Exhibit 258

IT ENDS WITH US

Screenplay

by

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Based on the book
"*It Ends With Us*"
by Colleen Hoover

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Wayfarer Studios

"For my father, who tried his very best not to be his worst.

And for my mother, who made sure we never saw him at his worst."

Colleen Hoover

FROM THE DARKNESS... MUSIC RISES... **"REVERIE"** by Isaac Gracie, instrumental only. Beckoning us to-

1 **EXT. MAINE TWO-LANE HIGHWAY - MORNING** (FALL) 1

Swoop along a two-lane highway, TRACKING a SMALL VEHICLE weaving through the spellbinding glory of early fall.

2 **INT/EXT. LILY'S CAR (MOVING) - MORNING** 2

Face-to-face with LILY BLOOM, 29 an effortless sort of natural beauty.

A LARGE BLUE SIGN. A PASSING GREETING AT THE STATE LINE, READING:

WELCOME TO MAINE
The Way Life Should Be

Her bottom lip betraying her with a quiver.

3 **EXT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, DRIVEWAY - DAY** 3

Pulling into the driveway, Lily stares upon her childhood home. The engine still running. She grips the wheel, looking as if she might just get the hell out of there, when we see the front door swing open to reveal JENNY BLOOM, 50s, two arms waving from a distance. Lily takes a breath and puts on the necessary face.

4 **EXT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, FRONT DOOR - DAY** 4

Lily approaches Jenny at the door, looking quite respectable in a fitted, expensive day dress - her face tear-stained. Her hair, makeup, and nails perfectly fresh and manicured. Her interior world a coiled mess. Her trauma and control issues paved over with a practiced lightness.

JENNY
Oh, honey.

Grief overtaking her, Jenny pulls Lily in for a very overwhelming embrace. Jenny's cracking-

JENNY (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry. Shit. He held on as long as he could.

With conflicted compassion, Lily soothes Jenny like a parent to a child. Classic role reversal.

LILY
Shhhh... it's okay...

JENNY
He loved you *so much*. Always did. You know that, right?

Jenny pulls away, wiping her nose with a tissue-

JENNY (CONT'D)
Ugh- The funeral director's coming by- He's gonna help us with the planning. We need to pick the flowers and all that.

LILY
Lilies. The flowers are--

JENNY
What?

LILY
The flowers. For a funeral are--

JENNY
Lily! Yes. My god. Of course. I probably should've named you something less macabre.

CLOCKING Lily's blue jeans and t-shirt-

JENNY (CONT'D)
Maybe you could throw on something a little more... not that?

5 **INT/EXT. LILY'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - DAY** 5

CREEEAK, the door swings open- REVEALING Lily's childhood bedroom. Unchanged. Reflective of her entire life until only about seven years ago.

Entering, Lily takes a look around. Her soft gaze landing on... a MUSIC BOX resting on the BEDSIDE TABLE, when-

JENNY
Here we go, it might be a little-

Jenny enters the room, holding up a conservative DAY DRESS against Lily's frame.

Jenny (CONT'D)
Menopausal, but you make anything look stunning. And this *is* a funeral.
(the words catch in her throat)
My god we're going to his funeral.

A beat. Jenny takes in the room with new eyes as Lily changes in front of her.

LILY
Mom--

JENNY
Jesus, this room is a time capsule.
(then re the dress)
--maybe we can put a belt around it.

LILY
Mom, you're all over the place.

JENNY (CONT'D)
I'm all over the place, baby girl. Sorry.

Jenny helping her get zipped up as she turns, facing a LONG MIRROR. We clock a HOLLOW HEART TATTOO on Lily's collar bone.

Jenny struggling against two small buttons. Smiling back tears-

JENNY (CONT'D)
... How's the eulogy coming along?

SILENCE. An UNSPOKEN TRUTH dangling between them.

LILY
Honestly... it's one of the most beautiful things I've never written.

JENNY
Honey, just say *something*. Five things you loved about your father.

LILY
Five things? It's not a grocery list.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Nice and simple and from the heart. It's gonna be great.

Leaning in, Jenny kisses Lily and backs out slowly while firing her thoughts like buckshot. Grasping for something she can control.

JENNY (CONT'D)
All of it, it's gonna be... perfect. He loved you so much. I need to paint this room. I'm gonna do it.

Jenny disappears down the hall. IN THE QUIET THAT FOLLOWS- Lily turns again to that MUSIC BOX. As if in a trance, Lily crosses the room, and lifts the lid, prompting a SWEET MELODY to rise. Reaching inside, she unearths- A WOODEN HOLLOW HEART carved from oak. Caressing it, Lily looks out the WINDOW, toward a house next door, we rack * focus to reveal YOUNG LILLY's face in the reflection. We * hear a doorbell ring.

JENNY (O.S.) (CONT'D) *
Lily, he's here! *

CLOSE ON LILY as she is brought back to the present. She * drops the HOLLOW HEART IN HER FRONT DRESS POCKET. *

6 OMITTED 6 *

7 **INT. CITY HALL, AUDITORIUM - DAY** 7

The local SHERIFF, 60s, bellies up to a podium before the REVERENT CROWD. A PHOTO of ANDREW BLOOM, 64, resting on an easel next to a CLOSED CASKET adorned with flowers.

SHERIFF
We are here to honor the prestigious, generous and kind... Andrew Bloom. Whose ferocity was only outmatched by his gentility.

Lily - sitting in the front row next to Jenny - stares ahead as she overhears two gossipy women behind her, MRS. BYLAND, a redhead, and MRS. SMITH, a blonde.

