

AFTERSHOCK

EXT. RAWLEY ACADEMY - MORNING - ESTABLISHING

The sun rises as a few rays of light reflect off the snow-dusted campus.

MUSIC: WIND LET LOOSE BY SMALL WONDER

WILL (V.O.)

Boom.

INT. JAKE'S DORM ROOM - MORNING

The bedding is strewn down into the floor. Items of clothes, Jake's and Hamilton's, are scattered nearby.

WILL (V.O.)

It all blows up.

A cracked window lets a breeze shuffle the pages of a Seventeen magazine that lays atop Jake's closed laptop.

WILL (V.O.)

The storm hits.

Her cell phone is on the desk and plugged into a charger. It buzzes and slides toward the edge.

WILL (V.O.)

The earth shifts.

The phone buzz-slides onto the floor. The buzzing stops.

WILL (V.O.)

Then silence.

INT. RAWLEY DORM HALLWAY - MORNING

The hallway is empty and quiet.

WILL (V.O.)

Then calm.

EXT. RAWLEY CAMPUS - LAKE - MORNING

A gust of wind blows through then dies down.

WILL (V.O.)
Then stillness.

In the distance, a person, bundled up in winter gear, treks toward the dorms.

INT. JAKE'S DORM ROOM - MORNING

The door opens as the trekker, actually Jill, walks in and looks around. She notices the window and rushes over to it, pulling it closed. She tugs off her hat, scarf and gloves, tossing them down onto Jake's desk chair.

Jill looks around with a frown. The phone starts buzzing again. She walks over and picks it up.

JILL
Uh, hello?

She listens a moment then takes a deep breath.

WILL (V.O.)
Then comes the aftershock.

JILL
No, she's... not here.

INT. BANKS LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Nicholas, still in his clothes from the night before, sits on the couch. Bella is curled up next to him, covered by a blanket. He listens on the phone for a long beat.

NICHOLAS
Uh huh... Right, but... Wait, so you're saying--

INT. JAKE'S DORM ROOM - MORNING

JILL
She's gone.

WILL (V.O.)
Not quite as devastating as that first blow, but disruptive nonetheless.

INT. BANKS LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Nicholas hangs his head, running a hand through his hair as he continues to listen on the phone.

NICHOLAS

All right, well, thanks, Jill. And get my number out of her phone, okay? Call me if you hear anything.

He hangs up his cell, takes a deep breath then puts a hand on Bella's leg, gently waking her. She smiles.

BELLA

Good morning.

NICHOLAS

Not exactly.

WILL (V.O.)

An indefinite series of repercussions.

INT. RAWLEY DORM HALLWAY - MORNING

Scout exits his room and notices Jake's door ajar. He walks over, peeking his head in.

SCOUT

Jake?

JILL (O.S.)

Nope.

INT. JAKE'S DORM ROOM - MORNING

A large duffel bag lays open on Jake's bed. Jill has a pair of cargo pants in her hands.

JILL

But come on in.

Scout steps in and looks around. Jill folds the pants and places them into the bag.

SCOUT

Oh, no...

Jill sighs.

WILL (V.O.)
Each new pulsating hit disrupts...

DEXTER (O.S.)
Hey, hello? Jake? Grace just called
and said...

Dexter walks in and sees Jill and the bag.

DEXTER
So it's true?

Jill nods.

WILL (V.O.)
And the damage spreads.

SEAN (O.S.)
Hey, I got here as fast as I...

Sean stops when he enters and sees everyone. He sighs when he sees Scout, but Jill, upset, goes straight to Sean and wraps her arms around his neck, hugging him to her.

SEAN
Okay. Okay. It'll be okay.

Scout walks past them over to Jake's laptop and holds it up to get Dexter's attention. Dexter nods and joins him.

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

Steven leans against the counter, eating toast from a plate. Kate sits at the table, drinking coffee. They both look exhausted.

STEVEN
This is not okay.

KATE
I didn't say it was, but you're
being so unreasonable.

STEVEN
This conversation is over.

He tosses the plate down and walks out.

WILL (V.O.)
And in the aftershock, everyone
realizes that nothing will ever be
the same again.

FADE OUT

OPENING CREDITS

FADE IN

INT. JAKE'S DORM ROOM - MORNING

MUSIC: LIFE FOR RENT BY DIDO

Sean and Jill have moved near the bed, packing a pile of clothes into the duffel bag. Dexter sits at Jake's laptop while Scout stands behind him, watching over his shoulder.

DEXTER

Okay, so we're definitely going to have to wipe this. I'll do an off site back-up on her secure server just in case she doesn't have it programmed to run automatically. Then I'll make it squeaky clean.

Sean turns to them as Jill continues packing.

SEAN

Really? Is that necessary?

SCOUT

She hacked her way into an all boys school so... what do you think?

DEXTER

She's also repeatedly accessed her mom's bank account to buy... pretty much whatever she wants.

SCOUT

Like her motorcycle.

JILL

Oh my God. Her motorcycle. What am I going to do about that? I can't drive that thing to New York. And I can't exactly send it with my dad. Monica would kill her.

SCOUT

If she was going to kill her, wouldn't she have done it by now?

JILL

I don't know. Getting caught doing it with your model of a boyfriend in a dorm room is more Monica's brand of drama. You know, as opposed to potential bodily injury.

DEXTER

Did you just say...

SCOUT

They got caught--

JILL

Yep. Though, I guess, technically, he was a few minutes late to the main event, but--

SEAN

They didn't lock the door?

SCOUT

Yeah, Jake is definitely OCD about locking her door. Especially when... I mean, not that we had that exact experience, but--

JILL

Okay, ew, no one was asking.

Sean chuckles.

JILL

Also, Ham's dad... used his key. I mean, what a creep.

SCOUT

Oh, whoa, what? That's weird. Isn't the board policy that school officials have to announce all inspections? Maybe I should see if my dad would be willing to--

JILL

If Jacqueline tells us to do that, then we will, but for right now--

DEXTER

We pack.

JILL

We pack.

She looks to Sean. He nods.

SEAN

We pack. You got it.

She looks at Scout pointedly. He holds up both hands in surrender.

SCOUT

Yeah, okay. We pack.

Jill nods and turns back to packing, but Scout's wheels are still spinning.

INT. BANKS KITCHEN - MORNING

Bella and Nick sit at the kitchen table, sipping coffee.

BELLA

So she just... packed up her stuff and left with her mom in the middle of the night?

NICHOLAS

Jill is actually over there packing her stuff right now.

BELLA

She's really expelled?

Nicholas looks down into his coffee.

NICHOLAS

So it would seem.

BELLA

Is there anything you can do?

NICHOLAS

I don't know...

GRACE (O.S.)

Really? You don't? 'Cause I do.

She walks in and looks down at them with a smile.

EXT. NYC - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

The city looks cold and slower than normal.

EXT. PRATT APARTMENT - NYC - MORNING

Snow falls in front of the building.

MUSIC: DON'T LET ME GET ME BY PINK

INT. PRATT KITCHEN - MORNING

Monica sits with her arms folded across her very pregnant belly. She stares at Jake who eats a bowl of cereal, the crunching filling the otherwise silent room. Both are in pajamas and looking fresh out of bed.

Monica exhales a quick, frustrated sigh.

MONICA
(laying in)
I really don't know how you could do this, Jacqueline.

JAKE
Well, it was honestly pretty simple. I just--

MONICA
Not "how did you do it?" I'm not looking for a manual here. I'm asking how could you do it? Why would you do it? Explain that.

Jake starts to speak, but stops.

JAKE
I'd rather not...

Monica looks at her for a long beat as Jake takes another bite of cereal and chews. A beat.

MONICA
I spoke to my therapist and--

JAKE
I'm not going to see your shrink--

Jake takes another bite of cereal.

MONICA
She knows someone who specializes in gender identity disorders--

JAKE
(mouth full)
Disorder?

MONICA
That's what they call it.

Jake lets her spoon rest on the side of the cereal bowl. She folds her arms and takes a deep breath.

JAKE
So... your assessment of this situation is that I'm some kind of messed up freak because I decided to wear pants for a couple year?

MONICA
I'm not sure I've heard someone so successfully use, simultaneously, both hyperbole and understatement.

Jake sighs and rolls her eyes.

JAKE
Finn would be so proud.

She picks up her spoon again. A beat. She drops the spoon again.

JAKE
I didn't do it to be a boy, okay?

Monica raises her eyebrows.

JAKE
I did it, at least at first, to see if it would... get your attention.

Monica stares at her a moment.

MONICA
Well, you certainly have my attention, that's for sure.

Jake chuckles once.

JAKE
And it only took two and a half years...

Monica purses her lips.

MONICA
And when it became clear that I was
too stupid to catch on?

JAKE
Not stupid. Just...

MONICA
Clueless?

JAKE
No, Mom.

MONICA
Then what, Jacqueline?

Jake doesn't want to say.

MONICA
(insistent)
What?

JAKE
Selfish, okay? You were selfish.
You are selfish. And self-involved.
And self-serving. And you've
ignored me my whole life so...

Monica's face falls. Jake sighs.

JAKE
I'm sorry. This is why I didn't
want to talk about it. I don't mean
to hurt you. It's just--

MONICA
The truth.

Jake looks off.

JAKE
It stopped being about that a long
time ago, though. Your attention
really didn't matter because--

MONICA
You had someone else's attention.

Jake arches an eyebrow.

MONICA
Hamilton.

Jake smiles at his name. Monica narrows her eyes.

MONICA
I thought you two broke up.

JAKE
Yeah...

MONICA
And then...

JAKE
We got back together?

MONICA
Clearly.

EXT. FLEMING HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

MUSIC: CLEANIN' OUT MY CLOSET BY EMINEM (ACOUSTIC COVER)

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

Hamilton sits silently at the kitchen table. His mother stands at the stove, scrambling eggs. A Pop Tart sits on a plate, uneaten, next to a glass of orange juice.

HAMILTON
Mom?

KATE
Hm?

HAMILTON
I'm sorry.

She stares down into the eggs.

HAMILTON
I was careless, and I put you in a horrible position with dad.

She turns to face him.

KATE
Don't be ridiculous. I put myself in this position.

A beat.

KATE

Though you could have given me a heads up about... you know...

Hamilton raises his eyebrows.

HAMILTON

What?

INT. PRATT KITCHEN - MORNING

MONICA

Sex, Jacqueline. I mean, you didn't think we were just going to skip over that part, did you?

Jake picks up her cereal bowl, drinking some milk and delaying the inevitable. Monica blinks, but doesn't budge.

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

HAMILTON

It was just... new, that's all.

INT. PRATT KITCHEN - MORNING

JAKE

I mean, it was literally the second time we ever did it.

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

KATE

You used protection, of course?

INT. PRATT KITCHEN - MORNING

JAKE

God, Mom, seriously?

MONICA

I think it's a fair question.

JAKE

You think it's a fair question? To ask me if he had a chance to--

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

HAMILTON
Come on. Of course, I did.

Kate smiles, relieved. A beat.

KATE
Can I ask you something personal?

HAMILTON
More personal than what you've
already asked me?

INT. PRATT KITCHEN - MORNING

MONICA
Was he really your first?

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

HAMILTON
You know she was.

KATE
I just thought maybe you and--

INT. PRATT KITCHEN - MORNING

JAKE
Scout? No. We... no.

MONICA
And Hamilton?

JAKE
Did he ever have sex with Scout?

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

HAMILTON
God, no.

KATE
Okay, well, you don't have to say
it like that. She was... nice.

HAMILTON
Alyssa was very nice, but she
wasn't--

INT. PRATT KITCHEN - MORNING

MONICA
Jacqueline?

JAKE
Yeah?

MONICA
Thank you.

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

KATE
For the honesty. It means a lot.

HAMILTON
You know, I was never trying not to
be. Honest, that is. It was just--

INT. PRATT KITCHEN - MORNING

MONICA
New. I get it.

JAKE
Great, so can we never talk about
this again? Please?

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

KATE
Was it really that hard?

