

MEET ME HALFWAY

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

DR. NOVAK , a kind, but stern doctor in his 30s, and MRS. BEATRICE, a heavy-set, matronly nurse in her 60s who grew up in Mississippi, rush down the hallway towards the entrance.

MRS. BEATRICE

Do we know anything about her yet?

DR. NOVAK

Only that she was found unconscious in an alleyway.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

MEDIC 1 and MEDIC 2 unload EMILIA DEAN, a young adult who has seen more than she should have, from the ambulance.

She suffers from a purple and swollen right eye, a bleeding nose, and a busted lip. Blood stains her shirt.

They wheel her inside.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

A TEAM OF NURSES rushes Emilia down the hallway.

DR. NOVAK

Get a CT Scan of her head. Check for any bleeding or fractures, especially around her orbital sockets. That eye looks concerning.

The team turns a corner.

INT. EXAM ROOM - NIGHT

They lift Emilia off of the gurney and onto a table. She remains unconscious.

NURSE 1, early 30s, cuts Emilia's shirt off of her, exposing her abdomen. Very intense bruises speckle her stomach.

NURSE 1

Severe abdominal trauma as well.

DR. NOVAK

Include that area in her scan then.
Make sure to use the contrast
agent.

NURSE 2, late 20s, nods and sets up her IV. NURSE 3, 50s, and
NURSE 4, 40s, swarm around her.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Emilia lays in her bed, now wearing a hospital gown. A purple
cast sits on her right arm, and her eye remains purple and
swollen shut.

Mrs. Beatrice enters and begins to check the IV when Emilia
awakens. She starts to panic.

MRS. BEATRICE

Shhh. It's okay. Oh honey! You're
fine.

Emilia stares, wide-eyed, at Mrs. Beatrice.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)

I know you're scared, but you're
safe here. No one is gonna hurt
you.

Emilia doesn't move.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Now you hang on just a minute.

The nurse hurriedly exits. Emilia groggily takes in her
surroundings.

Mrs. Beatrice re-enters carrying a clipboard.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Alright, so. I just need to get
some basic information from you.

Emilia nods.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)

To start, what's your name?

Emilia hesitates.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)

It's okay, sweetie. I promise we're
here to help you.

Emilia hesitates again.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)
Hon? Your name?

EMILIA
I don't know.

Mrs. Beatrice looks at Emilia for a moment.

MRS. BEATRICE
What about your age?

Emilia shakes her head, then winces.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)
Hold on for just a second.

She walks out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Mrs. Beatrice roams the hallway. She runs into Nurse 3.

MRS. BEATRICE
Can you page Dr. Novak and tell him
that the girl in room 264 is awake?

Nurse 3 nods and reaches for the phone.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Emilia lays in bed staring at the ceiling. Mrs. Beatrice and Dr. Novak enter. The doctor pulls up a chair next to her bed and takes a seat.

DR. NOVAK
Hello. I'm, George Novak, your
doctor, and you've met Mrs.
Beatrice. How do you feel? Is
anything hurting?

EMILIA
My head. And my sides.

DR. NOVAK
So, the CT scan that we did when
you came in showed that you have
three broken ribs, so you're going
to be sore for a while. We've got
you on a mild pain killer to help.

(MORE)

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)
We also found evidence of a
concussion, so you will be slightly
disoriented and have headaches for
a few days. Okay?

Emilia nods, then winces.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)
Now, I have to ask you some
questions, okay? First off, can you
tell me your name?

Emilia just stares at him for a moment, but slowly shakes her
head. He writes on his note pad.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)
That's okay. Can you tell me where
you are now?

EMILIA
I know I'm in a hospital.

DR. NOVAK
Do you know what city?

EMILIA
No.

DR. NOVAK
Memphis. Do you recognize the name?

Emilia nods. Dr. Novak takes notes.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)
Good, good. So, can you tell me how
you got hurt?

EMILIA
(dejected)
No. I can't.

DR. NOVAK
It's all gonna be alright. It seems
you have a case of retrograde
amnesia, but, many people with this
recover their memories within a few
weeks.

EMILIA
What about my name?

DR. NOVAK

Well, do you have a name you would like to be called for the time being?

Emilia thinks for a moment.

EMILIA

Not really.

DR. NOVAK

Why don't we call you Jane in the meantime? Does that sound okay?

EMILIA

I guess.

DR. NOVAK

Alright then Jane. You're going to have to stay here with us for the a while. Don't worry. We have a wonderful team of nurses who are going to take great care of you.

The doctor gets up and walks out. Mrs. Beatrice smiles warmly at Emilia.

MRS. BEATRICE

If you need anything, just press this button.

She shows Emilia the nurse button.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)

And here is a tv remote in case you get bored.

She hands Emilia the remote.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)

I'll come back to check on you in a little while.

Mrs. Beatrice exits.

Emilia sits there for a moment, staring at the blank tv. Then slowly rises, awkwardly maneuvering around with her IV cart.

INT. HOSPITAL BATHROOM - DAY

Emilia stands in front of the mirror, IV cart beside her. She reaches up and gently touches the purple and swollen skin around her eye, shocked. She closes her eyes and scrunches up her face.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

ELIJAH, an extremely intimidating man in his early 20s, appears as a silhouetted masculine figure. He swings at Emilia's face.

INT. HOSPITAL BATHROOM - DAY

Emilia gasps and backs into the wall. After a moment of heavy breathing and looking at herself in the mirror, she gets angry and slams the door shut.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Emilia lays in bed, sleeping. Her eye and lip show signs of healing.

LIAM, a stern male nurse in his late 20s, enters carrying a tray of food. He sets the tray down and gently touches Emilia's shoulder.

LIAM

Good morning.

Emilia groggily looks at the food.

EMILIA

Oh, um... good morning. Thanks.

Liam opens her bed tray and sets the food in front of her.

LIAM

Can't have you starving, but be warned. It's not very good.

EMILIA

Yeah... I've noticed that.

Liam smirks and begins adjusting the blankets at the foot of her bed.

Emilia stares at the food for a moment.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Liam, can I ask you something?

LIAM
Of course.

EMILIA
What's gonna happen to me? Like,
what if I never remember? I'm
guessing I can't stay here forever.

LIAM
(uncomfortable)
Well... from what I've been told
there's a pretty high chance that
you will begin to remember
eventually.

EMILIA
That's what Dr. Novak said, but
really. What if I never do?

LIAM
I'm really not the person to answer
that question for you. If you'd
like, I can go get Dr. Novak.

EMILIA
No... it's okay. I'll just eat.

LIAM
Alright, well another nurse will be
in to check on you soon. I think
Mrs. Beatrice is coming in.

She takes a bite of food, looking very disappointed. Liam
exits.

Emilia watches him leave, her gaze lingering on the door for
a moment. She then hurriedly looks away.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Emilia lays in bed asleep. The sun shines through her window.
Her eye and lip now mostly healed.

She awakens when Dr. Novak enters the room. Once again, he
pulls up a chair next to her bed and takes a seat.

DR. NOVAK
Good morning, Jane.

EMILIA
Good morning.

DR. NOVAK
How are you feeling today?

EMILIA
I'm not sure yet.

They both chuckle.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Yesterday was a good day though. My
head didn't really hurt at all.

DR. NOVAK
Well that's good news. Have you
remembered anything yet?

Emilia shakes her head.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)
Well, since you're making great
progress, it's time that we take
another CT scan.

EMILIA
Alright.

DR. NOVAK
Great. Mrs. Beatrice will be in to
collect you when we're ready.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

An empty food tray sits in Emilia's lap. She watches
television as Mrs. Beatrice enters, pushing a wheelchair.

MRS. BEATRICE
Hey hon!

EMILIA
Hello.

MRS. BEATRICE
You ready to go?

Emilia hobbles to the wheelchair. She allows Mrs. Beatrice to
push her to the door. Once at the door, Emilia grabs the door
frame.

EMILIA
Stop!

Mrs. Beatrice immediately stops and looks very concerned.

MRS. BEATRICE
What is it? What's wrong?

Emilia hesitates.

EMILIA
I can't go out there.

MRS. BEATRICE
Why not?

EMILIA
I just... can't. I don't know why,
but I have to stay in here.

She begins to get up out of the wheelchair, but Mrs. Beatrice grabs her shoulder to keep her still.

MRS. BEATRICE
Now hon. You're gonna be absolutely
fine. I know these tests can be a
little scary, but it'll be okay.

She begins to push Emilia through the door.

EMILIA
No! No! No! Take me back!

She begins to get up out of the wheelchair while it is moving, but she trips and falls on her broken arm.

MRS. BEATRICE
Oh my gosh! Are you okay?!

Emilia gets up and rushes back to her room.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)
Jane. Jane!

Mrs. Beatrice stands in the hallway, stunned. She then follows Emilia back into the room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Emilia hobbles into the room, clutching her ribs. She reaches the side chair and collapses into it, breathing hard and crying.

Mrs. Beatrice and Liam rush in. Mrs. Beatrice approaches her.

MRS. BEATRICE
Hey, hey, hey. Tell me what hurts.

Emilia just sobs and continues to clutch her ribs. She hyperventilates.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)
Alright, alright. Just try to
breathe with me okay?
(inhaling)
In, two, three, four,
(exhaling)
Out, two, three, four.

Emilia tries to regulate her breathing with Mrs. Beatrice.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)
That's it. Again.
(inhaling)
In, two, three, four.
(exhale)
Out, two, three, four.

Emilia's breathing slows.

EMILIA
(breathing hard and
crying)
I'm... so... sorry.

MRS. BEATRICE
It's okay. Don't try to talk right
now. Just focus on your breathing,
okay? Again.
(inhaling)
In, two, three, four.
(exhaling)
Out, two, three, four. There we go.
Okay. Tell me what hurts.

EMILIA
My... ribs. They hurt.

MRS. BEATRICE
Okay. Liam, I know Dr. Novak isn't
supposed to come in for another
hour, but could you have Jaylene at
the front desk give him a call? I'm
gonna stay with her.

Liam nods and exits.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)
Alright. Let's just keep breathing.
(inhaling)
In, two, three, four.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Dr. Novak enters the hall, a messenger bag on his shoulder. He drops the bag at a desk and enters Emilia's room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Emilia lays in her hospital bed once again. Mrs. Beatrice checks her vitals.

MRS. BEATRICE
Hey. She's doing better.

Emilia looks sheepish.

EMILIA
Yeah... I'm really sorry. I don't really know what happened. I just... the idea of leaving my room is... just... scary.

DR. NOVAK
(gently)
You're going to have to leave the room. We need to make sure everything is healing, but to do that, we need to take X-Rays.

EMILIA
No. I can't.

DR. NOVAK
If you won't work with us... we'll have to take measures that will ensure everyone's safety.

EMILIA
What do you mean?

DR. NOVAK
Meaning we will have to sedate you.

EMILIA
No. No. I can do this.

DR. NOVAK

Okay. I'll get you another X-ray scheduled, and we'll try again. You have to remain calm this time though.

Emilia nods.

A clock on the wall says 11:42am.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

The clock now says 3:30pm.

Emilia lays in bed watching tv. Once again, Mrs. Beatrice enters with a wheelchair. Dr. Novak peaks in through the door frame.

MRS. BEATRICE

You ready?

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Mrs. Beatrice wheels Emilia down the hall. Dr. Novak walks quietly behind them, holding a syringe.

Emilia sits in the chair, squeezing the sides and holding her eyes shut tight.

Someone's phone rings, and Emilia jumps. Her eyes spring open.

EMILIA

I can't do this. Oh my god!

She starts to get out of the chair. Mrs. Beatrice stops walking and puts her hand on Emilia's shoulder.

MRS. BEATRICE

No. It's okay. You've got to sit down.

EMILIA

No. I can't.

Emilia starts squirming, trying to get up, absolutely terrified. She hyperventilates again .

Dr. Novak uncaps the syringe and injects Emilia with the sedative.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Dr. Novak and Mrs. Beatrice stand in the hallway together. Mrs. Beatrice holds a tablet, and Dr. Novak holds a cup of coffee.

MRS. BEATRICE

So what do I need to add to her chart?

DR. NOVAK

I'm still waiting to hear back from her orthopedic about her arms and ribs. Once he does answer, I'll just go in and add it myself.