SHERIFF (CONT'D) *
Deeply beloved mayor of * this fair town. *

MRS. BYLAND *
What was it again. *

SHERIFF (CONT'D) *
Husband of the highly * adored Jenny Bloom of the * politically renowned * Lawrence family - *

MRS. SMITH *
What was what? *

Lily squeezes Jenny's hand at the mention of her family.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
(an attempt at levity)
Now that he's gone we can safely say, we all know, without Jenny, Andrew would've been nothing.

MRS. BYLAND
There was something. There was a scandal or... before I moved here... something with the daughter.

Jenny's tears betray her.

SHERIFF (CONT'D) *
And father of sweet Lily. *
Lily, please come to the stage, darlin'. *

MRS. SMITH *
(loving the shit talk) *
Ohh. Yes! Andrew protected her. Oh! I almost forgot about that. My sister went to school with them. *

They look horrified. With that, Lily takes the stage holding her empty NAPKIN list. *

LILY
Thank you... for joining us today.

She turns, locking "eyes" with her FATHER'S PORTRAIT only a few feet away. It's as if he's staring right at her.

LILY (CONT'D)
I'll just dive right in. Um... In honor of my father's life, I'd like to share with you the... five things that I loved most about him.

Opening her NAPKIN, Lily stares upon the NUMBERS listed vertically, yet, nothing more is written. Lily's gaze then falls upon Jenny. That UNSPOKEN TRUTH still dangling between them- And yet, her mother stiffens-

LILY (CONT'D)
Sorry. This is tougher than I thought.

Lily takes her NAPKIN and walks offstage.

CLOSE AS SHE KEEPS WALKING DOWN THE AISLE. The CROWD, a mixture of empathy and judgement, is seen stirring just over her shoulder.

8 **EXT. LILY'S CAR (MOVING) - SUNSET (BOSTON BRIDGE)** 8

Lily drives, she's emotionless. Emptied.

CUT TO:

9 **EXT. BOSTON STREET - NIGHT** 9

Back to Lily. Car parked in front of a luxury high rise. She steps out and looks up. *

10 OMITTED 10

11 **EXT. BOSTON LUXURY BUILDING, ROOFTOP - NIGHT** 11

We find Lily on the LEDGE of the rooftop. Finally letting herself release. She feels like she can breathe looking out over the city. Just then -

BAM! The ROOFTOP DOOR about 15 feet to Lily's right suddenly bursts open. A **SHADOWED FIGURE** emerging from the stairwell and SLAMMING the door shut again - WHAM!

ON LILY- Trying to get a glimpse of this **PERSON** moving swiftly across the deck. The **SILHOUETTE** finally stopping near the edge about twenty feet in front of her- REVEALED to be a **MAN**, mid 30s, appears to be on the verge of a breakdown-

Lily watches as the Man kicks one of the PATIO CHAIRS - WHAM!

Unaware he has an audience, he kicks The chair repeatedly. It doesn't break, it just slides away from him. He kicks it again. It just slides further. Frustrated he stands over it, his hands clenched by his sides.

Back to Lily, watching him in an almost voyeuristic way.

He fishes a JOINT from his pocket. And LIGHTS UP. He takes a long drag. His face now, thanks to the moon, fully visible to her... wow.

He finally notices Lily sitting on the ledge near the door. **THEIR EYES MEET. He covers his embarrassment.**

MAN
... Hi.

LILY
... *Hi.*

He takes another drag. Dryly- An attempt at a joke-

MAN
Strong chair.

Dryly back-

LILY
...Is it?

MAN
I'm sorry about that, it's... been a day.

LILY
Tell that to the chair.

She turns back to the view, the Man taking a drag as he watches her in the dark. After an awkward beat-

MAN
Could you, uh, could you please get down from there? You're making me nervous sitting so close to the edge.

Lily glances at her legs straddling the ledge. Then- Holding her own-

LILY
I'm quite comfortable.

MAN
The last thing I need tonight is to see a beautiful woman fall to her death.
(OFF LILY)
Pretty please? With a cherry on top?

Lily doesn't move.

LILY
I once read Maraschino cherries stay in your stomach for like, seven years. Or cause cancer. I forget which.

She steps down from the ledge.

LILY (CONT'D)
Happy?

MAN
Very. Thank you.

LILY
So, what happ-

MAN (CONT'D)
I didn't know that about Maraschino cherries- sorry, sorry, go ahead.

A charge between them. After a beat, she nods to the chair which is laying resigned on its side.

LILY (CONT'D)
What happened? Was it a woman? Was it a man?
(then)
It was a chair, wasn't it?

MAN
(with a chuckle)
If only it were *that* trivial.

Silence. The Man taking one last drag-

MAN (CONT'D)
... What floor do you live on?

LILY
... *You first.*

Approaching her-

MAN
'kay. Well... My sister and her husband, they bought the entire top floor, right beneath us, actually.

LILY
Hot damn, sis. The whole top floor, huh?

He joins her near the edge, the two looking out over the city.

MAN
They split it into two units and I bought the other. *

LILY
Of course you did.
(OFF the Man's smile)
What do you do for a living?

MAN
Neurosurgeon. *

Lily stares at the Man. Hard to read what she's thinking. Suddenly, the hardness etched into her features cracks as laughter flies from her mouth like a jack in the box. *

MAN (CONT'D)
How is that funny?

LILY
Jesus H... I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. You're serious.

MAN
Yes.

LILY
Please, I'm so sorry. You've spent way too much time in school to have me laugh like that. I'm terrible. I thought you were a crypto-bro. Or a REALLY expensive prostitute.

MAN
Well, I AM very expensive. And no kissing on the mouth.
(Then)
So, why haven't I seen you before?

LILY
Two reasons. I've never required brain surgery. And I don't live here.

MAN
Do you have a boyfriend who does?

LILY
WOOF. That's a tragic pick-up line.
(She gives herself a whole-body shake.)
Okay, okay, apologies. Try again. I won't laugh. Promise.