Hamilton stares at her until a knock at the door interrupts.

HAMILTON
Saved by the knock.

Hamilton glances at the door then at his mom. She nods.
Hamilton gets up to reveal Scout.

SCOUT
Hi.

Kate glances back over her shoulder.

HAMILTON
Hey.

SCOUT
Um...

HAMILTON
Yeah...

Hamilton walks back to the table. Scout takes it as an invitation and enters, closing the door behind him.

KATE
Good Morning, Scout. Would you like some eggs?

Scout looks at Hamilton who shakes his head.

SCOUT
Sure. Thank you, Mrs. Fleming.

Hamilton rolls his eyes. Kate walks over with a plate for each of them. Scout eats. Hamilton doesn't.

HAMILTON
(to Scout)
So I'm basically being held prisoner.

KATE
Hamilton, stop.

HAMILTON
(to Scout)
Super nice and amazing good cop is on duty now, but bad cop will be back in t minus...

Steven enters.

HAMILTON
Zero seconds.

Steven looks at Scout with a furrowed brow.

STEVEN
What's this?

Scout slows down on his egg eating and looks up at the dean innocently. He swallows.

SCOUT
Breakfast?

STEVEN
Didn't you room with Jake for
awhile, Scout?

Scout glances at Hamilton. He shakes his head again. This time Scout takes the advice and keeps his mouth shut.

STEVEN
How many of you boys knew?

Scout takes the last bite of his eggs.

STEVEN
Did you pass her around? Is that
what this is? Some kind of--

SCOUT
(disgusted)
Hey, come on.

KATE
(admonishing)
Steven, really.

Hamilton clenches his jaw, his face turning red. Scout takes notice and gives him a quick pat on the back.

SCOUT (CONT'D)
Deep breaths, Ham.

Hamilton inhales then exhales deeply, staring his father down.

STEVEN
I thought maybe she was confused,
but now I get it. She's a slut.

Kate's jaw drops.

KATE
Steven!

Hamilton stands and heads for his father.

HAMILTON
Shut up. Shut. Up.

SCOUT
Whoa. Whoa, whoa, whoa!

He's up and between them, pushing against Hamilton.

HAMILTON
Don't you ever say anything like
that again, do you hear me?

STEVEN
Finish your breakfast. It's almost
time for school.

The dean walks out of the room.

KATE
Hamilton, you have to stop this.

Scout takes a step back from him. Hamilton turns to her.

HAMILTON
Mom, it's not me, and you know
that. It's him. He's... he's being
totally unreasonable.

SCOUT
And mean. That was... mean.

KATE
(to Hamilton)
He's hurt. Same as you.

HAMILTON
No. He's nothing like me.

INT. BELLA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Grace, Bella and Nicholas sit around the table.

BELLA
I really don't like where you're
going with this, Gracie.

GRACE
You got that psycho teacher to back
the hell off, didn't you?

BELLA
Yes, but--

GRACE
Now all you gotta do is use the
same ammo on the dean.

Nicholas looks down. He sighs.

NICHOLAS

(hesitant)

We could, I guess. I'm already on thin ice with Dean Fleming thinking Alivia Dalton and I--

BELLA

No.

GRACE

What? Why?

BELLA

(to Nicholas)

You already put yourself at risk going to Mrs. Dalton. And we know that he confides in her so--

GRACE

So she tells him about you two? So what? He'll have to keep his cheating lips sealed on that, too, unless he wants his wife to find out about his own errors in judgment.

A beat as Bella and Nicholas look at one another.

NICHOLAS

You free after school?

She raises her eyebrows.

FADE OUT

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FADE IN

EXT. RAWLEY GIRLS' SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

A few girls walk around the campus, but it's still early and not too busy.

MUSIC: SHUGA SHACK BY THE GETAWAY PEOPLE

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ALYSSA AND JILL'S ROOM - MORNING

A hand knocks on the door. We pull out to show Will, jacket and backpack on, as Alyssa opens the door. She smiles when she sees him.

ALYSSA
Hi.

WILL
Good morning.

ALYSSA
I agree.

He looks down, putting his hands in his pockets.

WILL
I was wondering if I could, um...
walk you to class?

He nods over his shoulder.

ALYSSA
You came all the way over here in
the freezing cold to ask if you
could walk me to class?

WILL
Uh huh.

ALYSSA
And what if I had said no?

WILL
Well, you haven't said yes yet.

She tucks her hair behind her ear and twists her lips, barely concealing her smile.

ALYSSA
Class doesn't start for another
forty-five minutes. Want to come in
while I think about it?

He chuckles.

WILL
Uh huh.

INT. JILL AND ALYSSA'S ROOM - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Will walks in and closes the door behind him. In an instant, Alyssa is kissing him, arms around his neck. He is surprised at first, but then slides his hands up to her hips, pulling her closer to him. They part slightly.

WILL

Even better morning.

She grins and moves in to kiss him again. As they kiss, they move closer to Alyssa's bed. Will lets his backpack slip off and down to the floor. Alyssa pushes his jacket off, too.

The backs of Alyssa's legs hit her bed so she sits down then pulls Will down with her as she lays back. He kisses her as he kicks his shoes off and he positions himself above her.

Will uses an elbow to hold himself up as he slides his free hand up her leg, hip and side. He moves his kisses from her mouth to just behind her ear. She inhales sharply and bites on her lip, running a hand through the hair on the back of his head.

He moves his lips back to hers, encouraged by the touch of the hand she slides under the back of his shirt. Suddenly, though, she flings her arms down to the sides and pulls away from his kiss.

ALYSSA

Wait. Wait...

The music screeches to a halt. He pulls back to look her in the eye with an arched eyebrow.

WILL

You okay?

ALYSSA

I don't know.

Will frowns and moves off of her, laying next to her with his head propped on his elbow. He licks his lips, out of breath. She stares at the ceiling, cheek flushed.

WILL

That was...

ALYSSA

(decisive)

Unparalleled.

Will smiles. Alyssa pushes and sits herself up, back against the wall at the head of the bed. Will moves up to join her.

WILL
 (suggesting)
 But... it was also... too fast? Too
 much? Too far?

ALYSSA
 Too good.

WILL
 Oh.

He looks over at her with a crinkled brow.

WILL
 What?

She looks into his eyes for a moment then away.

ALYSSA
 I guess I always thought this is
 what a relationship was.

She gestures to the bed.

WILL
 Sex?

She shrugs.

ALYSSA
 Or... the whole purpose of a
 relationship was to eventually...

WILL
 Have it.

She nods.

ALYSSA
 I'm also realizing that I've said
 the word "relationship" twice in
 the past thirty seconds and you
 haven't even--

WILL
 Walked you to class yet?

She smiles and he can't resist. He leans in to give her a
 soft, chaste kiss. He stays close.

WILL
 Humid seal of soft affections,
 Tenderest pledge of future bliss,

WILL
Dearest tie of young connections,
Love's first snowdrop, virgin kiss!

ALYSSA
Robert Burns?

He smiles, placing another kiss on her lips.

WILL
Speaking silence, dumb confession,
Passion's birth, and infant's play,
Dove-like fondness, chaste
concession,
Glowing dawn of future day

He leans away and puts his head against the wall. A beat.

WILL
And, I'm interested, if that's what
you're asking. In more than making
out on cold, winter mornings.

He takes her hand into his and pulls it up to his lips,
contemplating a moment.

WILL
In more than sex. In more than
walking you to class. I'm just...
interested... in you.

A beat.

ALYSSA
In the past six months, I've dated
all these boys. All these idiotic
boys who--

WILL
Are all my really good friends.

ALYSSA
Yeah...

WILL
So I think I know them well enough
to say they were all selfish. They
used you to get over someone else
or to explore something new or...
just to prove they could.

She looks down.

ALYSSA
 Maybe that's why it didn't feel
 like this.

WILL
 Like what?

She considers. He releases her hand as she moves around to face him on the bed. He draws his legs up to sit Indian style and she does the same.

ALYSSA
 You spark something in me, Will.
 The conversations we've had. The
 words we've traded. The kisses
 we've shared. That... just now...

She sighs.

ALYSSA
 How can it all be that good?

WILL
 Well, it's obviously because I'm
 perfect. And, also, you've been
 dating a bunch of chumps...

She raises her eyebrows.

ALYSSA
 You mean all your really good
 friends?

He chuckles and leans toward her, giving her another gentle kiss. They stay close, foreheads touching.

WILL
 You ready to go to class yet?

She sighs and shakes her head, letting her lips linger near his another moment as she speaks:

ALYSSA
 Sorrowing joy, Adieu's last action,
 (Lingering lips must now disjoin),
 What words can ever speak affection
 So thrilling and sincere as thine!

WILL
 Kind of ironic.

ALYSSA

What is?

WILL

Well, the poem says a kiss tells more than words... as you use its words to completely and utterly...

He kisses her more passionately.

WILL

Make me want to...

She leans into his kiss. They barely part.

WILL

Bid anything but adieu.

She laughs softly as they continue to kiss.

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - MORNING

Kate stands at the sink washing dishes.

KATE

(shouting)

Hamilton? Are you almost ready? We need to--

She stops shouting as he walks into the room, dressed in his coat and bag ready.

KATE

Leave soon.

HAMILTON

I want you to know, the only reason I'm going along with this little lock down routine is because it's how Jake wants to do this. By the book. So if there's any chance that the dean--

KATE

The dean? You mean your father.

HAMILTON

If there's any chance the dean will let Jake come back then I don't want to screw that up.

Kate sighs, drying off her hands. She walks up to Hamilton and puts a hand on his shoulder.

KATE

In that case, I want you to know, you're going to need to change your approach if you expect to get anywhere with him.

He frowns, but considers.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

MUSIC: WHITE FLAG BY DIDO

Steven sits at his desk. Alivia sits in a chair on the other side of the desk, casually grading a stack of papers.

ALIVIA

On the plus side, he's not gay.

Steven shakes his head.

STEVEN

This is worse. This is so much worse. What am I going to do?

ALIVIA

I don't know, Steven. Expel the girl, and move on with your life?

She continues to grade the papers.

STEVEN

Something has to change.

Her pen pauses just a moment, but then continues.

STEVEN

I can't take this anymore. I've risked my marriage and destroyed my relationship with my son. All for what? I keep asking myself that question. Why am I doing this?

She tosses her papers on his desk. He has her attention now.

STEVEN

I'm going to tell Kate everything.

ALIVIA

I see.

STEVEN
I'm sorry, Alivia.

ALIVIA
When you're confessing your sins,
be sure you include the part where
you got your mistress pregnant.

The dean stares at her, his jaw slowly dropping.

INT. MONICA'S BEDROOM - PRATT APARTMENT - MORNING

MUSIC: MAMA BY CRYSTAL BOWERSOX

Greg lounges on the bed, reading from a script. Monica enters from a walk-in closet. She exits looking pretty and put together, even with her large belly.

MONICA
I'm tired of being pregnant.

GREG
Well, you won't be for much longer.

MONICA
I know. And then I have the
opportunity to screw up another
child. Hooray...

She sits down on the bed with a sigh. Greg slides over and puts his feet on the floor to sit next to her.

GREG
Jacqueline is not screwed up.

A beat.

MONICA
Did you know?

Greg grimaces at the question.

MONICA
Because I'm thinking back, and you
had to have known.

Greg looks down.

MONICA
You did. Oh my God.

He pushes his eyes closed then opens them slowly.

GREG

I'm sorry. The girls asked me to keep it quiet.

MONICA

I'm not mad. Not at you. Not at her. I just feel so foolish.

He puts an arm around her, pulling her close.

MONICA

I'm a terrible mother.

GREG

You are not a terrible mother.

MONICA

And now I have to figure out how to dish out consequences like a real mom would.

GREG

You are a real mom. Stop blaming yourself for this.

MONICA

Who else is there to blame? She called me selfish, you know. And said I've ignored her all her life. That she did this to get my attention? Can you believe that?

GREG

Well...

