.

BACK TO SCENE

NICOLA, 13 years old. A shy girl. Light brown hair, and brown eyes. A seventh grade student.

Brenda steps into the bedroom.

BRENDA

Are you ready to go?

NICOLA

Do I really have to go to school?

BRENDA

We all have to. I got to go to work. How do you think we eat everyday?

NICOLA

You charge it to a credit card?



BRENDA  
No. Come on?

**INT. BEDROOM-BROTHEL HOUSE-NIGHT**

Xander walks through the hallways of his brothel house. He opens a door to a bedroom. He steps in and shuts the door.

In the bedroom, a young girl lays on a table. TATTOO ARTIST, early 20s. A tattoo artist for five years.

JOY, 16. A human slave, and assassin. Blonde hair, and blue eyes.

Joy looks at Xander.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
I got a job for you.

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
What is it?

Xander pulls out a photograph of Nick.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
See this man?

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
Yes?

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
I want you to kill him.

Xander lays the photo on the table.

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
What do I get?

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
You get to live.

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
I want something bigger than that.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
Like what?

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
I want to be treated like a member  
of your gang.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
Forget about it!

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
Then you can kill him yourself.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
Fair enough. Do the job and then  
your in.

Xander turns around.

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
Wait?

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
What!

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
If you want this to work, you're  
gonna have to give me some money.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
What?!

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
I need clothes.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
Fine.

Xander reaches into his pocket and pulls out a couple of  
hundred dollar bills. He slams it down on the table and walks  
out of the bedroom.

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
 (in Russian)  
 Pleasure doing business with you!

XANDER (SUBTITLE) (O.S.)  
 (in Russian)  
 Just shut up and do the job!

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
 (in Russian)  
 Where is this guy from anyways?

XANDER (SUBTITLE) (O.S.)  
 (in Russian)  
 In California.

Joy looks at the photo.

The Tattoo Artist is finished with the **Butterfly** tattoo on Joy's back and rubs **Vaseline** over it.

#### **EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL-MORNING**

Nick walks Nicola towards the front gate of her middle school. He crouches down and straps the pink watch around her left wrist.

NICOLA  
 What's this?

NICK  
 It belonged to your mom. I won it for her at a game of skee-ball. It's yours now. For luck.

NICOLA  
 Thanks daddy.

Nicola hugs Nick. She looks at him and kisses him on the cheek.

NICK  
 Thank you. I need that. Go be amazing!

Nicola runs.

#### **INT. CLOTHING STORE-AFTERNOON**

STORE OWNER, early 30s. Owner for five years.

The Store Owner watches Joy as she holds different tops to her body. The Store Owner steps towards Joy.

STORE OWNER  
Can I help you find something?

JOY  
Do you have something like this,  
but different patterns?

STORE OWNER  
Like what kind?

JOY  
Plaid, leather or zebra?

STORE OWNER  
Right this way?

The Store Owner points Joy in the back isles. Joy rushes towards the back.

**INT. DRESSING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Joy stands in front of the mirror. A leopard and leather top, with a skirt of the same pattern. She looks at herself.

**EXT. SHOPPING MALL-AFTERNOON**

Joy walks through the shopping mall. Her hands full of shopping bags.

**INT. VISITING AREA-COURTHOUSE-AFTERNOON**

Brenda sits, and waits to see her new client in the visiting area.

GUARD, late 20s. A guard for two years.

The guard walks a blonde girl into the room. He pushes her down into the seat sitting across from Brenda.

SHELLY OWENS, 19. A homeless girl. Street smart, expert craps player and gambler.

Shelly looks at the Guard.

BRENDA  
I got it from here. Thank you!

The Guard turns and walks out of the visiting area. Brenda looks at Shelly, then at Shelly's file.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
So Shelly, it says here you were arrested for shoplifting?

SHELLY  
That's right.

BRENDA  
Can you tell me why?

SHELLY  
I was hungry.

BRENDA  
There are food banks too.

SHELLY  
I don't have an ID.