He can't help but smile. She's electric.

MAN
I'm not sure I trust that. So, what inspired you to embrace a life of crime and break into my building?

LILY
I like living on the edge.

MAN
I can tell.

LILY
I wanted some fresh air. Somewhere to think, so- I pulled up Google Earth and found the closest building with a nice view.
(mildly flirting)
You have a really nice view.

Staring directly at her-

MAN
I do.

The two take each other in. Damn.

MAN (CONT'D)
What's your name?

LILY
Lily.

MAN
Where you from, Lily? *

LILY
Originally from Maine. I just moved here. Yeah I recently quit my corporate career * to ...follow my dream. I realized my * parents were getting older and there was still time to disappoint them.

MAN
Yeah, well, I'm a doctor and my mother is still disappointed in me. So...

LILY
What's *your* name?

MAN
Ryle.

LILY
Ryle what?

RYLE
Why do you want to know my last name?

LILY
I need to know what to tell the cops when you turn out to be a serial killer. Or a prostitute.

RYLE *
Fair. It's Kincaid. Ryle Kincaid.

LILY
That's a serious name.

RYLE
What's *your* last name?

Lily is quietly mortified.

LILY
(mortified)
... It's Bloom.

RYLE
Ooof. C'mon, that's not your real-

She holds up her finger - an effort to silence him.

LILY
Wait. A ta-ta. Just wait... It gets better.

RYLE
That's simply not possible.

LILY
Oh, it does. I'm obsessed with flowers and I'm gonna, kinda... Open a...

Lily wincing.

RYLE
Open a flower shop?

LILY (CONT'D)
A flower shop, yes.

There is a long beat. It hangs in the air with playful, extraordinary tension. NOW IT'S HIS TURN:

He belts out an absolutely WONDERFUL, full bodied laugh. It's, in a word, adorable. *

RYLE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Oh god, that's wonderful. I think Lily Bloom is a great name for a florist. Or a woodland sprite.
(Good natured sarcasm)
It doesn't sound made up at all.

LILY
Oh... That's kind of you to say, DOCTOR RYLE KINCAID.

RYLE
What's your middle name?

She groans.

LILY
Don't do it.

RYLE
It gets worse?

LILY
Don't do it.

RYLE
Rose?

LILY
Worse, I'm afraid.

RYLE
Violet? Petunia? Toadflax?

LILY
Blossom.

A beat:

RYLE
Goddamn. Your parents hate you.

They laugh. Eyes locked. Charmed by each other. Verbal sparring cools and gives way to sexual tension.

LILY
My dad died on Monday. That's why I came up here. To have a good cry and hopefully meet a wealthy neurosurgeon. *

RYLE
Oh my God. I'm...Shit. Were you close? *

LILY
No. And I got the sense looking at his coffin that we're probably not gonna get much closer.

RYLE
Damn.

LILY
Well, it's a naked truth.

Ryle lowers himself onto a lounger. Lily claims the lounger next to him.They gaze upward in SILENCE.

RYLE
Tell me a naked truth, Lily. Something you're not proud of, something that'll...

LILY
Make you feel a little less screwed up?

RYLE
Sure.

LILY
Honestly? Okay. I... *could* have made it back. To see my dad one last time, but I missed it. I missed it on purpose.

She feels weird confessing that to a stranger. Her words linger in the air.

LILY (CONT'D)
Your turn.

Not wanting to play his own game. Then:

RYLE
I... watched a little boy die tonight. He was only six years old. His little brother found a gun in their parents' bedroom and... it went off by accident. I spent two hours trying to put him back together, but... there was nothing I could do.

Lily reacts. Heartbroken. The evening going from sadness, to a curious encounter, to silly and now to heartbreak.

LILY
... I can't imagine what that's going to do to the brother that lived.

RYLE
It'll destroy him for life. That's what it'l do.

He's silent. It's almost too much for him. Finally, he turns to her. She does the same. The two curled on their sides, staring at each other in the dark.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Alright- Give me another one, mine was WAY darker than yours.

LILY
(a beat, thinking)
Hmmmm... Welll... Uh... The first guy I had sex with... was... homeless.

RYLE
Stop.

LILY
No, really. In high school.

RYLE
Wait. Wait. What? That's it??

LILY
Yeah.

RYLE
Come on...

Lily shrugs. What's there to say?

LILY
There's nothing really to tell. I was friends with this boy, Atlas. He was kind and super talented and capable, but just got a shit hand.

RYLE
You're making me jealous of a homeless man.

LILY
Ok. That's enough. Your turn.

RYLE
I don't know if I can top that. It was both sexy and disturbing.

LILY
That's my brand. Go on. Try. Shock me.

He looks at her. Like REALLY looks at her.

RYLE
(plainly)
I want to fuck you.

Lily's stares. Unreadable.

LILY
Excuse me?

RYLE
(speaking simply in facts)
You asked me for the most recent thought and I gave it to you. If you were into it, I would take you downstairs to my bedroom and I think you would be very pleased with what I could do for you.

They share the sexiest SILENCE you've ever seen.

LILY
How many women has this worked on?

RYLE
Would you believe me if I said you're the first?

LILY
No.

RYLE
I'm not good at relationships because I'm an emotionally selfish workaholic. So I just avoid them altogether.

LILY
How do you know? If you've never tried having a relationship, or carbs, how do you know it doesn't work for you?

RYLE
I never said I didn't eat carbs.

LILY
Well you don't really look like a reckless snacker.

RYLE
Love isn't really for me. Lust seems nice though.

LILY
You still haven't answered my question.

RYLE
I'm just trying to keep up with you here.

LILY
How many women *has this worked on?*

RYLE
All of them.

