

Salvation

Screenplay by

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FADE IN:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

SUPER: DECEMBER 1981

A young woman lays in a bed. She holds a newborn in her arms. NORMA JEAN, 30. A waitress. Dark hair, hazel eyes. She is brave, and eager.

NORMA JEAN
Nicholas!

NICK (V.O.)
Mother.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

SUPER: JANUARY 2015

A woman stands behind a man. A **butterfly knife** in her hands. The blade stuck in the man's back. JOY, 16. An assassin. Blonde hair, blue eyes. Cunning and manipulative. NICK VALENS, 40. A custodian. Dark hair, hazel eyes. A humble and down to earth man.

NICK (V.O.)
I was murdered. For what? I still ask myself that same question. Truth is, probably because I came across the wrong man and woman. Was the woman worth it? My daughter being born was. Still, I could never love Rachel the way I love Brenda. Sweet Brenda. If you only knew what kind of hell, I would go through just to have you in my arms again.

Nick falls to the grassy ground -- He reaches for Joy's feet -- Joy rushes away --

A **Boa constrictor** crawls in the **lemon tree** above Nick's head. Nick turns to his back and looks straight up.

NICK
(breath)

NICK (V.O.)
 These are the most important
 memories that the devil can never
 destroy. With two different people,
 from two different worlds and
 living completely different lives.
 I didn't expect my life to be
 completely changed. This is our
 Salvation!

TITLE CARD: SALVATION

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING-

SUPER: 2007

"Renegade" by Styx plays.

Asleep in bed, Nick lays with a **blanket** over his chest.
 Movement from underneath the blanket. A woman's head peeks
 out.

NICK
 (moan)
 (grunt)
 Yes! That's what I'm talking about
 baby!

A blonde-haired woman kisses Nick on his stomach, pushing his
 t-shirt up. She kisses all the way to his chest. DEVIL, early
 20s. Her blue eyes meet his --

Nick jumps up out of the bed --

NICK (CONT'D)
 -- What the hell!!

The Devil sits up on the bed, nude. She grabs a sheet from
 the bed -- and covers her chest --

NICK (CONT'D)
 Where am I? Who are you?

DEVIL
 You tell me.

NICK
 Where did you come from?

DEVIL
 (Points up)

NICK

-- What the hell is that supposed to mean?

RADIO DJ (V.O.)

And here's another classic. Coming from the lovely, Juice Newton!

"Angel Of The Morning" by Juice Newton plays.

DEVIL

Bingo!! You got it. Tell him what he's won Johnny!! A second chance at life --

-- The Devil stands up from the bed -- and drops the sheet to the floor --

Nick covers his eyes with his hands --

NICK

-- Oh!! What do you want!

DEVIL

Just a chance to prove that I'm not the bad boy that people say that I am. Correction, bad girl!

The Devil steps towards the window --

DEVIL (CONT'D)

-- I will be watching you.

Nick lowers his hands -- and sees no Devil --

DEVIL (V.O.)

-- Now, get on with the program!

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Nick turns on the water and splashes his face with the palm of his hands. He looks at himself in the mirror and sees that he is younger than in his previous life.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Nick steps into the kitchen. He opens the *refrigerator* door and leans down to look in. A mixing sound in the kitchen starts --

NICK
-- What the hell is that!

He grabs the *carton* of *orange juice* -- and shuts the door -- Nick turns around to Norma Jean standing in front of him --

NORMA JEAN
-- Good morning --

-- Nick drops the carton --

NICK
-- Who are you!

NORMA JEAN
I'm your mother silly. Have a seat.

Nick sits at the table. He looks up at the ceiling --

NICK
(whisper)
What have you done!

DEVIL (V.O.)
Wrong direction!

NICK
(whisper)
Where are you? Who is this woman?

DEVIL (V.O.)
She's your mother.

NICK
(whisper)
That's not my mother.

DEVIL (V.O.)
We don't have time for you to be Mr. Choosey. Live your life and don't do anything I wouldn't do.

NICK
(whisper)
Is that supposed to be funny?

DEVIL (V.O.)
Actually, it was.

NICK
 (whisper)
 What about my wife!

DEVIL (V.O.)
 Over and out!

NICK
 (whisper)
 Hey!!

Norma Jean looks back at Nick --

NORMA JEAN
 -- I hear you! It's coming!

NICK
 -- Have you seen my wife?

NORMA JEAN
 (laugh)
 Good one.

Norma Jean steps towards the table -- and sets a **plate** of **pancakes** down.

NORMA JEAN (CONT'D)
 Now, eat before you go to work.

NICK
 Where do I work?

NORMA JEAN
 Are you feeling alright? Do you
 want to stay home?

Norma Jean presses her hand against his forehead --

NICK
 -- I'm fine --

-- She kisses his forehead -- and steps away --

NORMA JEAN
 -- Eat.

Nick slices his **fork** into his stack of pancakes --

CUT TO:

INT. GYM-HIGH SCHOOL-MORNING

Nick stands and sweeps the floor with a **broom** --

NICK

-- Of all the jobs I get when I come back. It has to be this one.

DEVIL (V.O.)

You are not exactly white-collar material.

NICK

Why can't I talk to God?

DEVIL (V.O.)

Don't say that name!

NICK

Why? Are you afraid?

DEVIL (V.O.)

Don't test me. Work!

NICK

At least you got one thing right.

Nick steps towards the exit doors.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Nick lifts a *mop* from the *drainer* and drops it to the floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. YARD-HIGH SCHOOL-CONTINUOUS

Nick sits on a *bench*. He reaches his hand into a *paper bag*.

DEVIL

I see that you're enjoying the food she's making for you.

NICK

I see that you have clothes on.

DEVIL

Do you want me to get undressed?

NICK

No.

DEVIL

Let me know if you change your
mind.

Nick looks at the Devil. A **cigarette** in her hand. The Devil
puts the cigarette in her mouth.

NICK

She's sweet but my mother wasn't
the type to make lunches like this.

DEVIL

Not everything is going to go your
way.

NICK

Where's my wife?

DEVIL

Some place.

NICK

Where?

DEVIL

Do you really think I'm going to
tell you?

Nick stares deeply at the Devil.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

(laugh)

NICK

You're weird.

DEVIL

All I can tell you is that she's
exactly in the same position as me.

NICK

She's in hell?

DEVIL

She's living the opposite way of
her previous life. Look around.
This city isn't exactly filled with
angels.

Nick looks at a man walking past the fence. HOMELESS MAN,
early 50s.

HOMELESS MAN

-- Excuse me, sir? Could you spare some change?

Nick gets up and steps towards the fence. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a **twenty-dollar bill**. Nick pushes it through the fence. The Homeless Man takes it --

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)

-- Thank you, sir. May God bless you.

The Devil looks away and covers her ears.

DEVIL

(trembles)

Nick turns around and walks past the Devil.

NICK

Got to get back to work.

The Devil looks down and keeps her eyes away --

DEVIL

-- Yeah, yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS-AFTERNOON

Nick stands. He looks around at the people on the bus.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

Nick stands at a **hot dog stand**. HOT DOG VENDER, early 30s. A hot dog vender for five years.

Nick takes two **hot dogs** from the Hot Dog Vender -- and hands him a five-dollar bill -- The Hot Dog Vender takes it --

NICK

-- Have you seen a homeless woman? She looks like she's in her early twenties. Light brown hair, and brown eyes.

HOT DOG VENDER

Twelve o'clock.

NICK
What?

HOT DOG VENDER
Look straight!

Nick turns and looks at a woman in *raggedy old clothes*.
BRENDA, 22. A woman living on the streets. A street-smart
woman trying to survive her everyday life.

Nick steps towards her --

Brenda counts out her money --

BRENDA
Twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-
nine and thirty!

She looks at Nick and grabs her money. Brenda slides it into
her pocket.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
I'm not doing anything wrong!

Nick stretches his arm out to Brenda -- and hands her a hot
dog --

NICK
-- Here.

BRENDA
How much?

NICK
What! No, it's free. Take it.

Brenda takes the hot dog from him. She bites into it -- and
looks at Nick.

BRENDA
What?

NICK
Do you need a place to stay?

BRENDA
Are you some kind of weirdo?

NICK
I'm just being courteous. If you
want to sit here and smell, then
that's up to you --

-- Nick steps away from Brenda --

BRENDA

-- Wait --

-- Nick stops walking --

Brenda stands up -- and grabs her **grocery cart** -- She wheels it towards Nick --

BRENDA (CONT'D)

-- How far is it?

NICK

Two miles.

BRENDA

Do you have time?

NICK

All the time in the world.

BRENDA

Thank you.

Nick takes the grocery cart from her -- and pushes it --

NICK

-- I'll push and lead --

BRENDA

-- Thanks.

CUT TO:

EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET-AFTERNOON

Nick pushes the grocery cart --

Brenda wipes the sweat from her forehead -- and walks behind Nick --

BRENDA

(breath)

-- Are we there yet?

NICK

Close.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Nick steps towards the front porch of the house -- and lifts the grocery cart up -- He wheels it towards the window -- and parks it --

NICK

-- Here!

Brenda looks at the house --

BRENDA

Nice.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Nick steps into the living room -- Brenda steps behind him --
-- Nick looks back at Brenda --

NICK

-- Come on!

Norma Jean sits on the couch, *knitting needles* in her hands.
A *ball of yarn* in her lap.

NORMA JEAN

Did you have a good day,
sweetheart?