Brenda writes down all Shelly's information given to her. Shelly looks down at the paper that Brenda's writing on.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
What's that your writing?

BRENDA  
I have to tell the judge about your situation.

SHELLY  
What will that do?

BRENDA  
Help you with an ID, a place to stay and food.

Brenda waves at the Guard. The Guard steps in.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
I'll do what I can.

The Guard pulls Shelly up from the chair and walks her out of the room.

**EXT. GYMNASIUM-AFTERNOON**

Nick polishes the wooden floors. He looks around and sees Joy sitting on the top bleachers. Nick turns off the **electric buffing machine**.

NICK

Hey!

Joy looks at Nick. She covers her face. Nick steps up onto the bleachers. He leans down and looks at Joy.

NICK (CONT'D)

Don't you have class?

Joy hugs on her knees, rocking herself.

NICK (CONT'D)

You can't be in here? Do you hear me?!

JOY

I can't go into that classroom.

NICK

Why not?

JOY

He'll be there.

NICK

Is he a teacher?

JOY

Yes.

NICK

Do you want me to call the police?

JOY

No!

NICK

Okay, I get it. Why don't we get out of here.

JOY

And go where?

NICK

My house. Are you hungry?

JOY

Yes.

NICK

How about a flame broil burger? Then maybe you can tell me about your situation?

JOY  
That sounds good.

NICK  
Come on?

Nick walks down the bleachers. Joy gets up and steps down.  
Nick moves the electric buffing machine off the wooden floor.

**INT. TAXI-AFTERNOON**

Nick and Joy sit in the back seat together. Nick's cell phone rings. He answers and puts it to his ear.

NICK  
Hello?

BRENDA (V.O.)  
Hey? I was trying to reach you at work?

NICK  
I took off early. A girl is having a little trouble at the school and I'm taking her over to our house.

BRENDA (V.O.)  
Whoa! Nick, I don't think that's such a good idea?

NICK  
It'll be fine. I'm just gonna grill some burgers for her and try to get some information from her.

BRENDA (V.O.)  
You're so sweet. I better get going.

NICK  
Alright.

**EXT. COUNTY JAIL-AFTERNOON**

BRENDA  
I love you.

NICK (V.O.)  
I love you too.

Brenda ends the call and puts her cell phone into her pants pocket. Shelly steps out. Brenda steps towards Shelly.

SHELLY  
Did you bail me out?

BRENDA  
Yes.

SHELLY  
You don't know me.

Brenda grabs Shelly's hand and puts money into it. Shelly looks at the money.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
What's this?

BRENDA  
Money for food. Come on?

Brenda walks towards her car.

**INT. MOTEL ROOM #216-AFTERNOON**

Shelly looks at the motel room and looks at Brenda.

SHELLY  
Why are you doing this?

BRENDA  
You would do the same for me if you were given a chance. Get some sleep? I'll call you tomorrow.

Brenda steps outside and closes the door.

**INT. VALENS HOUSE-BACK YARD-AFTERNOON**

Joy sits at a picnic table. She bites into her hamburger and looks at Nick.

NICK  
What's your name?

JOY  
Joy.

NICK  
Beautiful name.

JOY  
Thanks. What's your name?



NICK

Nick.

Joy reaches into her pocket and pulls out a butterfly knife.

JOY

How long have you been married?

NICK

Almost ten years. I'm lucky to have her. Excuse me? I feel blessed. That's the right word, and --

-- Nick looks back at Joy -- Her hand still gripped on the handle of the knife. She yanks it out -- Nick falls to the ground -- He reaches for Joy's foot -- Joy backs away -- She runs -- Nick lies on his back -- looking at the sky and the clouds.

NICK (CONT'D)

(breath)

Nick dies.

**EXT. ALLEY-AFTERNOON**

Joy runs through an alley. She puts the knife into her pocket.

Her POV:

The broken concrete road in the alley passes us by and the people watching. Her feet stomp as she runs, not wasting any time.