LILY
Well I'm not one to sleep with someone I just met.

SILENCE. Ryle looking down at her lips again.

RYLE
Okay. Then. Well then exactly how far *would* you go?

Silence. This could go either way. Then. In a whisper-

LILY
I'm not sure. *

Their mouths only inches apart. *

LILY (CONT'D) *
(in a whisper) *
I'm an unreliable narrator. *

Gently, he tucks a piece of hair behind her ear, then slowly grazes his fingers against her neck and finds the collar of her shirt. Taking in every detail, his eyes landing on Lily's **HEART TATTOO now revealed** on her collar bone. Gently touching it. He toys with her buttons

RYLE
Too far?

Heart thrashing around in her chest. *

LILY
No.

His hand slides one of her dress straps to the side, now hanging loosely on her shoulder.

RYLE
This?

CLOSE ON LILY. Gripping at the edges of the lounger, arching her back, daring him to go further. He does.

LILY
(she exhales)
Fffuuuuuuc---. *

She turns to stare at him - their faces inches apart when- A **PIERCING PHONE RING** rips through the air. Dropping his forehead to her shoulder-

RYLE
Dammit.

He fumbles in his pocket for his phone, walking several feet away from her to take the call.

RYLE (CONT'D)
(Into the phone)
Dr. Kincaid. Shit. What did the CT Show? *
What about Roberts? Okay. Prep the OR. *
Let Ernie know he's cutting and I'll just *
supervise. See you in ten. *

He ENDS THE CALL and turns to Lily, looking sad.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I have to...

LILY
Holy shit.

RYLE
I know. I'm sorry.

LILY
No. I mean, *holy shit*, I JUST NOW realized you're ACTUALLY a neurosurgeon. *

RYLE
I tried to warn you. I have to..

LILY
It's fine.

She nods. Equally disappointed. And surprised by it.

RYLE
It was nice meeting you, Lily Blossom Bloom.

He stands a beat more. Then he opens the DOOR and disappears down the stairwell.

Lily is left shaken to her core, confused. By the unexpectedly electric moment they shared.

12 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON STUDIO APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING** 12

Lily in bed, morning light shining through her small window bouncing off her messy red hair. She's awake. And we get the feeling she has been for a while. Her tiny studio is filled with MOVING BOXES yet to be fully unpacked. There's a small bed but no dresser. Nothing on the walls.

Lily's phone alarm goes off. As she scrambles to shut it up, she accidentally knocks off the hand carved **WOODEN HEART she grabbed at her mom's house,** which she causally replaces on the nightstand. She hops out of bed.

MATCH CUT TO:

13 **INT/EXT. LILY'S CHILDHOOD ROOM (MEMORY) - DAY** 13

YOUNG LILY'S (17) feet hitting the floor as she gets out of bed.

Quick cuts of her getting ready for school - brushing her teeth, donning a flowing dress with high-top lace-up Doc Martins and an oversized jean jacket. Moving to her BEDSIDE, she opens her **MUSIC BOX** to grab a necklace, prompting a **SWEET MELODY** to rise- When- She spots MOVEMENT in her window.

Peering out, she just barely catches sight of that **BOY WITH A BACKPACK** (18) sneaking out of one of the broken windows from the **CONDEMNED HOUSE** next door.

She watches as he discreetly opens a trash - he's hungry. Suddenly- She is startled by **YELLING** from downstairs- The **VOICE OF HER FATHER**-

ANDREW (O.S.)
Goddamnit, Jenny, you're making me late!

The FRONT DOOR downstairs SLAMS! Young Lily shaken as-

14 **INT/EXT. THE BUS (MEMORY) - DAY** 14

-Young Lily sitting on the bus as the Boy climbs aboard and bee-lines to the back.

Young Lily "nonchalantly" allows herself to sneak a glance behind her as she hides in her sketching... finding the Boy somberly staring out the window.

He's long and lean, in need of a shave and a shower. But under that thin layer of grime... hides a gorgeous young man. *Interesting.*

Young Lily turns her head again, staring just long enough for the boy to catch her in the act.

THE TWO LOCK EYES- and for a brief moment their connection feels cosmic. And safe.

15 **INT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, KITCHEN (MEMORY) - DAY** 15

Young Lily hastily makes THREE SANDWICHES, grabs TWO SODAS and a BAG OF CHIPS and some **DIRTY VEGETABLES FROM HER GARDEN.** Tossing it all in an OLD BACKPACK- Adding a FLASHLIGHT- A SWISS ARMY KNIFE- A WOOL BLANKET- And some CANNED GOODS. Then- She-

16 **EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE, BACK PORCH (MEMORY) - DAY** 16

Places the PACK on the back porch of the CONDEMNED HOUSE right by the door. Nervous- She reaches out and KNOCKS - And runs away, quickly tucking behind a **GIANT OAK TREE.**

Her heart pounding, Young Lily peeks out from behind the old trunk, watching as the door slowly opens, Young Atlas surprised to see the BACKPACK. He picks it up, opens it and... issues a soft grin.

17 **EXT. THE BUS STOP (MEMORY) - DAY** 17

The next morning, Young Lily arrives at the bus stop again, finding Young Atlas already there. It's just the two of them. And it should feel awkward. *But it doesn't.*

The bus finally rounds the corner, heading their way. And just as it pulls up, Young Atlas, embarrassed but grateful, quietly mutters-

YOUNG ATLAS
Thank you.

The doors open on the bus. Young Lily heads on first.

LILY
(mischievous and protective of him)
I don't know what you're talking about.

18 **INT. THE BUS (MEMORY) - DAY** 18

Taking a seat. Young Atlas shyly sits in the empty seat across the aisle, it's the closest he can make himself get to her, dropping his BACKPACK between his legs. Both feeling a little adolescently awkward being this close.