Dr. Novak takes a sip of his coffee.

MRS. BEATRICE

And her concussion?

DR. NOVAK

I'm not seeing any signs of lasting damage. You said she's feeling better?

MRS. BEATRICE

Yeah. She said she hasn't had many headaches and isn't as dizzy.

DR. NOVAK

Good, good.

MRS. BEATRICE

And what about her refusing to leave her room? I've never seen anything like it.

DR. NOVAK

I haven't either.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)

(beat)

I'm going to make some calls and see if we can find her a place to stay until she gets her memories back. She'll be okay.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Emilia lies in bed, pale and sweaty. She tosses and turns. Her heart monitor goes crazy.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Emilia stands in the dark. She breathes very hard.

Elijah, shrouded in shadows, approaches from behind her.

She looks over her shoulder and sees him. She begins to breathe even harder and starts to run.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Emilia bolts upright, breathing hard, crying.

JADE, a middle-aged nurse who really doesn't want to be there, shakes Emilia awake.

JADE

You gotta wake up.

Emilia awakens. After a moment of panic, she realizes where she is and calms down, regulating her breathing.

JADE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

EMILIA

Nothing. Just a nightmare.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Novak enters his office and takes a seat. He pulls out his cell phone. He sighs.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

DANA, a beautiful social worker with kind eyes in her 30s, sits at the head of a long kitchen table.

Around it sit CASON, a loveable, muscular with a dark past in his mid 20s, NOAH, a stoner with a goofy demeanor in his late 20s, and MACI, a young adult sex addict with the attitude that only teenage girls can have.

DANA

So, who wants to go first?

Silence.

DANA (CONT'D)

Alright then, Cason. You're up.

CASON
Don't really have much to say.

DANA
Well, how's work going? Getting
along well with everyone?

CASON
It's fine.

Beat. Dana doesn't look convinced.

CASON (CONT'D)
Don't worry, no arguments with
anyone.

DANA
Good! Have you been using your
rubber band?

Cason raises his wrist and pops himself with a rubber band.
Dana ignores this.

DANA (CONT'D)
Okay... Noah? You're gonna be
discharged soon. Share your plans
with us.

Noah looks towards the wall where a calendar hangs open to
June. "X"s mark the days that have already passed. Noah sits
up.

NOAH
My parents said I could move back
in with them. My dad's gonna teach
me how to run his grocery store.

DANA
Good! Maci?

Maci just stares at Dana.

DANA (CONT'D)
(irritated)
Maci.

Maci rolls her eyes.

MACI
This is stupid.

She begins to get up and walk away.

DANA
Maci. This is not optional. Do you
want to go back to rehab?

MACI
You'd like that wouldn't you?

She walks to her room. Dana sighs.

DANA
(calling after Maci)
This is strike two Maci! One more
and I'll be forced to report you.

A door slams. Dana's phone rings. She looks at it and her
face pales.

DANA (CONT'D)
Umm... Hang on a second guys. Don't
go anywhere.

She gets up and walks out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Novak leans back in his desk chair, nervously tapping his
fingers. His phone rings. Dana picks up.

DANA
George?

He immediately sits up, clearing his throat.

DR. NOVAK
Hello.

Awkward silence.

INT. DANA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dana paces around her office. She stops moving just before
speaking.

DANA
George, why are you calling me?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION - DR. NOVAK'S OFFICE/DANA'S
OFFICE

DR. NOVAK
I need to ask a favor of you.

Dana does not respond.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)
I have this patient... she came to us a few weeks ago with no memory and no place to go. I was wondering if you could help me find a place for her.

She still doesn't say anything.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)
Do you still work at that halfway house?

DANA
Well... yes.

DR. NOVAK
Would it be possible for you to take her in?

DANA
I don't know. I mean, I have a vacant space right now, but I really have my hands full with the newest tenant.

She looks towards Maci's room.

DR. NOVAK
Dana, She needs a place.

Silence.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Dana reenters and sits at the table. She takes a breath and then looks at Cason and Noah.

DANA
So... I just got a call from... an old friend of mine. He's a doctor who is looking for a place for one of his patients to stay. I told him she could stay here.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Emilia lies awake in bed. Dr. Novak and Mrs. Beatrice enter.

MRS. BEATRICE
Good mornin' hon.

DR. NOVAK
Good morning.

EMILIA
Morning.

MRS. BEATRICE
We have some news for you.

DR. NOVAK
Yes. It is time that you move on
from the hospital.

EMILIA
What do you mean?

DR. NOVAK
We've found a place for you to
stay. It will be much comfortable.

EMILIA
What?

MRS. BEATRICE
I know this can be scary but--

EMILIA
You can't move me. I like it here.

DR. NOVAK
You can't stay in the hospital. We
need this room for new patients,
plus you need to get back into the
world. Who knows? You might trigger
a memory.

EMILIA
But what if I don't? What if you
move me, and I don't remember
anything. Then I'm stuck in this
place where I don't know anyone.

MRS. BEATRICE
You didn't know us when you first
got here.

EMILIA
Well, yeah, but you guys are
different.

MRS. BEATRICE

That's sweet, but we're just like anyone else. You're gonna be just fine and who knows? Maybe you'll make some new friends.

A beat.

EMILIA

Where are you going to take me?

DR. NOVAK

I have a social worker friend who runs a halfway house not too far from here.

Emilia looks distraught.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, but you don't really have an option. You're going to love it there. You'll have your own private room and be around people your age. It's much nicer than staying in a hospital.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maci sits on the couch watching tv and looking at a magazine, her bare feet propped up on the coffee table. Dana enters the room.

DANA

Hey.

Maci just looks at her.

DANA (CONT'D)

Look. I know you don't like being here, but this is the situation you're in and you have to make the best of it. We are all here to help you.

Maci doesn't look up from her magazine.

DANA (CONT'D)

Okay fine. You are going to lend our newcomer a few clothes to sleep in until she gets her own.

MACI

What newcomer?

DANA

If you hadn't left our meeting early then you would know. She's coming from the hospital with no memory...and no clothes, so, like I said, you will be lending her some.

MACI

Yeah right. In her dreams.

DANA

I'm not asking. Besides you have plenty of clothes that you don't wear.

MACI

So? They're still *my* clothes, and I don't have to lend them out to anyone.

DANA

Yes you do, otherwise it's strike three.

MACI

This is bullshit. You can't do that.

DANA

Yes I can, and I will.

Maci glares at Dana.

MACI

Fine! She can have some of my shitty clothes.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Emilia sits up in bed, deep in thought. Mrs. Beatrice enters carrying a food tray.

EMILIA

I don't wanna go.

Mrs. Beatrice hesitates. Then she sighs and sets the food tray down on the bedside table.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

I don't know who I am. I don't know how to introduce myself to people.

MRS. BEATRICE

I know you're scared, but this is a good opportunity to figure out what kind of person you are. I know you'll be brave.

She pats Emilia's leg and sets the food tray on her lap.

MRS. BEATRICE (CONT'D)

Now eat up.

Emilia looks at her food as Mrs. Beatrice exits the room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

The sun shines through the window.

Mrs. Beatrice enters with a wheelchair and Dana, who carries a change of clothes.

MRS. BEATRICE

Good morning! Today is the day!

DANA

Hi Jane. I'm Dana, I believe Dr. Novak told you about me.

EMILIA

Hi.

DANA

Now, from what I understand you don't like to leave your room?

EMILIA

I can't explain why.

DANA

And that's fine. You don't have to right now, it's something we'll work on. I do need you to work with me today though. I need you to stay as calm as possible while we are on our way to the house. It's not far. Does that sound okay?

Emilia hesitates.

EMILIA

I really don't want to go out there.

DANA

I'm sorry, but you're going to have to. Here. Put these on.

She gives Emilia the clothes. Emilia takes them and goes into the bathroom.

Dana and Mrs. Beatrice look at each other.

MRS. BEATRICE

So. You're doing this as a favor to George?

DANA

Yeah... Not for him though. She needs help.

MRS. BEATRICE

Yes, she does...

DANA

Excuse me, but I need to speak with Dr. Novak before we head out.

She walks out of the room.

Emilia emerges wearing jeans, a red t-shirt, and some tennis shoes.

EMILIA

Shoes are a bit big.

MRS. BEATRICE

Aww. Look at you. You look so nice!

EMILIA

Thanks Mrs. B.

Mrs. Beatrice pulls Emilia into a hug.

MRS. BEATRICE

I'm gonna miss my favorite patient.

EMILIA

I'll miss you too.

Emilia takes a seat in the wheelchair.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

Dana and Dr. Novak stand in the hallway.

NURSE 5, early 30s, rolls a cart of medical supplies down the hallway towards Emilia.

DR. NOVAK

Thank you so much for taking her in. I don't know what we would've done if you hadn't.

DANA

Well you didn't really give me much choice, begging like that.

Dr. Novak begins to say something, but decides against it.

Dana looks over to see Mrs. Beatrice staring at them. She looks hurriedly away.

DANA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, that was uncalled for.

DR. NOVAK

It's fine.

Awkward silence. Dana's phone rings. A photo of Dana and a handsome, friendly looking man in his 30s, appears on the screen along with the name "Waylen."

Dr. Novak looks at the phone and back at Dana.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)

Do you want to answer that?

DANA

(hesitantly)

No, um, it's just Waylen. He knows I'm working. I'll call him back later.

DR. NOVAK

Did you enjoy your trip to the beach?

DANA

Huh?

DR. NOVAK

In the picture you two were at the beach.

DANA

Oh. Yeah. He took me there for a week this summer.

DR. NOVAK
Does he, you know, spend time with
you? Make you happy?

She smiles again.

DANA
Yeah. He does.

Dr. Novak breaks eye contact.

A loud crash sounds behind them and they both turn around.

Emilia backs away from a pile of medical supplies on the
floor.

EMILIA
I'm so sorry.

She turns and runs back to her room.

Dr. Novak and Dana look at each other as Mrs. Beatrice takes
off running after Emilia.

DANA
This is going to be harder than I
thought.

They both walk back to Emilia's hospital room.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Emilia lies in bed under a blanket in a very bare room.

Dana sits on the floor on the opposite side of the room. She
is reading a book on agoraphobia with a clothing catalogue
sitting beside her.

Emilia sits up, very groggy. She goes to touch her face with
her right arm, but remembers her cast. Dana closes the book
and slowly stands.

Emilia sleepily takes in her surroundings. She starts
sweating and shaking.

EMILIA
What did you do to me?

DANA
You gave us no choice but to sedate
you.

Emilia breaks eye contact and looks at the floor.

DANA (CONT'D)

This is your own private room. We don't know how long you're gonna be here, so you might want to get comfortable. I know it's pretty bare, but usually people come in with personal possessions.

EMILIA

(defeated)

I don't have any.

DANA

I know, so I got you a blanket. Once you get a job you can start to buy yourself some decorations. For now, I got you this.

She hands Emilia the clothing catalogue.

DANA (CONT'D)

You can pick some clothes and shoes. Just let me know which ones you like, and I'll order them.

EMILIA

I don't have any money.

DANA

As I said, you're gonna have to get a job.

EMILIA

But--

Dana stops her Emilia by putting her hand up.

DANA

But not right now. First we have to figure out how to help you. This is going to be a journey for the both of us.

DANA (CONT'D)

(smiling)

There are also some rules that we need to go over since you didn't get a proper orientation. First of all, you're going to get assigned daily chores which you'll have to complete.

Emilia starts to interrupt.

DANA (CONT'D)
Don't worry. We'll start small,
like keeping your room and bathroom
clean. You'll have to submit to
weekly room checks too. Also, you
can have no sexual relations while
you're staying here, in the house
or otherwise.

Emilia nods.

DANA (CONT'D)
Anyway, I know you must be hungry.
I'll go make you a sandwich.

Dana exits. Emilia flops down on her bed.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Dana stands at the counter making a sandwich. Cason sits at
the table, munching on some chips.

CASON
So... who is she?

DANA
We don't know. She can't remember
anything.

CASON
Okay... Why is she here?

DANA
Because she has nowhere else to go.

Dana finishes making the sandwich. She hands it to Cason. He
looks at her, quizzical.