Nick reaches for Brenda's hand -- Brenda grabs a hold --

Norma Jean looks at Brenda. She stands up -- and steps
towards her -- She reaches her hand out for Brenda's --

NORMA JEAN (CONT'D)

-- Nice to meet you --

-- Brenda shakes her hand --

BRENDA

-- Brenda --

-- Norma Jean lets her arm down --

NORMA JEAN

-- You can stay in the spare
bedroom. Nicholas, get her some
clothes from my closet.

BRENDA
Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda stands underneath the *showerhead* -- and brushes the warm water through her hair.

BRENDA
(breath)

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda steps out of the bathroom -- and into the hallway -- Nick walks into the hallway -- She runs into Nick -- He stops -- Brenda loosens her grip -- The towel drops to the floor -- Nick crouches down -- and grabs the towel -- He stands up -- and covers her --

BRENDA
-- Thank you.

NICK
No problem --

-- Nick steps out of the hallway -- and into his bedroom --

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Norma Jean and Nick sit across from each other at the dinner table. A *platter* of *Roast Beef* in the middle.

Brenda steps into the dining room --

BRENDA
-- Hi.

Nick looks at Brenda --

NICK
-- Hey.

Norma Jean stands up -- and grabs a plate -- She cuts a couple of slices of Roast Beef onto the plate -- and scoops a spoonful of *roasted cutup potatoes*.

Norma Jean sets the plate down -- Brenda pulls out a chair -- and sits -- She digs her fork into the potatoes -- and eats them like there's no tomorrow -- Brenda stops -- and looks at Norma Jean -- She looks down at the table --

BRENDA

-- Sorry --

NORMA JEAN

-- No, it's fine. It's a compliment.

BRENDA

(giggle)

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda and Nick sit on the couch together. Brenda flips through the pages of a **photo album** -- She shows Nick the photo of him as a young boy --

BRENDA

-- Is that you?

NICK

I guess.

Norma Jean steps into the living room -- She carries a plate of **cookies** in her hand --

NORMA JEAN

-- I brought you two some cookies -

-

-- Norma Jean sets the plate down on the coffee table --

NICK

-- Thanks, mom.

Norma Jean steps into the kitchen --

NORMA JEAN

-- Your welcome.

Nick grabs two cookies from the plate -- and hands one to Brenda --

BRENDA

No thank you. I should be going to bed now.

Brenda stands up.

NICK
So soon? I thought we could get to
know each other more.

Brenda sits --

BRENDA
-- I would like to stay but you and
your mom have done enough.

NICK
Stay! We insist.

BRENDA
Okay.

Brenda stands up --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
-- I'll see you in the morning.
Good night.

NICK
Good night.

Brenda steps out of the living room -- and walks down the
hallway --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Nick sits on the edge of the bed. He holds a *drawing pad* in
his left hand and a *yellow-colored pencil* in his right.

A drawing of a girl with blonde hair and piercing blue gray
eyes.

NICK
Shelly.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET BRIDGE-STREETS-MORNING

A man hangs upside down over a bridge. CRACK ADDICT, early
30's.

A young black man in a **blue jersey** and blue jeans holds onto the Crack Addict's ankles. EARL, 17. A senior high school student and football jock. Tall, and muscular built.

A **derby hat** on a girl standing near the edge of the bridge. SHELLY OWENS, 13. An orphaned girl living her life as a mastermind drug dealer.

Shelly reaches into her pants pocket and pulls out a **cigar**. She puts the cigar underneath her nose --

SHELLY
(sniff)

Shelly sticks the cigar in her mouth. She leans over the edge -- and takes the cigar out --

SHELLY (CONT'D)
-- Where's my money!

CRACK ADDICT
I don't have it!!

SHELLY
So, what you want me to tell my friend here is to drop your ass!

CRACK ADDICT
No!!

SHELLY
Earl!

Earl let's go of one ankle.

CRACK ADDICT
(scream)

SHELLY
When are you going to pay me!

CRACK ADDICT
Now!!

SHELLY
Pull him up!

Earl pulls the Crack Addict over the ledge -- and sets him down -- The Crack Addict reaches into his pocket and pulls out two twenty-dollar bills --

SHELLY (CONT'D)
-- Stand up!

The Crack Addict stands up -- and hands Shelly the money.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Earl.

Earl pushes the Crack Addict over --

CRACK ADDICT
(scream)

The Crack Addict falls to his death.

Shelly steps towards a **black 2007 Cadillac Escalade**.

"Paper Planes" by M.I.A. Plays.

CUT TO:

INT. ESCALADE-MORNING

Shelly sits in the back seat. The driver door opens -- and Earl sits in the driver seat. Shelly reaches her hand out to Earl -- and hands him a twenty-dollar bill -- Earl takes it -
- He slides it down into his pants pocket --

EARL

-- Where to now boss?

SHELLY

The park. We have another customer.

Earl turns the key in the ignition.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Nick lies asleep in bed. He opens his eyes. The Devil levitates over him. A smile on her face.

DEVIL

Sleep well?

NICK

Until I saw you.

The Devil levitates down -- and sits on the bed --

Nick pushes the covers off. He sits up. The Devil wraps her arm around his neck. She leans her face towards his and grabs onto his groin.

DEVIL
Someone wants some.

NICK
Leave me alone.

Nick stands up and steps towards the bedroom door.

DEVIL
That's not what you're really
feeling. Not down there.

NICK
Go back to where you came from!

Nick turns his back to her.

DEVIL
Don't ever turn your back to me!
Ever.

Nick opens the door -- and looks back. He sees no Devil in sight.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

A stack full of pancakes sits on a platter.

Brenda digs her fork into the pancakes on her plate.

Nick steps into the dining room.

NICK
Good morning.

Brenda looks at Nick.

BRENDA
Morning.

Nick pulls out a chair and sits -- He grabs a fork -- and sticks it into three pancakes -- He sets them down on his plate --

NICK
How'd you sleep?

BRENDA
Good, thank you.

NICK

Mom!

BRENDA

She went to the store.

Nick cuts into his pancakes -- and takes a bite --

NICK

Do you have any plans for today?

BRENDA

I was going to go look for a job.

NICK

That's good. We can be roommates.

BRENDA

I can't do that.

NICK

Are you kidding! Mom doesn't have a problem with it.

BRENDA

Okay, I'll stay.

NICK

Awesome.

Brenda grabs her glass of orange juice -- and gulps it down -
- She sets the glass down -- and wipes her mouth. Brenda
stands up -- and grabs her purse from the table --

BRENDA

(burp)

-- Excuse me.

Brenda covers her mouth --

BRENDA (CONT'D)

-- I'll see you in a bit.

Nick's eyes follow Brenda as she leaves the room --

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Brenda steps towards the front porch. She looks back at the front door -- and runs into Norma Jean -- Norma Jean drops a bag of eggs -- Brenda turns around -- and looks at Norma Jean --

BRENDA

-- I'm sorry --

-- Brenda crouches down -- Norma Jean leans down -- and picks up the bag of broken eggs --

NORMA JEAN

-- It's fine.

Brenda stands up.

NORMA JEAN (CONT'D)

Don't worry about it, sweetie.

Brenda steps across the street.

BRENDA

I'll see you in a bit.

NORMA JEAN

Bye.

Norma Jean walks towards the front door.

Nick steps outside -- He pulls down his t-shirt -- and fastens his belt -- Norma Jean looks at Nick --

NORMA JEAN (CONT'D)

-- Nicholas? Where are you off to?

NICK

An errand.

Nick watches Brenda --

NORMA JEAN

-- Can you get some eggs while you're out?

NICK

I thought you went to the store.

NORMA JEAN

They broke.

Norma Jean reaches into her purse and hands Nick a five-dollar bill -- Nick takes it --

NICK

-- I'll see you in a bit, mom.

Norma Jean pushes the door open with her foot -- and steps in -- The door closes --

Nick rushes across the street --

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-MORNING

Brenda steps towards a **bench** -- and sits -- She reaches into her purse -- and pulls out sixty dollars -- She lays her hand down flat on the bench --

SHELLY

-- It took you long enough.

Brenda moves her hand -- Shelly grabs the money from the bench -- and slides it into her pocket --

SHELLY (CONT'D)

-- Earl.

Earl steps towards Brenda -- and reaches his hand into her purse -- He drops **two baggies** of **crack cocaine** in --

SHELLY (CONT'D)

-- Pleasure doing business with you. I'll catch you next time.

Brenda stands up -- and tosses her purse over her shoulder -- She steps away from the bench --

Nick steps from behind a tree -- and looks at Shelly.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #105-MOTEL-EVENING

Brenda sits on the edge of the bed. A cigarette in her mouth. MAN, 30's. A tall man in a collared shirt and black tie. The Man sits next to Brenda -- He wraps his arm around her back -
- Brenda sets the cigarette down in an **ashtray** --

BRENDA

What's your pleasure?

MAN

A nice Bj.

BRENDA

Do you have the money?

MAN

Fifty, right?

BRENDA
A hundred.

MAN
How does two hundred-dollars sound?
For more action.

BRENDA
Deal.

The Man unfastens his belt -- and unzips his pants -- He
grabs Brenda from the back of her head -- and pushes down --

CUT TO:

EXT. MOTEL ROOM #105-MOTEL-EVENING

Nick leans his ear against the door and listens to what is
going on inside --

MAN (O.S.)
(groan)

MOTEL MANAGER, early 40's. A motel manager for over ten
years.

MOTEL MANAGER
Hey!! Get away from there!!

Nick looks at the Motel Manager -- and rushes away from the
door --

MOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
-- Pervert!

The Motel Manager steps towards the door -- and leans in to
listen.

BRENDA (O.S.)
(moan)

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM #105-MOTEL-CONTINUOUS

Brenda lays her face against a *pillow* -- The Man presses
himself against Brenda's buttocks.