**INT. VALENS HOUSE-BACK YARD-CONTINUOUS**

Brenda walks into the back yard.

BRENDA

Baby, why are you letting the grill burn like --

-- Brenda steps to Nick -- She looks at him -- She drops to her knees -- and covers her mouth.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Ahh!!

Brenda drops her head and hugs him with little strength she has left in her.

**INT. VALENS HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-EVENING**

Brenda sits in the window, looking at the ambulance drive away. She holds her head with one hand and a cup of tea in the other. Her eyes water with emotion.

**EXT. VALENS HOUSE-FRONT YARD-MORNING**

On the front lawn, Nicola sits on the grass. She plays with 10-YEAR-OLD LOLA. A fourth grader. Brenda's first child and Nick's second. A well-mannered little girl.

Gladys hovers over Nicola, trying to get Nicola's shoes on her feet.

GLADYS

Come on! Let's get your shoes on,  
Nicola!!

NICOLA

I don't want to! You're not my  
mom!!

Brenda walks towards Gladys and Nicola.

BRENDA

What's going on here, huh?!

GLADYS

I got it!

BRENDA

You obviously don't!

GLADYS

Don't take it out on me that your  
husband is dead --

-- Brenda slaps Gladys across the face --

BRENDA

-- Don't ever say that to me!

Gladys backs away --

GLADYS

I'm gonna sue you!

BRENDA

Go ahead!

Gladys rushes towards her car.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Let's go inside girls.

**INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-AFTERNOON**

In the front row seats, Brenda sits with the Nicola and Lola.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR, early 30s. A funeral director for five years. He steps towards the podium.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming to celebrate the life of Nicholas Valens. Here to speak first is his wife, Brenda.

Brenda stands up. She looks at Nick lying in the casket as she walks past it. To the podium she approaches.

BRENDA  
Thank you.

The Funeral Director sits down towards the back of the stage. Brenda grabs the microphone. She looks at the Funeral Director.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Is it alright if I use it like this?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
Yes.

Brenda looks at everyone sitting in front of her.

BRENDA  
Nick was such a great husband and father. He really loved people. I know he wouldn't want me crying but it is what a wife does. He fought and fought for his children. That was the first time I met him. He was fighting to be around his first born daughter. He was passionate and driven. He was my best friend. I love you, Nick!

Brenda puts the microphone back and steps off the stage. The Funeral Director walks to the podium.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
Thank you. Anyone else?

**INT. VALENS HOUSE-KITCHEN-AFTERNOON**

Brenda sits at the table. A small mug of tea in her hand.  
 Suzie steps towards the table.

SUZIE

Hi?

BRENDA

Hey? Do I know you?

SUZIE

Nick and I were --

BRENDA

-- You must be Suzie?

SUZIE

Yes. Can I sit down?

BRENDA

Sure.

Suzie pulls out a chair and sits --

BRENDA (CONT'D)

I didn't see you at the funeral?

SUZIE

I wasn't in the room. I stood up in the lobby because my kids were being wild and I didn't want them to make any noise.

BRENDA

Nick did mention you a couple of times.

SUZIE

I know this isn't my business but I just like to ask, how'd it happen?

BRENDA

He brought someone home with him. A girl. No one saw anything.

SUZIE

I'm sorry.

BRENDA

So am I. I'm sorry for what is coming her way.

**EXT. FRONT YARD-MORNING**

On the driveway, Brenda waters the front lawn. A car pulls up to the curb. A man gets out of the driver side and walks towards Brenda.

COURT OFFICIAL, early 30s. A official of the court system for five years.

The Court Official steps towards Brenda.

COURT OFFICIAL  
Brenda Valens?

BRENDA  
Yes?

He hands her a subpoena.

COURT OFFICIAL  
You've been served.

Brenda looks at it.

**INT. LAW OFFICE-AFTERNOON**

JOHN BONDS, early 30s. A District Attorney for ten years.

Brenda sits at John's desk. John looks at the case paper.

BRENDA  
What's the damage?