He looks at her, his eyes are so beautiful, full of heart, wisdom, but also real pain. Young Lily looks plainly at him. Without judgement. She notices **a big scar on his hand. Like a burn.**

YOUNG LILY
... Why don't you live at home? Did you run away or something?

He stares at her for a few seconds, as if trying to decide if he can trust her or not.

YOUNG ATLAS
My mom kicked me out.

YOUNG LILY
Why?

YOUNG ATLAS
Because... she likes dating guys that beat the shit out of her. And I kept getting in the way.

These words punch Young Lily in the gut. She knows this same stark reality all too well.

YOUNG LILY
(no icky sympathy)
What happened to your hand?

He pauses. Doesn't want to burden her...

YOUNG ATLAS
It got in the way.

The two lock eyes. Offscreen they hear **KATIE** (17 - pretty) giggling with her FRIEND.

KATIE
(whispering)
Smells like teen spirit. *

Young Atlas utterly mortified. Young Lily unfazed.

YOUNG LILY
My parents don't normally get back from work until about five, which means we have zero% assholes and 100% of running water. If you wanna...

Young Atlas looks at her. Baffled by her kindness. **A natural feeling of intimacy swirling**. Finally, softly and flat-

YOUNG ATLAS
Yeah. Sure.

YOUNG LILY
(equally flat)
Your enthusiasm is contagious.

She leaves a little twinkle in his sad eyes.

19 **INT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, KITCHEN (MEMORY) - DAY** 19

Quick cuts: popping popcorn, pouring two glasses of lemonade. The shower can be heard in the background.

It turns off. She quickly pours the popcorn, checks her hair in the microwave door, and rushes into the living room.

20 **INT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, LIVING ROOM (MEMORY) - DAY** 20

Close on ***"The Ellen DeGeneres Show"***- we cut back to Lily, watching but also not really watching as she tries to look "super chill" waiting for a beautiful teenage boy to come downstairs. Young Lily's entire body stiffens when **Young Atlas finally emerges from the hallway.**

YOUNG ATLAS
Thanks for the clothes.

YOUNG LILY
(prodding him for reactions)
You look like Ned Flanders. *
(then)
My dad won't know they're gone, don't *
worry. He doesn't wear jeans, t-shirts, *
or general humanity much.

Playing it "cool", Young Lily offers him some popcorn and he takes a handful.

ATLAS
You don't like your dad?

YOUNG LILY
No. No, I love him desperately. That's
the problem. *
(changing subjects to *
something less grey)
My parents won't be home for like 45
minutes if you want to watch tv... *

Two awkward kids. His face freshly shaven. His eyes * looking **DEEPER AND DARKER** than ever before. They share a * beat. Both pretending to be watching Ellen, but both wanting nothing more than to be getting to know each other. Finally she gestures to the abandoned house next door--

YOUNG LILY (CONT'D)
So... How did you end up here?

YOUNG ATLAS
(dead flat) *
It had great curb appeal.

YOUNG LILY
(equally flat)
I get that a lot.

Well played.

YOUNG ATLAS
...Yeah it's hard to get a job without a phone or an address. So- I figured- I'll just finish up school. The nachos are pretty good.

YOUNG LILY
How old are you?

YOUNG ATLAS
Just turned eighteen.

YOUNG LILY
You don't have any family but your mom?

YOUNG ATLAS
I have an uncle. In Boston. I just- I can't seem to get a hold of him.

YOUNG LILY
Maybe you have the wrong number?

YOUNG ATLAS
Yeah, that's probably it.
(OFF LILY)
I'm signed up to go to basic training in May.

YOUNG LILY
Basic training?

YOUNG ATLAS (CONT'D)
The Marines.

Lily sensing already that she's going to miss him.

YOUNG LILY (CONT'D)
Oh. Wow. Congratulations.

Young Lily once again struck by his beautiful stare.

PRE-LAP:

JENNY (O.S.)
So... today's the big day? Blink twice if you want me to talk you out of it--

21 **EXT. BOSTON STREET - DAY - WINTER** 21

Lily, dressed in full winter gear, walks with urgency. Her messy hair falling out of a beanie.

LILY
(A little out of breath)
I'm never blinking again.

22 **INT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, SUN ROOM - MORNING** 22

REVEAL JENNY. Forcing that classic grin of hers -

INTERCUT

JENNY
I've just always thought a flower shop is a tricky business. And if it doesn't work out...

LILY
What makes you think it's not going to work out?

JENNY
I said "if". A flower sales statistic that shocks many new store owners, is the amount of stock that has to be tossed away on a daily basis. A whopping forty-five percent of all flowers die and have to be discarded before they're ever sold. That's almost one out of--

LILY
Mom, are you reading this from Google?

She starts to well up.

JENNY
Of course I am. How would I know that? Google is my best friend. I'm worried about you. *Google* is worried about you.

LILY
You're both too late.

Up ahead she sees a Man standing outside an old storefront, clearly waiting for someone. She waves to him.

LILY (CONT'D)
I'm getting the keys right now. I love you.

JENNY
Oh wow, okay. I love you! You can do it. I believe in you!

Lily shakes her head. Wry smile.

LILY
Okay. You sound crazy. Thanks mom. Call you later.

She hangs up. If there weren't people around her and if this wasn't the biggest day of her life, she would scream. She approaches the man.

23 **EXT. LILY BLOOMS (OLD STOREFRONT)** 23

LILY
Hi, so sorry I'm late. Still getting used to the city. I just moved here. *

As he gruffly hands her the keys. *

REALTOR
(Thick Boston accent)
Ok Sweetheart. They don't have maps where you're from? * *

LILY *
Just switchblades. Thank you so much, this is really a dream-- * *

The man just leaves. Welcome to Boston.