BRENDA
(groan)

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Nick sits at the table. He pushes his food around with his fork.

Norma Jean sits across the table. She watches Nick play with his food.

NORMA JEAN
Are you alright?

NICK
Yeah.

NORMA JEAN
Are you sure? You haven't touched anything on your plate.

NICK
Yeah, I lost my appetite. I'm going to go lay down for a while.

NORMA JEAN
Alright.

Nick stands up -- and steps away from the table -- He walks into the living room --

The **doorbell** rings.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS HOUSE-EVENING

Nick steps past the front door -- Norma Jean follows him --

NORMA JEAN
-- What is wrong with you!

Norma Jean steps towards the door -- and unlocks it -- She opens it -- Brenda looks at Norma Jean.

BRENDA
Hi.

NORMA JEAN
Hello. Come in.

Norma Jean steps aside --

Brenda steps in --

Norma Jean closes the door --

Brenda looks around --

BRENDA
-- Where's Nick?

NORMA JEAN
He's in his room.

BRENDA
Oh.

NORMA JEAN
What do you need?

BRENDA
I just wanted to give him this --

-- Brenda hands Norma Jean a hundred-dollar bill --

NORMA JEAN
What's this for?

BRENDA
For letting me stay here.

NORMA JEAN
You don't have to do that.

BRENDA
Please, take it?

Norma Jean takes the money.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Can I use your shower?

NORMA JEAN
You have to ask? Go ahead.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Brenda lies her head on the pillow but feels restless. Unable to sleep. She opens her eyes.

A sound of music plays from the other side of the wall.

"Crush" by Jennifer Paige plays.

Brenda sits up -- and looks at the wall --

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Brenda steps past the door to the master bedroom -- Tiptoeing towards Nick's bedroom --

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Brenda slowly pushes the door open -- and steps in -- She closes the door gently -- Brenda sits on the bed -- Nick opens his eyes --

NICK
(sniff)

The smell of the shampoo she used on her hair makes him smile and forget his anger towards her.

RADIO DJ (V.O.)
You're listening to the classics!
Here's another one hit wonder!

"Tarzan Boy" by Baltimora plays.

Brenda closes her eyes --

Nick opens his eyes --

NICK
(breath)

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Nick sits at the end of the dinner table. His head is slouched down.

The Devil drives her hand down hard --

Nick gets a jump scare -- and looks at the Devil --

NICK
-- What do you want!

DEVIL
It's time to wake up!!

Her eyes glow red --

DEVIL (CONT'D)
(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

Nick opens his eyes.

Brenda lays up against Nick. Her arms wrapped around his shoulders and her head resting against his chest. She opens her eyes. Nick kisses her on the forehead -- Nick opens his eyes --

Brenda leans in for a kiss -- Nick turns away -- He sits up --

NICK
-- I got to get ready for work --

-- Nick stands up --

NICK (CONT'D)
-- Do you have any plans for today?

BRENDA
I'm going in for a job interview.

NICK
Sounds cool --

-- Nick steps towards the door -- and opens it -- He grabs his towel from the laundry basket -- and walks out of the bedroom --

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Nick wipes his face with a *washcloth* after a clean shave -- Brenda steps behind Nick -- Nick turns to Brenda -- Brenda loosens her grip on the towel wrapped around her-- and lets it drop to the floor -- Nick crouches down -- and picks it up -- He covers her --

NICK
-- Shower's all yours --

-- Nick steps out of the bathroom --

BRENDA
-- Thanks --

-- Brenda grabs the doorknob -- and pushes the door closed --

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Nick pushes a mop around on the wooden floor -- He looks across the gymnasium and sees Brenda sitting on the bleachers. She raises her hand up -- and is holding a **plastic bag** filled with **two-foot-long sandwiches** --

Nick sets the mop down --

BRENDA

-- Hungry?

Nick steps towards Brenda --

CUT TO:

EXT. COURTYARD-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Nick and Brenda sit on a bench.

NICK

Thank you for the sub.

Nick takes a bite --

BRENDA

-- I felt that I owed you.

NICK

For what?

BRENDA

For taking me in.

NICK

You don't owe me anything.

Nick sets his sandwich down --

NICK (CONT'D)

-- How was the interview?

BRENDA

It didn't go the way I hoped.

NICK

I'm sure there will be something better.

Brenda moves towards Nick -- She leans in for a kiss --

NICK (CONT'D)
 -- Maybe this isn't the best time
 for that.

Brenda stands up from the bench -- She turns to look at Nick
 --

BRENDA
 -- Did I do something wrong?

NICK
 No.

BRENDA
 Then why every time I try to kiss
 you or throw myself at you, you
 brush me off! Am I not your type?

NICK
 You are.

Brenda sits down --

BRENDA
 -- Then what do you want me to do!

NICK
 Take it slow --

-- Nick leans towards her -- and kisses her cheek --

NICK (CONT'D)
 -- I have to get back to work.

Nick wraps his sandwich up in the plastic bag -- He hands it
 to Brenda --

NICK (CONT'D)
 -- Save that for me. I'll see you
 at home.

Nick stands up -- and walks towards the gymnasium --

Brenda grabs her purse -- and the plastic bag -- She stands
 up -- and walks away --

CUT TO:

INT. ESCALADE-AFTERNOON

Shelly sits in the back of the escalade. The window rolls down --

SHELLY

-- Hey!

CUT TO:

EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET-AFTERNOON

Brenda stops -- and steps towards the escalade --

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. ESCALADE-AFTERNOON

Shelly leans her head out of the window --

SHELLY

-- What are you doing on this side of town?

BRENDA

Walking.

SHELLY

Still want those friends of yours.

BRENDA

Sure.

SHELLY

A hundred.

Brenda reaches into her pocket -- and pulls out eighty dollars -- She hands her the money -- Shelly counts it --

SHELLY (CONT'D)

-- This is eighty dollars.

BRENDA

I know. I'll have the rest for you next week.

SHELLY

Tomorrow --

-- Shelly hands Brenda a paper bag -- and backs up -- The window rolls up --

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Norma Jean stands in front of the stove -- and mixes a pot of **potatoes** around with a **wooden spoon** --

BRENDA (O.C.)
It smells great!

NORMA JEAN
Hey!

Brenda steps into the kitchen -- and leans towards the stove --

BRENDA
-- What are we having?

NORMA JEAN
Roasted chicken with **stewed potatoes.**

BRENDA
Yum.

Brenda steps away --

NORMA JEAN
How did it go?

BRENDA
They passed on me.

NORMA JEAN
Tomorrow is a new day.

BRENDA
I'll see you in a bit.

NORMA JEAN
See you in a bit.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda steps through the hallway -- and reaches into her pants pocket -- She pulls out a **crack pipe** -- and pushes the bedroom door open --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda locks the door -- and sits on the bed -- She pulls out a **tube of crack** -- and opens it -- She drops a couple of rocks into the pipe -- She pulls out a **lighter** -- and sticks the pipe into her mouth -- She slowly burns the glass of the pipe -- She pulls the pipe out of her mouth -- and blows smoke -- Brenda lays her head on the pillow --

BRENDA

(Eyes roll)

-- That's -- some good -- shit --

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-VALENS RESIDENCE-CONTINUOUS

Norma Jean stands in front of the bedroom door and knocks --

NORMA JEAN

-- Brenda! Open the door!

Nick steps into the hallway --

NICK

-- What's going on?

NORMA JEAN

Brenda locked herself in.

NICK

How long has she been in there?

NORMA JEAN

A few hours.

Nick steps in front of Norma Jean -- and kicks the door in --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-CONTINUOUS

Nick rushes towards Brenda -- and pulls her towards him --
Her eyes closed -- Nick leans his head towards her chest --

NICK
-- She's alive!

Nick reaches for her hand -- and grabs the crack pipe --

NORMA JEAN
-- Is that a crack pipe?

NICK
Yeah.

Nick reaches into her pants pocket -- and pulls out the paper
bag --

NORMA JEAN
-- Let me see that --

Nick hands the bag to Norma Jean -- Norma Jean steps out of
the bedroom --

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Norma Jean opens the lid to the toilet -- and drops the tubes
of crack in -- She pushes the nob down -- and flushes the
toilet --

NORMA JEAN
-- Good riddance!

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Nick lays Brenda down on a mattress. He lays her head on a
pillow -- and covers her with a blanket -- Nick stands up --

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

He digs at the potatoes on his plate.

BRENDA (O.S.)
Let me out of here!!!

Nick looks at Norma Jean.

NICK
Did you ever have to go through
this with anyone?

NORMA JEAN
No but it sucks to see someone that
you love to go through pain,
doesn't it?

NICK
I don't know what you're talking
about.

NORMA JEAN
I know love when I see it. You love
her.

Nick looks away.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-VALENS RESIDANCE-CONTINUOUS

Brenda lays at the steps.

BRENDA
(sob)
Please!

CUT TO:

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

SUPER: DAY TWO

Nick lays in bed. His eyes closed. Hands crawl like a snake
from underneath the blanket -- and wraps around his neck --
The Devil's head peeks out --

DEVIL
-- Don't worry, sugar. I'll always
be around to keep that fire lit for
you.

NICK
Shut up!!

Nick sits up -- and gets out of bed -- He pulls the door open -- and rushes out of the bedroom --

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Brenda lays her head on Nick's lap.

BRENDA
(shivers)

Nick leans over Brenda -- and puts a wet washcloth over her forehead --

CUT TO:

EXT. COURTYARD-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Nick sits on the bench. A saddened and depressed look on his face. Nick drops his **apple** into his paper bag -- and tosses it into the garbage can --

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-VALENS RESIDANCE-EVENING

SUPER: DAY SEVEN

Brenda lays on the floor of the basement.