JOHN  
You struck her and now she wants to destroy your reputation as a lawyer but she's willing to let it go for one thing.

BRENDA  
What's that?

JOHN  
She wants custody of her granddaughter.

BRENDA  
Nick left her to me?

JOHN  
Nick had custody. You were married to him but --

BRENDA

-- I am married to him!

JOHN

I'm sorry. You are his wife but you are not her biological mother.

BRENDA

I'm the closest thing she has to a mother?

JOHN

Yes. If you don't give her to Gladys, she'll press charges and you'll be arrested. Do you want Lola to be put into foster care?

Brenda shakes her head.

BRENDA

No.

**INT. BEDROOM-MORNING**

A suitcase on her bed. Brenda folds Nicola's clothes and tosses them in. Nicola stands across the room, watching Brenda prepare her to leave.

NICOLA

Did I do something wrong?

BRENDA

No, sweetie. I did. I did and I'm sorry.

NICOLA

Where am I going?

BRENDA

You're gonna go live with your grandmother for a while.

NICOLA

Will I see you again?

Brenda steps towards Nicola, crouches down and hugs her.

BRENDA

Yes! Yes, you will.

**EXT. FRONT YARD-MORNING**

Gladys stands in the driveway. Nicola looks at Brenda.

BRENDA  
Are you ready?

Nicola nods her head. Tears stream down Nicola's face. She wipes her eyes.

**INT. BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS**

On Nicola's bed, Brenda sits. She cries to herself. Lola steps into the bedroom.

BRENDA  
(sob)

LOLA  
Mom, don't cry!

BRENDA  
Come here!

Lola runs to Brenda. Brenda hugs her.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
I love you.

LOLA  
I love you too.

Brenda wipes her eyes. She stands up, and grabs ahold of Lola's hand. She walks towards the hallway.

BRENDA  
What do you say we go out for a bit? We can get something to eat and go to a movie.

LOLA  
Yes!

Brenda looks back at the bedroom. She turns off the light and shuts the door.

**INT. THOMAS RESIDENCE-NICOLA'S BEDROOM-AFTERNOON**

The door opens. Gladys grabs Nicola by her left wrist and takes the pink watch off. She pushes Nicola into the room.

GLADYS  
Dinners at eight!

Gladys shuts the door and locks it. Nicola drops her suitcase and tries to open the door.

NICOLA  
Ugh!

Nicola picks up her suitcase and walks towards her bed. She hears a car door and walks towards the window. Outside, Gladys gets into her car, and starts to leave. Nicola looks around for something to break the window. A crowbar sits in a box across the room. Nicola grabs it and breaks the glass -- Nicola kicks the glass out and jumps outside --

**EXT. FRONT YARD-AFTERNOON**

The car stops -- Nicola runs -- Gladys gets out of the car -- and she runs after Nicola --

GLADYS  
Get back here!!

**EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS-AFTERNOON**

Nicola looks back.

She runs into a POLICE OFFICER. Mid-20s. A year on the force.

Nicola falls to the ground -- and looks at the Police Officer.

POLICE OFFICER  
What seems to be the problem here?

**INT. OFFICE-POLICE STATION-AFTERNOON**

The Police Officer sits in front of Nicola. She has her arms crossed. The Police Officer puts a can of soda on the desk for her.

POLICE OFFICER  
Can you tell me what happened with your grandmother?

NICOLA  
Fuck her! That's what I have to say! I don't give a shit if she hears me! Fat bitch!



POLICE OFFICER  
Whoa! Who taught you to talk like that?

NICOLA  
Friends.

POLICE OFFICER  
Their a bad influence.

NICOLA  
What's a bad influence on me is that smelly fat bitch in the other room! She smells like shit!

POLICE OFFICER  
Do you want to go to juvenile hall?

NICOLA  
Better to be there than in her shit hole!

POLICE OFFICER  
Can you please calm down?

NICOLA  
Can you please eat shit!

POLICE OFFICER  
Why are you so angry?