LILY (CONT'D)
--come true. *

She looks up Tup to the door, puts in the key and turns the handle, revealing-

24 **INT. LILY BLOOMS (OLD STOREFRONT) - CONTINUOUS** 24

An old building in dust-covered shambles. Looks like it hasn't been updated in 40 years. Could have been a small cafe, **but now it looks like something out of an episode of HOARDERS.** She rummages through the trash, then she pulls a **large old sketchbook** out of her bag THAT WE RECOGNIZE FROM THE BUS and puts it on the old cafe bar. It's worn and faded after years of sketches. She looks up and around - beaming at the mess. *

CUT TO:

25 **INT. LILY BLOOMS - AFTERNOON** 25

Headphones in, quick cuts of Lily cleaning. It's clear she's been hard at work. She busts through the slightly transparent curtain where we see a figure on the other side holding a gardening spade and hand rake. Lily jumps.

LILY
Jesus!

A woman whips around equally startled.

ALLYSA (O.S.)
Ah! Hi. Sorry, didn't mean to scare you.

Meet **ALLYSA**, early 30s, She's super cute. *Dressed in designer everything and a Hermes bag to match.*

LILY
No, no, it's okay. Sorry. I just didn't hear you come in. Can I help you? *

She walks toward Lily and extends her hand.

ALLYSA *
Can I help you? *

LILY
Excuse me. *

ALLYSA
There's a *help wanted* sign out front?

LILY
Oh. What? I didn't put a sign up. Sorry. * I don't know how that got there... *

ALLYSA
Yeah it looked pretty old, but I still * felt like maybe I should come in. I walk * by this place every day and I've always * wondered who was gonna find this little * gem and make it their own. I'm Alyssa by * the way-, you're the owner? *

LILY *
Yeah, hi, Lily. Nice to meet you. *

ALYSSA *
Nice to meet you too. Congratulations. * Anyway today, your door was open. So I * felt pulled to stop in and maybe even * offer my services. I'm looking for a job * right now. *

LILY
Oh, I'm not hiring yet... I only got the keys a few days ago. And I'm sort of still finding my way here.

ALYSSA
Totally, understand. Best of luck. I just have to ask though, what are you doing with this sweet place?

LILY
(proud)
It's gonna be a flower shop.

A moan escapes Alyssa and surprises them both.

LILY (CONT'D)
What?

ALYYSA
Oh. It's just. Oh, I'm probably the one person in the world who hates flowers. I wish you the very best of luck though.

She turns to leave like a butterfly looking for it's next place to pollenate.

LILY
I'm sorry. Who hates flowers??

ALYSSA
I do.

LILY
Wait.. you gotta explain a little more.. Why??

ALLYSA
Because they're a lie.

Lily, completey amused and taken.

LILY
A lie??

ALYYSA
(sweetly but believes every word)
Well, a half truth. It's just so weird, like why not give me something living instead of something that's gonna die and creates more work for me! I don't mean any offense. I'm so sorry.
(MORE)

ALYYSA (CONT'D)
I just feel like a flower shop is depressing. But that's just me.

Allysa's energy wants to get out of there. She's said too much.

LILY
No, no. I agree, it's depressing to me though because the beauty of what flowers are have been lost. We order them like takeout now.

Allysa not yet leaving, but listening. Lily ejoying the test audience in this magical person.

LILY (CONT'D)
What makes flowers interesting to me -- since I was a kid-- is that they only exist for a fleeting moment in time. It's the tradgedy that makes it so compelling. It's *storytelling.*

Genuinely taken by Lily, but--

ALYSSA
I had a tough experinece with flowers as a kid so that's probaly where we're different here. Everything you said is exquisite though.

LILY
Allergies?

ALYSSA
(sweetly)
Somethin' like that.

LILY
I've never felt more passionate about goddamn flowers than I do talking to you. If the offer is still open, would you consider working here? Help is wanted.

Both excited by what this could be.

ALYSSA
I'm not cheap.

LILY
That my lady, I can tell.

ALYSSA
I have to be out for dinner by 5 tonight.

LILY
Tonight?

ALYSSA
Yeah. I just started.

A best friendship was just made.

SMASH TO FLOWER SHOP MONTAGE:

26 OMITTED 26

A27 **INT/EXT. LILY BLOOMS (PRESENT)- FLOWER SHOP MONTAGE - DAY/NIGHT - THREE MONTHS** A27

Lily and Allysa clean the flower shop. They find some treasures like an iron table and some vases and also some disgusting shit like a vile, mushy hairball of hell. As they cough and choke and nearly vomit...

B27 OMITTED B27

C27 **INT. LILY BLOOMS - DAY** C27

The place looking a bit better now, Lily starts to play with the floral design- integrating the flora into the **iron table.** Behind her Allysa paints the walls and rocks out wearing giant head phones like she's headlining her own arena tour.

D27 **INT. LILY BLOOMS - DAY** D27

Lily sits at her work desk like a mad scientist. She starts to dip roses in black ink. Paints the leaves Bronze. Drops pigments in the vase water. Red. Purple. Black.

ALLYSA
(in awe)
You are Dr Frankenstein... but with flowers.

LILY
Marry me.

E27 **INT. LILY BLOOMS - DAY** E27 *

Lily takes a broken vase she had found, then epoxies it back together with Oxblood and Gold - the ancient art of Kintsugi. While Allysa climbs a ladder and tries to hang an installation. But turns out, she's too tiny for this task. Lily jumps to help.

LILY
I got this.

Lily climbs the ladder; she clearly doesn't got this.

ALLYSA *
(whispering so God doesn't hear her)
Does it make me a bad feminist if I call my husband for help?

LILY
No it makes you hot for knowing when to * delegate.