MONICA

I thought I was giving her space to be her own person and make her own choices, but what if she's right? And what if I do it again?

She places a hand on her stomach. Greg smiles.

GREG

I'm not worried.

He smiles and lean his forehead into hers, kissing her.

GREG

And about your poor, ignored daughter, you did give her space, and you're not responsible for the choices she made there. And,

GREG
really, looking at those choices,
she could have done much worse.

Monica tilts her head.

MONICA
I suppose you're right.

GREG
In fact, if you want to get
involved now, if you want to try to
make up for lost time... maybe
instead of figuring out some way to
punish her, you should step up and
find a way to support her, get her
out of this mess.

Monica nods, thinking. A beat.

MONICA
You know, you're right. You're a
pretty good partner in this
parenting thing. Thank God.

She glances down at her belly then back at him. He moves in
to kiss her again.

INT. RAWLEY CLASSROOMS - MORNING

MUSIC: HIGH AS THE MOON BY THE GET UP KIDS

Outside of a classroom, Alyssa leans against the wall while
Will leans in close, a hand on the wall holding him up.

ALYSSA
I'll see you in my mom's class?

WILL
I'll be counting the minutes.

He puts his nose even closer to hers.

WILL
Consider this kiss only a temporary
adieu. Okay?

She nods as he moves in to kiss her. It's short, but
oh-so-sweet. When he pulls away, both are flushed. He grins.

WILL

Bye...

He steps back. She offers him a little wave. He turns around and walks off as she enters the classroom.

MUSIC: TROUBLE BY BUTCH WALKER

Before Will can get to the hall corner, Scout comes rushing around it.

SCOUT

Oh, Will, there you are. I was looking everywhere for you.

He looks up, catching the dopey look on Will's face.

WILL

I was walking Alyssa to class.

SCOUT

Ah... that explains why you're wearing lipstick.

Will wipes his lips with the back of his hand.

SCOUT

And speaking of cross-dressing... the reason I was looking for you...

Will smirks. Scout's look turns more serious.

SCOUT

Jake and Hamilton got caught.

Will drops the smirk.

WILL

Got caught? Got caught doing what?

Scout rolls his eyes.

SCOUT

(sarcastic)

Rearranging the furniture in Jake's dorm room.

Will narrows his eyes.

SCOUT

But seriously. Got caught-caught. By the dean, man. Jake's gone.

WILL

Wait. Gone? Gone-gone?

SCOUT

Gone-gone. Gone. The dean kicked her out. Her mom came and got her in the middle of the night.

Hamilton and his mom walk around the corner. Scout sees them first and Will follows his eyes. Scout and Will turn to them as they walk up.

WILL

Ham... hi, buddy.

He glances at Kate, but looks at Hamilton.

WILL

I'm so sorry, man.

Hamilton gives a halfhearted smile.

HAMILTON

Thanks.

Scout and Will glance at Kate again.

HAMILTON

I have to be escorted to all my classes. Apparently, I'm a flight risk. Even though I don't have a car... or a cell phone.

WILL

Prisoner in your own school.

Hamilton nods. Kate rolls her eyes.

KATE

Luckily, he made friends with one of the guards.

She puts her arm around Hamilton's shoulder and guides him on down the hall. Will and Scout watch them go.

INT. ANOTHER RAWLEY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Hamilton and Kate almost run into Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

Oh, there you are. Hey.

He nods toward his drama classroom, just behind him. They all step aside and into the room.

NICHOLAS

So... what's the plan here?

Hamilton sighs and looks at his mom.

KATE

There is no plan.

NICHOLAS

Jake--Jacqueline is gone... and there is no plan?

Hamilton folds his arms.

HAMILTON

The plan is to stay here. And do absolutely nothing. Apparently.

KATE

(to Hamilton)

Well, you're the one that said Jake wanted you to try and play by your father's rules. I'm just trying to help you do that a little better.

(to Nicholas)

The plan is for Hamilton to speak to his father like a mature young man instead of an angry, angsty teenage boy.

Hamilton stares ahead. Off Ham's look:

NICHOLAS

Right... well... is there a plan B?

KATE

Look, my advice to you? Stay out of it. I know she's your sister and you want to help, but he's putting a letter of reprimand in my file--

HAMILTON

What?

KATE

And I'm his wife. What do you think he'll do to you if he gets anywhere near the truth about your relationship with Jake?

Nicholas cups his chin, thinking.

KATE

So unless you can pull some strings
from a distance, stay away. Okay?

Nicholas nods.

NICHOLAS

Yeah. Thanks. Thank you.

He gives Hamilton a resolute look.

KATE

Let's go before your father sends
out a search party.

Hamilton gives Nicholas one more pleading look before
exiting the room with his mother.

EXT. EDMUND HIGH - MORNING

School is in session and the campus is quiet.

INT. DETENTION - EDMUND HIGH - MORNING

MUSIC: TROUBLE BY PINK

Sean sits in the back of the room. Most people have their
heads down, asleep. Sean has a book propped up in front of
him. He glances up every so often at the teacher who is
reading a novel.

The door opens and Bella walks in. She sets a pass on the
teacher's desk, but the teacher barely looks up. Bella sees
Sean and walks back to him, sitting next to him.

Behind the book, Sean is using his phone to write a text.

SEAN

(whispered)

What are you in for?

BELLA

(whispered)

Third tardy. I just got here.

The teacher clears her throat. Sean and Bella look up to
find her drinking water and not looking their way.

BELLA

You?

Sean tosses her an ironic smile.

SEAN

Text messaging.

Bella chuckles softly.

BELLA

Jill?

He nods.

BELLA

About Jake?

He nods again, punching in some more characters.

SEAN

She's freaking out.

BELLA

Nick, too.

SEAN

Is there anything he can do?

BELLA

Maybe. He's got a plan.

Sean raises his eyebrows.

BELLA

In fact, if I'm just going to be stuck in detention all day, might as well see if we can get the ball rolling earlier... can I borrow your phone?

INT. DRAMA CLASSROOM - MORNING

Nicholas paces the room, on his phone.

NICHOLAS

(on phone)

Well, yeah, I have plenty of sick days, but... are you sure? I wouldn't want you to... okay. Well, the school nurse loves me so I can probably get approval on the day

NICHOLAS
 with no problem.... Sixties, wears
 her hair in a bun, why?... Give me
 thirty minutes... okay. Love you.

Nicholas hangs up, thinking. He nods decisively and walks
 out the door.

FADE OUT

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FADE IN

INT. RAWLEY CLASSROOM - ALIVIA'S CLASS - MIDDAY

MUSIC: HATERS BY HILARY DUFF

Tyson and Dexter sit in the back row. In front of them, Will
 and Scout sit on either side of Hamilton. Jill sits in front
 of Scout and Alyssa sits next to her. She glances back at
 Will who smiles. Hamilton notices the look and smiles to
 himself. Jill, on the other hand, rolls her eyes.

ALIVIA
 Currer Bell. Who was he?

Everyone looks up. Alivia waits. No one speaks.

ALIVIA
 Hamilton?

He exhales through puffed cheeks.

ALIVIA
 Were you too busy last night to
 complete the assigned reading?

HAMILTON
 Nope. Currer Bell. He... was a she.
 Charlotte Brontë. She wrote Jane
 Eyre.

WILL
 The lesser of the Brontës if you
 ask me.

ALIVIA
 Well, we're not. Asking you.

Alyssa covers her face with one hand.

ALIVIA
 (to Hamilton)
 Why do you think she did it?
 Pretended to be a male?

He shrugs.

HAMILTON
 Attention?

ALIVIA
 How simplistic.

SCOUT
 (rescuing him)
 The article said male authors were
 taken more seriously during the
 Victorian era. Her sisters did it,
 too. So they could get published.

JILL
 Emily was Ellis and Anne was Acton.

ALIVIA
 So Charlotte didn't really want to
 be a male?

WILL
 Of course, not. Jane Eyre is all
 about getting in those little digs
 at what it meant to be a woman in
 the Victorian era.

ALYSSA
 And writing under a male pen name
 was another way to undermine those
 stereotypes.

WILL
 Exactly.

They smile at one another. Alivia notices. Tyson notices the
 look from Alivia and offers up a deflection:

TYSON
 So... how did everyone finally find
 out about them anyway? The Brontës?

ALIVIA
 It's a long story--

SCOUT
Isn't it always with those women?

A few people laugh. Alivia frowns and shoots him a look.

SCOUT
Sorry, geez.

ALIVIA
To answer your question, Tyson, the others died, and Charlotte was left to keep the secret.

Alivia returns her gaze to Hamilton.

ALIVIA
But she started to get careless. This allowed people to figure it out. It was her fault, really.

HAMILTON
Maybe they all should have minded their own business.

She folds her arm.

ALIVIA
Indeed. Maybe they should have.

Dexter looks from Alivia to Hamilton, nervously twirling his pencil in his hand. Scout and Will glance at one another. Jill leans back in her seat, folding her arms.

JILL
So, anyway, Jane Eyre?

A beat as Alivia drags her eyes from Hamilton to Jill.

ALIVIA
Yes, Jane Eyre. Did she embody the ideal Victorian woman... or did she, as Will so preemptively suggested, undercut the stereotype?

DEXTER
Can't she do both?

Everyone looks back at him. He swallows.

ALIVIA
Well, your essay is going to be a nightmare to grade...

Dexter adjusts his glasses. Hamilton looks back and offers him a smile. Will and Scout just trade another look.

EXT. NICHOLAS' JETTA - NYC UPPER EASTSIDE - MIDDAY

The car sits, motionless, on a crowded street.

INT. NICHOLAS' JETTA - MIDDAY

Bella sits in the passenger seat. She glances at Nicholas who nervously taps the steering wheel.

BELLA

This traffic is a nightmare.

NICHOLAS

Welcome to New York.

A beat as Nicholas lays on the horn.

INT. DETENTION - EDMUND HIGH - MIDDAY

Sean still sits in the back, actually doing work now. The door open and Grace enters, dressed in a very short skirt.

MUSIC: TROUBLE BY PINK

Grace walks to the teacher's desk, but notices she is snoozing in her chair. She tosses her pass on the desk and spots Sean, making her way to him.

SEAN

What'd they get you for?

GRACE

Dress code violation.

A beat as she pulls down her skirt and we realize it's been intentionally hiked up. She sits down. Sean chuckles.

SEAN

What are you really doing here?

GRACE

Dex texted. Things seem to be slowly imploding at Rawley.

SEAN

Yep. Been on the line with Jill all day. Though it's been a little slow going since she's still re-learning the whole text messaging thing.

GRACE

Adorable. What's she saying?

SEAN

She thinks their English teacher somehow knows what's up--

GRACE

Shocker.

Sean narrows her eyes.

GRACE

Let me guess, she was slowly murdering Hamilton in some veiled attempt at teaching?

SEAN

Yeah, him and everyone else. Did Dexter tell you that?

Grace bites her lip.

GRACE

Kinda. Dex has been telling me about her all year. I think she's, like, for real, sadistic.

SEAN

Someone should warn Will.

GRACE

Why?

SEAN

Sado-teacher is Alyssa's mom, right?

GRACE

Yep.

SEAN

Her and Will...

GRACE

Ew. No. Don't tell me that. I don't like her either.

SEAN

Aw, come on. She's nice. Smart.

GRACE

Yep. Girl version of Will. That's gotta be the most boring relationship ever. "Let's hang out and recite poetry to one another." "Oh, no, let's write each other poetry instead." Snoozeville.

She imitates a snoring sound. Sean chuckles.

GRACE

Plus, she's dated, like, every friend he has at Rawley. Scout. Hamilton. Tyson.

Sean considers this.

SEAN

Not Dexter.

Grace glares over at him. Sean shakes his head.

SEAN

I hate to hear what you have to say about Jill and me...

GRACE

Well, Jill wasn't my favorite... until she got rebooted.

SEAN

Rebooted?

GRACE

(as if it were obvious)
My driving put her into a coma. She woke up new and improved--or old and improved, I guess. And in love with you. You're welcome for that, by the way.