MONTAGE

-- Brenda throws up.

-- Brenda hugs her legs.

-- Brenda lays on her stomach.

BACK TO SCENE

Brenda looks at the door. She drops her head to the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT-VALENS RESIDANCE-EVENING

SUPER: DAY TEN

The basement door opens -- and Nick steps down the stairs --
He steps towards the mattress and Brenda --

Nick leans down -- He lifts her up from the mattress -- and
carries her up the stairs --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Nick lays Brenda down on his bed -- and covers her with his
blanket -- He lays down -- and covers himself with his side
of the blanket --

Brenda opens her eyes -- and closes them as Nick turns to see
her face before he turns off the lights --

NICK
(claps)

The light goes out --

CUT TO:

EXT. GROCERY STORE-AFTERNOON

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

Brenda steps out of the grocery store. A plastic bag of
groceries in one hand -- and her **apron** in the other --

The black escalade drives alongside of Brenda -- and stops --
The back door opens -- and Shelly steps out -- She rushes
towards her --

SHELLY
-- There's my favorite customer!
Where have you been?

BRENDA
Working.

SHELLY
No way!

Brenda looks at her, showing an insulted expression --

BRENDA
-- Why is that so hard for you to
believe?

SHELLY
Once a crackhead, always a
crackhead.

Shelly reaches into her pocket -- and pulls out a crack tube
-- She shoves it directly into Brenda's face --

BRENDA
-- You're the devil.

SHELLY
I'm the devil!

BRENDA
Did I stutter!!

Brenda steps away from Shelly --

SHELLY
-- You know you want it! You can't
be a goodie two shoes forever!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Brenda sits on the bed. She holds her hands together.

A sound of something dropping in the kitchen. Brenda stands
up -- and rushes out of the bedroom --

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Norma Jean lays on the floor. Brenda steps into the kitchen.
She crouches down to her knees -- and grabs a hold of Norma
Jean's hand --

BRENDA
-- I'm getting help!

Brenda reaches into her pants pocket -- and pulls out her
cell phone -- She dials **911** --

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING

Nick sits. Brenda looks at Nick. Nick stares deep into space.

NICK
She is okay, isn't she?

BRENDA
I hope so.

Nick grabs Brenda's hand --

DOCTOR, early 50s. A doctor for twenty years.

The Doctor steps into the waiting room --

Nick and Brenda stand up --

The Doctor steps closer towards Nick --

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH-AFTERNOON

Nick stands in the damp sand. His feet sink in. Brenda stands alongside of him. She rubs her hand across his back --

BRENDA
-- Nick?

Nick looks at Brenda --

NICK
-- Yeah?

BRENDA
Is there anything that you want to say?

Nick looks at the **urn** in his hands. He takes off the lid -- and drops it -- Nick crouches down -- and pours out the ashes --

NICK
-- Rest in peace mom.

Nick stands up -- He looks at Brenda and touches her cheek -- He wraps his arm around her shoulders --

BRENDA
-- Come on, let's go home.

NICK
Okay.

Nick and Brenda step away -- and walk down the shoreline.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

Nick sits at the dinner table. He looks at the **ring box** in the palm of his hand.

Brenda steps into the dining room. She looks at Nick.

BRENDA

What are you doing in here?

NICK

Just getting ready to ask you something.

Brenda turns towards the kitchen --

BRENDA

-- Yeah, what's that?

Nick stands up from his chair -- and gets down on one knee -- He holds the ring box up in one hand --

Brenda turns to Nick -- She looks at the ring box --

BRENDA (CONT'D)

-- You better not be messing with me.

NICK

I'm not.

Brenda steps towards Nick -- She reaches her hand out -- Nick pulls the **ring** out of the box -- and slides it on her ring finger -- She looks at the ring with an amazed look in her eyes.

BRENDA

How's this going to work?

Nick stands up.

NICK

We'll get married in a courthouse.

BRENDA

No, I mean with us. We haven't known each other that long.

(MORE)

BRENDA (CONT'D)
 How do you know that you won't
 regret it later --

-- Nick brushes his hand through her hair --

NICK
 -- Hey, I don't regret anything
 about you. Not one single thing,
 okay? What do you say?

BRENDA
 Yes --

-- Nick lifts Brenda from the floor -- and brings her down --
 He hugs her --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
 -- I want to get married in a
 church --

-- Nick looks at Brenda --

NICK
 -- That's fine.

Brenda kisses Nick --

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-MORNING

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

Nick stands alongside of Brenda. He looks at her.

PASTOR, late 40s. A pastor for ten years.

The Pastor stands in front of a podium and holds a bible in
 his hands.

PASTOR
 You may kiss your bride!

Nick leans towards Brenda -- and kisses her --

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH-MORNING

The Devil stands on the sidewalk and looks at the doors of
 the church with disgust on her face.

The front doors to the church open -- Nick and Brenda walk towards the limousine -- Nick walks past the Devil -- and opens the back door -- Brenda gets into the backseat of the limousine --

DEVIL

-- See you soon --

-- The Devil steps away --

Nick gets in -- and shuts the door --

The limousine drives away --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Brenda lies asleep in bed.

Nick sits on the edge of the bed -- He reaches over -- and kisses Brenda on the cheek --

Brenda gets a jolt -- and looks at Nick --

BRENDA

-- You scared me!

NICK

Sorry. I'll see you after work.

BRENDA

Do you have to go?

NICK

I'll be back.

BRENDA

You better --

-- Nick kisses Brenda --

NICK

-- Have fun painting --

-- Nick stands up -- and walks out of the bedroom --

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda stands in front of the freshly painted wall. A fresh painted **beige** color.

BRENDA
I like it.

A knock at the door --

Brenda arms herself with a **box cutter**. Brenda grabs the doorknob -- and pulls the door open --

MAILMAN, early 30s. A mailman for five years.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
What do you want from me!!

The Mailman looks at Brenda and the box cutter in her hand --

MAILMAN
-- Just a signature!

Brenda looks at the Mailman. She sets the box cutter down on the arm of the couch --

BRENDA
-- I'm so sorry --

-- The Mailman hands Brenda a pen -- She signs the **automatic signature screen** -- and hands it back to him -- The Mailman hands Brenda a **small box** --

The Mailman rushes away --

MAILMAN
-- Have a nice day.

BRENDA
Thank you. Sorry.

Brenda shuts the door -- and locks it -- She sits on the couch -- and opens the box with the box cutter -- Brenda reaches in -- and pulls out a paper bag -- She pours out tubes of crack into the box --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
-- What the --

-- Brenda looks down into the box -- and sees a **note**.

The note reads: On the house! Shelly.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda opens the lid to the garbage can -- and drops the box in -- Nick walks past Brenda -- He stops -- and looks at her --

NICK
-- Brenda, what are you doing out here?

Brenda shuts the lid -- She steps towards Nick --

BRENDA
-- Just dumping some trash.

NICK
How's the house coming along?

BRENDA
Does beige sound good?

NICK
Let's see it.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-CONTINUOUS

Brenda steps towards the living room wall -- and points --

BRENDA
-- Is that the right color?

NICK
It's cool to me. Go with it.

Nick wraps his arm around Brenda's back --

BRENDA
Cool.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Nick sits up on the bed. Brenda sits on his lap -- and kisses him --

NICK
-- What's for dinner?

BRENDA
Let's not worry about that.

NICK
After?

Nick looks across the bedroom and sees the Devil crawling underneath dirty clothes, nude.

BRENDA
Shut up and kiss me.

Nick rolls Brenda to the bed -- and gets on top of her -- He pulls the blanket over --

CUT TO:

EXT. CORNFIELD-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Nick steps through a *cornfield* -- He steps towards charred piece of ground and the body of a naked woman. Nick crouches down -- He touches the woman's arm --

NICK
-- Are you alright?

The woman looks at Nick and reveals herself to be the Devil.

DEVIL
(scream)

Nick turns away and rushes towards the cornfield. A man steps in front of Nick. MESSIAH, early 30s.

The Messiah reaches his hands out to Nick. He looks at the holes in his hands.

MESSIAH
Free will. Remember that.

Light glows -- and wind starts to blow into Nick's face. He covers his eyes from the tough wind blowing on --

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

Brenda stands in front of the stove. She flips two cooking *grilled cheese sandwiches* on the *griddle pan* with a *spatula*.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Nick sits up -- He looks around --

BRENDA
-- You're awake!

NICK
(scream)

Brenda turns on the light. She holds the grilled cheese sandwiches in a folded-up **paper towel**.

BRENDA
-- I'm sorry I scared you.

Brenda hands the sandwiches to Nick -- Nick takes them -- and takes a bite --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
-- Are you alright?

NICK
I'll get through it.

BRENDA
Do you want to talk about it?

NICK
You'll probably think I'm crazy.

Brenda sits on the edge of the bed -- She leans towards Nick -- and kisses him --

BRENDA
Your crazy is mine.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE-MORNING

Brenda stands at a check stand. She starts to feel sick to her stomach and steps away -- Brenda walks towards the bathroom --

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-GROCERY STORE-MORNING

Brenda opens the door to the stall -- and steps towards the sink -- She turns on the water -- and splashes her face -- Brenda grabs a paper towel. She thinks to herself, and the idea comes clear to why she is feeling sick all at once.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

The front door opens -- Brenda steps in with a couple of plastic bags -- She looks around --

BRENDA

-- Nick! Are you here!!