DANA (CONT'D)
She is in an unfamiliar place and
doesn't know any of us. Go
introduce yourself and make sure
the others do the same at some
point today. Give her this.

He grabs the sandwich from her.

CASON
Fine.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Emilia sits on her bed flipping through the clothing catalogue. When she hears a knock on the door, she freezes.

CASON (O.S.)

Jane?

Emilia doesn't move.

CASON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I have food.

EMILIA

Thanks. You can just leave it at the door.

CASON (O.S.)

Oh come on.

CASON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(silence)

Please?

Emilia gets up and opens the door. Cason stands there with her sandwich.

Emilia awkwardly takes the sandwich and begins to close the door. Cason stops the door from closing.

CASON (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you. I'm Cason.

Without closing the door, Emilia walks over to her bed and sits.

Emilia stares.

EMILIA

That's an interesting name.

Cason laughs and sits on the floor.

CASON

One that I picked myself.

Emilia looks confused.

CASON (CONT'D)

Yeah. I hated the name my mom gave me, so as soon as I turned 18, I changed it.

Emilia raises her eyebrows and nods.

EMILIA

So--

CASON

(smirking)

No. I will not be telling you what
my birthname was.

Emilia laughs.

EMILIA

Damn.

Cason looks at her cast.

CASON

So what'd you do?

EMILIA

I'm not sure.

Awkward silence.

CASON

Well... I can see that you want to
be alone, and I've done my job, so
I'll see you later.

He leaves. Emilia lets go of all of the tension she's been
holding in. She turns the light out and hides under the
singular blanket on her bed.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emilia lies in bed, now deeply asleep. She whines, tosses and
turns. She suddenly awakens. She sits up very quickly
breathing hard and sweating.

She gets up and walks to the bathroom.

INT. EMILIA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Emilia bends over the sink, splashing water on her face.

When she comes back up, she looks in the mirror. She sees
Elijah's silhouette standing behind her. She gasps and turns
around. No one is there.

She leans against the bathroom wall and slides down until she
is sitting in the fetal position. She begins quietly sobbing.

INT. DANA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dana sits at her desk filling out paperwork. Her phone rings, startling her.

She looks at her phone. After a moment of hesitation she answers it.

DANA
Hello?

INT. DR. NOVAK'S CAR - NIGHT

Dr. Novak sits in a motionless car in a parking garage.

DR. NOVAK
Hey, Dana. I was just calling to see how Jane has settled in.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION - DR. NOVAK'S CAR/DANA'S OFFICE

Dana looks at her watch.

DANA
At eleven o'clock?

DR. NOVAK
Yeah. Um, sorry about that. This was my first free moment of the day.

DANA
Wow. Seems like not much has changed then.

DR. NOVAK
(uncomfortable)
Yeah. I guess not. Anyway, how is she?

DANA
Stressed. Confused. Overwhelmed.

DR. NOVAK
Well, it is just her first day. We can't expect much more than that.

DANA
So you called to tell me something I already knew?

DR. NOVAK
I really just wanted to get your
opinion on the situation.

DANA
I've never seen a case like this,
but I'm gonna do whatever I can to
help her.

DR. NOVAK
(smiling)
I see you haven't changed much
either.

Awkward beat.

DANA
If that's all, I really need to
finish this paperwork so I can try
to get some sleep.

DR. NOVAK
Yes of course. Let me know--

INT. DANA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dana's phone rings, interrupting Dr. Novak. She pulls it away from her face and sees the picture of her and Waylen at the beach.

DANA
(quickly)
I have to go. I'll keep you
updated.

DR. NOVAK (V.O.)
Yeah. Just--

Dana ends the call and answers Waylen.

DANA
(exhausted)
Hey.

INT. WAYLEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

WAYLEN, the man from the picture at the beach, lounges on the couch, eating dinner. The tv shows a murder mystery in the background. He mutes the tv.

WAYLEN
You sound tired.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION - WAYLEN'S LIVING ROOM/DANA'S OFFICE

DANA

Gee. Good to hear from you too.

WAYLEN

Oh come on. You know I'm happy to talk to you. So tell me about your day.

Dana sighs.

DANA

You know how I told you I was taking in a new girl today?

WAYLEN

Yeah.

DANA

We ended up sedating her.

WAYLEN

Wow.

DANA

Yeah it wasn't fun. And then George just called me and that conversation was--

WAYLEN

Wait, George as in your ex fiancé?

DANA

Yeah... He was the doctor who called asking for me to take the girl in.

WAYLEN

You didn't tell me it was him.

DANA

Yeah I'm sorry. I just didn't think about it.

WAYLEN

We both know that's not true.

DANA

Way--

Waylen sits up and leans forward on the couch.

WAYLEN

Dana, I know he was important to you, and I have no problem with that. Just don't hide anything from me okay?

DANA

Yeah. You're right. I'm sorry.

WAYLEN

I'll let you make it up to me tomorrow. We're going out to dinner.

Dana laughs.

WAYLEN (CONT'D)

I'll pick you up at 6.

He hangs up the phone.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - MORNING

Maci knocks on Emilia's door and impatiently awaits an answer.

After a moment, Emilia answers, looking like she just rolled out of bed.

MACI

Well good morning sunshine.

EMILIA

Um... Hi?

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maci shoves past Emilia and sits on the bed, leaving no place for Emilia to sit.

Emilia closes her eyes and takes a deep breath before turning to face Maci.

MACI

So why're you here? What'd you do?

Emilia doesn't make eye contact.

EMILIA

Why do you want to know?

Maci smirks. Cason walks by the door and sees what's happening. He leans in the door frame, unnoticed.

MACI
Defensive I see. Call it morbid
curiosity.

EMILIA
You first.

Maci smiles.

MACI
Why, I'm so glad you asked. I
stabbed a man twelve times after he
cat called me.

She gets up and gets in Emilia's face.

MACI (CONT'D)
He was twice my size. Test me, I
dare ya.

Cason snorts. Emilia jerks her head around to look at him. Maci rolls her eyes. She goes back to sit on the bed.

CASON
She wishes she was that badass. Why
don't you tell her why you're
really here, Maci.

MACI
You clearly are dying to tell her,
so go ahead.

CASON
She's here to get out of rehab. Sex
addict.

Emilia looks at Maci, uncomfortable. Maci raises her eyebrows and smirks.

MACI
Well, since we're all sharing,
Cason, Mr. Secretive, why don't you
tell up. We're all dying to know.

Cason's face darkens. The kind, charismatic demeanor has vanished.

CASON
I did something bad. We'll leave it
at that.

Maci rolls her eyes.

MACI
So melodramatic. Your turn
princess.

Emilia sighs.

EMILIA
Well I don't really know why I'm
here.

Maci snorts.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Fine. Don't believe me, but I'm
telling the truth. I woke up in the
hospital a few weeks ago and that's
all I know. I... I don't even know
my name.

CASON
There have to be some things you
know about yourself.

EMILIA
Not really.

CASON
Come on. What's your favorite
color?

Emilia looks taken aback.

EMILIA
Umm... Blue?

CASON
What kind of blue?

EMILIA
Maybe like a blue green I guess.

CASON
Well don't guess. You're the only
person who could know.

EMILIA
Okay then a blue green color. Like
the ocean.

CASON
Interesting... so you like the
ocean?

EMILIA

Hmm... You know... I think I do. I think I've always wanted to go.

Maci ignores them, picking at her nails while still taking up the entirety of Emilia's bed.

CASON

What kind of music do you like?

EMILIA

Oh. Umm... I don't know.

Cason sits on the floor against the wall opposite the bed. He pulls out his phone and pats the floor next to him, inviting Emilia to sit with him. Hesitantly, she takes a seat.

CASON

Here. What do you think about this song?

He begins to play a pop song. Emilia scrunches her face and shakes her head.

He then plays a classic rock song.

EMILIA

Actually, I like this one!

CASON

Really? I wouldn't have guessed you to be a rock kinda girl, but I guess I can see it.

Maci continues to ignore them as they keep sitting and talking. Music overtakes the dialogue.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Maci sits on the counter munching on a brownie. Cason sits at the table with a bowl of chili.

Noah walks in wearing his work uniform. He drops his keys and wallet on the table and plops down across the table from Cason.

MACI

Hey loser.
(beat)
You smell like burgers.

NOAH

Ugh. I don't even want to hear the word. I don't think I'll ever be able to eat another burger again.

He sees Maci's brownie.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Now that I could eat.

MACI

Sorry dude. This isn't one of your special kind of brownies.

He sticks his tongue out at her. He gets up and reaches for the plate of brownies behind her. She blocks him.

MACI (CONT'D)

Wait. I bought these. I think I should get something in return.

She leans into him, biting her lip. Noah leans in as though to kiss her but reaches behind her and grabs the plate.

He immediately retreats, setting the plate in the middle of the table. He grabs a handful and begins to eat them. Cason does the same.

MACI (CONT'D)

Well, you're no fun.

She gets up, grabs the singular brownie left on the plate and walks out of the room.

A moment of silence.

From his seat, Cason peeks into the hall at Emilia's closed door.

NOAH

Have you met her yet?

CASON

Yeah I have. I feel pretty bad for her.

NOAH

Why?

CASON

I guess Dana didn't tell you. She has no idea who she is. Not even her name.

NOAH
Damn. I can't even imagine.

CASON
Yeah. Me neither. It's gotta be scary.

NOAH
You know what would make it less scary?

CASON
What?

A beat. Noah grins at Cason. Cason raises an eyebrow.

Dana enters wearing makeup and with her hair done.

DANA
You two look like you're up to something. Should I be worried?

NOAH
Us? Cause trouble? Nah. Never.

Dana chuckles.

NOAH (CONT'D)
So where are you headed?

DANA
Just out.

Someone knocks on the front door. The boys grin at each other.

CASON
Okay then. Have a good time while your "just out."

DANA
I'm serious you two. Behave. I'll see you tomorrow.

She looks at the calendar on the wall. She points at Noah.

DANA (CONT'D)
You haven't been marking it off.

NOAH
Whoops. I'll do that right now.

He grabs a marker and marks off three days.

The two laugh and exit the room. Dana approaches the door.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE PORCH - EVENING

Waylen leans on the door frame, one hand on the wall. He uses the other to scroll through his phone. Dana opens the door.

WAYLEN
Well hello there.

Dana smiles and exits the house.

DANA
Hi-

Dana's phone rings. She looks at it. "George" appears on the screen. Dana's smile falters.

WAYLEN
Um... Everything okay?

Dana shakes her head and recomposes herself. She declines the call.

DANA
Yeah. Everything's fine.

WAYLEN
Who was that?

DANA
No one. So where are we eating?

Waylen studies her for a moment.

WAYLEN
Um, how do you feel about Mexican?

DANA
I wouldn't mind it.

WAYLEN
Well then let's go.

They walk off the porch.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Emilia sits on her bed staring out the window. She watches as Dana and Waylen get in the car. Once they're out of sight, she throws herself backwards onto the bed and stares at the ceiling.

EMILIA

Ugh!

She sits up and looks out the window again. She watches Noah walk down the street. He looks toward the bedroom window. They make eye contact, and Noah waves.

Emilia awkwardly waves back. Noah walks out of sight.

Emilia gets up and closes the blinds.

She lays down under the covers and goes to sleep.

TIME LAPSE

-- The night turns to day as Emilia tosses and turns in bed.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Emilia takes a deep breath as she awakens. She stretches and opens her eyes, staring at the ceiling.

She looks over at her night stand where a sharpie and the clothing catalogue sit. She sits up and reaches out to grab them.

She flips through the catalogue and circles items with the sharpie.

Someone knocks on her door. Emilia freezes.

DANA (O.S.)

Are you awake?

Emilia stands, takes a deep breath, and approaches the door. She goes to open it with her casted arm, but catches herself. She reaches with the other arm and opens the door. Dana stands there.

DANA (CONT'D)

Hi.

EMILIA

Hi...

DANA

Look, I gave you some slack yesterday, but it's time to get to work. No one's in the kitchen right now, so we're gonna go eat something, yeah?

Emilia pales.

EMILIA
I'm not really hungry-

DANA
Sorry kid, you're not getting out
of this.