NICOLA  
The fat bitch took my mother's watch!

POLICE OFFICER  
Okay. If I got it back from her, would it make everything alright?

NICOLA  
As long as you don't send me home with her.

The Police Officer gets up from his desk and walks into the lobby.

**INT. LOBBY-POLICE STATION-AFTERNOON**

The Police Officer approaches Gladys. Gladys looks at him.

GLADYS  
Yes?

POLICE OFFICER  
Do you have her watch?

GLADYS  
Yes, why?

POLICE OFFICER  
She wants it. Can you give it to me?

Gladys reaches into her purse and hands the watch to the Police Officer. He walks back into his office.

**INT. OFFICE-POLICE STATION-CONTINUOUS**

Nicola grabs the soda the desk and opens it. She takes a big gulp and slams the can down. The Police Officer sits at his desk and hands Nicola the pink watch. Nicola snatches it fast from the Police Officers hand. She wraps the strap around her left wrist and fastens it.

NICOLA  
Thank you. Now you can go tell that fat ass bitch I'm not going home with her.

POLICE OFFICER  
You know where bad kids go when they curse like you?

NICOLA  
Don't try to make me laugh.

POLICE OFFICER  
They go to jail.

NICOLA  
Do it!

POLICE OFFICER  
You're hilarious kid. One of a kind.

NICOLA  
Thanks.

POLICE OFFICER  
Jail or juvenile hall?

NICOLA  
Surprise me.

**INT. GIRLS DORM ROOM-DETENTION CENTER-MORNING**

Nicola walks towards her bed. She sits. Nicola rubs her mother's watch on her wrist for good luck.

**INT. OFFICE-MORNING**

At her desk, Brenda types on her computer. Her phone rings. Brenda answers.

BRENDA

Hello?

GLADYS (V.O.)

We had a problem?

BRENDA

What is it?

GLADYS (V.O.)

She's in juvenile hall.

BRENDA

What do you mean she's in juvenile hall?! What did you do?

GLADYS (V.O.)

She broke a window and escaped!

BRENDA

What'd you do, lock her in a room?!

GLADYS (V.O.)

I did.

BRENDA

What the hell is wrong with you?!

GLADYS (V.O.)

She's a very angry girl!

BRENDA

I don't blame her.

Brenda hangs up the phone.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Ugh!

**INT. VISITNG AREA-DETENTION CENTER-AFTERNOON**

Brenda sits at a table. A bottle of **apple juice** in front of her and a **granola bar**. Nicola steps in. She looks at Brenda. Brenda looks at her and smiles.

BRENDA

Hey?

Nicola walks towards the table. Brenda stands up with her arms open, ready for a hug. Nicola sits. Brenda loses her smile and sits.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Okay.

NICOLA

Is that for me?

BRENDA

Yes.

Nicola grabs the bottle of apple juice, opens it and drinks it fast.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Take it slow?

Nicola slams the empty bottle down on the table. She wipes her mouth.

NICOLA

(burp)

BRENDA

Dang!

NICOLA

What?

BRENDA

You're in here for one day and you're already acting like an animal.

NICOLA

What the hell do you care?! You let that pig take me away.

BRENDA

Hey, I didn't want to but she didn't make it easy for me, okay!

NICOLA  
Whatever.

BRENDA  
What is it with this attitude? I'm  
trying here!

NICOLA  
Try some place else then.

Brenda gets up and grabs her briefcase. She walks towards the  
exit door.

NICOLA (CONT'D)  
Hey!

Brenda looks at Nicola.

NICOLA (CONT'D)  
Can you come back tomorrow?

Brenda smiles.

BRENDA  
Yeah.

NICOLA  
Okay.

BRENDA  
Be good.

NICOLA  
I'll think about it.

Brenda pushes the door open and walks out of the room.

**INT. OFFICE-AFTERNOON**

At his desk, Xander sits and looks at Joy. Joy slams the  
butterfly knife down on the desk. Xander looks at the knife.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
It took you long enough.