Brenda shuts the door -- and steps towards the hallway --

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Brenda sits on the toilet -- She reaches underneath with a **pregnancy test** --

She sets the test down -- and grabs an **egg timer** from the counter. She sets it for ten seconds -- Brenda stands up from the toilet -- and pulls up her pants -- She looks at the door. The timer goes off. Brenda steps towards the test -- and looks at the **two +** signs -- Brenda lifts it up --

BRENDA

(sob)

Brenda looks around. A smirk on her face.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

Nick steps into the dining room -- He looks around --

NICK

-- Brenda, you home!

Brenda steps into the dining room -- Her hands grasping onto a pan wrapped in **foil** --

BRENDA

-- Hey!

Brenda sets the pan down in the middle of the table --

NICK
-- Smells good.

Nick sits down --

Brenda lifts the foil off the pan -- and grabs a plate --

Nick leans over --

Brenda cuts two squares of the *enchiladas* -- and sets them down on the plate -- Brenda sets the plate down in front of Nick -- Nick grabs Brenda -- and pulls her towards him --

NICK (CONT'D)
-- What's the special occasion?

BRENDA
(Clears throat)
I'm pregnant.

Nick stands up -- and hugs Brenda -- Brenda's eyes wander around the room --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
-- You're not mad?

Nick backs away --

NICK
-- Why would I be mad?

BRENDA
I thought you wanted more time before we --

NICK
-- No, babe.

Nick kisses her cheek --

NICK (CONT'D)
-- Sit --

-- Nick pulls out a chair -- Brenda sits --

CUT TO:

INT. NURSERY-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Nick paints the walls of the nursery with a *paint roller* -- He stops and stares at the walls --

Brenda steps in --

BRENDA
-- How's it going in here?

Nick sets the paint roller down -- and rushes towards Brenda
-- He gently pushes her out into the hallway --

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING

Brenda leans against the wall --

BRENDA
-- What's wrong?

NICK
The fumes from the paint. I don't
want you inhaling them.

BRENDA
You worry too much.

NICK
I'll show you when it's dry.

BRENDA
I was coming to tell you that
breakfast is ready when you want
it.

NICK
It's break time anyways.

Brenda and Nick walk through the hallway --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Brenda stands in front of a mirror. She raises the bottom of
her shirt -- and feels her stomach --

MONTAGE

-- Brenda at three months.

-- Brenda at six months.

-- Brenda at nine months.

BACK TO SCENE

Brenda steps towards her side of the bed. She sits -- and looks at Nick. Brenda touches his face with the palm of her hand --

BRENDA

-- Babe!

Brenda grabs Nick's hand -- and lays it on her stomach --

NICK

-- She kicked!

BRENDA

She?

NICK

She.

Brenda moves closer to Nick -- and kisses him on the cheek --

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING

Brenda lies asleep. Nick walks around the room with his newborn daughter in his arms -- Brenda opens her eyes -- She looks at Nick --

BRENDA

-- Hey.

Nick turns to Brenda --

NICK

-- Hey --

-- Nick steps towards Brenda -- and sits on the bed -- Nick hands the newborn to Brenda -- Brenda takes her --

NICK (CONT'D)

-- Have you thought of any names?

BRENDA

I like to name her after you.

Nick thinks to himself --

NICK

-- Nicola.

BRENDA

I like it.

Nick leans towards Brenda -- and kisses her --

CUT TO:

INT. NURSERY-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Nick stands in front of the wall -- and paints *murals* of *angels*.

A knock on the door.

NICK

Come in.

The door opens and Brenda steps in, holding the newborn.

BRENDA

Where'd you learn to paint?

NICK

I don't know. It just came naturally.

BRENDA

Are you okay with her staying with us in the bedroom?

NICK

Yeah, that's fine.

Brenda steps towards the door and takes another look at the wall.

BRENDA

Good job.

Brenda steps out.

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

A teenage boy tosses *basketballs* at the *basketball hoop*. RJ, 17. A senior and star high school student. Cocky, arrogant, naive but smart at times.

Nick steps into the gymnasium --

RJ tosses a basketball towards the hoop. The ball rolls towards Nick -- Nick grabs the basketball --

RJ raises his hands --

RJ
-- Hey, old man! Over here!

Nick shoots the ball into the hoop -- RJ looks at the shot and at Nick.

RJ (CONT'D)
You got moves.

NICK
Thanks.

-- Nick grabs the mop handle. RJ steps towards Nick --

RJ
-- Did you ever play?

NICK
No.

RJ
Why?

NICK
I got expelled.

RJ
For?

Nick looks at RJ.

RJ (CONT'D)
Sorry.

NICK
It's fine. I was getting into fights a lot.

RJ
Do you ever consider coaching?

NICK
Not really.

RJ
Perhaps, I can help put a good word in for you.

NICK
You really don't have to do that.

RJ
I got you.

RJ steps towards all the basketballs -- and collects them --
He tosses them into a **net bag** --

RJ (CONT'D)
I'll catch you later.

NICK
Later.

RJ
Nice talking to you.

Nick looks at the back of RJ's **jersey** --

NICK
-- You too -- RJ --

RJ
(laugh)
-- Later --

-- Nick drops the mop into the bucket --

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-EVENING

"I'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)" by Meat Loaf
plays.

Nick sits and eats **meatloaf**. Brenda sits across from him.

BRENDA
How was your day?

NICK
It was good.

BRENDA
What happened?

NICK
Let's just say that I felt like a
kid again. Like I belonged.

BRENDA
That's good. Really good. Do you
want more?

NICK
Yes, please.

Brenda takes Nick's plate.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURTYARD-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Nick stands and sweeps --

PRINCIPAL, early 30s. A principal for five years.

The Principal steps towards Nick --

PRINCIPAL
-- Good afternoon, Mr. Valens.

Nick looks at the Principal --

NICK
-- Good afternoon. How are you?

PRINCIPAL
Can we have a little talk?

NICK
Of course.

PRINCIPAL
Follow me.

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

The Principal steps into the gymnasium and stops in the
middle --

PRINCIPAL
-- One of our most valuable
students recommended you as the new
coach and when I get something like
that, it usually means that the
person is well admired. My question
to you is, are you everything that
RJ says, and can you back it up?

She glances at the gymnasium -- and walks around in circles -
-

Nick follows her --

The Principal stops -- and looks back at Nick --

NICK

-- I can.

PRINCIPAL

Great! When can you start?

NICK

As soon as possible.

The Principal hands him the **keys** to his office -- and **whistle**
--

PRINCIPAL

-- You can start tomorrow and go
from there.

The Principal reaches her hand out -- Nick shakes her hand --

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

-- See you in the morning --

-- The Principal steps away --

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

The office door opens. Nick steps in and looks around. He
sits at the desk. Nick leans his head back.

NICK

(breath)

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE-AFTERNOON

In the **produce aisle**, Brenda sprays the vegetables with water
-- Nick steps behind her --

NICK

-- Hey --

-- Brenda turns -- and sprays Nick in the face with the **water**
hose -- Brenda turns off the water --

BRENDA

-- I'm sorry!

Nick wipes his face --

NICK

It's cool. It's a turn on,
actually.

Brenda pulls a washcloth from her apron -- and wipes Nick's
face --

BRENDA

-- Did you get off early?

Brenda puts the washcloth back into her apron --

NICK

I got the coaching job!

BRENDA

Really --

-- Brenda kisses Nick -- and backs away --

BRENDA (CONT'D)

-- I'm so proud of you! We have to
celebrate.

NICK

We are tonight. At the best
restaurant. What do you say?

BRENDA

Sounds good.

NICK

I'll stick around and walk you
home.

BRENDA

Okay.

Nick steps away --

Brenda looks back at Nick.

NICK

I love you.

BRENDA

I love you too.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Brenda stands in front of the *bedroom mirror*. She puts a *necklace* on --

NICK (O.S.)
-- How's it going in there!

BRENDA
Going well.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS HOUSE-EVENING

Nick sits on the couch --

BABYSITTER, early teens.

The Babysitter sits on the floor with the toddler --

Brenda steps into the living room -- Nick stands up from the couch --

NICK
-- Wow!

Brenda looks down at the dress --

BRENDA
-- What? Am I overdressed?

NICK
No, you look beautiful.

A smile stretches across Brenda's face.

NICK (CONT'D)
-- Okay, we'll see you later. Lock up behind us.

Nick grabs Brenda's hand -- and walks her towards the door --

BRENDA
-- Take care of my baby.

Nick and Brenda step outside -- The Babysitter steps towards the door -- and grabs the doorknob --

BABYSITTER
-- Don't worry. I'll guard her with my life.

The Babysitter bolts and locks the door --

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-EVENING

Nick and Brenda step towards a table -- Nick pulls out a chair for Brenda --

BRENDA
-- Such a gentleman --

Brenda sits. Nick sits across from her.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
This is such a nice place.

NICK
You deserve it.

BRENDA
You do.

NICK
You do too.

Brenda opens her **menu** and points her finger at the **lobster** --

BRENDA
-- The lobster sounds good.

NICK
Get that.

BRENDA
What about you?

Nick points at the **steak** --

NICK
-- The steak sounds good --

Nick closes the menu --

WAITER, early 20s. A waiter for five years.

WAITER
Are you ready to order?

NICK
Yes.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

The Babysitter sits on the couch. Her eyes closed.

A knock on the door.

The Babysitter rubs her eyes -- and stands up -- She steps towards the door --

BABYSITTER

-- Who is it?

SHELLY (O.S.)

Pizza!

BABYSITTER

I didn't order any pizza! You got the wrong address!

SHELLY (O.S.)

No. This is the right address!

Earl steps behind the Babysitter and hits her over the head with a fist -- He unlocks the door -- and opens it --

Shelly steps in --

SHELLY (CONT'D)

-- It took you long enough.