ALLYSA
Oh-god-thank-you-cause-I-really-didn't-wanna-keep-trying-to-hang-that. Uh! He's * at Happy Hour around the corner with my * brother.

LILY
That's great. I prefer my handymen drunk. *

Allysa makes the call. A **TIPSY VOICE** heard yelling out over the BOISTEROUS SOUNDS OF A LOUD BAR-

MARSHALL (V.O.)
Hey, Issa! The game's over. Where you at?

Allysa gives Lily a grin and puts her phone on SPEAKER-

ALLYSA
I'm just at work with my boss and we need your help.

MARSHALL (V.O.)
*Your boss? You babe were post economic * you don't need a boss. Unless you want a * boss because I'm open to that ... *

ALLYSA
Don't keep talking, first of all you're with my brother, and second you're on speaker so don't keep talking at all.
(MORE)

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
And did you even hear what I said? I need you to come here and help us lift something.

MARSHALL (V.O.)
I got you. We're across the street, I can literally see you. Hi Issa! Not to put anyone down, but your like the hottest girl in the store.

ALLYSA
Just come in and drag my brother with you.

MARSHALL (V.O.)
I gotchu baby.

SHE ENDS THE CALL. Allysa shaking her head with a LAUGH.

ALLYSA
I don't take responsibilty for either of the men who are about to enter this establishment.

MARSHALL (O.S.)
Yo, Issa.

The two women turn to find **MARSHALL**, 30s, tall, boyishly handsome, dark messy hair with big honest eyes drunkenly leaned against the door, hilariously ***wearing a cartoon onesie.***

MARSHALL (CONT'D)
Oh wow! It's like a flower shop for people who dont like happiness.

ALLYSA
Marshall, meet Lily.
(softly to Lily)
The bar around the corner gives out free beer to anyone who shows up in a onesie during a Bruins game.

Marshall swaggers toward the ladies.

MARSHALL
Hey Lily.

He tries to offer a little fist bump, Allysa voiding it-

ALLYSA
No, no, no, we don't do fist-bumps, honey, remember? Oh, and Lily, this-

She turns toward another **MAN** entering the shop right behind Marshall, **also wearing a onesie**-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
-Is my brother-

The Man steps around Marshall to shake Lily's hand- And- For the first time in months- **Lily and Ryle lock eyes.**

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Ryle.

A beat. Lily a "deer caught in headlights."

RYLE
Lily Bloom.

ALLYSA
Wait. You guys know each other? *How?*

Lily and Ryle CHUCKLE a bit together, at a loss.

RYLE
Lily and I met... a few months ago...
We... uh... shared our naked truths.

ALLYSA
Ew. This is gross. You guys had sex, didn't you? You had sex with each other?

LILY
Oh god no.

MARSHALL
No judgement. We're all adults. We have sex too.

LILY (CONT'D)
No we just talked.

Suddenly, Marshall starts to dry heave-

MARSHALL (CONT'D)
Right. Thats what we're calling it now.
OKay. Cause we talk too. We talk like three-five times a week.

ALLYSA
Okay. Why don't we TALK over here for a second.

MARSHALL
Why?

Allysa pulls Marshall away.

Silence. Two familiar strangers.

RYLE
I look ridiculous.

LILY
(with a grin)
It's bad. Yes.

RYLE
(with a grin)
So, wait? This is the flower shop... that my sister works at... because she's bored?

Holding out her arms, announcing-

LILY
We like to say "inspired", but welcome to Lily Blooms.

Ryle smiles.

RYLE
You pulled it off... Well, Florista. I guess we'll be seeing a lot more of each other then.

SILENCE. Ryle's gaze falling to Lily's HEART TATTOO.

LILY
Is that so?

RYLE
You're even more terrifying in the daytime.

LILY
(regarding his onesie)
I was just gonna say the same to you.

They hold the playful stand off as Allysa and Marshall re-enter. *

ALLYSA
Ok, so our handyman Marshall has a dumb idea. But "FUN" dumb. Not dumb-dumb. I say we go for it. Ryle please conduct yourself with dignity.
(re: onesie)
Whatever's left of it. Lily, you in?

OFF LILY, we-

SMASH TO:

27 **INT. BOSTON DIVE KARAOKE BAR - NIGHT** 27

Allysa and Marshall onstage singing a karaoke duet THAT THE PRODUCTION CAN AFFORD TO LICENSE. The lyrics ironically washing over Ryle and Lily who sit quietly at a table together. Ryle has sobered up a little- his onesie now unzipped and tied around his waist, exposing a black t-shirt.

RYLE
Hi.

LILY
Hi.

The sexual tension is at a 12.

RYLE
... I've gone up to the roof a few times. Wondering if you might be up there. And then. I'm a bit relieved when you're not.

LILY
I'm trying to cut down on trespassing and focus more on the business.

RYLE
I've never talked to anyone like we did that night. It's made me want to do weird things that I've never done, like...

RYLE (CONT'D) LILY
Ask you out on a date. Eat lasagna?

LILY (CONT'D)
Wait, wait, wait. Holdup... *You've never asked a woman on a date?*

RYLE
Yeah. No. Well- yeah. No... Not technically.

LILY
Any reason?

RYLE
Yeah. But don't worry... I'm not gonna ask you. You're safe. *

LILY
(a beat, sexy AF)
... *Am I?*

Putty in her hands-

RYLE
Fucc-- I'm not good at- And- You and my sister are... so- I don't know...
(OFF LILY)
We can just... be friends.

A beat. Offering a handshake, accepting his proposal-

LILY
Friendship.

Taking her hand, the two seal their promise- Instant electricity flowing through their veins the moment they touch. His eyes drifting to her lips, wanting to kiss them. The duet coming to a close, the ROOM clapping for Allysa and Marshall. And- Suddenly, another SONG begins to sound **"I Want You to Want Me"**. Marshall yells to Ryle to join him.