Sean shakes his head.

GRACE

Though, even if she can't remember it, she loses points for every time she ever put her lips on Scout's because ew.

Sean laughs.

SEAN
Yeah, I'm with you on that.
(beat)
What about Bella and her guy?

GRACE
Her fiancé you mean?

Sean's jaw drops.

SEAN
Her what?

GRACE
You didn't hear it from me.

SEAN
Wow.

A beat.

GRACE
But, for the record, I like him.
And, since it couldn't be you, he's
okay for her happily ever after.

SEAN
And Dexter is okay for yours?

Grace smiles, and looks down.

GRACE
Yeah... yeah, he's kind of perfect
for that.

SEAN
Hey?

GRACE
What?

She looks up at him.

SEAN
You're pretty cool, you know that?

GRACE
Yup.

A beat.

SEAN

Think she'll notice if we skip out early?

He nods up to the teacher.

GRACE

Oh, God. I thought you'd never ask.

EXT. RAWLEY ACADEMY - AFTERNOON - ESTABLISHING

MUSIC: LIAR, LIAR BY NEVER SHOUT NEVER

Hamilton and his father walk down the hall together. Hamilton glances over at his dad who walks straight ahead. He shakes his head, but then goes for it...

HAMILTON

Dad, I'm sorry, okay?

Steven stops walking and turns to Hamilton who also stops.

HAMILTON

I'm sorry I put you in this position. I know it must be difficult for you to decide what to do about Jake, but I hope you'll--

STEVEN

It wasn't difficult. This was a flagrant violation of admissions and housing policies. I'm the dean. There was no choice. I had to recommend her for expulsion.

Hamilton raises his eyebrows.

HAMILTON

Had to? As in you already did it?

STEVEN

Yes.

Hamilton stares at him, swallowing.

HAMILTON

Were you even going to tell me?

STEVEN

I thought it was implied, son.

Hamilton inhales and exhales quickly. He steps back and leans against the wall.

HAMILTON

I can't even believe you. How could you do this to me?

STEVEN

You and Jake did this to yourselves.

HAMILTON

You know, Mom said I should try to reason with you. Talk to you honestly. Tell you how this girl... how she's my whole world. But none of it matters to you. All you care about is stupid school rules.

STEVEN

It's kind of my job, Hamilton.

HAMILTON

And I get that, but... what about all the other rules in the world that you don't feel the need to follow?

STEVEN

I am not having this discussion with you right now. And certainly not right here.

He glances around, but the coast is clear.

HAMILTON

What does it feel like? To be such a complete and total hypocrite?

Steven glances around again and steps closer to Hamilton.

STEVEN

I want to tell your mom, okay? About my own... indiscretions. But... things are very complicated at the moment and--

HAMILTON

Oh my God. You're ruining my life from every single angle. You want to tell her? So she leaves you... and leaves me here right along with

HAMILTON
you? You're absolutely
unbelievable.

Steven sighs and puts his hand on his temple.

HAMILTON
(hushed)
And that woman? Mrs. Dalton? She is
evil and... and crazy... and...
awful. She uses that class to snipe
me every chance she gets. It's like
she wants me to tell Mom. You need
to get out. Now. Before she finds
some way to trap you forever.

The dean looks at him for a long moment.

STEVEN
It's time for your next class.

Hamilton shakes his head.

HAMILTON
Whatever...

He walks off with Steven close behind.

FADE OUT

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FADE IN

EXT. PRATT APARTMENT - NYC - AFTERNOON

Nicholas' car drives by.

INT. PRATT APARTMENT - NYC - LATER

Monica, Greg, Nicholas and Bella sit in the living room.

MUSIC: CAN'T GO BACK NOW BY THE WEEPIES

MONICA
So... you're teaching at Rawley
Academy now?

NICHOLAS

Yes.

MONICA

And you're dating--

GREG

(correcting her)

Engaged to--

MONICA

You're engaged to Bella here?

NICHOLAS

Yes.

Monica glances at Bella.

MONICA

Jacqueline's friend Bella.

Bella nods.

GREG

Who doesn't go to Rawley.

MONICA

And is... how old exactly?

BELLA

Eighteen.

Greg sighs and taps his hands on his legs. They all glance at him. He lets out a long breath.

GREG

I'm sorry, I'm just imagining that you were my eighteen-year-old daughter...

Monica glances at him.

GREG

I mean, it wouldn't be good.

Nicholas looks to Bella. She shrugs then nods.

NICHOLAS

Well, anyway, I've only told you about all this because I want you to know I'm coming to you with everything on the table. I wouldn't want you to find out later and

NICHOLAS
think you made a choice based on
what I had to say when you didn't
know... all my own skeletons. And
what I have to say to you is
completely honest and from a place
of love for... my sister.

Monica glances at Greg.

GREG
Wait, sister?

Monica slides a few fingers over her eyes.

GREG
Frank Mann? Seriously? Monica.

MONICA
Later.

Greg shuts his mouth, but not happily.

MONICA
We're here to talk about
Jacqueline.

JAKE (O.S.)
Would you mind if Jacqueline were
actually part of that conversation?

Jacqueline, now dressed and looking cute in her slim-fitting
jeans, t-shirt and motorcycle boots, walks down the stairs.

EXT. ROAD TO RAWLEY - AFTERNOON

Sean's truck travels down the road.

MUSIC: WORLD SPINS MADLY ON BY THE WEEPIES

INT. SEAN'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Sean drives. Grace sits in the passenger seat.

SEAN
So, you didn't really offer
commentary on Jake and Hamilton.

GRACE

Oh, Jesus, where would I even start? I mean... what a pair of freaks.

Sean raises his eyebrows.

GRACE

Like, okay, he has this girl... granted, she's a little bit of a tomboy--

SEAN

I don't think that's exactly--

GRACE

But she's willing to lie to pretty much everyone... just to have a few honest minutes with him every day. And what does he do?

Sean's hooked.

GRACE

He gives up this interesting, cool complicated, mint chocolate chip of a chick for the most boring, lame, simple, vanilla-flavored girl in the history of the world. I mean, we get it, she's hot and brilliant, and maybe that makes it easy, but that doesn't make it work.

SEAN

I guess he came to the same conclusion.

GRACE

(not skipping a beat)
And Jake aka Jacqueline. Don't even get me started.

SEAN

I feel like I already have.

GRACE

She comes to Rawley Academy boys' school to get her mother's attention? That is the weakest excuse I've ever heard. And, okay, she has all these hacker skills, but she only uses them to pay her tuition every six months or what?

He pulls in to a parking space at Rawley Academy.

SEAN

I guess her priority shifted from getting her mom's attention to maintaining the thing with Hamilton.

GRACE

See argument above.

She points up as if he could go re-read something above her head. He glances up, chuckling.

SEAN

Geez, Grace. Tell me what you really think, why don't you?

GRACE

I think... we're here... and I want to go see my own screwed up little Rawley boy.

She smiles and gets out. He laughs and exits along with her.

INT. PRATT APARTMENT - NYC - AFTERNOON

Jake stands in the middle of everyone. Bella and Nicholas stand up. Bella pulls her into a quick hug.

JAKE

Hey, girl.

BELLA

I kinda thought I might not ever see you again.

JAKE

Can't get rid of my that easily. Especially if you still plan on marrying my brother.

Jake glances at Nicholas as she pulls back from Bella's hug. He scoops her into a hug of his own.

NICHOLAS

Are you okay?

JAKE

Yeah. I mean...

Nicholas lets her go. The three of them sit on the couch, across from the scrutinizing eyes of Greg and Monica.

JAKE

I'm in a huge mess and a whole lot
of trouble, but... I'm okay.

She glances at her mom who offers her a small smile.

GREG

Okay... so... now that Team
Jacqueline, NYC has assembled. What
are we going to do?

Everyone looks around.

INT. PUBLICATIONS ROOM - AFTERNOON

Will and Alyssa sit across from each other and look through
piles of papers, typed and hand-written.

MUSIC: SHE GAVE ME LOVE BY THE GETAWAY PEOPLE

WILL

I just don't know what to do.

ALYSSA

Yeah, these are mostly awful.

He grips a page of notebook paper in his hand.

WILL

Mostly? Aside from your stuff...
all we have... is garbage.

He crumples the page and tosses it into a nearby trashcan.

ALYSSA

Maybe some pictures would help
distract the readers...

WILL

That isn't exactly the point,
but... yeah... we need pictures.

He sighs and glances around the room.

ALYSSA

You miss doing the newspaper, don't
you?

He raises his eyebrows.

WILL
Uh... well...

He looks around at the room again.

ALYSSA
I know about your ex.

WILL
Oh...

ALYSSA
Hamilton told me.

Will looks down.

ALYSSA
I mean, when it happened. What
happened. In Chicago. He and I had
just started--

WILL
Dating. Yeah.

He picks up a pencil and makes a correction on a paper in
front of him.

ALYSSA
Will?

He looks up.

ALYSSA
It's okay.

WILL
What?

ALYSSA
That you dated people. That I dated
people. Unless you still have--

WILL
I don't.

She raises her eyebrows.

WILL
I mean... I did, but...

He hops up and moves over to her side of the table.

WILL
Then you kissed me and...

ALYSSA
No one else mattered?

He nods.

WILL
Exactly.

ALYSSA
I know the feeling.

She leans in to kiss him. Just as their lips touch.

ALIVIA (O.S.)
Sorry to interrupt.

The music screeches off. They break apart. Will hops up.

WILL
Mrs. Dalton. Hi.

ALIVIA
Just dropping off some more
submissions for the literary
magazine.

She walks in, putting the papers into Will's hands. Alyssa
won't look up at her.

WILL
Thank you.

ALIVIA
Alyssa, let's go.

ALYSSA
But--

ALIVIA
Now.

She huffs and puffs slightly, but gets up. Will gives her a
concerned look, but she smiles so he smiles back.

INT. RAWLEY HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Alivia and Alyssa walk together.

ALIVIA
Really, Alyssa, how pedestrian.

ALYSSA
What are you talking about?

ALIVIA
You've gone from the dating the dean's son to letting some scholarship student feel you up in the publications room?

ALYSSA
He wasn't... we were just--

ALIVIA
Oh, I saw what you were just doing.

ALYSSA
Will is... awesome.

ALIVIA
Awesome? You know thousands of adjectives and that's the one you land on?

Alivia out walks Alyssa, leaving Alyssa to hurry behind her.

INT. RAWLEY CLASSROOM - ALIVIA'S CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Alivia enters, going to her desk to pack up her stuff.
Alyssa rushes in after her.

ALYSSA
Fervent. Captivating. Winsome.

Alivia looks up, staring at her daughter.

ALIVIA
Poor. Underprivileged. Substandard.

ALYSSA
Tender. Whimsical. Perspicacious

Alivia rolls her eyes.

ALIVIA
Well, you've proven your
vocabulary. Nothing else.

Alyssa groans.

ALYSSA
Why are you so judgmental?

ALIVIA
Because you're my daughter. You
deserve the best.

ALYSSA
And who's that supposed to be?
Hamilton?

Alivia chuckles.

ALIVIA
Well, no, certainly not.

Alyssa narrows her eyes, but says nothing more.

EXT. FLEMING HOUSE - LATER

The sun sets in the background.

INT. FLEMING KITCHEN - EVENING

MUSIC: STUBBORN LOVE BY THE LUMINEERS

Hamilton sits at the kitchen table, doing homework. Kate
sits across from him, typing on a laptop.

HAMILTON
Can I please call Jake? Please?

Kate looks at him.

KATE
Not right now.

HAMILTON
After I finish my homework?

He looks at her hopefully.

KATE

Can you just be patient?

HAMILTON

No. No, I cannot just be patient. I want to talk to Jake. I tried talking to Dad like you said, but since he already recommended her expulsion to the board, he didn't really care what I had to say.

KATE

What?

HAMILTON

You didn't know?

A beat as Kate settles her own annoyance.