EARL

That bitch isn't going to stay unconscious forever.

SHELLY

Get her on the couch.

EARL

Yes, ma'am!

Shelly steps into the hallway --

CUT TO:

INT. NURSERY-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

The door opens -- and Shelly steps in --

SHELLY

No worries kid. I just want to send a little message to big mama!

Shelly steps towards the crib --

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-EVENING

Nick cuts into his steak and takes a bite.

Brenda sticks the lobster tail in her mouth -- and closes her eyes as the flavor touches every craving she has.

BRENDA

Mmhmm!

NICK

I take it that it's really good.

BRENDA

I'm sure it's better than you're steak.

NICK

They both taste like they've been dipped in butter.

Nick sets his fork down.

The Waiter steps towards the table --

WAITER

-- Can I interest you in our dessert menu?

Nick looks at Brenda --

Brenda mouths the word "yes."

NICK

That's a yes.

BRENDA

What do you recommend?

WAITER

We have the chocolate covered cheesecake, and strawberry flavored.

BRENDA

Do you have cherry?

WAITER

Yes.

BRENDA
I'll take that.

WAITER
And you, sir?

NICK
I'll take the chocolate.

WAITER
Coming right up!!

The Waiter steps away from the table --

CUT TO:

INT. ESCALADE-NIGHT

Shelly sits in the backseat and looks outside of the window -
-

EARL
-- What now?

SHELLY
We wait.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-NIGHT

Brenda drives her fork down into her piece of **cheesecake** --
She takes a bite --

BRENDA
-- Mhmm! That's good stuff right
there!

Nick scoops his fork down into the cheesecake and takes a
bite.

NICK
You're right.

BRENDA
This was such a good night.

NICK
Best date ever!

BRENDA

I agree.

Brenda cuts a piece of the cheesecake with her fork -- and feeds it to Nick --

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

The front door opens --

Nick steps into the living room and turns on the light. He rushes towards the Babysitter --

NICK

-- Hey!

She opens her eyes --

BRENDA

-- Where's Nicola?

BABYSITTER

Sleeping in her crib.

The Babysitter sits up --

Brenda rushes towards the nursery.

NICK

How long ago did you fall asleep?

BABYSITTER

I don't know.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSERY-VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

The door to the nursery opens. Brenda steps towards the crib and a crying toddler.

BRENDA

What's wrong girlie?

Brenda lifts the toddler up -- and holds her against her side --

BRENDA (CONT'D)

-- What's going on?

Brenda looks down into the crib -- She grabs a **zip-lock** bag filled with tubes of crack.

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

NICK
Is she alright!

Brenda turns to Nick and hides the bag behind her back --

BRENDA
-- She's upset --

-- Brenda drops the bag into the crib --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
-- Can you take her for a little bit while I get settled?

Nick steps towards Brenda -- and takes the toddler -- He steps out of the nursery --

Brenda grabs the bag from the crib --

CUT TO:

EXT. VALENS RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Brenda opens the garbage can -- and tosses the zip-lock bag in -- She closes it --

CUT TO:

EXT. CORNFIELD-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Nick steps towards the burnt landing spot -- He looks down --

MESSIAH (O.C.)
Looking for someone?

NICK
Why am I back here?

MESSIAH
To see what you're dealing with.

NICK
What's that?

The Messiah steps into the corn --

Nick walks behind him --

MESSIAH

-- If you look very closely, you're living your life the same way you did in your previous life. Carelessly.

NICK

What! I was going through something until I met her. That's the woman I married, remember?

MESSIAH

Yes, but you're still not seeing the clear vision of what it takes to sacrifice your own life for hers.

NICK

What's that!

The Messiah stops -- and turns to Nick --

MESSIAH

-- When the time comes, you will see it for yourself. All you have to do is pay attention.

Nick closes his eyes -- and opens them --

The Devil stands in front of Nick. She opens her mouth -- and smiles with blood pouring out --

NICK

(scream)

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB HELL-NIGHT

Nick sits at the bar with his eyes closed. He opens them -- and looks around.

"Ballroom Blitz" by Sweet plays.

Nick walks through the bar. He comes across EXOTIC DANCERS #1, #2 and #3. Early 20s.

The Devil appears behind Nick --

DEVIL

-- See anyone you like!

Nick closes his eyes --

NICK
-- This isn't real.

DEVIL
It's real. I'm real!

Nick opens his eyes -- and looks at the Devil --

NICK
(laugh)
You're just a spoiled brat that
stomped her feet because she didn't
get what she wanted.

Nick walks towards the exit doors --

DEVIL
-- Don't you turn your back on me,
you fucking monkey!!

The Devil's face changes -- Her eyes turn into snake eyes --
She scratches at her face --

Nick steps through the doors --

DEVIL (CONT'D)
(scream)

The Devil crouches down -- and sits up on her knees -- She
looks up at the ceiling --

DEVIL (CONT'D)
(scream)

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-VALENS RESIDENCE-MORNING (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

Brenda pours coffee into a mug -- She sets the coffee pot
down -- and turns -- Nick takes the mug --

BRENDA
(scream)

NICK
Sorry.

-- Nick kisses her -- and gulps down the coffee -- Brenda
looks at Nick with amazement in her eyes --

BRENDA
-- Holy shit.

Nick sets the mug down on the counter --

NICK
-- Language! Got to go. Love you.

BRENDA
-- Love you too.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Nick stands alongside the basketball court.

PLAYERS #1, #2 and #3. Late teens. Senior students.

NICK
(Blow whistle)
Again!

Nick looks across the basketball court and sees RJ talking to Shelly.

Shelly stands on the other side of the fence.

SHELLY
I can give you a few and see how
you like selling them.

RJ
Sounds like a deal.

NICK (O.C.)
(Blow whistle)

Nick steps towards the fence -- and takes the whistle out of his mouth --

NICK (CONT'D)
-- Free play guys!!

Shelly looks at Nick --

NICK (CONT'D)
Say goodbye to your friends. It's
practice time.

RJ
-- Just a minute.

Nick gets in front of the fence -- and blocks him from Shelly
 -- Nick points towards the school --

NICK
 -- Go! Now!!

RJ turns around -- and walks towards the school --

SHELLY (O.C.)
 -- What's your problem, old man!

Nick looks back at Shelly --

NICK
 -- Stay away from my student.

SHELLY
 Aren't you that guy that married
 that crack whore? Once a whore,
 always a whore.

NICK
 Why don't you go find your parents
 and tell them that they can come
 pick you up now. That's right, they
 left your ass --

-- Shelly jumps onto the fence --

SHELLY
 -- I'm going to rip your fucking
 head off!!

-- Earl grabs a hold of Shelly -- and pulls her off the fence
 -- He steps back with her towards the escalade --

SHELLY (CONT'D)
 -- I know where you live!!

NICK
 (wave)
 I'll be waiting!

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Brenda sits in the desk chair.

NICK (O.C.)
 Babe!

Brenda jumps out of her own skin, feeling a second of a scare
--

BRENDA
(laugh)
-- You scared me.

NICK
Sorry.

Brenda stands up --

NICK (CONT'D)
What brings you here?

BRENDA
Can't a loving wife come and see
her husband.

NICK
Yeah, but we didn't have any plans
to see each other today.

BRENDA
We didn't plan for me to get
pregnant twice but here I am!

NICK
No, we didn't but --

-- Nick turns to Brenda --

NICK (CONT'D)
-- Wait! What did you say?

BRENDA
I'm pregnant.

NICK
How?

BRENDA
Let's see, a week ago, after that
dinner, and then the morning after.

NICK
-- Okay, I get it. Wow!

BRENDA
My words exactly after you got off
of me.

NICK
Enough!

BRENDA
That's not what you said.

NICK
I'll be back. Wait for me.

Nick steps out of the office --

Brenda leans back in the desk chair --

BRENDA
(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. BOY'S LOCKER ROOM-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

RJ sits on the bench --

Nick steps into the locker room --

NICK
(clap)
-- Okay, boys! Time to get going!
I'll see you all tomorrow!

Players #1, #2 and #3 step out of the locker room -- Nick sits across from RJ --

RJ looks at Nick.

RJ
What?

NICK
What are you thinking.

RJ
We were only talking.

NICK
She's a drug dealer.

RJ
So, she sells a little crack.
What's the big deal?

NICK
You're not selling it for her, are you?

RJ
No! I was thinking about it until
you stepped in.

NICK
Why did you need to sell crack?

RJ
I wanted to get my mom a birthday
present.

Nick reaches into his pocket -- and pulls out his wallet --
He pulls out two hundred-dollar bills -- and hands the money
to RJ --

RJ (CONT'D)
-- I can't take that.

NICK
Why?

RJ
Because you have a family.

NICK
Just take it!

RJ takes the money --

RJ
-- I'll pay you back.

NICK
Take your time.

Nick stands up --

NICK (CONT'D)
-- I'll see you tomorrow --

-- Nick steps out of the locker room --

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Nick and Brenda step towards the front yard.

Shelly sits on the hood of the escalade. A pistol in her
hand.

Brenda looks at Shelly --

BRENDA

-- Shit --

NICK

-- It's alright. She's not here for you.

Brenda looks at Nick.

NICK (CONT'D)

Go inside and lock the doors.

BRENDA

No.

Nick kisses her cheek --

NICK

-- Go.

Brenda rushes towards the front door -- and grabs the doorknob -- Earl steps towards her --

NICK (CONT'D)

-- If you go near my wife, it'll be the last move that you make.

SHELLY

-- Let her go. This is between me and him --

-- Brenda opens the door -- and steps in -- The door shuts --

Shelly slides off the hood -- and steps towards Nick -- She points the pistol at him --

SHELLY (CONT'D)

-- Now that we are both alone. Can you guess what I'm going to do.