She sees that Emilia is holding the catalogue.

DANA (CONT'D)
Oh! Did you find anything you like?

Emilia looks relieved at the distraction.

EMILIA
Umm. Yeah. I circled them. I'm not
sure about sizes though.

DANA
Don't worry. We'll get you the same
size as Maci gave you. Those fit
okay, right?

Emilia nods.

DANA (CONT'D)
Alright. Enough chit chat. Let's
eat.

She begins to walk to the kitchen but pauses to look over her
shoulder when she gets to the doorway. Emilia hasn't moved.

DANA (CONT'D)
Come on.

EMILIA
Can I have just a second?

DANA
Fine, but if you're not here in two
minutes, I'm coming for you.

Emilia turns and goes into her bathroom.

INT. EMILIA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Once in the bathroom, Emilia splashes her face with water.
She studies her face in the mirror, but there is nothing out
of the ordinary.

EMILIA

Please. Give me something.

She studies her face some more.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Guess not.

She takes a deep breath and returns to her room.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Emilia stops at the door. She grabs the frames and takes a step into the hallway. She pauses and looks around. The hall remains empty.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Emilia pulls her other foot out so that she is fully in the hallway. Slowly, she makes her way to the kitchen, taking slow, deliberate steps.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Dana stands at the counter making pasta. She hears Emilia enter and turns to face her.

DANA

Well, alright. Progress. Take a seat.

Shaking, Emilia makes her way to the table and sits down. Dana puts a bowl of pasta in front of her and joins her at the table. Emilia doesn't touch the food.

She begins to breathe harder, almost hyperventilating. Her eyes frantically flit about the room.

DANA (CONT'D)

Jane... Listen to me okay? There's noth-

Emilia jumps up from the table and sprints back to her room. Dana follows her.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Emilia runs into her room and slams the door shut as Dana approaches.

INT. CASON'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cason lies on his bed reading a book. He hears Emilia's door slam and looks up. Frowning, he stands and goes out into the hallway.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Dana stands outside Emilia's bedroom door. Cason stands and watches from behind, unnoticed by Dana.

DANA

Jane!

EMILIA (O.S.)

That's not my name!

Dana takes a deep breath.

DANA

Look, it's okay. Please just let me in. I'm trying to help you.

EMILIA (O.S.)

Just go away! Leave me alone!

DANA

You aren't alone in this. I'm here whenever you're ready to try again....

A beat.

DANA (CONT'D)

You are going to have to try again soon, but it's okay for right now.

Dana sees Cason, shakes her head, and returns to the kitchen.

Cason hesitates for a moment. He then approaches Emilia's door and gives a gentle knock.

No answer.

He knocks again.

EMILIA (O.S.)

I said go away Dana!

CASON

It's me.

Silence.

CASON (CONT'D)
Can I come in?

Emilia doesn't say anything, but the door clicks as she unlocks it from the inside. Cason goes inside.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cason cautiously enters the room. He finds Emilia sitting in the far corner with her face hidden in her arms.

Without a word, he crouches down to her level. She peaks out from her arms and just looks at him.

CASON
Wanna talk about it?

EMILIA
No... I mean, I don't really know what there is to talk about. I can't explain what's going on, just that every time I even think about leaving, I want to throw up.

Beat.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
I am so sorry.

CASON
Why?

EMILIA
It's embarrassing! None of y'all are having this problem.

Cason chuckles.

CASON
There's really nothing you need to feel embarrassed about. We're all struggling with our own problems.

EMILIA
Well you seem fine.

CASON
I'm here aren't I?

EMILIA
I guess.

Cason sits next to her.

CASON

You know, I'm sorta jealous. You've got this chance to start a completely new life. You can be whoever you want... But I also know that not knowing must be killing you.

EMILIA

It is... I've... had a few dreams. Nothing solid. Just a shadow coming for me. I can't make out any details, but it's scary.

Cason looks at her intently.

CASON

It's okay to be scared.

Emilia hides her face in her arms again. Cason shifts.

Awkward silence.

CASON (CONT'D)

I have "anger issues" according to... everyone.

Emilia looks up at him, confused.

CASON (CONT'D)

I was twenty-two, and my mom was dating this guy. He was an ass at best, but she wasn't perfect either. They both drank way too much and were always fighting. One day, I came home and they were screaming and yelling at each other. Then he swung at her. Before I even knew what was happening, I was on top of him.

EMILIA

Cason...

CASON

My mom... well, let's just say she shouldn't have even been called a mom. I'd practically been on my own since grade school, but somehow, I convinced myself that she still loved me. Well, next thing I knew, she was on the phone with the cops, and they came and took me away.

Beat.

CASON (CONT'D)

I think I'm actually glad she called them. I probably would have killed him if they hadn't stopped me. Still, I just remember her screaming that she hated me and never wanted to see me again.

EMILIA

That's really awful. I'm so sorry.

CASON

It's a mistake that I'll never be able to get away from, but I couldn't help it. She was my mom and she needed me.

EMILIA

Was?

Cason shifts uncomfortably.

CASON

I found out that she died of an overdose a few months ago. Her and that man.

Emilia picks at her cast.

CASON (CONT'D)

The last thing she ever said to me "I should have aborted you when I had the chance," and every day I try to forget that. Try to move on, but it's a work in progress.

Beat.

CASON (CONT'D)

I guess what I'm saying is that, I'm trying to let go of who I was, so that I can maybe build a new life. I think you should do the same. Who you were before, that doesn't matter. It's the who you are now that's important, and I think you're pretty cool.

Her expression softens and she relaxes.

Maci busts open the door, and Cason and Emilia jump and stand up.

Looking between the two, Maci grins slyly.

MACI
Ooh. Am I interrupting anything?

CASON
No.

EMILIA
No.

MACI
Good. Because I would hate to have
to report you two to Dana.

Cason rolls his eyes.

CASON
What do you want Maci?

MACI
Well, you're no fun. Anyways,
Noah's home. He has the stuff to
decorate.

Cason glares at her. Emilia looks confused.

MACI (CONT'D)
Oops. Did I ruin the surprise?
Sorry.

She walks away.

CASON
Noah! Come on in!

Noah enters carrying plastic bags full of wall decorations,
magazines, a comforter, and other miscellaneous items to
decorate Emilia's room with.

NOAH
Hi. I'm Noah.

Emilia seems a little tense.

EMILIA
H-Hi.

Noah is completely at ease.

NOAH
Don't worry. I don't bite. Cason
told me your room was a little...
(MORE)

NOAH (CONT'D)
well, boring, so we thought we'd
give you a little help.

He enters the room and sets everything down on the bed.
Emilia just stands there awkwardly, avoiding eye contact.
Noah smirks.

NOAH (CONT'D)
It's okay. I'm just dropping the
stuff off. I'll head out.

He begins to walk towards the door. Emilia bites her lip.

EMILIA
No. Wait. Stay. Umm... I mean, if
you want. The three of us could
maybe do this together?

Noah and Cason smile.

NOAH
Of course.

He walks back toward the bed and begins to empty the bags.
Emilia slowly approaches him and peers at what he brought.

Cason pulls out his phone and connects it to the speaker that
Noah brought in. He puts on some alternative rock music.

MONTAGE - EMILIA'S BEDROOM

-- Cason and Emilia hang up posters.

-- Noah hangs up a shower curtain.

-- Emilia arranges the pillows on her bed which sports a new
comforter.

-- Noah sets a couple of magazines and a snow globe on the
nightstand.

-- Cason hangs a tapestry on the ceiling.

BACK TO SCENE

The walls now have miscellaneous posters and other hanging
decorations on them. Tapestries hang from the ceiling. A
stack of books and magazines sit on the night-stand.

A blue and purple comforter decorates her bed along with some
matching pillows. A few little trinkets sit on the dresser
and night stand.

The three of them stand back and admire their work. Emilia smiles.

EMILIA

Wow. It actually kind of feels like mine now.

CASON

That was kind of the point.

The three of them exchange a chuckle.

EMILIA

I really appreciate it. Thank you so much.

CASON

Don't worry, you can pay us back once you get a job.

Emilia laughs uncomfortably.

EMILIA

Yeah. Okay.

NOAH

Well, I don't know about you guys, but I'm starving. Wanna grab some lunch?

CASON

Wow. Me too. I think we have some left-over spaghetti in the fridge.

NOAH

Awesome.

They begin to exit the room. Cason stops.

CASON

(to Emilia)

Oh. Would you like to join?

Emilia awkwardly sits on the bed.

EMILIA

Nah. I'm tired and my arm kind of hurts. How about you guys just bring me some when you're done?

She holds up her cast.

Cason nods.

CASON

Alright.

He leaves.

Emilia flops on her bed, staring at her newly decorated room. After a moment, she sits up and grabs a magazine from the night-stand.

She lays in bed flipping through the pages. One page features an article discussing *Me Before You*. It includes an image of Emilia Clark.

Emilia reads the name.

EMILIA

Emilia... Emilia... Oh my god!

She jumps up and bolts out the door.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Cason! Noah!

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Emilia rushes into the kitchen as Noah and Cason sit around the table, eating spaghetti. The two of them stare at her dumbfounded.

Emilia throws the magazine on the table.

EMILIA

Look! Oh my god look!

She points to the photo with the name.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Emilia. That's my name. I don't know how, but I know that it is!

Cason smiles.

CASON

Umm...

He references the kitchen. She's out of her room. Emilia looks around.

EMILIA

Oh.

CLOSE UP: The kitchen calendar shows "June" with marks continuing until the middle of the month.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen calendar now reads "July" and has a few days marked off.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE PORCH - DAY

Emilia stands outside, sweeping leaves off of the porch. Cason wipes down the windows. They smile at each other.

A car pulls up. Dr. Novak gets out and approaches the house. Emilia smiles and waves.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Emilia sits on the couch looking at her freshly cast-free arm, twisting it around.

DANA
Feel better?

EMILIA
Feels like it needs a good washing.

Dana smirks.

DANA
Well, you go take care of that. Me and Dr. Novak have some paperwork to do.

Dana exits the living room followed by Dr. Novak.

INT. DANA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dana and Dr. Novak enter the office. Dana sits at her desk.

DR. NOVAK
Wow. She's really improved a lot.

DANA
Yep. Since she remembered her name, she seems a lot more comfortable. I'm hoping she'll be ready to leave the house soon.

DR. NOVAK
Just keep up the good work.

Dana smiles at Dr. Novak.

DANA
(sincere)
Thanks.

DR. NOVAK
So how are you? It's been a while.

DANA
I've been good. Working a lot
lately.

DR. NOVAK
I understand the feeling... but you
already know that.

Dana purses her lips and looks down at her paperwork. She begins writing.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)
So, what exactly do you need from
me?

Dana slides her form across the desk.

DANA
Sign here.

Dr. Novak signs.

DANA (CONT'D)
And... I need you to stop calling
me so much. We both know that you
aren't just checking on Emilia
anymore.

Dr. Novak tightens his lips, looks down, and nods.

Dana stands and begins pacing.

DANA (CONT'D)
I'm seeing someone. And I really
like him.

DR. NOVAK
So you can't talk to me because
your boyfriend wouldn't like it?

DANA
No that... that's not it.

DR. NOVAK
Then what is it?

DANA

I can't open that door again.

DR. NOVAK

What do you mean?

DANA

Waylen is the first person who has been able to make me happy since me and you broke up. I can't put that at risk by having you coming around bringing up old feelings.

DR. NOVAK

You aren't the only one trying to stifle feelings, but...

Dr. Novak takes a deep breath and straightens his shirt.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)

I will respect your wishes.

He nods towards her, turns and leaves just as Waylen enters, carrying a coffee cup. The two bump into each other.

WAYLEN

Oh, I'm sorry.

DR. NOVAK

No. The fault is mine.

Dr. Novak looks back at Dana.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)

Let me know if Emilia experiences any changes.

Flustered, Dana nods. She then focuses on Waylen.

DANA

Hey. Um, I didn't think I'd see you until tomorrow.

WAYLEN

Well, I thought I'd bring you some inspiration to get you through the day.

He hands her the coffee cup. She relaxes and smiles at him.

DANA

Thanks. I needed it.

WAYLEN

I'm assuming that was George.