KATE

Look, I spoke with Monica earlier.

HAMILTON

What? What'd she say? How's Jake?

KATE

Jake's fine. Monica has a plan, and she wanted to ask for my input.

HAMILTON

What? What do you mean "a plan?"

KATE

Monica is coming here. To talk to your father.

Hamilton smiles.

KATE

But I didn't know he already expelled her. That could be... much trickier.

HAMILTON

Well, if nothing else, I bet she gives him quite the performance.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - LATER IN THE AFTERNOON

Steven sits at his desk. Monica sits in a chair across from him. They stare each other down, both with folded arms and leaning back against their seats.

STEVEN

I appreciate your position, but my hands are tied. I've already reported the incident and made my recommendation for expulsion. What do you want me to do here?

MONICA

Did I hear you say "recommendation?"

STEVEN

That's right.

MONICA

As in suggestion?

STEVEN

I suppose.

MONICA

So you don't actually have the final say here?

STEVEN

No, the board of trustees does, but as the person they appointed to run the entire school, I assure you, my "recommendation" carries a certain weight with them.

MONICA

How do I get in touch with them?

STEVEN

You don't.

She scoffs. He stares at her another moment, before acquiescing.

STEVEN

If you are saying you would like to initiate the appeal process for this expulsion, I will notify the board chair via email. She'll contact you and, within the next month, setup the appeal hearing.

MONICA

A month? What's Jacqueline supposed to do in the meantime?

STEVEN

It is a rather lengthy process. Honestly, it would be much faster to enroll her in another school for the remainder of the school year.

Monica narrows her eyes.

MONICA

No. We'll wait. Email the chair.

She leans back in her seat, waiting.

STEVEN

What? Right now?

She nods. He looks off a moment with a sigh, but then turns to the computer on his desk and uses the mouse to click open an email. She watches him type. He pauses, looking up at her. She waits. He finishes the email and hits send.

MONICA

Now that that's settled, when can my Jacqueline come and pick up her belongings and see that adorable son of yours?

STEVEN

Upon her expulsion, she was banned from school grounds. That will be in effect until her hearing.

MONICA

Oh, that's unfortunate because she's already on the way here with my partner.

STEVEN

Well, your partner is welcome in the dorm. Jake is not.

Monica plasters on a smile.

MONICA

Well, I would love to discuss this matter with you further--

STEVEN
I'm sure you would.

MONICA
But I think I'm going into labor.

She winces and grabs her stomach. The dean looks panicked.

FADE OUT

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FADE IN

EXT. ESTABLISHING RAWLEY ACADEMY

In winter coats, Hamilton and his mom make their way to the school.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE DEAN'S OFFICE - EVENING

MUSIC: OH DEAR BY MATT COSTA

Monica is pacing back and forth. She pauses, yielding to a contraction.

STEVEN
Shouldn't you be sitting down?

MONICA
My pregnancy coach says "walk it out to get them out."

STEVEN
Oh, good Lord. Let me get you a chair.

He goes back into his office, wheeling a rolling chair out as Kate and Hamilton rush up.

HAMILTON
Monica! Are you okay?

MONICA
Oh, yes. I'm wonderful.

She walks to him and offers him a long hug

STEVEN
 (to Kate)
 What's he doing here?

KATE
 What was I going to do? Lock him in
 his room?

The dean doesn't seem to hate the idea. Monica screams (in Hamilton's ear) and squeezes him tight. He winces.

HAMILTON
 Can't... breathe...

She finally releases him, and they both stagger back. Hamilton inhales deeply. Monica wipes a little sweat from her brow.

MONICA
 The contractions are definitely
 getting worse. Closer together.

KATE
 (to Steven)
 Did you call an ambulance?

STEVEN
 Well, not exactly--

MONICA
 No! No ambulances. I have never
 been in one, and I'm not starting
 now. That's awful energy for the
 birth. My pregnancy coach says--

STEVEN
 Please, Mrs. Pratt, have a seat.

He pushes the chair toward her.

MONICA
 It's Miss Pratt.

She glares at him, but does finally take a seat. Kate kneels down, placing a hand on Monica's knee.

KATE
 We'll take you to the hospital
 ourselves. How does that sound?

MONICA
 Okay. Okaaaaaaaaayyy...oowwwwwwww.

Hamilton kneels, too, taking Monica's hand.

HAMILTON
Shouldn't she, like, breathe or
something? Lamaze?

Monica smiles at him.

MONICA
You are too sweet, Hamilton. I am
so sorry Jacqueline dragged you
into all this with her.

Hamilton grins.

HAMILTON
I'm not.

Monica smiles and gives him a wink.

MONICA
Me either.

Steven stares down at them.

KATE
(to Steven)
Go pull the car around!

STEVEN
You go. Hamilton and I will get her
out to the front of the building.

Kate glances at Monica who smiles encouragingly.

INT. DEXTER AND SCOUT'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

MUSIC: TAKE YOU HOME BY SCARS ON 45

Dexter and Grace sit, snuggled up, on Dexter's bed. Sean and Jill sit on the couch. She is folded over with her head on her knees. Sean rubs her back.

Scout has his desk chair pulled over to the group.

SCOUT
Now that all Jake's stuff is
packed... what do we do with it?

JILL
My dad is coming for it at some
point.

SEAN
Did you figure out what to do with
the motorcycle?

JILL
Nope.

Jill pulls the keys out of her pocket.

GRACE
You can store it at the garage if
you want. Until Jake can come back
for it herself.

JILL
You mean, if she can.

GRACE
Dex and I can take it now, if you
want.

DEXTER
We can?

Jill tosses the keys in her direction. Grace grins at Dexter
who looks concerned. She gets up and pulls him up.

SCOUT
Hang on...

Grace and Dexter stop.

SCOUT
Jake loves that bike. You
understand? And, not to be "that
guy," but you don't exactly have
the best driving record.

Scout glances over at Jill. Grace glares at Scout.

JILL
Look, Scout, Grace probably has
more experience driving a
motorcycle than any of us. I don't
even know how to start the stupid
thing. Anyone else?

Everyone looks around, shaking their head. Except Grace who
points to herself.

SCOUT
Fine. Just be careful. Okay? And
wear the helmets, you two.

Grace grins and rushes out, pulling a slightly frightened Dexter along with her. Scout sighs and sits back down.

A beat as Scout looks at Sean and Jill, in their own little world for the moment. Sean pushes some hair off out of her face. She half smiles and leans her head on his shoulder.

A cell phone rings. Jill pulls her phone out of her pocket.

JILL
(on phone)
Hello? Hamilton? What... wait...
slow down... where are you taking
her?... Okay. Yeah... okay, thanks.

She hangs up.

JILL
She's in labor.

SCOUT
Jake?

JILL
No. What? Monica.

Sean and Scout trade a confused look.

SEAN
So why did Hamilton call?

SCOUT
Is he in New York?

JILL
Nope. They're on their way to
Carson. Come on.

She takes Sean's hand, but Scout stands, too.

SEAN
I got it. Alright, man?

Sean stands up next to Jill.

SCOUT
Not alright.

Sean exhales in exasperation.

SCOUT
So who's driving?

JILL

I am.

EXT. ROAD TO CARSON - EVENING

Hamilton's parents' car cruises along quickly.

INT. FLEMING CAR - EVENING

MUSIC: I JUST NEED YOU TO KNOW BY MAE

Hamilton drives. The dean is in the passenger seat. Kate sits with Monica in the back seat. Monica moans in pain. The dean is on the phone.

STEVEN

(on phone)

Yes, Mr. Thomas, we're getting her there as fast as we can.... Of course... I understand.

He hangs up.

STEVEN

He says he was already en route to pick up Jake's belongings tonight.

HAMILTON

Is Jake with him?

STEVEN

How the hell should I know?

Hamilton glances in the mirror to catch Monica's eye, but another moan of pain has her distracted.

EXT. ROAD FROM N.Y. TO CARSON - EVENING

A sporty Mazda Miata cruises along.

INT. MIATA - ROAD FROM N.Y. TO CARSON - EVENING

Jake drives while Greg, just hanging up his cell, is in the passenger seat.

Jake has dug deep into her Jacqueline wardrobe, wearing form-fitting jeans, a long-sleeved deep purple t-shirt and a girl-cut, casual blazer. She still sports her black All-Stars along with a healthy layer of makeup and enough hair product to make a deliberate, feminine mess atop her head.

JAKE
Was Hamilton with them?

GREG
You know, I couldn't tell.

He smiles slyly at Jake. A beat.

GREG
Can I ask you something?

JAKE
Uh... depends.

GREG
I get it, you know. Most of it.
Vying for your mom's affection.
Sacrificing and compromising to be
with someone you love that much.

Jake smiles over at him.

JAKE
But?

GREG
Not a but. More of a why.

JAKE
Okay...

GREG
Nick and Bella came to us today
with pretty damning information.

JAKE
Yeah...

GREG
Drove all the way from New Rawley
to make sure your Mom knew about
the dean's affair. Just so she
could use that against him and get
you back into his school.

JAKE

Right, but... that's not our secret to tell.

GREG

Of course, not. That's practically the entire point of blackmail.

JAKE

Look, there's a lot of ways to make him let me back in. I was just hoping for the most direct and by-the-books way because that's what someone like him values.

GREG

Okay.

JAKE

And Hamilton is worried about his mom finding out and what will happen when she does.

GREG

So you're trying to be the bigger person with the dean while also respecting his son's wishes.

JAKE

Basically, yeah.

GREG

Makes sense to me.

Jake looks over at him suspiciously, but he looks sincere. A beat as Jake maneuvers the car around a turn.

GREG

You handle her well.

Jake stays focused on the road. A beat.

GREG

Don't ever tell your mom you drive around a motorcycle, okay?

Jake's eyes widen, surprised he knows this. She recovers:

JAKE

Well, if you insist.

Greg chuckles.

INT. FLEMING CAR - EVENING

As they travel along, Hamilton sighs, the car slowing down with him.

KATE
Hurry up, Hamilton.

Hamilton hits the accelerator.

STEVEN
No, slow down. Why are we letting a teenager drive anyway?

KATE
Because that's what Monica wanted.

Monica screams again. Hamilton punches the accelerator as they speed on down the road.

EXT. ROAD TO CARSON - NIGHT

Nicholas' Jetta passes the Fleming car.

INT. NICHOLAS' JETTA - NIGHT

Bella looks behind them.

BELLA
I'm pretty sure that was Hamilton's parents' car. Think Jake's mom pulled it off?

NICHOLAS
If anyone could, it's Monica Pratt.

A beat.

NICHOLAS
You know, even though Jake vetoed our plan right out of the gate, I think Monica needed hear what we had to say. To know that Jake isn't some messed up teenager. To be reminded that the path to true love can be a strange one.

BELLA
Do you think they thought it was strange... that we're together?

Nicholas glances over at her with a smile.

NICHOLAS
I dunno, but it was nice, though,
wasn't it? Just being...

BELLA
Us?

NICHOLAS
Yeah. And...

BELLA
Honest?

He nods, thinking.

BELLA
What?

NICHOLAS
Well... what if I just... quit?

BELLA
Rawley?

He nods.

BELLA
I thought you really like teaching.

NICHOLAS
But I really love you.

BELLA
What about Jake?

NICHOLAS
What if she's really kicked out?

BELLA
What if she isn't?

NICHOLAS
Then, in a few months, she
graduates and goes wherever she
wants to go next year. I'm not
going with her. Because I'm going
with you. Wherever you want to go.

BELLA
What if I want to go... to L.A.

Nicholas chuckles.

NICHOLAS

Oh, you overheard that, huh?

BELLA

Jill's dad telling you about pilot season and that you should audition? Yeah.

NICHOLAS

That's not going to happen.

BELLA

He seems to think you could get a part with no problem out there.

NICHOLAS

I'm not going to let you change your plans so I can pursue some pipe dream in L.A. That's nuts.

BELLA

What plans, Nick? I'm not some rich Rawley kid going to Harvard... or even Worthington. I can maybe get a full ride to Carson Community College, but that leaves us where? Back to you working at Rawley.