NICK

Just do it already!

SHELLY

Earl.

Earl steps behind Nick -- and pulls **rope** from his pocket -- He wraps it around both of his wrists -- and ties them up -- Earl steps back --

Shelly points the pistol --

NICK
-- So, this is the way that you
want to be remembered. The girl
that shot an unarmed man.

SHELLY
(laugh)

Shelly hands the pistol over to Earl -- Earl takes it -- and
backs away --

NICK
What are you waiting for! Do it!

Shelly throws her fist towards Nick's face -- Nick moves his
head downwards -- Shelly hits his forehead --

SHELLY
(scream)

Shelly shakes her hand --

SHELLY (CONT'D)
-- Shit!!

Earl steps towards Shelly --

EARL
-- What happened!

SHELLY
He moved his head and caused me to
break my hand!!

Earl steps towards Nick -- Nick pulls his hands out of the
rope --

EARL
-- What the hell!

Nick puts his hands up -- and swings his fist -- He hits Earl
five times across the face -- Earl falls to the ground --

Shelly crouches down -- and grabs the pistol --

Brenda steps outside --

SHELLY
-- Hey!!

Shelly points the pistol at Brenda --

Nick runs towards Brenda --

SHELLY (CONT'D)

-- Catch this!!

Nick runs in front of Brenda -- and shields her --

Shelly fires six shots --

The shots hit Nick in the back -- Nick looks at Brenda -- He falls to his knees -- Brenda crouches down -- and lays Nick's head on her lap --

NICK

(breath)

-- I got you babe.

BRENDA

(sob)

You saved me.

NICK

(breath)

You're my girl.

BRENDA

(sob)

I'll always be your girl.

Shelly kneels down --

Brenda caresses her hands on Nick's face -- Nick stares off into space.

NICK

(breath)

BRENDA

(sob)

(cry)

POLICE OFFICERS #1 and #2. Early 30s. Police Officers for two and five years.

Police Officer #1 pulls his handcuffs from his belt --

POLICE OFFICER

-- Hands on your head!

Shelly looks at Brenda. She touches her head with both of her hands --

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB HELL-NIGHT

The Devil drops to her knees --

DEVIL
(scream)

Her eyes filled with rage. Her face changes into a man's face -- and his hair burns with flames of fire --

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-MORNING

An urn sits on a table with Nick's photograph next to it.

RJ sits in the second row. He wipes the tears from his face.

Brenda steps in front of the table --

BRENDA
For everyone that knew Nick, they
knew he cared about everyone.
Especially me. He met me in the
park and invited me back to his
house. He got me clean and sober.
For what I told him, I meant. I'll
always be his girl.

Brenda steps away -- and sits in the front row --

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY-CHURCH-AFTERNOON

Brenda stands -- and shakes all the ATTENDANTS hand's that pass by --

BRENDA
-- Thank you for coming.

RJ steps towards Brenda --

RJ
Brenda?

BRENDA
RJ, right?

RJ
Yes.

Brenda hugs RJ -- and backs away --

BRENDA
He spoke highly of you.

RJ reaches into his pocket -- and pulls out a stack of twenty-dollar bills. He hands the money to Brenda --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
-- What's that for?

RJ
For what Mr. Valens gave me. If I hadn't been talking to her -- He --
(sob)

BRENDA
-- It's not your fault, sweetie.
Okay?

RJ shakes his head "yes."

Brenda kisses him on the cheek --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
-- Keep the money.

RJ steps towards Brenda -- and hugs her --

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Take care of yourself.

RJ
I will.

RJ steps away --

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

SUPER: EIGHT YEARS LATER

Brenda steps into the living room. She ties her hair in a bun -- Brenda picks up a **newspaper** from the coffee table. Brenda turns to the **sports section** and looks at the **headline**. It reads: Basketball star, RJ wins it for the team!!

Brenda smiles and folds the newspaper -- She tosses it to the coffee table --

BRENDA
-- Okay! Let's go girls!!

A young girl rushes into the living room. NICOLA, 10-Years-Old. A fourth grader. A girl with a kind heart.

LOLA, 8-Years-Old. A second grader. A bright and sweet girl.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Brenda opens the front door -- Lola rushes past her --

Nicola steps out with Brenda --

Brenda closes the door --

CUT TO:

INT. VISITOR CENTRE-PRISON-AFTERNOON

Brenda sits with Nicola and Lola. A **cannister** in the grasp of Nicola's hands.

GUARD, early 30s. A guard for ten years.

The Guard walks a woman prisoner towards the Visitor Centre. SHELLY, 23. Blonde hair and blue gray eyes.

Shelly looks at Brenda, Nicola and Lola --

SHELLY

-- Hey.

The Guard pushes her down -- and takes off the handcuffs -- He steps away -- Nicola slides the cannister towards Shelly --

LOLA

-- We brought you some cookies!

SHELLY

That's sweet --

-- Shelly takes off the lid -- and grabs a cookie from the cannister -- She takes a bite -- She chews -- and swallows --

SHELLY (CONT'D)

-- Peanut butter. My favorite!

BRENDA

Girls, why don't you go wait in the car.

-- Brenda hands Nicola the car keys -- Nicola looks at Shelly --

NICOLA
(wave)

LOLA
(wave)
Bye.

Nicola and Lola step towards the **exit gate** --

Shelly sets the cookie down -- and licks her fingers --

SHELLY
-- Why'd you bring them here? Was
it to soften my heart?

BRENDA
I brought them so you could meet
them.

SHELLY
Do they know what I did?

BRENDA
No. I like to keep it that way.

SHELLY
Is this your way of punishing me?

BRENDA
I forgave you a long time ago. It's
what Nick would have done.

SHELLY
I didn't know the guy. I just knew
he was your husband. Is there
anything else?

BRENDA
Yes. I brought someone else with
me.

A fiery redhead woman walks into the Visiting Area. 40 years
old and looks good for her age. MAGGIE OWENS. A casino worker
and an expert gambler. The Guard watches her walk by --

Maggie steps towards Shelly -- Shelly stands up --

SHELLY
-- How!

MAGGIE
She found me.

Shelly looks at Brenda and then looks at Maggie --

SHELLY

-- Dad ran away with me and left me
at a gas station.

MAGGIE

He did it to punish me, baby. He
was cheating on me with a younger
woman.

SHELLY

He told me that you hated me for
ruining your life.

Maggie touches Shelly's face -- and hugs her --

MAGGIE

-- I love you. I always have.

Brenda stands up -- and steps towards the gate --

Shelly looks at Brenda --

SHELLY

(wave)
-- Bye.

Brenda pushes the gate open -- and steps out -- The gate
slams shut --

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH-AFTERNOON

Nick lies on the sand. He opens his eyes and sits up --

NICK

-- Where am I?

MESSIAH (V.O.)

You're back where you belong.

NICK

What was that?

MESSIAH (V.O.)

A glimpse.

NICK

But I thought --

MESSIAH (V.O.)

-- The son of dawn has no power.
Trickery is the only way to get you
to do the things that he wants.

NICK

You were watching.

MESSIAH (V.O.)

I knew that you would make the
right choice.

NICK

What choice?

MESSIAH (V.O.)

You helped your wife overcome an
addiction. Something that you also
struggled with.

NICK

Which was?

MESSIAH (V.O.)

Lust.

NICK

I went through a phase.

MESSIAH (V.O.)

You lost your innocence that night
when you found out that your mother
and mentor were sleeping together
behind your back. The women came in
and out of your life like
waitresses. Then you met her, and
she gave you something to have
faith in. Me.

NICK

I wanted her back.

MESSIAH (V.O.)

Look no further. There she is.

Nick looks at the shore.

Brenda stands. Nicola and Lola stand close to each other.
Brenda holds an urn in her hands. She takes off the lid.
Brenda tips it over -- and dumps ashes out --

BRENDA

-- I love you, Nick.

Brenda hands the urn to Nicola -- Nicola dumps ashes out --

NICOLA
-- Love you, dad.

Nicola hands the urn to Lola -- Lola takes it -- She dumps the rest of the ashes out --

LOLA
(sob)
-- Love you too, daddy.

Brenda wraps her arms around Nicola and Lola --

LOLA (CONT'D)
(sob)

NICOLA
(cry)

BRENDA
Shh!!

Nick stands and watches. A hand reaches out and touches Nick's shoulder --

NICK
-- Are they going to be alright?

MESSIAH
Time will tell. Come, I want to show you something.

NICK
Where is the other Nick?

MESSIAH
He died.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

SUPER: 1986

Doctor, early 40s. A doctor for fifteen years.

The Doctor crouches down -- and reaches out for Norma Jean --

NORMA JEAN
(sob)
-- Don't touch me!!

The Doctor steps back --

NURSE, early 20s. A nurse for two years.

Norma Jean kneels down on the floor -- and holds a **sweater** close to her chest --

NURSE

-- Come on, sweetie! Let's get you off the floor.

Norma Jean holds the sweater close to her face -- and hugs it --

NORMA JEAN

(cry)

(sob)

-- My baby!

Nick kneels down -- He wipes the tears from his eyes --

NICK

(sob)

The Messiah taps Nick on his shoulder --

NICK (CONT'D)

How did he die?

MESSIAH

Let's go, okay.

NICK

Tell me how!!

MESSIAH

He hit his head on the fireplace while riding his bike in the living room.

NICK

I was her replacement son.

MESSIAH

You were the last hope she had at happiness.

NICK

You put me there.

MESSIAH

I gave you something that she wanted the most. Love.