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
(in Russian)  
Sorry, I didn't want anyone to  
follow me back here.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
 (in Russian)  
 It's fine.

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
 (in Russian)  
 So am I in?

Xander stands up. He walks towards Joy.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
 (in Russian)  
 Almost.

JOY (SUBTITLE)  
 (in Russian)  
 What more do you want me to do?

He reaches down to his belt and unbuckles it. He unzips his pants. Xander touches her on the top of her head.

XANDER (SUBTITLE)  
 (in Russian)  
 Nice and slow. No teeth, please?

Joy crouches down.

**EXT. PLAYGROUND-AFTERNOON**

TEENAGE BOYS #1, #2 and #3. Early teens.

A game of craps on the concrete ground. Shelly holds a stack of cash in her hands. Teenage Boy #1 rolls the dice. His money on twelve. The dice rolls on ten and he loses.

TEENAGE BOY #2  
 Oh!

SHELLY  
 Oh! So close! Too bad.

TEENAGE BOY #1  
 Hey!

SHELLY  
 Get in the back of the line!

Feet approach Shelly. Shelly looks at Brenda.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
 Can I help you with something?

BRENDA  
Maybe we can help each other. Are  
you hungry?

SHELLY  
I could eat.

**INT. PARK-AFTERNOON**

A hotdog in her hand. Shelly takes a bite. Brenda takes a sip from her water bottle. Shelly chews her food.

SHELLY  
What is it you want me to do?

BRENDA  
Scope out the school and hang  
around for anyone suspicious. Look  
out for anyone new in the area.  
Play your game of craps with any of  
the boys. Boys like pretty faces.

SHELLY  
A game of craps isn't cheap. Taking  
money from teenage boys is like  
taking candy from a baby.

BRENDA  
But you can do it, right?

SHELLY  
Their money can't get me by.

BRENDA  
What's the cost?

SHELLY  
A Benjamin?

BRENDA  
Fine.

Brenda reaches into her pocket and hands Shelly a hundred dollar bill. Shelly takes the money and shoves under her bra.

SHELLY  
Anything else?

BRENDA  
Yeah. Go along with what I do and  
say. Play dumb, and everything will  
go smooth.

SHELLY  
Fair enough.

**INT. OFFICE-AFTERNOON**

At her desk, Brenda sits and looks at a photograph of Nick and Joy. Brenda looks at a blurry photo of Joy. It sits on her desk and all Brenda can do is stare at it.

BRENDA  
Who are you?

**INT. VISITNG AREA-DETENTION CENTER-AFTERNOON**

Photographs of Nick and Rachel together in a photo booth. Nicola lifts the photo up. She smiles.

NICOLA  
She was beautiful. Did you ever meet her?

BRENDA  
Once.

NICOLA  
What was she like?

BRENDA  
She was full of life.

NICOLA  
Did she love me?

BRENDA  
Very much.

NICOLA  
Can you keep these safe for me?  
Until I get out of here. I don't want my grandmother destroying them.

BRENDA  
I will guard them with my life.  
When do you get out?

NICOLA  
Next week.

Brenda leans down towards Nicola.



BRENDA  
Just keep your cool and everything  
will work out.

NICOLA  
I'll try.

**INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON**

Lola sits at her desk. She works on her math homework. Brenda  
knocks on the door.

BRENDA  
Hey? What 'ca doing?

LOLA  
Math.

BRENDA  
Are you getting them solved?

LOLA  
So far, yes.

BRENDA  
Good. What do you say we order a  
pizza and watch a movie?

LOLA  
Sounds good.

BRENDA  
See you in ten minutes, okay?

LOLA  
Okay.

Brenda steps out of the room and walks away.

**INT. COURT YARD-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON**

Teen boys gather around the chalked drawn craps game. Dress  
shoes approach Shelly. Shelly looks up.

PRINCIPAL, early 40s. A eighteen year educator.

PRINCIPAL  
Your on school property?

SHELLY  
Yeah, I know. Best place to win the  
moolah!