She tenses up again.

DANA

Um, yeah. That was George.

WAYLEN

I kind of heard you guys talking.

DANA

Oh, well then you know that I asked him to stop bothering me so much.

WAYLEN

Yeah, but why? Because it kind of sounded like you're scared that you still have feelings for him.

Dana doesn't respond.

WAYLEN (CONT'D)

Do you?

DANA

I don't want to know. I care about you. I want to be with you. Look, all of that is in the past.

WAYLEN

Are you sure about that?

Dana sighs.

Someone knocks at the door.

DANA

Um, yeah. Come in.

Noah opens the door and enters.

NOAH

Hey. Did you forget something?

Dana checks the time on her phone.

DANA

Oh. Okay. Yeah. Tell everyone I'll be right out. Just give me a minute.

Noah exits. Dana looks at Waylen.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Dana, Emilia, Maci, Cason, and Noah sit around the kitchen table, eating lunch. They all stare at Maci.

Awkward silence.

MACI

What do you want me to say?! I'm a new person? My ways are changed? Celibacy has made me discover more about myself?

DANA

All we want is to know how you're doing.

MACI

Fine. I'm miserable. I hate it here. Frankly, I could use a good fuck, but that's off the table. Happy now?

DANA

Happy that you shared, yes.

Maci huffs. Dana turns to Cason.

DANA (CONT'D)

Cason, your turn.

CASON

Nothing really to say. No incidents or anything. Just going about my days.

Dana nods.

DANA

Noah?

NOAH

Three more weeks here and I'll have been sober for a whole year.

DANA

I'm really proud of you. You've come so far.

Noah smiles.

DANA (CONT'D)

And Emilia?

They all turn to look at her. She takes a deep breath.

EMILIA
Nothing else has come back to me.

Dana nods.

DANA
That's alright. It's going to be a slow process. I noticed you've been spending more time outside your room.

EMILIA
Yeah. It's getting easier.

DANA
I think it's time we take the next step.

Emilia looks wary.

DANA (CONT'D)
My friend, Sarah, owns the sub shop that Cason works at. I gave her a call and she said she'd love to let you join the team.

EMILIA
But-

DANA
It's a very small business. No large crowds and it's within walking distance. She knows about what's going on and she's gonna work with us on it.

Emilia takes a deep breath, then nods.

DANA (CONT'D)
Perfect, I'll let her know you can start next week. We'll get you all set up.

Emilia looks unsure.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE ENTRY HALL - DAY

Emilia, dressed in her sub shop uniform, stands at the front door, peering outside. Cason approaches her from behind. He steps in front of her, blocking her view of the outside.

He reaches out, grabs her hands, and begins to lead her out the door.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

They take one step outside. Then Emilia hesitates.

CASON

Hey. It's okay. It's just outside.
No different than when we were out
on the porch the other day.

EMILIA

Yeah, except we are going a lot
farther and there will be other
people.

CASON

Just one step at a time.

They begin to walk out. Emilia does fine until she reaches the perimeter of the yard. Then she tenses up.

Cason gently squeezes her hands.

CASON (CONT'D)

You've got this.

Emilia takes a step onto the sidewalk and exhales.

EMILIA

Let's do this.

They begin walking down the street.

INT. SUB SHOP - DAY

CUSTOMER 1, female 20s, sits at the far table eating a sandwich. All other tables remain empty.

Cason stands at the cash register. Emilia wipes the counter down beside him.

A large group of RAMBUNCTIOUS TEENAGERS enters. Emilia catches sight of them. Panicked, she looks at Cason.

CASON

Go take a minute. I've got these
guys.

Emilia steps into the backroom just as the group reaches the cash register. Cason turns to serve them.

INT. SUB SHOP BACKROOM - DAY

Emilia takes a seat on a chair. She closes her eyes and takes a few deep breaths. She then gets up and goes back to the door.

INT. SUB SHOP - DAY

Emilia peaks out the backroom door.

Cason gives CARL, 16, his sandwich. The group walks out.

Emilia enters and continues to wipe the counter down.

CASON

You good?

EMILIA

Mmhmm.

CUSTOMER 2, male 30s, enters. Cason and Emilia make eye contact. She steps up to the register.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

He-hello sir, what can I do for you?

Cason looks proud.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cason and Emilia walk down the street, side by side.

CASON

I really think you'd be into it, especially since you like reading so much.

In the opposite direction, a GROUP OF MEN approach. As they draw closer, DYLAN, an overly confident athlete, (22) leans in to PRESTON, 23, and points at Emilia. They all chuckle.

Cason and Emilia are too engrossed with their conversation to notice.

EMILIA

I'm open to it. It's not like I have a ton of other stuff to do. Plus I think fantasy-

Dylan grabs Emilia's butt as they pass each other. Emilia gasps. Cason immediately moves to get in the guy's face.

CASON
You wanna try that again?

Emilia is shaking. She grabs his arm and tries to pull him back.

EMILIA
Cason! Let's just go.

Cason looks at her. He backs away from Dylan.

DYLAN
That's right. Listen to the little
whore. Scurry on home.

Cason gives Dylan a hard right hook.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dana sits on the couch in her pajamas, watching tv. When she hears a knock on the door, she gets up and goes into the entry hall.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE ENTRY HALL - DAY

Dana opens the front door.

OFFICER KELLY, a male in his 40s, stands at the door.

OFFICER KELLY
Dana Brown?

DANA
Yes? Is everything okay?

OFFICER KELLY
Is this young man your tenant?

Officer Kelly steps out of the way to reveal Cason who is handcuffed, and a little bruised but otherwise okay. Emilia stands behind them.

DANA
Oh my god. Yes. Cason, what
happened?

She steps out of the way so that the trio can enter the house. They go into the living room.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Officer Kelly takes the handcuffs off of Cason and sits him down on the couch. Emilia sits next to him. Dana stands in front of them, arms crossed.

OFFICER KELLY

I received a call that there was a fight on the street and had to break it up.

DANA

A fight?! I want an explanation. Now.

EMILIA

It wasn't his fault.

Dana expectantly looks at Cason. Cason looks at Emilia.

CASON

It's up to you.

Emilia steels herself.

EMILIA

Go ahead.

CASON

That asshole assaulted Emilia.

Dana's jaw drops and she looks at Emilia.

EMILIA

That sounds so dramatic. This guy grabbed my butt when we were walking home.

Dana looks taken aback.

CASON

(to Emilia)

That is still assault!

Emilia shrinks back. Cason softens.

CASON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

DANA

So what happened after that?

CASON

He egged me on, so I swung.

DANA
So you started it.

EMILIA
No-

CASON
(shooting a look at
Emilia)
Yes. I did.

Dana shakes her head.

OFFICER KELLY
You're lucky that the kid's parents
aren't pressing charges.

Dana looks relieved.

DANA
Thank you officer. This WILL NOT
happen again.

She looks pointedly at Cason.

CASON
No. It won't. Next time I'll just
stand by and let him get away with
it.

DANA
(warning)
Cason...

Cason rolls his eyes.

CASON
Fine! It won't happen again.

Officer Kelly nods and leaves. Cason begins to get up, but Dana steps in front of him and motions for him to sit back down. He complies.

Dana puts her head in her hands and takes a deep breath.

CASON (CONT'D)
Dana-

DANA
No. Don't start.

Cason looks away. Dana softens.

DANA (CONT'D)

I understand why you felt the need to stand up for Emilia, and I think it's very... honorable. But you took it too far.

CASON

He deserved it!

DANA

I'm not saying he didn't. If this were a different situation I'd probably be cheering you, but need I remind you? You. Are. On. Parole. If you break it, you don't get another chance! Cason, I want to help you, but I can only do so much. I am providing you with resources. It's your job to use them.

Cason stands, snaps his rubber band, and storms to his room. Emilia and Dana watch him go.

EMILIA

The guy did deserve it.

DANA

I know... Are you okay?

EMILIA

I... I'm not the one with the problem here.

DANA

Emilia... I'm here to talk about anything with you, okay?

Emilia nods. After an awkward silence, she exits.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Emilia walks up to Cason's door. She raises her hand to knock, but a loud thud and grunt of anger from inside stops her.

EMILIA

Cason?

CASON (O.S.)

Not now Emilia. Please just leave me alone for a while.

Emilia walks to her own room. She enters and shuts the door.

INT. DANA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dana sits at her desk. She looks at a very full schedule on her computer. As she takes a bite of pasta, she accidentally knocks her drink over.

DANA

Damn it.

She gets out of her chair, bends down, and picks up the cup. She stands and bumps her head on a shelf on the wall, knocking a plain wooden box onto the floor.

DANA (CONT'D)

Ow!

She rubs her head and looks at the box.

DANA (CONT'D)

Oh.

She picks up the box and sits back at her desk. She carefully sets the box on the desk. She wipes off a thick layer of dust.

She gingerly opens the box. A pile of different sized photographs and a few odd trinkets sit inside.

Dana picks up the picture on top of the stack. It shows Dana and Dr. Novak touching foreheads and holding a particularly beautiful engagement ring towards the camera.

She looks past the photograph and her eyes lock on something. She reaches down and grabs the very same engagement ring out of the box. She holds it up and stares at it.

She picks up her phone, finds Dr. Novak's contact, and calls him.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emilia lies in bed, asleep. She begins to thrash around her bed, sweating and whimpering.

INT. CASON'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Cason brushes his teeth.

A quiet thump sounds on the other side of the wall. He spits and shuts the water off.

Another thump.

He wipes his face on a towel and puts his ear to the wall. He hears the softest whimper.

INT. DARK ROOM - NIGHT (DREAM)

Emilia lies on a bed with Elijah, still unrecognizable, leaning over her. He holds his hand to her throat. With his other hand, he backhands her across the face.

She tries to push him off, but fails. With his free hand he begins to loosen his belt. Emilia panics.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cason stands over Emilia, shaking her awake. She wakes up, gasping, swings at him, and backs up to the wall away from him, sobbing.

Cason takes a step back.

CASON

Hey. Hey. I'm here to help.

Emilia realizes where she is. She jumps up and hugs him, still crying.

He wraps his arms around her, but doesn't otherwise move.

EMILIA

It felt so real.

CASON

It wasn't.

After a moment, Emilia, calming down, pulls away. She sits back down on the bed.

EMILIA

What if it was though? What if these aren't dreams but...

CASON

Memories?

No response.

CASON (CONT'D)
What happened?

EMILIA
It was that same man, but... he was
on top of me. I couldn't move. And
he-

Emilia crosses her arms and legs. Cason reaches out to touch her but thinks better of it. Instead, he sits on the opposite end of the bed.

CASON
Emilia, you're safe here. You have
people here for you and not just
me. Dana and Noah care about you
too. You're gonna get through this.

Emilia pulls the covers over her legs as she leans against the wall.

CASON (CONT'D)
I think, we should probably try to
go back to sleep. I'll see you
tomorrow.

He begins to exit.

EMILIA
Wait! Um... Do you think you could
sit with me, for just a bit.

Cason smiles.

CASON
Of course.

He crosses to the bed and sits down. She lays down under the covers.

EMILIA
It's cold... Do you want to um...?

Without a word, Cason slides under the covers with her. He puts his arm under her and she leans into him. She finally begins to relax. He looks at her and, after a moment, leans down to kiss her forehead.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Cason and Emilia lie in bed, cuddling. It is still dark outside.

Cason looks at the clock: 3:15am. He slowly and quietly begins to get out of bed. Emilia stirs.

EMILIA

Hmmm...

Cason smiles. Emilia wakes up a little more.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

CASON

Back to my room. If Dana finds us,
we're both dead.

Emilia looks disappointed.

CASON (CONT'D)

Don't worry. I'll see you tomorrow
on our date.

Emilia raises her eyebrows.

CASON (CONT'D)

I'll let you pick what we do.

She rolls her eyes.

CASON (CONT'D)

So...?

EMILIA

Fine. Wanna try a movie?

A door opens in another room.

CASON

Whoops. Guess I better go. Oh.
Don't tell Dana.

EMILIA

Wouldn't dream of it.

He smiles and cracks the door open checking the hallway for other people. He exits.

Emilia rolls over in bed, smiling and blushing.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - MORNING

Noah sits at the table, eating breakfast. Maci sits on the counter, holding a banana.