NICHOLAS

I could work at the garage.

Bella laughs.

BELLA

Doing what? Washing windows maybe.

Nicholas sighs.

BELLA

I'm just saying... while I figure out what I want to do, why don't we follow your dreams for a little while? And when I'm ready, we can follow my path. Together.

He smiles over at her.

BELLA

Jill's dad said his agent can get you some auditions over the next few months, right?

NICHOLAS

Right...

BELLA

Well, go to them.

NICHOLAS

What about Rawley Academy?

BELLA

You said you have plenty of sick days... and that you're quitting at the end of the year. Use the sick days. Audition. What's the harm?

Nicholas considers this as they continue down the road.

NICHOLAS

Hey, isn't that Jill's bug?

EXT. ROAD TO CARSON - NIGHT

Jill's car passes Nicholas' car.

INT. JILL'S CAR - NIGHT

Jill drives with the phone to her ear. Sean is in the front. Scout sits in the back.

JILL

(on phone)

How are you not freaking out?

Jill takes a deep breath.

JILL

(on phone)

Happy?

Sean and Scout trade a look.

JILL

(on phone)

Okay... I will... No, Sean's with me. And Scout... Yep... Okay. I love you, too. Bye.

Jill hangs up the phone and tosses it down.

JILL
He said he would be there ASAP.

SCOUT
So why was Jake's mom at Rawley?

JILL
Trying to get her back in?

SCOUT
Did it work?

JILL
I don't know.

Scout leans forward.

SCOUT
You spend the day freaking out that
Jake's gone and then you don't even
ask if--

SEAN
Lay off, man. She's about to be a
big sister. That trumps everything.

Sean gives Scout a pointed look. Scout blinks a few times,
but leans back in his seat. Point taken.

INT. GIRLS' COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

MUSIC: I BELIEVE BY BASIC VACATION

Alyssa and Will sit cozily on the couch, each happily
working on homework. A phone buzzes from Will's side. He
pulls his cell phone out of his pocket.

WILL
Text. Scout says that Jake's mom is
having her baby. In Carson.

Will looks confused.

ALYSSA
Jill's dad is married to Jake's
mom, right?

WILL
I don't think they're married, but
yeah, it's his baby.

Will shrugs and slips his phone back in his pocket.

ALYSSA
You know, I know... about Jake.

Will freezes.

WILL
You know what about Jake?

ALYSSA
That he's Jacqueline.

WILL
Oh. Um. Okay.

Alyssa is determined to show what she knows.

ALYSSA
That he's gay. That he and Hamilton
are in a relationship, and they
totally invented Jacqueline--

WILL
Invented Jacqueline?

ALYSSA
Yeah, so they could be together.

Will tries to look back into his book.

ALYSSA
Tyson and I figured it all out.
Awhile ago.

WILL
Tyson knows this, too?

Alyssa nods. Will chuckles.

WILL
Well, glad everyone's finally in on
the big secret.

He goes back to his homework with wide eyes. She notices.

ALYSSA
What? Is there more?

Will he looks back at her, feigning innocence.

ALYSSA
Will.

WILL
Jake's not...

He rubs his hands on his thighs.

WILL
Here anymore.

ALYSSA
What?

WILL
Jake and Hamilton got caught. In
Jake's dorm room. By the dean.

ALYSSA
No wonder he wasn't in class.

Alyssa's jaw drops as she thinks of something.

ALYSSA
Oh my God. Was he in drag at the
time?

WILL
Hamilton?

ALYSSA
Jake.

WILL
Oh. I don't think he was in...
anything... at the time.

ALYSSA
And Hamilton?

WILL
Guessing the same...

ALYSSA
No, I mean, like, what happened?

Will shrugs.

WILL
Everyone's in big trouble is all I
know.

ALYSSA
My mom must have known. Did you see
how she was antagonizing Hamilton
today?

WILL
Yeah. We all did.

ALYSSA
She's like that.

WILL
Great.

A beat.

WILL
What did she have to say about me?
When she dragged you away earlier?

ALYSSA
Um... well...

WILL
Oh, no.

He moves his stuff off his lap and turns to her.

WILL
She hates me.

ALYSSA
She's just... superficial.

WILL
She hates me because I'm poor.

Alyssa puts her own stuff down and turns to him.

ALYSSA
I don't really care what she
thinks.

WILL
She says not denying his previous
statement.

Alyssa sighs. A beat.

ALYSSA
I used to defend her, you know?
Like, "oh, she's just this
brilliant, tortured mind."

WILL
And now?

ALYSSA
Honestly? I just think she's a
bitch who likes to make other
people miserable to make herself
feel better.

Will looks at her nervously. Off his look, we:

CUT TO:

INT. ALIVIA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alivia sits down on her couch.

ALIVIA
(on phone)
So you're not coming tonight?

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Steven sits in a waiting room chair. We cut back and forth
between them as they speak.

STEVEN
That is not the point!

ALIVIA
Then what is the point?

STEVEN
I don't want to do this.

ALIVIA
Then leave.

STEVEN
No, this. Sneaking around. A baby.
We just... we can't...

ALIVIA
Well, I plan to have it. If that's
where you're going with this.

Steven angrily pulls the phone down from his ear. Hamilton
walks in and looks around.

STEVEN
I have to go.

ALIVIA
I'll be home all night if you
change your mind.

STEVEN
Okay. Goodbye.

He hangs up as Hamilton approaches.

HAMILTON
Jesus, are you okay?

Steven nods.

STEVEN
Yes. Of course.

Hamilton looks down at the phone in his hand, but doesn't
question him further.

HAMILTON
Where's Mom and Monica?

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL E.R. ROOM - NIGHT

Monica sits in a wheelchair.

MONICA
We have to get out of here.

KATE
Why?

MONICA
Look, I'm a good actress, don't get
me wrong, but how am I going to be
able to fool an actual doctor?

KATE
You're right. Even I was so caught
up in the act that I forgot you
were faking it.

Monica smiles.

MONICA
You flatter me.

Kate laughs.

KATE

You know, I really didn't think
Steven would insist on coming
along. Sorry we had to draw this
out so long.

MONICA

Great lengths for a little lovers'
rendezvous for our kids.

KATE

Yeah, but worth it. So where to?

She moves behind Monica and starts to push the cart.

MONICA

Aaaaaah... Oh, oh. Wait.

She moves her hand to the lower part of her belly.

MONICA

Oh my God. Oh my Gawwwwwwwwwd!

Kate freezes and walks around to the front of the chair.

KATE

What's wrong?

MONICA

I think my water just broke.

Kate stares at her, dumbfounded.

FADE OUT

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FADE IN

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Hamilton and Steven sit in a couple of chairs. Scout, Sean
and Jill race in.

MUSIC: IT'S ALL HAPPENING NOW BY BASIC VACATION

JILL

Where's Monica?

HAMILTON

We don't have a room number yet.

JILL

Well, I'm going to find her.

SCOUT, SEAN, HAMILTON

I'll go with you.

They look around at each other. She looks from one to the other and finally points to Hamilton

JILL

You. Come on.

She takes his hand and drags him out of the room. Sean and Scout look at one another awkwardly. Then at the dean.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Kate, with a phone up to her ear, paces next to a bed where Monica lies.

MONICA

Oh, my God. Oh, my God. What's he saying? He's going to kill me. He has to get here.

KATE

(on phone)

Yes, okay. See you soon.

She hangs up.

KATE

They're in the parking lot.

Monica takes a deep breath.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Sean and Scout sit on either side of the dean. It's awkward all around. They all glance around until someone hurrying into the room gets their attention: Greg and Jake.

Scout, Sean and the dean stand.

SCOUT

Oh, my God! Jake!

Scout rushes over to her.

SCOUT
Don't you look adorable.

She rolls her eyes, but can't help a smile. Then she spots the dean. She freezes. He approaches her, but Greg steps between them, sticking his hand out to the dean.

GREG
Thanks for getting Monica here safely. I appreciate it.

STEVEN
Of course.

Steven shakes Greg's hand.

GREG
Now, where is she?

Jill appears at the door.

JILL
We found her.
(off her dad)
Room three fourteen. Come on.

Hamilton appears at the door next to Jill.

MUSIC: OUTLAWS BY JOE PURDY

HAMILTON
Jake...

She spots him. They stare at one another. Jill rushes in.

JILL
(to Jake)
You're adorable.

SCOUT
(to Jake)
See?

Jill grabs her dad's arm.

JILL
Now, come on, Dad. We're not missing this.

She drags him out of the room.

Jake and Hamilton continue to look at one another for a moment then rush together, embracing. They hug for a long, long beat. The dean watches disapprovingly.

SCOUT

Hasn't it been less than 24 hours since you've seen each other?

HAMILTON

Felt like longer.

JAKE

Yeah, like a decade or something.

He scoops her face into both of his hands and kisses her. She kisses him back, rising up on her tiptoes.

STEVEN

Okay, that's quite enough.

They part, disappointed, but Hamilton keeps an arm around Jake and pulls her into him.

STEVEN

We're leaving, Hamilton.

JAKE

Look, Dean Fleming, I know what I did was wrong, but Hamilton and I... we love each other.

Steven glances at Hamilton who squeezes Jake a little tighter. Hamilton can see this is taking them nowhere.

JAKE

We're willing to adjust as needed and play by your rules... if you'll just give me the chance to come back to school.

HAMILTON

You might as well save your breath.

STEVEN

You have forced Hamilton into a huge web of deception. All for what? Sex in a dorm room?

HAMILTON

(to Jake)

See?

JAKE
 (to Steven)
 Excuse me?

STEVEN
 That's what this is about, isn't
 it? Controlling my son.

JAKE
 What? No. Not at all.

STEVEN
 Getting him to do what you want
 when you want.

Hamilton's brow furrows.

HAMILTON
 You can kill the projection, Dad.

Sean and Scout glance at one another.

SEAN
 Maybe you guys should discuss this
 later when everyone's had a chance
 to chill out a little more.

JAKE
 (To Sean)
 Chill out? I've been keeping my
 cool all this time.
 (to Steven)
 Do you know how many different ways
 I could have gotten back to Rawley
 Academy if I'd wanted to? Gotten
 myself back in to Rawley Academy?

She stares Steven down. Steven scoff.

STEVEN
 That's not going to happen. Not as
 long as I'm the dean.

JAKE
 Well, that's my point exactly. Do
 you even know how many ways I could
 have destroyed you by now? How many
 ways I still could.

HAMILTON
 Jake...

SCOUT
Yeah, you gotta dial it back.

JAKE
Shut up, Scout.

He does. Steven glances at Scout, shaking his head.

STEVEN
Who do you think you are to
influence my son in this way?

HAMILTON
She's not influencing me. Not how
you're saying anyway.

SCOUT
And if she was, shouldn't he be
expelled, too?

Hamilton glances at Scout. Scout raises his eyebrows.

HAMILTON
(to Scout)
Well, yeah, I told him that
already.
(to Steven)
I lied. A lot. I broke the dorm
rules, too. I'm just as guilty. I
should be expelled, too.

JAKE
Hamilton!

SCOUT
Me, too. Expel me, too.

JAKE
What?! Seriously, shut up, Scout.

SEAN
I mean, you can't expel me because
I don't go to Rawley.

STEVEN
Who are you anyway?

SEAN
Jill's boyfriend. And Jill
definitely aided and abetted in the
whole Jake charade. Like it was her
job. So... guess she's out, too.

SCOUT

And a few other people would tell you the same. We all knew. And we all kept the secret and told the lies and did what it took to keep Jake-the-girl at Rawley Boys.

Hamilton smiles slightly, glancing at Jake who does not look as pleased.

JAKE

You guys don't need to do this. Trust me, I can handle this.

HAMILTON

But that's just it. You don't have to. Like Scout said, it's not just me who loves and cares about you.

Scout steps up next to them. Sean does the same.

SCOUT

It's everyone. Everyone who ever got to know you, anyway.