PRINCIPAL

You can either leave on your own or  
I can have the police escort you?

Shelly grabs all the money from the ground. She shoves it into her pocket and walks away. The Principal looks at her, and watches her leave. Shelly looks at the Principal.

**INT. WAITING ROOM-DETENTION CENTER-AFTERNOON**

Nicola walks down the hallway. She stops and looks at Gladys sitting in the waiting room. Gladys stands up. Nicola walks towards Gladys. Gladys reaches her arms out to hug Nicola -- Nicola pushes Gladys away -- and walks out the front door.

**INT. CAR-AFTERNOON**

Nicola sits in the passenger seat. Gladys sits and closes her door. She looks at Nicola.

GLADYS

You think that woman cares about you? Think again! She hates you. She's only being nice to you because she feels sorry for you. You're nothing to her. Your mother was the same way. Why do you think she did cocaine. And your father was a loser. Look in the mirror!

Nicola's eyes water with emotion.

NICOLA

Fuck you --

-- Gladys slaps Nicola across the face -- Nicola looks at Gladys with disbelief on her face. Nicola punches Gladys in the face --

NICOLA (CONT'D)

-- You piece of shit --

-- Nicola lunges at Gladys -- Gladys opens her car door -- and falls to the ground --

**EXT. DETENTION CENTER-AFTERNOON**

Police Officers run towards the car. Gladys backs away. Nicola crawls towards her like a rapid dog.

**INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON**

Brenda sits on the sofa with Lola. A bowl of popcorn in between the both of them. Brenda's phone rings. She answers.

BRENDA  
Hello?

**INT. VISITNG AREA-DETENTION CENTER-EVENING**

Nicola sits leaned down at the table. Brenda steps in and looks at Nicola. A cut on the bridge of her nose.

BRENDA  
Ouch!

NICOLA  
Nice to see you too.

Brenda sits beside Nicola. She touches her nose.

NICOLA (CONT'D)  
That hurts you know.

BRENDA  
What happened?

NICOLA  
She was talking shit about my dad  
and I lost it after she slapped me.

BRENDA  
I told you not to do anything?!

NICOLA  
She's the adult?!

BRENDA  
Yes! You're doing exactly what she  
wants you to do. I can't keep  
coming down here every time you  
have a spat!

Nicola looks away.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Nicola! Look at me?

NICOLA  
What?

BRENDA  
Look at me?!

Nicola looks at Brenda.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
I'll come over the house and we can  
sort some stuff out, okay?

NICOLA  
Okay.

Brenda kisses Nicola on her cheek. She stands up and walks out of the room.

**INT. WAITING ROOM-DETENTION CENTER-AFTERNOON**

Brenda steps out. She looks at Gladys. Brenda walks towards Gladys. Gladys backs away. She fears for her safety.

BRENDA  
Next time she hits you, don't call  
me! I should report you for the cut  
on her nose!

Brenda walks out the front doors of the detention center.

**EXT. THOMAS RESIDENCE-FRONT PORCH-EVENING**

Gladys pushes the front door open. Nicola stands aside, and lets Gladys go first. Nicola walks into the house. She shuts the door.

**INT. THOMAS RESIDENCE-LIVING ROOM-EVENING**

GLADYS  
You better get to bed? You have  
school in the morning.

Nicola walks up the stairs. Gladys reaches and grabs Nicola by her shoulder. She yanks Nicola off the stairs -- Nicola falls on the back of her head -- She lays unconscious -- and makes no movement.

GLADYS (CONT'D)  
Come on, get up?! I didn't pull you  
that hard.

Gladys crouches down and leans her head against Nicola's mouth. Feeling her breath.

GLADYS (CONT'D)  
Oh, thank God!

**INT. THOMAS RESIDENCE-NICOLA'S BEDROOM-MORNING**

Lying in her bed, a wash cloth over her forehead. Nicola opens her eyes. She looks at Brenda and then at Gladys.

NICOLA  
What happened?