Nick reaches his hand out to touch Norma Jean --

MESSIAH (CONT'D)
-- Come on, it's time to go.

Nick stands up -- and steps out of the room with the Messiah
--

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING

SUPER: WINTER 1975

MARY JANE, 18. A senior student. Dark hair and hazel eyes.

Mary Jane sits up and nurses her newborn son. She caresses his head.

MARY JANE
Nicholas. My Nicholas.

Mary Jane holds the newborn close to her chest --

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
-- I'll always be here for you.

NICK (V.O.)
I don't remember those words as she was telling them to me as a newborn but seeing her with me after several hours. It brought tears to my eyes.

Nick steps from behind the bed -- He sits down in the chair --
-

The Messiah's hand touches his shoulder --

NICK
-- Why are you showing me this?

MESSIAH
Everyone's child needs to know that they are loved by their mother.

NICK
Can we go?

The Messiah points -- Nick stands up -- and steps out of the room --

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

Nick sits on a bench. He looks around. The Messiah steps towards him and the bench --

MESSIAH
Are you ready?

NICK
Where are we going?

MESSIAH
Where do you want to go?

NICK
I want to see my wife.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD-VALENS RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Brenda sits on her knees, with her gloved hands deep into the soil. Planting flowers. Across from Brenda, in a **GAZEBO**, is Nick. He turns his head and looks at Brenda. Nick grabs a **red rose** and yanks it off the rose bush. He walks towards Brenda and kneels down. He brushes his hands through her hair.

NICK
You'll always be beautiful to me.

BRENDA
Why can't it be like this forever?

NICK
It will.

Nick kisses Brenda on the lips.

NICK (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Bye.

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING

SUPER: 2067

LEILA, 18. A high school senior and mother to be. Dark hair, brown eyes.

NURSES #1 and #2. Early 30s and late 40s.

Leila lays in the bed. Nurse #1 grips onto Leila's hand --

LEILA
(pant)

Nurse #1 wipes the sweat from Leila's forehead --

Nurse #2 holds her hands between her legs --

NURSE (SUBTITLE)
(In Spanish)
-- Come on, honey! One more push!!

Leila pushes -- Leila drops her head back to the pillow --

The sound of a baby wailing --

Nick turns his head away from the sight of seeing the newborn covered in blood.

MESSIAH
What's the matter?

NICK
The baby is covered in blood!

MESSIAH
You were covered in blood too. Do you want to see?

NICK
No!

MESSIAH
(laugh)

NICK
Tell me when it's over!

Nick covers his eyes --

MESSIAH
-- It's over --

-- Nick takes his hand off -- He looks -- and rushes away --

NICK (O.S.)
Man!!

MESSIAH
(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

Nick looks around --

NICK
-- Where are we now!

MESSIAH
Turn around and see.

Nick turns --

NICHOLAS, 38. A police detective. A caring man with a big heart.

Nicholas holds the infant in his arms --

NICK
-- He's the father!

MESSIAH
No. He rescued her.

NICK
Who is he?

MESSIAH
He's your grandson.

NICK
I'd ask more questions, but I rather not be surprised by your answers.

MESSIAH
I can tell you that he's a good man. It took a lot of heart to take in a child that wasn't his own.

Nicholas kisses the infant on the forehead --

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

SUPER: SMITH FARM 2080

Nick stands in the middle of a bedroom. He looks around and sees a girl sitting at a desk. SIERRA, 12 Years Old. Seventh grade student. Light brown hair, brown eyes. A well-mannered young girl with a sweet presence.

Nick steps towards the desk -- and crouches down -- He stares at her --

NICK

-- I don't know why you're showing me this little girl.

MESSIAH

Just to show you that there are people that you are about to reach or inspire. Your daughters, grandson and great-granddaughters.

NICK

Lola did good. She raised a good man.

MESSIAH

She raised him but he's not hers.

NICK

What are you telling me?

MESSIAH

You said you were going through a phase, well, someone that married into the family took advantage of your family. Your daughters.

NICK

He slept with both of them.

Nick stands up -- He looks at Sierra --

NICK (CONT'D)

-- She seems like a good girl.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON

SUPER: 2028

Nick sits on the couch --

The Messiah steps past Nick --

MESSIAH

-- I'll be back. Try not to do anything without me. And I mean nothing.

NICK
I can't promise you anything.

The Messiah opens the front door -- and steps outside -- The door slams shut --

Nick looks around and sees a **baseball bat** leaned up against the wall.

NICK (CONT'D)
-- Time to squash a head!

Nick steps towards the front door -- He opens it -- and rings the **doorbell** -- He shuts it --

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-AFTERNOON (DREAM SEQUENCE)

BARRY SMITH, 22. A police detective and Lola's husband.

Barry sits on the sofa. He watches television. The doorbell rings. Barry gets up -- and steps towards the door -- He opens it --

Nick steps in --

BARRY
-- You --

-- Nick punches Barry across the face -- Barry falls to his butt -- Nick slams the door shut -- He grabs the baseball bat from the wall -- He swings it around --

NICK
-- Batter up!!

-- Nick swings the bat towards Barry's head -- Barry ducks -- and rolls himself -- He crawls towards the coffee table -- Nick steps towards the coffee table -- and lifts it -- The coffee table falls on top of Barry -- Nick drives his foot into the table --

BARRY
-- Stop!!

NICK
Pussy!!

-- Nick pulls the table away from Barry -- He raises the bat over his head --

NICK (CONT'D)
 -- Time to take your medicine!!

Nick swings the bat down towards Barry's face --

BARRY
 (scream)

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

Barry sits up from under the covers -- His head drenched in sweat -- Lola sits up -- and caresses his face --

LOLA
 -- It was just a dream --

BARRY
 -- I -- He --

-- Barry lays back --

LOLA
 Shh!!

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-MORNING

Lola sits on the toilet -- Her underpants down to her ankles --

Nick looks away --

NICK
 -- Oh, girlie!! Please!! I had to change you when you were a baby. I don't need to see that! Geez!

LOLA
 (giggle)

Barry steps into the bathroom -- He looks at Lola --

BARRY
 -- What's so funny?

LOLA
 Nothing.

BARRY

You obviously are laughing about something.

LOLA

You wouldn't get it.

BARRY

Fine. Are you almost done? I got to take a shower.

LOLA

It's all yours --

-- Lola pulls up her underpants -- and stands up -- She steps out of the bathroom.

INT. KITCHEN-MORNING

Nick leans against the counter and watches Lola. The Messiah steps beside him --

MESSIAH

-- What'd I miss?

NICK

It's just getting good.

Lola stands in front of the **stove** -- and cooks **scrambled eggs** and **bacon**. Barry walks into the kitchen. He grabs a coffee mug -- and grabs the coffee pot -- He pours coffee into the mug -- Barry puts the coffee pot down on the burner-- He takes a sip from the mug -- and looks at Lola -- He lowers the mug --

BARRY

-- What was so funny earlier?

LOLA

Like I said, you wouldn't get it.

BARRY

I mean, humor me. I did have a nightmare about your father.

MESSIAH

What did you do?

NICK

I had a little fun.

MESSIAH

This is what happens when you
interfere with their lives. Things
get ugly.

NICK

I can't disagree with you there.

LOLA

Oh, you dreamed about dad.

-- A wicked smile stretches across her face -- and she takes
a sip of her coffee --

"Easy" by The Commodores plays.

BARRY

Don't laugh at me!

Nick's ears start to ring with a high pitch sound. He leans
his head down to the counter.

NICK

(yell)

Nick covers his ears.

Lola throws the mug at Barry -- and it crashes into the wall
--

LOLA

-- Fuck you --

-- Barry tosses his mug at Lola -- Lola ducks -- and the mug
hits the refrigerator --

BARRY

-- I can throw too!

Lola turns off the burners -- and grabs the two **cast-iron
skillets** --

BARRY (CONT'D)

-- Come on. Let's not get rowdy.

LOLA

You fucked my sister!!

NICK

-- I can't hear anything!!

MESSIAH

My world, my rules.

Nick looks at the Messiah. He can't make out the words he's speaking.

NICK

What!!

The Messiah puts his finger to his mouth --

MESSIAH

-- Shh!!

-- Barry rushes towards the front door -- Lola runs after him
--

The Messiah puts his hands together --

MESSIAH (CONT'D)

-- I had nothing to do with this,
father. Please forgive him!

The ringing in his ears goes away -- Nick gets off the stool
--

NICK

(yell)

What was that!

MESSIAH

When it comes to being here, I'm in
charge!! Free will is a gift here
and there. I decide what is
pleasing to the ears.

The Messiah touches Nick's eyes with the tips of his fingers
--

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE-AFTERNOON

SUPER: TWO WEEKS EARLIER

Nick and Brenda *salsa dance* in the middle of the produce aisle -- He lifts her off the floor -- and holds her close to him --

Nick looks at himself dancing with Brenda.

MESSIAH

You always knew how to make her
smile.

NICK
Thank you for this moment.

The Messiah touches Nick on the face -- and a flash of light shines.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

SUPER: 2003

Nick lies asleep in the middle of the park.

MESSIAH
Time to wake up!!
(clap)

Nick opens his eyes -- He sits up on his knees -- and looks across the park. He sees himself with Brenda, and infant Nicola.

NICK
(sob)

Nick wipes his eyes --

The Messiah touches his shoulder --

NICK (CONT'D)
-- Am I forgiven?

MESSIAH
You are.

NICK
I'm ready to move on.

Nick stands up -- He turns towards the sun -- The sun shines bright as he approaches it.

NICK (V.O.)
I'll see you on the other side.
Until then, God be with you all.

FADE OUT:

THE END