MACI

I'm telling you. Bananas are the best food.

NOAH

Oh, come on! There's soooo many other good foods out there. Like, what about brownies, or spaghetti, or tacos, or pizza, or cookies. Those all top bananas.

MACI

Maybe. But can you do this with a brownie?

She peels the banana and begins to push the whole thing down her throat. Slowly, she pulls it out, keeping constant eye contact with Noah. He watches intently.

MACI (CONT'D)

Mmm...

Noah clears his throat.

NOAH

Well, now, you see, I don't swing that way, so I don't need a banana.

MACI

No. But grapefruits are in season.

Emilia enters the kitchen with a grin on her face and a pep in her step. She wears her work uniform. Maci looks up, immediately irritated.

MACI (CONT'D)

Why are you so smiley this morning?

EMILIA

(blushing)

No reason. I just feel...good today.

MACI

Well, aren't we just doing well in our recovery. Huh, little miss perfect?

NOAH

Maci-

EMILIA

No, it's fine, Noah. I am doing well, and I'm gonna relish in it.

She smiles at Maci. Maci blushes.

MACI
Well, good for you.

Maci hops off the counter and exits, leaving her banana peel on the counter. Emilia throws it away.

NOAH
Well, you ready to head out?

EMILIA
Yeah.

They move towards the entry hall.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Noah and Emilia walk to the sub shop together. Emilia holds some tension but doesn't panic.

EMILIA
Thanks for this, by the way. I really couldn't go by myself.

NOAH
Oh, it's no problem. It's actually nice to get out of the house for something other than work.

EMILIA
Well, you'll be out soon.

NOAH
Yep. I can't believe it though. I've grown so attached to you guys, I almost hate to leave.

EMILIA
We'll still be here. For a while at least.

NOAH
Yeah. I'll definitely come visit.

Beat.

NOAH (CONT'D)
I haven't told anyone yet, but I got accepted into the university here.

EMILIA

Really? That's great! What will you be going for?

A group of people walk past. Emilia holds her breath and tenses. Noah puts himself between her and the group. After they pass, Emilia closes her eyes and tries to regulate her breathing.

NOAH

Hey. It's all good. You got this.

They arrive at the sub shop. Noah opens the door for her.

EMILIA

Thanks, Noah.

She walks inside. He turns around and walks back the way they came.

INT. SUB SHOP - DAY

Emilia stands at the cash register. CUSTOMER 3, female, (42) hands her some cash. She takes it and gives her an empty cup.

EMILIA

Thank you. Have a nice day.

SARAH (30s) enters through the back door.

SARAH

Alright girly. It's three, why don't you head on home.

Emilia looks out the front windows.

EMILIA

I have to wait till my friends gets here to walk me home. I can keep working 'till he shows up.

SARAH

Okay. That's fine.

INT. SUB SHOP - DAY

Emilia wipes the counter down. She looks at the clock. It says 3:45pm. She frowns and looks out the window. It's vacant.

Sarah stands in the dining area, wiping the tables down.

SARAH
Still not here, huh?

EMILIA
No.

Beat.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Would you mind maybe walking home
with me?

SARAH
Afraid I can't. No one else is
scheduled to work until tomorrow,
and I can't leave the shop
unattended.

Emilia closes her eyes and takes a breath.

EMILIA
Okay. Well, I guess I'm gonna head
out.

Sarah nods.

SARAH
Be careful.

Emilia throws the rag she is using in the sink and punches
out. She walks to the door and peers outside. It's still
vacant.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Looking determined, Emilia steps outside. The street is
fairly empty. She walks away from the sub shop.

A car passes, blaring music. She jerks her head in its
direction. MAN 1 walks on the other side of the street
talking on the phone. Emilia turns her attention towards him.

MAN 1
No. I said I would pick them up
tomorrow.

Beat.

MAN 1 (CONT'D)
Of course I want to spend time with
them! Don't even go there.

Emilia throws her back against the nearest building, closes her eyes, clenches her fists, and begins to regulate her breathing.

EMILIA
(to herself)
You're almost there.

She opens her eyes and sees that Man 1 has taken notice of her. He begins to walk over.

MAN 1
Hey. Are you alright?

Breathing hard, Emilia takes off running. The man looks after her, confused.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dana sits in the living room watching tv. Emilia rushes through the front door and slams it shut. Dana looks startled. She pauses the tv and stands up.

DANA
Emilia, are you okay?

Emilia straightens up, catching her breath.

EMILIA
Yeah. I'm fine.

She forces a smile. Dana's eyes widen.

DANA
Noah didn't show, did he?

Emilia holds back tears and shakes her head.

DANA (CONT'D)
Oh I'm so sorry. You shouldn't have had to-

EMILIA
It's fine!

DANA
Emilia-

EMILIA
I said it's fine.

DANA
I'm proud of you. Scared or not,
you made it home.

Emilia shrugs.

DANA (CONT'D)
I have plans to go out tonight, but
if you need me to stay, I can.

EMILIA
No, it's fine. You go.

DANA
If you're sure. Maci and Cason are
home, so you won't be alone.

Emilia nods and walks alone.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Cason stands outside Emilia's door, looking slightly more
well-put-together than normal. He knocks. No answer.

CASON
Emilia.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emilia still lays huddled in bed. She stirs as Cason says her
name.

EMILIA
(groggily)
Come in.

Cason enters the dark room. He turns the light on. He looks
confused when he sees her in bed.

When she looks at him, her face reddens.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
I am so sorry, Cason. I had a
really bad day and I came home and
laid down and just never got up and-

CASON
It's okay. Don't worry about it.
I'll give you some time to change
and do whatever else you need to
get ready. I'll be in the living
room.

He begins to exit.

EMILIA

Wait... um... I don't really know if I want to go out tonight. Can't we just stay in?

CASON

It's gonna be a fun night. Plus, Dana is gone for the night. Who knows when we'll get another chance.

Emilia still looks skeptical.

CASON (CONT'D)

I'll buy you candy.

He smiles. Emilia does too.

EMILIA

Fine... Give me a few minutes.

INT. STREET - NIGHT

Emilia and Cason walk to the movie theatre.

CASON

Who knew? Emilia can actually clean up nice.

She snorts and shakes her head at him.

EMILIA

And here I thought you were a gentleman.

A group of people passes them. Emilia instinctively reaches for Cason's arm and moves closer to him. Without missing a beat, he accepts it.

CASON

So what kind of movie do you want to see?

Elijah walks down the sidewalk, engrossed in his phone.

EMILIA

You haven't picked one yet?

At the sound of Emilia's voice, Elijah looks up from his phone. He stumbles as he sees her.

CASON

I told you I was gonna let you choose.

Cason and Emilia walk past him, oblivious. He turns around and begins to follow them.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Emilia and Cason stand outside of the theater looking at posters. Elijah walks up behind them and takes a seat on a bench. He watches them from afar.

EMILIA

I think I'm feeling a horror movie tonight.

CASON

Really? Okay.

They enter the theater.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Emilia and Cason sit in the back of a relatively empty theater. Cason throws a piece of popcorn at Emilia. He goes to pick up another piece, but she takes the popcorn bucket from him and sets it in the seat next to her.

She innocently smiles back to him.

EMILIA

Oh. I'm sorry. Did you want that?

CASON

Not as much as you wanted these.

He grabs her bag of candy and pours it into his mouth. She grabs it back.

EMILIA

Jerk.

She begins eating the candy. He reaches across her and grabs the popcorn bucket. They settle down.

The lights dim. A horror movie starts playing. Emilia becomes engrossed by the movie. Cason glances sideways at her and chuckles, turning his attention to the screen.

EXT. WAYLEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dana walks up the steps and onto the porch, carrying a large paper bag. She opens the front door.

INT. WAYLEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dana enters the house and sets the food down on the coffee table.

Waylen, in his pajamas, stands from the couch.

WAYLEN

Hey. You didn't tell me you were coming.

DANA

Yeah. You know, I hadn't really heard from you, so I thought we could talk... over dinner.

She references the paper bag.

Waylen waves her into the kitchen.

INT. WAYLEN'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Waylen and Dana sit across the table from each other, eating spaghetti.

WAYLEN

This is good. Did you make it yourself?

Dana nods.

DANA

Yeah I did. I knew it was your favorite.

They both take another bite.

DANA (CONT'D)

So... It's nice to be here. I haven't seen you since last week.

WAYLEN

Yeah I just... didn't really know what to say..

Dana looks at him.

DANA

Yeah. It was just an uncomfortable situation all the way around, but I came because I wanted to tell you something.

Beat.

DANA (CONT'D)

It's time that I really, truly move on, so I gave him his ring back.

WAYLEN

I'm sorry, what do you mean "it's time that you move on?" I thought you already had? And what ring?

DANA

The engagement ring. I gave it back to him the other day.

WAYLEN

Whoa, you mean you *just* gave him his ring back?

DANA

(confused)

Um... yeah. That's a good thing.

Waylen fumes.

WAYLEN

How is this a good thing?! We've been together for over three months, and you're just now deciding you need to move on from your ex.

DANA

I... I don't... It's not like I'm planning to go back to him.

WAYLEN

No, but things happen.

DANA

Nothing is going to happen! I gave him the ring back to try to prove it to you.

WAYLEN

You see, that's the problem. You did it to prove a point.

DANA
Waylen, that's not what I meant.

WAYLEN
No? Because It sure sounded like
it.

Dana puts her head in her hands.

DANA
I thought this would be good for
us. Please. What can I do?

Waylen just looks at her, pained and furious.

DANA (CONT'D)
Waylen...

WAYLEN
You can leave. That's what you can
do.

DANA
No. This isn't fair.

WAYLEN
What's not fair is you leading me
on. Dana, get out.

DANA
I didn't lead you--

WAYLEN
Dana.

Dana glares at him, hurt. She huffs and walks through the door, slamming it closed.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Emilia and Cason exit the theater together, laughing, holding hands.

CASON
I don't care what you say, that's
just not how it works. You can't
use a computer to hack into
someone's mind. That's just stupid.

EMILIA
(laughing)
Oh my god that's not what they did.

They walk off.

Behind them, Elijah emerges from the shadow of a building. He walks off in the same direction they did.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cason and Emilia enter the room, stifling their giggles.

CASON

Well, I guess it's getting late. I should probably...

EMILIA

Yeah... I'm pretty tired. By the way, it was really, really nice to just get out of my head for a while.

Cason bows.

CASON

Anytime.

They hug.

EMILIA

Well, goodnight.

CASON

'Night.

He begins to exit, but turns around as he reaches the door.

CASON (CONT'D)

Oh. I forgot one thing.

He walks over and kisses her. As they part, she smiles, blushing.

CASON (CONT'D)

I'll see you tomorrow.

He exits, closing the door. She smiles to herself and falls onto her bed staring at the ceiling.

EMILIA

Wow.

Night turns to day as Emilia sleeps.

Emilia, still in her nice clothes, lays in bed, asleep. There is a knock on her door. She stirs. They knock again.

This time, she gets up to answer the door, still sleepy. Noah stands there as she opens the door.

NOAH

Hey. Look I am so sorry that I forgot to pick you up yesterday I just got so busy at work and they kept me late and-

Emilia puts her hand up.

EMILIA

It's okay. I made it home okay. Don't worry about it.

He relaxes.

NOAH

Oh thank god.

He looks at his watch.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Anyway, I have to get to work. We have been super busy lately. I found this.

He hands her an envelope with her name on it.

EMILIA

What is it?

NOAH

I don't know. I was on my way out when I saw it. Was taped to the door. Anyway, I'll catch you later.

He leaves. Emilia closes her door. Walking to her bed, she opens the envelope, curious.

The letter reads:

INSERT LETTER

- I'm so glad I finally found you. I look forward to seeing you soon.

INT. EMILIA'S OLD BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Emilia enters and sits down at her desk. She pulls a college English text book and opens it. A note falls out.

It is a long letter, written in the same handwriting as the first note.

She smiles as she sees it, skims over it, and hugs it to her chest.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Emilia continues to stare at the note, motionless. Someone knocks on her door and she jumps, startled.

EMILIA
Uh... Who is it?

CASON
Give you one guess.