Steven looks around at them.

STEVEN

Look, kids, this isn't a revolution, okay?

JAKE

Maybe it is.

Steven stares her down for a long beat.

STEVEN

You're expelled.

JAKE

Tell me something I don't know.

STEVEN

There will be an appeal. Your mother initiated it today.

Jake raises her eyebrows.

HAMILTON

What?

JAKE
She can appeal?

STEVEN
The board will review the incident
and make a final decision.

Jake and Hamilton look at one another.

STEVEN
You're welcome to take the revolt
to the board. Or try.

He starts to walk out.

STEVEN
Find your own way home, Hamilton.
I'm tired of trying to control you.
Looks like someone else is already
doing the job too well.

Steven exits. Jake and Hamilton turn to each other.

JAKE
I am not trying to control you.

HAMILTON
I know. He's... there's more than
just this going on with him.

SCOUT
Are you defending that guy?

HAMILTON
You mean, my father? Yeah, a little
bit. Not a lot. Jake knows what I'm
talking about.

Scout looks to Jake. She shrugs it off.

JILL
Um, hello, Jacqueline!

They all turn to Jill.

JILL
Your mom... labor.. you coming?

Jake nods and heads for the door. The gang follows.

INT. RAWLEY GIRLS' DORM HALLWAY - NIGHT

Will and Alyssa walk toward her room.

WILL

I'm just saying, it may not be easy.

ALYSSA

I think you're overreacting.

WILL

That's easy for you to say. Parents probably always like you.

ALYSSA

Well, I am ridiculously likable.

WILL

But the mommies and daddies of little rich girls tend not to like it when their daughters date poor guys from the wrong side of town.

ALYSSA

Is that what you think I think? That you're just some "poor guy?"

WILL

Well, I'm not exactly Bill Gates.

ALYSSA

Or that I'm really just a "little rich girl?"

They reach Alyssa's room. She doesn't unlock the door. She turns to him with folded arms.

WILL

No, of course, not. You are much more than that, but you are that, too, you know?

ALYSSA

Will?

He raises an eyebrow.

ALYSSA

We're writing our own story here, do you understand that? Together. So it's whatever we want it to be. If we want a little conflict, we

ALYSSA
 can let my mom get to us. But at
 the end of the day, we have this...

She steps up to him, kissing him tenderly. He kisses her
 back, more passionately. After a moment they part.

ALYSSA
 It's ours. And I'm yours. And, if
 you want, you can be mine.

WILL
 I do. Want. That. All that.

ALYSSA
 Good. Me, too.

They kiss again, sweetly. When they part:

WILL
 He gazed and gazed and gazed and
 gazed, Amazed, amazed, amazed,
 amazed.

She smiles.

ALYSSA
 Robert Browning, huh?

He nods. She unlocks her door and opens it.

ALYSSA
 Call me later. We can play "name
 that Victorian poet."

Will chuckles.

WILL
 Sounds... perfect.

He grins as she slips into her room. He leans against the
 wall, enamored with this girl.

EXT. BANKS GARAGE - NIGHT

MUSIC: CAN WE JUST NOT TALK ABOUT LAST NIGHT BY BUTCH WALKER

Snow covers the ground and garage.

Bella and Nicholas pull up. A moment later, the tow truck
 pulls up with a motorcycle--Jake's motorcycle--on the back.
 The steering column is askew and the paint is scratched.

Charlie gets out of the driver's seat of the tow truck as Bella and Nicholas get out of the car. Grace and Dexter come around the other side of tow truck.

Grace wears Jake's leather motorcycle jacket and looks unscathed, but Dexter is scuffed up, his glasses crooked, and he has a towel around his arm that is red with blood.

CHARLIE

I just don't understand why you didn't call me in the first place. I could have towed this damn thing all the way from Rawley.

GRACE

Duh, because we wanted to drive it.

DEXTER

Uh...

GRACE

Fine, I wanted to drive it. Dexter was an innocent victim. Better?

She barely glances at him as Nicholas and Bella join the conversation as they look up at the bike.

BELLA

Please tell me that's not Jake's motorcycle. Grace, what'd you do?

DEXTER

Guys?

Dexter slides down against the truck, holding his arm.

NICHOLAS

Jake is going to be so pissed.

GRACE

It's not that big of a deal. We weren't even going that fast.

CHARLIE

Then how did you explain the fact that the bike and your boyfriend ended up horizontal and in two different directions across the pavement?

GRACE

I leaned too hard on that one turn and the bike started to wobble. I

GRACE
 was on the pavement, too. I just
 happened to have on this cool
 jacket we found with the bike. But
 Dexter's fine, right, Dex?

DEXTER
 Actually...

Dexter leans his head back against the tow truck.

NICHOLAS
 I don't think he's fine.

They all walk over to him.

CHARLIE
 Probably just a bad case of road
 rash.

DEXTER
 Uh, no, I don't think--

GRACE
 Let me see.

She reaches down to pull back the towel, but Dexter screams
 out in pain.

CUT TO:

INT. MONICA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Monica screaming in pain.

Hamilton, Jake, Jill, Greg and Kate are in the room. Greg
 sits on the bed with her, holding her hand.

GREG
 So you're telling me a plan that
 started with faking labor turned
 into actual labor?

MONICA
 (talking through the pain)
 You know me. When I go method,
 I--aaaaaaaaawowwwwwwwww.....

She squeezes his hand. He grimaces.

Jill, Jake and Hamilton stand off to the side.

KATE
I think Mr. Thomas has this covered. Your father and I can probably go home now.

HAMILTON
Dad left.

KATE
What do you mean he left?

HAMILTON
He said he was leaving and for me to find my own way home.

Kate frowns.

KATE
Guess he forgot about me.

JILL
Here.

Jill pulls out her car keys and hands them to Kate.

JILL
Take Scout and Sean with you. Tell Sean he's on call for when we need a ride back.

Kate hesitates, but then takes the keys.

KATE
Thanks.

A beat.

HAMILTON
Mom, you really did all this just so Jake and I could see each other?

KATE
Well, not the actual labor part, but Monica wanted to come speak to your father. She felt she could convince him to let Jake back in. When we talked and found out how miserable our kids were...

HAMILTON
(to Jake)
Do we have the best moms in the world or what?

JAKE
Yeah, pretty much.

She smiles. Kate gives Jake a hug. Hamilton gets one, too.
Kate smiles at Jill then exits. A beat.

JILL
Oh my God, you guys.

Jill pulls them both into one big hug.

JILL
What's the plan?

Jake and Hamilton glance at one another.

JAKE
The plan is...

HAMILTON
The plan is to be together.

Jill looks to Jake who nods.

JILL
That's... not a plan.

JAKE
You're right. It's a goal. And the
plan is to do whatever it takes to
make that happen.

HAMILTON
Yeah, 'cause if a day felt like a
decade... what's a semester going
to feel like?

Jake frowns.

JAKE
Eternity...

FADE OUT

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FADE IN

EXT. CARSON HOSPITAL - NIGHT

An ambulance pulls through the parking lot.

MUSIC: MR. PITIFUL BY MATT COSTA

INT. HOSPITAL E.R. ROOM - NIGHT

The room is crowded. Dexter sits in a waiting room chair with Grace on one side and Bella and Nicholas on the other. He talks on a cell phone being held up by his "good" arm.

DEXTER

(on phone)

No, Mom, I'm fine... I'll be fine... Well, no, I haven't seen a doctor yet, but... of course I have my insurance card... That's not necessary at all; there's a teacher here and everything.

Dexter glances over at Nicholas whose eyes widen as if he doesn't want to have to get on the phone.

DEXTER

Yes, she's here, too.

He looks to Grace with a smile.

DEXTER

(on phone)

Oh my God, okay.

(to Grace)

My mom says hello.

GRACE

(loud, toward phone)

Hi, Mrs. Darcy.

Across the room are a set of vending machines. From a corridor, Jake and Hamilton enter, heading for the vending machine when they see the others. They walk over.

DEXTER

(on phone)

Oh, hi, Dad... Yep, ice and stairs. A whole concrete flight of them... Look, I have to go, okay? Tell Mom I'll be fine... Okay, love you, too. Bye.

He hangs up. Jake and Hamilton look down at him.

HAMILTON

Stairs?

Jake tilts her head as she inspects the jacket Grace has on.

JAKE

Is that my jacket?

GRACE

I was just borrowing it.

JAKE

Um... what happened to the motorcycle that went with it?

BELLA

Same thing that happened to Dexter's arm.

JAKE

Broken?

GRACE

But fixable. Totally fixable.

Jake presses her lips together.

JAKE

And who the hell was driving?

Grace sucks air over her teeth.

DEXTER

I was.

HAMILTON

What?

DEXTER

How do you think this happened?

He tries to hold up his arm, but winces, pulling it back down. Everyone looks from him then over to Grace.

GRACE

Gah, okay. He's trying to protect me. It was me, okay? I confess. I wrecked the stupid bike. And, worse, I hurt Dexter.

DEXTER

It's okay. I'll be fine.

NICHOLAS

Look, everyone was just trying to help, okay? They didn't want the dean to find the motorcycle.

HAMILTON

And no one thought "hey, maybe Hamilton should be the one to take care of Jake's bike?"

DEXTER

No one knew you'd have the chance. Seemed like your parents were keeping tight tabs. How are you even here right now?

HAMILTON

My dad gave up. He has way too much personal stuff going on right now. And then Jake threatened to "destroy" him, was it?

Hamilton arcs an eyebrow her way, but Jake only shrugs.

SCOUT (O.S.)

What are you guys all doing here?

He jogs in.

HAMILTON

The real question is: what are you doing back here?

SCOUT

I thought I could be on standby in case anyone needed a ride.

Scout spots Dexter and his injury.

SCOUT

Oh, no.

Jill enters from the way Jake and Hamilton did earlier.

JILL

What are you guys doing here?

Jill spots Dexter.

JILL

Oh, no.

SCOUT
 (pointedly to Jill)
 And this is why you don't give
 Grace keys to a motorcycle.

Jake turns to Jill.

JAKE
You did this?

JILL
 Um... hey, there's this baby being
 born upstairs. Kind of related to
 both of us. Not sure if you wanted
 to, you know, meet him or anything,
 but... we should probably focus on
 that right now and not--

JAKE
 Don't change the subject.

Jill gives Scout a long glare.

JILL
 You just had to say "I told you
 so."

SCOUT
 Well, not yet, but I did... tell
 you so.

Jill narrows her eyes, ready to go for him.

JAKE
 You know what? It's cool.

BELLA
 What?

JAKE
 Yeah, it's cool.

GRACE
 It is?

JAKE
 Oh, I'm going to deal with you
 later.

Grace twists her mouth.

JAKE

But everyone else is cool. Jill was just trying to help me keep my bike. And Scout was trying to keep it out of dangerous hands. Nicholas and Bella came to my rescue today in New York. Dexter wiped my computer of incriminating evidence. You are all awesome, awesome friends. Hamilton and I are so lucky to have all of you.

Hamilton rolls his eyes and looks around at everyone with a smile.

HAMILTON

Yeah, what she said.

Jill and Scout look at each other, forgiving each other.

HAMILTON

Now that that's settled? Baby?

JAKE

Oh my God, baby.

JILL

That's what I was saying.

NURSE (O.S.)

Darcy? Dexter Darcy?

They all look over then back at Dexter. He stands, holding his arm in pain. Grace, Bella and Nicholas start to go with him. Bella turns to Nicholas.

BELLA

Maybe you should go with Jake.

Nicholas glances at Jake who looks as confused as he does.

BELLA

Well, I mean, your sister's about to be a sister which makes you sort of related to this baby.

NICHOLAS

I guess I never thought of that.

Jake chuckles.

JAKE
Why would you?

BELLA
Scout can stay with us instead.

SCOUT
What?

BELLA
I mean, which would you rather see?
A broken bone or a woman squeeze
something the size of a watermelon
out the size of a--

SCOUT
Sold on the broken bone. Let's go.