BRENDA  
You took a nasty fall. That's what I was told. Can you remember anything?

NICOLA  
Now that you bring it up, who are you?

BRENDA  
You can't remember me?

NICOLA  
No.

Brenda looks at Gladys.

BRENDA  
I'm taking her to the hospital!

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-MORNING**

Nicola sits on a exam table.

DOCTOR, early 40s. A doctor for ten years.

The Doctor shines a flash light in Nicola's eyes.

DOCTOR  
Okay, Nicola, how does that light make you feel?

NICOLA  
Makes me feel blind.

DOCTOR  
(laugh)  
Good one. How about we get you a CT scan and see how your brain is operating. Sit tight?

NICOLA  
Okay.

The Doctor steps towards Brenda.

DOCTOR  
I'll call you when she's finished  
and we will see what her brain  
waves look like.

BRENDA  
Thank you, doctor.

Brenda walks past Gladys.

BRENDA (CONT'D)  
Can I have a word with you in the  
the bathroom for a moment, please?

Brenda walks out of the patient room.

**INT. BATHROOM-HOSPITAL-MORNING**

Brenda walks into a stall. Gladys walks past -- Brenda pulls Gladys in by her shirt -- She pushes Gladys against the wall -- Her arm underneath her chin --

BRENDA  
-- I don't know what you did but it  
stops now! Touch her again or even  
think about touching her, I'll make  
sure you go to jail for the rest of  
your life! You got me!!

Gladys nods her head. Brenda lets go and steps out of the stall.

GLADYS  
(cough)

**DOCTOR'S OFFICE-HOSPITAL-MORNING**

Brenda sits in a chair. The Doctor sits at his desk. He points at Nicola's CT scan.

DOCTOR  
Mrs. Valens, Nicola sustained some  
brain trauma. She fell on the back  
of her head. Either she was pushed  
or pulled.

BRENDA  
Can it cause amnesia?

DOCTOR  
In this case, yes.

The Doctor points at the normal CT scan of a brain.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
You see, this is what her brain  
should look like.

BRENDA  
How long will it take for her to  
get her memory back?

DOCTOR  
In time, days, weeks or months.  
Maybe, never. Who is she to you?

BRENDA  
My step daughter.

DOCTOR  
What about her father?

BRENDA  
He --

DOCTOR  
-- I'm sorry. I would take it day  
by day. Take her home and let her  
rest, okay?

BRENDA  
Thank you.

Brenda stands up. She shakes the Doctor's hand and walks out  
of his office.

**INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-MORNING**

Brenda walks into the waiting room.

POLICE OFFICER #1 and #2, both early 20s. On the force for  
two years.

Gladys stands to her feet. The Police Officers walk past  
Brenda. Brenda looks at Gladys.

BRENDA  
Good choice.

GLADYS  
How is she?

BRENDA

She has no memory of who she is.  
She's going home with me for the  
night. You can pick her up  
tomorrow.

GLADYS

Okay.

BRENDA

I didn't tell the doctor. So, don't  
worry.

**INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON**

Nicola lays in bed. Brenda pulls the blanket over her.

BRENDA

Are you alright?

NICOLA

A little confused.

BRENDA

In time you'll remember. Just get  
some rest, okay?

NICOLA

Okay.

Nicola closes her eyes and turns herself to face the window.

SUPER: TWO YEARS LATER

**INT. COURT YARD-HIGH SCHOOL-MORNING**

At the high school court yard, Shelly plays a game of craps  
with TEENAGE BOYS #1, #2 and #3. All junior students.

Shelly looks around and sees Joy walk towards the front doors  
of the school. Joy looks at Shelly. Shelly looks at Teenage  
Boy #2.

SHELLY

What else do you have for me?

Teenage Boy #2 drops a twenty dollar bill. Shelly takes it  
and stacks it with the rest of her cash. Joy opens the door  
and steps outside. She looks at Shelly. Shelly looks at Joy.



SHELLY (CONT'D)  
We have a winner!

**FADE OUT:**

**THE END**