EMILIA
Umm... Hang on just a minute!

She shoves the note under her pillow and rushes to the door and opens it.

Cason stands there, waiting.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
(breathless)
Hi.

CASON
Ummm... Emilia... we have to leave
in 10 minutes if we want to make it
to work on time.

Emilia looks down at herself.

EMILIA
Shit... you know, I don't really
feel like going in today anyway.

CASON
Why not?

EMILIA
I just don't... I'm exhausted. Kind
of just want to stay in.

Cason gives her a look. Emilia glares back, then breaks.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Okay fine! Give me a minute.

She shuts the door.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Emilia and Cason walk to work.

MAN 2, 30s, walks across the street behind them. He drops his cup with a thud. Emilia jumps and looks over her shoulder.

A car passes in the opposite direction and she whips her head around to look at that.

CASON

Wow. You really are jumpy today.
What's up?

EMILIA

(nervously)
Nothing. It's just one of those
days. That's all.

INT. SUB SHOP - DAY

Emilia stands at the cash register. All of her usual pep and positive demeanor are gone.

CUSTOMER 4, female 20s, walks in through the door. Emilia flicks her eyes to her.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

Emilia and Cason approach the front of the Halfway House. ELIJAH sits on a bench on the opposite side of the street, smoking a cigarette and reading a newspaper.

As the couple approaches, he lowers the newspaper and stares at Emilia.

Emilia catches sight of Elijah. She is mesmerized for a moment and then recognition crosses her face.

EMILIA

Whoa...

She ducks her head and quickly enters the house. Concerned, Cason follows.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Emilia rushes into her room. She peaks out the window. Elijah no longer sits at the bench. She takes a deep breath. Then she crosses to the bathroom and washes her face. She studies it for a moment.

EMILIA
Emilia. Emilia. Emilia.

Cason enters and corners her in the bathroom.

CASON
Okay. What is going on?

EMILIA
Did you see that man staring at me from outside?

CASON
Man? What man? There wasn't anyone.

EMILIA
Yes there was. Across the street. I saw him.

CASON
Well I didn't. Where is this coming from?

Emilia avoids eye contact.

EMILIA
Nowhere.

CASON
No. You've been blowing me off all day. What is going on?

EMILIA
I don't want to talk about it! It's nothing!

CASON
It's clearly something if you don't want to talk about it.

Emilia glares at him.

EMILIA
(tense)
Cason, just drop it.

CASON

No I won't. You're hiding something from me, and I don't like it.

EMILIA

Whoa. Since when do I have to tell you every little detail of my life? We literally have had one date. That doesn't mean I owe you anything.

CASON

That's not what I meant. I know you don't owe me anything, and I don't want you to feel that way. But I want you to know that you can tell me anything.

She looks at him for the first time.

EMILIA

I really, really can't.

Silence.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Look... This was a mistake.

CASON

What?

EMILIA

I shouldn't have gotten involved.

CASON

Emilia, what are you talking about?

INT. HAFLWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

Dana walks by Emilia's door but stops when she hears the two arguing.

EMILIA (O.S.)

It's really better for me to be on my own.

CASON (O.S.)

No. No one is better off on their own.

Dana stands there, frozen, listening.

EMILIA (O.S.)
I need to figure things out, and I
don't think I can do that with you.
I have to do this by myself. No one
can help me... especially not you.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cason looks extremely hurt.

CASON
You wanna push me away? Fine! Just
know that it's your own damn fault
that you're alone.

He angrily crosses to the door, opens it, and bumps into
Dana. They make eye contact. He stops and looks at her.

CASON (CONT'D)
I'm done trying to help people. She
can stay in that room for the rest
of her life for all I care.

Emilia and Dana make eye contact. Emilia wordlessly closes
the door.

INT. DANA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dana enters and sits down at her desk. She looks at the plain
wooden box on the shelf. After a beat of stillness, she picks
up her phone and opens Dr. Novak's contact information. Her
finger hovers over the "call" button.

She changes her mind and puts the phone down.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emilia lays in bed, staring at the ceiling. She sees a shadow
pass from outside her window. She takes a deep breath, looks
towards the bathroom, but doesn't move.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Emilia exits her own room and walks toward Cason's. She
raises her hand to knock on the door, but decides against it.
Instead, she walks to the front door. After a moment's
hesitation, she walks outside.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

Elijah stands at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the porch. Staring at him, Emilia slowly closes the door behind her.

Elijah starts to walk up the stairs. Emilia presses herself back into the door.

ELIJAH
Emilia, I honestly never thought
I'd see you again. I'm happy so
happy I found you.

EMILIA
Who are you? How do you know me?

ELIJAH
Oh. Babe, you really don't
remember? Here, I'll take you home
and we can fix it.

EMILIA
What?

ELIJAH
We can fix us.

EMILIA
Us?

ELIJAH
Yes. Exactly.

He gets to the top of the stairs and steps onto the porch. Emilia tries to become part of the door.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)
Oh no. You don't have to be afraid.
You know that I love you.

He reaches out to touch her face. Emilia puts her hands up.

EMILIA
Oh my god stop.

Elijah freezes.

ELIJAH
What?

EMILIA
I... I don't know you. Stop
following me. My life is here.

Elijah laughs.

ELIJAH

No. I don't think so. I am your
life. I know you at least remember
that.

EMILIA

No. Leave.

Without warning he slaps her. Then he grabs her and kisses
her. Emilia pushes back.

Elijah smirks.

ELIJAH

That should be reminder enough.

Emilia looks terrified.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)

Now let's go home.

He turns away. As soon as his back is turned, Emilia runs
inside. She slams the door shut and locks it.

INT. DANA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dana jolts awake with the slam of the door.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE PORCH - NIGHT

Elijah stares at the front door. He smirks then walks away.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Emilia sneaks through the house to her room. She goes into
her room and quietly closes the door.

Just as her door closes, Dana's opens. She sleepily walks
down the hallway. She approaches the front door. She checks
that it's locked, looks out the window, and heads back to the
bedrooms. She knocks on Noah's room.

After a moment, Noah opens the door.

NOAH

What?

DANA

I heard the front door open. I need to check everyone's room and make sure no one else is here.

He steps aside.

INT. NOAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Noah flops onto his bed, face down. Dana checks in the bathroom and the closet. She flips the light off and closes the door.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dana approaches Emilia's door.

INT. EMILIA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Emilia stands over the sink, violently scrubbing her lips. She hears a knock at the door and freezes. Another knock.

EMILIA

One second!

DANA (O.S.)

You've got to open up.

EMILIA

I'm coming!

She dries her face on a towel and moves to her bedroom.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emilia opens the door, feigning grogginess.

EMILIA

Yeah...?

DANA

What are you doing up?

EMILIA

Um... I just had to use the bathroom.

DANA

Uh huh. I need to do a room check.

EMILIA
 (yawning)
 Okay.

She moves to the bed and sits on it as Dana checks her closet and bathroom.

DANA
 Alright. Goodnight.

EMILIA
 'Night.

Dana exits, closing the door behind her. As soon as she's gone, Emilia exhales and curls up on her bed, silently crying.

There is a knock on her door and she freezes.

CASON (O.S.)
 Hey.

Emilia doesn't move.

CASON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I know Dana checked your room, so you have to be awake.

Emilia gets up and goes into the bathroom.

CASON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I'm not leaving until you let me in.

EMILIA
 Okay.

Cason opens the door just as she closes the bathroom door. He sits on the bed.

CASON
 Look, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have pressed you like that. We are still getting to know each other and I shouldn't expect you to tell me everything.

No response.

CASON (CONT'D)
 I really am sorry.

She cracks the door open and peers out at him. He sees that she has been crying.

CASON (CONT'D)

Emilia...

He crosses towards her and gently pushes the bathroom door open. He goes to hug her but she steps back.

EMILIA

Please. Please don't touch me.

He looks hurt.

CASON

Emilia.

EMILIA

It's not you, I just don't want to be touched.

CASON

Okay... do you want me to leave?

EMILIA

No! Let's just sit for a while.

She crosses to the bed and lays down under the covers. He sits on the bed, careful not to get too close to her.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE - NIGHT

Elijah stands outside Emilia's window and peaks in through the cracks in the blinds. He watches as Emilia and Cason get on the bed.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Emilia lies under the covers while Cason lays along the foot of the bed.

DANA (O.S.)

What the hell?!

Cason and Emilia jolt awake.

DANA (CONT'D)

Any sexual conduct between roommates is strictly forbidden! You know this!

EMILIA

But-

DANA
No. No excuses.

CASON
Nothing happened! I swear.

Dana looks at the two of them.

EMILIA
It's true. I just...

She looks at Cason.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
I just had a nightmare, and Cason
came to check on me. We were
talking and fell asleep.

Cason nods.

Dana sighs and covers her face for a moment.

DANA
If you're lying, and I or anyone
else finds out you are in huge
trouble. Cason, you could be sent
back to prison, and Emilia, you
could be sent to a different house.
Hell, I could lose my job!

EMILIA
I'm sorry.

CASON
Sorry.

DANA
Don't let it happen again.

She storms out of the room. Cason and Emilia look at each other.

CASON
Well... I gotta get ready for work.
You gonna be okay?

Emilia nods. Cason exits.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cason walks to work alone.

INT. SUB SHOP - DAY

Cason stands behind the counter making a sandwich for a customer.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cason walks home alone, looking tired. Elijah steps out from behind a corner and walks behind him.

INT. HALFWAY HOSUE KITCHEN - DAY

Emilia, Maci, and Noah sit around the table playing a board game.

EMILIA

So I think I'd like to cook tonight. How about some tacos?

The others nod.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Elijah puts a hand on Cason's shoulder and pulls him into an alleyway.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Emilia browns ground beef in a skillet.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Elijah repeatedly punches Cason in the face.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Emilia chops onions.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Cason tries to fight back, but Elijah blocks him and punches him in the gut. Ribs crack.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Emilia sets the table.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Cason falls to the ground as Elijah viciously and repeatedly kicks him.

ELIJAH

I hope making a move on my girl was worth it.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Emilia sits at the table with Noah and Maci. They all have food in front of them. She looks at the clock, worried.

They hear the front door open.

Cason limps into the room, clutching his stomach and still gasping for breath. With a swollen, bruised face, bloody nose and lip, he looks terrible.

Maci, Noah, and Emilia rush to him.

MACI

Oh my god.

NOAH

Dude.

EMILIA

Cason!

CASON

Where's Dana?

EMILIA

She's umm... Not here. She went to the store. What happened?

Cason hesitates.

CASON

(breathy)

I was walking... home and this guy pulled me into... an alleyway. I have no clue... who... who he is. He said I made a move on his girl.

Emilia pales.

INT. EMILIA'S OLD BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Elijah holds Emilia's throat and pins her to the wall.

ELIJAH
You are mine! You hear me?!

He slams her head into the wall.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Everyone stares at the pale Emilia.

The front door opens.

Dana enters carrying plastic bags full of groceries. She drops them when she sees Cason.

DANA
Cason! What the hell happened?!

CASON
I swear I... I didn't start it.

DANA
Get up. In the car.

CASON
Wait what?

DANA
We've got to get you to a hospital.

CASON
No I'm fi--

DANA
I'm not arguing with you. Go. Now.
In the car.

INT. DR. NOVAK'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Novak sits at his desk, looking at his computer. His phone rings. He immediately answers.

DR. NOVAK
Hello?

DANA
George, I'm on my way to the hospital now. Are you there?

DR. NOVAK
Yeah, I'm here. What's going on?

DANA
I'll explain when I get there.

She hangs up.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Dana sits in a fairly empty emergency room waiting area. She impatiently taps her foot, blankly staring at a television.

Dr. Novak enters. Dana stands as soon as she sees him.

DANA
How is he?

DR. NOVAK
He'll live. Two fractured ribs and some intense bruising, but nothing too major.

Dana exhales with relief.

DANA
Thank you. So much.

DR. NOVAK
I didn't do it for you. He needed help.

DANA
Right.

DR. NOVAK
Let's go to my office.

He walks towards the door. Dana follows.

INT. DR. NOVAK'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Novak moves behind the desk. Dana stands in front of it.

DR. NOVAK
You know, next time you can just bring him in. You don't have to call.