He trades places with Nicholas so that he is with Grace, Bella and Dexter. Jake, Jill, Hamilton and Nicholas start to turn to head back out of the waiting room when:

SEAN (O.S.)
I'm here. What's the plan?

They all look at him. He's confused.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. E.R. ROOM - NIGHT

Dexter sits in a hospital bed. Grace sits on the foot of the bed. Scout and Bella sit in chairs next to the bed.

A nurse pops in.

NURSE
The doctor is reviewing your X-Rays
and will be right in, okay?

GRACE
Thank you.

The nurse pops out. Grace moves up to sit next to Dexter and snuggle up under his good arm.

Scout stares down, tapping his feet. Bella looks him carefully.

BELLA
How have you been, Scout?

SCOUT
I've been... okay.

BELLA
You know you're going to have to
get over Jill, right?

SCOUT
Yep.

BELLA
Can you?

He looks her in the eye.

SCOUT
I got over you, didn't I?

BELLA
But I'm not the love of your life.

SCOUT
Sure felt like it at the time.

Bella smiles warmly.

BELLA
It sure did.

She glances down at her hand, spinning her engagement ring,
worn on the ring finger of the "wrong" hand.

SCOUT
I can't believe you're marrying my
drama teacher.

BELLA
Scout.

SCOUT
And that I don't find him creepier
for it.

Bella chuckles.

SCOUT
So when's the big day?

BELLA
Summer, I guess. After he quits
Rawley Academy.

SCOUT
He following you to school?

BELLA
More like I'm following him to L.A.

SCOUT
What?

GRACE
(sitting up)
What?!

Bella looks over, realizing she's listening.

BELLA
It's no big deal.

GRACE
Like hell it isn't.

INT. MATERNITY WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

In a waiting room, Hamilton and Jake sit together with Nicholas next to Jake. Hamilton has a math book open on his lap. Sean and Jill sit across from them, holding hands and talking quietly.

JAKE
Wow, L.A., huh?

NICHOLAS
I mean, I may not even get any callbacks, but if I could land a pilot, yeah, L.A.

INT. E.R. ROOM - NIGHT

GRACE
I mean, who does he think he is trying to force you to move to California. What about your dreams?

INT. MATERNITY WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

JAKE
And Bella is okay with this?

INT. E.R. ROOM - NIGHT

BELLA
It was my idea.

Grace considers this.

GRACE
Really?

INT. MATERNITY WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

NICHOLAS
Yeah. Pretty amazing, right?

INT. E.R. ROOM - NIGHT

GRACE
Well, I hope he knows how lucky he
is.

BELLA
I think he just might.

INT. MATERNITY WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Hamilton doesn't glance up from his work.

HAMILTON
Bella is like a sister to me so if
you hurt her, I'll...

Nicholas and Jake both look over, waiting.

HAMILTON
Have Jake "destroy" you.

Jake chuckles.

NICHOLAS
Deal.

Greg suddenly rushes in.

GREG
He's here! And all cleaned up. And
handsome as hell. Come on, come on,
come on. Everybody can come in now.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Monica is holding JAMISON THOMAS. The group enters with Greg. Jill and Jake go over to either side of the bed. They look down at him then up at each other.

JILL

Wow.

JAKE

Yeah, I second that.

Hamilton sidles up next to Jake and Sean to Jill. They are all enamored with the baby. Nicholas stands with Greg at the foot of the bed.

NICHOLAS

(to Greg)

I hope it's okay that I'm here.

GREG

Are you kidding? You're Jacqueline's family. You're stuck with us forever now.

Nicholas chuckles.

NICHOLAS

I'm strangely okay with that.

The group fawns over the baby.

FADE TO:

INT. NURSERY - LATER

Jake, Hamilton, Jill, Sean and Nicholas stand looking into the nursery at baby Jamison.

JAKE

He's so tiny.

Hamilton moves behind her, putting his arm around her waist as he kisses the back of her head.

HAMILTON

You're going to be an amazing big sister. You, too, Jill.

Jill smiles at him, Sean takes her hand, squeezing his agreement.

Bella approaches the group and walks up to the window.

BELLA
 So where is my future
 not-quite-half-brother-in-law?

Jake points him out.

BELLA
 He's so cute.

NICHOLAS
 Watch out; I might get jealous.

She turns, smiling at Nicholas.

NICHOLAS
 Dex all patched up?

BELLA
 Yep. And Scout is ready to take us
 back if you want to stay.

NICHOLAS
 I might. For a little while.

He glances at Hamilton who yawns and closes his eyes as he
 leans on Jake's shoulder.

NICHOLAS
 But maybe Hamilton could use a lift
 back home?

Jake notices Hamilton's sleepiness.

JAKE
 Yeah, you should go.

HAMILTON
 I'm good. I want to stay.

He yawns again. She turns to face him.

JAKE
 Hamilton, you've had zero sleep.
 You have to be exhausted.

He looks at her, not debating it.

JAKE
 Go home. Get sleep. I won't skip
 town without finding some way to
 see you, okay? I swear.

He nods.

HAMILTON
I could be into that.

She chuckles, leaning her forehead into his. He kisses her.

HAMILTON
I feel like the next time's not
going to feel like a decade.

JAKE
I'll be so quick.

Hamilton grins at her.

HAMILTON
God, I love you.

Jill and Sean walk up.

JAKE
(to Sean)
Thanks for... joining the
revolution earlier.

SEAN
You know I got your back.

JILL
You may need this...

Jill hands over Jake's cell phone. Jake looks relieved.

JAKE
Thanks.

Jill smiles. Jake holds it up to Hamilton.

JAKE
You know how to reach me.

Hamilton stares at her, totally in love. Bella clears her throat.

BELLA
Come on, Ham.

Nicholas offers Bella a tender kiss just before she exits with Hamilton.

EXT. FLEMING HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

The lights in the house are on. The family car pulls into the driveway of the house.

MUSIC: POMPEII BY BASTILLE

INT. FLEMING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Steven enters the house.

KATE (O.S.)
Where have you been?

She enters the living room, meeting Steven.

STEVEN
Um, well...

KATE
You left me.

He stares at her a moment.

KATE
Well?

STEVEN
I'm sorry. I just... I couldn't take Hamilton anymore.

KATE
Okay. Fine. But that was hours and hours ago. Where have you been?

STEVEN
I, uh... I had to...

KATE
Don't say stop by the office. I looked there for you.

A long beat.

STEVEN
Look, we need to talk, Kate.

She raises her eyebrows.

FADE OUT

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FADE IN

EXT. FLEMING HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - LATE NIGHT

A blanket of blackness surrounds the house, but the lights are on. Scout's car pulls away.

MUSIC: LET HER GO BY PASSENGER

INT. FLEMING LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

There is a large suitcase and two boxes stacked up by the door. The front door opens to reveal Hamilton entering. He looks down at the stuff then up as his dad enters.

STEVEN

We didn't think you'd be home tonight.

He glance at the suitcase and boxes again.

HAMILTON

Are you kicking me out?

KATE

(entering the room)
Of course not, Hamilton.

Kate enters, looking exhausted and with puffy eyes that show signs of crying.

HAMILTON

Oh, no.

He walks past his father and to his mother.

HAMILTON

Tell me you're not the one taking off here?

STEVEN

Your mother and I had a long conversation tonight.

HAMILTON

(to Kate)
If this is because of Jake and me,
(to Steven)

HAMILTON
it's not her fault.

KATE
This has nothing to do with you,
Munchie, okay?

Hamilton looks into her eyes a moment, getting it. He turns to his father, angry.

HAMILTON
So now she knows, and you're the
one packed up to go?

Kate looks at him quizzically.

STEVEN
(to Kate, tired)
I thought you said he wouldn't be
home tonight.

KATE
I didn't think he would be.

HAMILTON
(to Steven)
Where are you even going? Are you
going to be with her? Is that what
this is? Is that what you're doing?

KATE
(to Steven)
He knows?

STEVEN
I didn't tell you that because I
was trying to protect him.

KATE
Protect him? More like protect
yourself.

STEVEN
So it's okay for him to keep what
you had with Finn a secret--

KATE
Don't you dare. I've owned my
mistakes. I thought we'd moved on.

Hamilton looks back and forth between them.

STEVEN

Yeah, well, that's what I'm trying to do here.

He reaches for a heavy coat on a nearby rack.

KATE

To move on? With Alivia Dalton?!

HAMILTON

She's so awful, Dad. How could you?

Steven puts his coat on.

STEVEN

(to Kate)

This isn't a conversation we should be having in front of our son. I'm leaving. I'll be back for the rest of my things... some time.

He picks up his suitcase, but leaves the boxes as he walks out the front door. Kate and Hamilton glance at one another.

FADE OUT

COMMERCIAL BREAK

FADE IN

EXT. FLEMING HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - LATE NIGHT

In the distance, we hear a doorbell.

INT. FLEMING HOUSE - NIGHT

MUSIC: COLD DECEMBER BY MATT COSTA

Kate comes to the front door, opening it. Jake stands on the other side, looking chilly.

JAKE

I know I'm not supposed to be here.

KATE

Come on in, Dear.

Jake steps in.

JAKE
I had to drop Greg off to get my
mom's car.

Kate nods.

JAKE
And Hamilton called.

Jake glances around.

KATE
He's in the shower.

JAKE
Are you okay?

Kate smiles.

KATE
Well, it's certainly been a strange
twenty-four hours, that's for sure.

Jake chuckles.

JAKE
Yeah... I hear that.

KATE
Are you sure it's okay to be away
from the main event?

Jake smiles.

JAKE
She had it. Him. Jamison.

KATE
Hamilton told me.

JAKE
I held him. We bonded. I'll go back
in the morning. We're good.

Kate nods as Hamilton walks down the stairs, dressed in his
pajamas.

HAMILTON
I thought I heard you.

He rushes to Jake, pulling her into a hug.

Kate watches, a bittersweet smile on her lips.

WILL (V.O.)
After. In the aftermath, when the
shock wears off.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Monica sits comfortably in her bed. In a chair nearby, Greg holds the baby. A cot has been pulled in.

WILL (V.O.)
The dust settles.

Sean sits on one end, acting as a pillow for a sleeping Jill.

WILL (V.O.)
We start to look around to see just
what we have left.

Greg glances over at Sean who doesn't notice as he gently pushes some hair off of Jill's face.

WILL (V.O.)
And we figure out how we're going
to start over and do it all again.

Monica watches Greg who looks over at her and smiles. She beams at him and baby Jamison.

INT. ALIVIA'S LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Steven sits on the couch, head in his hands, his suitcase nearby.

WILL (V.O.)
Sometimes it's a scary prospect.

Alivia enters with a cup of tea. She sets it on the coffee table and puts a hand on his shoulder.

WILL (V.O.)
With new partners.

INT. SCOUT'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Scout flips on the lights and enters the room, glancing at Dexter's empty bed. He pulls off his shirt, flipping the lights off again and moving toward his own bed.

WILL (V.O.)
Or, even scarier, all alone.

INT. FLEMING BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Kate lies in bed, staring up at the ceiling.

INT. FLEMING LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

On the couch, Jake sits against one end with her head propped up by her arm. Hamilton lays with his head on her lap and his eyes closed. She runs her fingers through his hair.

WILL (V.O.)
Sometimes, though, the damage isn't as bad as we thought, and we find the familiar landscapes we need to move forward.

INT. BANKS LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Dexter is asleep on his back on the couch. The coffee table is pulled up close to him to prop his cast-covered arm on a pillow. Grace enters with a blanket, covering him up and tucking him in. She kisses his forehead.

INT. ALYSSA'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Alyssa is in bed, reading a book: Victorian Poets. She talks on her room phone, inaudible.

WILL (V.O.)
And if it's not over--if there are more waves of, whatever, life to come--I know that, personally...

INT. WILL'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Will, in his own bed with his own book of poetry, is also talking on the phone with a smile.

WILL (V.O.)
I'm ready for any magnitude.

FADE TO BLACK.