DANA
Right. Of course.

Beat.

DR. NOVAK

You're the one who told me to stop calling you.

DANA

I know. I just panicked and you were the first person I thought of.

DR. NOVAK

I think it'd be best if you didn't rely on me so much. You asked me to stay out of your life, so I did. It's unfair of you to keep popping into mine when it's convenient for you.

DANA

You think me needing help for my kids is unfair?! You have no idea what "unfair" is!

DR. NOVAK

Dana, just listen.

DANA

No. You listen. What about all those times you told me you'd make it home to see me? What about all those nights that I had to spend alone because of your empty promises? Oh, how about when you kicked me out of the god-damned house with no warning? Were those not unfair to me?

DR. NOVAK

Of course they were but--

DANA

No. No buts. You don't get to pretend like I hurt you by telling you to stay away from me when you don't even care!

DR. NOVAK

How could you even think that?! When you called, I stayed because I thought you were the one hurt. You sounded so frantic and scared. I could never trust some other doctor with your life. They don't...

He stops himself.

DANA

Oh don't stop now. They don't what?

DR. NOVAK

They don't care like I do. No one ever could.

DANA

(putting her face in her hands)

Uuughghghg!!! I cannot do this right now! How can you expect me to put myself through this again? When clearly nothing has changed?! You still work all the freaking time. It would be no different than before.

Dr. Novak steps out from behind the desk and approaches Dana. He gets very close to her. She stands her ground.

DR. NOVAK

(quietly)

It would be though. I've been completely alone since you left, and I've realized that I was wrong. My job? It isn't everything. I realize how badly I messed up.

He pulls the engagement ring out of his pocket.

DR. NOVAK (CONT'D)

This is yours. You can do whatever you want with it. I gave it to you and meant for you to keep it for always. If you want to get rid of it then sell it and you'll never hear from me again. But if you keep it and, I don't know, want to try again... I will never hurt you like that again.

He closes her hand around the ring.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emilia lays in bed, staring at the ceiling.

A shadow moves outside her window.

Someone knocks on her door.

EMILIA
(without moving)
Go. Away.

Cason enters, limping.

CASON
It's me.

Emilia takes a breath.

EMILIA
I know. I said go. You being here
is only going to make things worse.

CASON
What? I don't understand how.

EMILIA
You can't be around me. Who knows
what he'll do next?

CASON
What do you mean? There's no way
you know who did this.

EMILIA
No... I do.

CASON
What?

EMILIA
Get out.

Cason stands still.

CASON
Emilia.

EMILIA
I said get out!

She pushes him towards the door. He winces.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Just stay away.

She shoves him out. He doesn't fight her.

She slams the door, sobbing.

Emilia goes back to her bed and cries.

After a moment, her door opens again.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
I said go away!

She turns to look at the door.

ELIJAH
Wow. It's good to see you too.

EMILIA
How did you get in here?

ELIJAH
You people really should lock your doors. Anyone could just walk in.

He smirks.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)
I'm so happy to see you.

He calmly walks up to her and puts a hand on her cheek. She flinches. He forcefully grabs her chin and kisses her.

She squirms, trying to get away from him.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)
Oh stop being ridiculous!

He shoves her onto the bed, forcing her to kiss him. She begins to punch him wherever she can. He rears back and slaps her. She continues to struggle.

EMILIA
Fuck... Off!

She kicks him in the groin. He falls backwards in pain.

ELIJAH
Damn it Emilia! Why are you making this so difficult?

A door opens in the house.

ELIJAH (CONT'D)
Oh. Fine.

He gets up, drawing a hand gun from his waistband and moves to the door.

EMILIA
(whispering)
No...

(MORE)

EMILIA (CONT'D)
(screaming)
NO! RUN!

He opens it. Dana stands on the other side, her fist raised to knock on the door. Elijah knocks her out of the way without hesitation.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dana falls to the ground. Elijah walks past her. Emilia grabs his arm and attempt to hold him back.

EMILIA
Elijah!

He turns and back hands her, knocking her to the ground.

Noah, already in the hallway, rushes to help Dana up.

NOAH
Are you okay? What's going on?

DANA
I-I don't know.

Maci and Cason enter the hallway.

MACI
What the-

Elijah takes aim at Cason.

Emilia rises, unnoticed by Elijah, and tackles him.

The gun fires.

Everyone drops to the floor.

Emilia and Elijah continue to fight. He drops the gun. Elijah gets on top of her and repeatedly punches her in the face.

Maci and Dana rush over to try to pull Elijah off of Emilia. He elbows Maci in the face. And pushes Dana off.

Cason grabs the gun and aims it at Elijah, his face dark. Elijah freezes. Cason looks at Emilia, bleeding on the ground. His finger tightens. Elijah raises his hands. Cason doesn't move.

DANA
Cason! No!

Elijah lunges for the gun. Cason pistol-whips him. He falls to the floor, unconscious.

Cason scrambles over to Emilia, and holds her in his arms. She struggles to remain conscious. Blood covers her face and clothes.

CASON
Oh my god please stay with me.

EMILIA
N-n-Noah.

Cason looks over to where Noah last stood.

He lies on the ground, choking. Blood pools from under his back.

DANA
Maci. My phone is in my office.
Call the cops.

Maci sprints down the hall.

Dana rushes to Noah.

DANA (CONT'D)
Hey buddy. Stay with me. Okay?

Noah gurgles. Sirens sound in the background.

DANA (CONT'D)
No. Don't speak.

Noah's breathing slows. He looks into Dana's eyes and goes limp. Dana hugs his body and cries.

Maci enters from Dana's office.

MACI
They're on their way.

She sees Dana cradling Noah and Cason holding Emilia.

The sirens grow louder. Ambulance sirens sound in the distance as well.

Dana stands, shuttering. She wipes her bloody hands on her clothes.

DANA
Thank you, Maci.

Maci peers around Dana, trying to look at Noah's body.

MACI
Dana... is he...?

Dana blocks her view.

DANA
Don't look. There's... there's
nothing we can do now.

The door busts open as OFFICER LIZA, 30s, OFFICER CONNOR, 40s, and OFFICER NEIL, 40s, enters the house, weapons raised.

OFFICER CONNOR
Hands in the air!

Dana and Maci put their hands up. Cason continues to hold Emilia. The cops lower their weapons. Officer Neil retrieves the discarded gun.

Elijah stirs. He rolls over onto his back, looks up, and sees the cops. Blood drips from a cut on his forehead where Cason hit him. He bolts towards the door, Officer Liza points her weapon at him.

OFFICER LIZA
Don't move.

Elijah lunges towards her, trying to grab the gun. Officer Liza steps backwards out of his reach. Officer Connor tackles and handcuffs him. Elijah continues to struggle as Officer Connor and Officer Neil stand him up.

He zones in on Emilia and Cason as the two cops walk him outside. He sneers.

EXT. HALFWAY HOUSE - NIGHT

JAMES, 30s, and BRUCE, 50s, lift Emilia, on a gurney, into the ambulance.

EMILIA (V.O.)
My name is Emilia Dean, and I'm 21
years old.

Cason watches as they drive away.

OFFICER LIZA (V.O.)
Can you tell me who did this to
you?

Dana approaches and puts a hand on his shoulder.

EMILIA (V.O.)
His name is Elijah Jenkins. He's my
ex-boyfriend.

Maci stands on the porch.

OFFICER LIZA (V.O.)
Is he the one that assaulted you a
few months ago?

EMILIA (V.O.)
Yes.

Cason remains motionless, staring after the ambulance.

OFFICER LIZA (V.O.)
What can you tell me about your
experience?

EMILIA (V.O.)
I met him right after my parents
died.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE - EMILIA REMEMBERS

-- PARK - Emilia jogs down a nature trail at a public park.
She looks down at her phone, and bumps into Elijah. He
steadies her and they both smile.

-- ELIJAH'S LIVING ROOM - Elijah helps Emilia move boxes into
the house.

EMILIA (V.O.)
But then things got weird.

-- ELIJAH'S ENTRY HALL - Emilia, dressed up, walks towards
the door. Elijah grabs her arm and stops her.

-- ELIJAH'S BEDROOM - Emilia and Elijah scream at each other,
but nothing can be heard. He pushes her onto the bed, and
forces her shirt off.

EMILIA (V.O.)
I always dreamed about running
away, and one day, I finally worked
up the courage to.

-- ELIJAH'S HOSUE - Emilia sneaks down the stairs carrying a
suitcase. She opens the door very slowly.

-- ALLEYWAY - Emilia, out of breath, leans against a building
wall.

EMILIA (V.O.)
But he found me.

She looks over her shoulder and sees Elijah standing there. She tries to run, but he catches her, slamming her into the wall then onto the ground. He back hands her, then punches her twice.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Liam pushes Emilia through the doors and into the waiting room. Officer Liza enters behind them. Emilia has a bandaged nose, stitches over her right eyebrow and a black eye.

Dana stands from her chair when she sees them.

DANA
Well?

LIAM
The doctor said she'll be fine. CT Scan came back normal.

OFFICER LIZA
We'll be in contact about pressing charges, alright? Just try to relax until then.

Emilia nods then stands and hugs Dana.

EMILIA
Can we go home now?

DANA
Yeah. Let's go.

Liam helps Emilia out of the wheelchair.

LIAM
Try to stay away for a while, yeah?

Emilia smiles.

EMILIA
Thanks. I will. Tell Mrs. Beatrice I said "hello."

Liam nods and wheels the chair back through the doors.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cason anxiously sits in the living room, shaking his leg and tapping his fingers.

A car door sounds from outside. Cason gets up and opens the door. Emilia and Dana approach the porch.

Emilia half-heartedly smiles at Cason. Cason looks relieved.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cason and Emilia enter the room. She takes a seat on the bed, looking at the floor.

EMILIA

Cason-

She bursts into tears. He kneels down in front of her, grabbing her hands.

CASON

Hey. Hey. It's okay now. You're safe.

EMILIA

Noah's dead... and it's my fault.

CASON

Look at me. It is not your fault at all. Don't even go there.

She pulls their hands to her face and cries.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE KITCHEN - MORNING

Maci, Cason, and Emilia sit at the table. Dana serves everyone breakfast and sits.

DANA

Who wants to go first?

A beat.

Maci sits forward.

MACI

(earnestly)

I'll go. I, uh, I liked Noah, and... I'll miss him. He, you know, he wasn't judgy.

Dana smiles.

DANA

No. He sure wasn't. Anything else?

Maci shakes her head and sits back.

DANA (CONT'D)

Well, thank you. It's really great that you volunteered yourself today.

Maci rolls her eyes.

DANA (CONT'D)

And... she's back. Who's next?

Dana looks around.

CASON

I... I almost killed Elijah. I wanted to, but...

He looks at Emilia.

CASON (CONT'D)

It just wasn't worth it.

Dana nods and smiles.

EMILIA

Guess it's my turn then.

DANA

Guess so.

EMILIA

I am so sorry about what he did. It... it messed with all of us, but I want you all to know that I'm gonna fight. He won't get away with this. Noah's parents and me will be pressing charges. They and Dana are gonna help me get a good lawyer.

Cason smiles at her, proud.

Dana checks the time on her phone.

DANA

It's time for us to start getting ready.

INT. EMILIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maci hands Emilia a set of black clothes.

INT. EMILIA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Emilia, now wearing the black clothes, studies herself in the mirror. She gingerly touches the stitches in her eyebrow.

INT. MACI'S ROOM - DAY

Maci, also dressed in black, does her makeup.

INT. CASON'S ROOM - DAY

Cason, wearing a black suit, straightens his tie in the mirror.

INT. DANA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dana sits at her desk, dressed in all black. She looks at the engagement ring on her finger.

Dr. Novak knocks on the door frame.

DR. NOVAK

You ready?

DANA

Yeah. Let's go.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE ENTRY HALL - DAY

Dana and Dr. Novak exit the house. As Dana walks down the stairs, Dr. Novak places his hand on the small of her back, guiding her down.

Maci and Cason follow them out the door with Emilia trailing behind, she hesitates. Cason turns to look at her.

CASON

(mouthing)

You've got this.

Emilia nods.

She takes one step out the door.

FADE OUT.