MARSHALL
Ryle, let's do this!

RYLE
(to Lily)
If you will excuse me I have a stage to die on.

Ryle hopping up and grabbing the mic- And- Singing his goddamn little heart out.

He can't sing to save his life. It's terrible. But in the most hilariously endearing way possible. Lily can't help but crush. Meanwhile, Allysa plops down beside Lily, she's seen this a thousand times.

ALLYSA
So weird you know my brother.

LILY
Barely- We met one time.

The two watch as the boys make adorable fools of themselves, dancing around, singing until they are hoarse. It's so fun.

RYLE
"... I want you to want me / I need you to need me/ I'd love you..."

Sensing Lily's attraction- Allysa offers some advice-

ALLYSA
He's certainly brilliant. But he's also a complete disaster.
(MORE)

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
(OFF LILY, kindly)
I'll only say it once... But... yes he's great. He's great in so many ways, but I'm more protective of your heart than his in this because... he can't commit and he's a man child and my therapist told me that I need to let other people make their own mistakes but it would be wrong of me to not give you this information so now you have it: he's a mess. I'm going to stop talking.

LILY
(deflecting)
You're the only Kincaid for me.

Lily's heart betrays her as she and Ryle LOCK eyes again. He finishes the chorus as if he's singing directly to her. OFF LILY-

28 OMITTED 28

A29 **EXT. LILY'S CHILDHOOD HOME (MEMORY) - NIGHT** A29

We push in on the living room window as an **INDISCERNIBLE ARGUMENT** RISES from downstairs between Andrew and Jenny. The YELLING growing increasingly intense.

ANDREW (O.S.)
(heated, barely audible)
You want attention? I'll give you some fucking attention.

JENNY (O.S.)
Stop. Please.... Please. Lily's sleeping.

B29 **INT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, STAIRCASE (MEMORY) - NIGHT** B29

YOUNG LILY as she peaks her head out over the staircase peering down to the argument below.

29 OMITTED 29

30 **EXT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, BACKYARD (MEMORY) - DAY** 30

Young Lily is clipping flowers (her outlet) around a large flowerbed. She lays down mulch and compost. He picks a flower.

YOUNG LILY
No, no. You can't pull it like that. If you take out it's roots, you kill it.

YOUNG ATLAS
I didn't know that.

YOUNG LILY
Yeah, the roots are everything. If you cut it right here, where the stems meet, the flower in the ground can keep growing. And only the one in your hand'll die.

He studies her as she speaks with passion and knowledge usually reserved for old cat ladies.

YOUNG ATLAS
You know a lot about this stuff

YOUNG LILY
I love it. I'm gonna open my own flower shop one day. Lily Blooms. Everyone's always focusing on the beauty of flowers, but that's not true. There's also pain. It's all a part of the mess of being alive.

YOUNG ATLAS
Roses have thorns.

YOUNG LILY
Exactly. Nature is more honest than people. That's why it's my best friend.

YOUNG ATLAS
What would happen if you weren't here? To this garden I mean. Would someone else take care if it?

YOUNG LILY
It would probably die. No one else cares.

Nodding, Young Atlas' attention falls on that CONDEMNED HOUSE. The place he is forced to call "home." And he looks deeply saddened by it. Under his breath-

YOUNG ATLAS
That hits.

Not letting him go there.

YOUNG LILY
What about that Oak tree over there?

She points to the **MIGHTY OAK TREE** at the end of the yard.

YOUNG LILY (CONT'D)
It's been here since before we were born.
It'll be here long after we're gone.

Emotion in hidden in his throat, Young Atlas gazes at the tree.

YOUNG LILY (CONT'D)
It survives because it's capable of taking care of itself. Oak trees, don't get uprooted by the weather or any other nonsense. They keep standing. *Strong and sturdy. They survive. Because they're a goddamn Oak tree.*

The two lock eyes, Young Atlas looking at her with immense gratitude for these beautiful words. Prompting him to finally offer a simple confession.

YOUNG ATLAS
... I heard what happened last night.
With your dad.

Stiffening, Young Lily holds her breath, not blinking.

YOUNG ATLAS (CONT'D)
... Does that happen a lot?

After a long, painful, complicated, terrifying beat- she nods her head.

Unable to say more, not even knowing how... Young Lily finally looks away, wiping tears from her face. And in this moment of pure vulnerability, Young Atlas reaches out and pulls her in close - Young Lily resting her weary head on his shoulder.

WE HOLD HERE. In this powerful embrace between two survivors. Then. Without really thinking, Young Atlas kisses her gently on the crown of her head. She closes her tired eyes. And-

CUT TO:

ALLYSA (O.S.)
Hey, Lily-

31 **INT/EXT. LILY BLOOMS (PRESENT) - DAY** 31

Pulled from her daydream, Lily stifles a MUTED GASP. She stands outside the shop as Allysa shouts from the door.

ALLYSA
-You wanna do the honors?

LILY
You can. I want to take it in from here.

Taking in a deep breath, Lily watches as she illuminates all the different displays of flowers around the shop from inside. It's magical. Allysa races back outside and they drink it all in.

ALLYSA
I didn't know it was possible for anything in real life to be as beautiful as a pinterest board. *

LILY
It's perfect. ...I couldn't have done it without you. *

Long pause. A realization.

LILY (CONT'D)
Oh, god- What if we don't get any customers?

ALLYSA
Stop. Your Mom'll be here, she's flying in right?

LILY
Yeah, but- Wouldn't it be tragic if the one customer we got today was my mom who flew in from Maine?

ALLYSA
Marshall's stopping by this afternoon, so that's two customers at least. We're gonna be fine.

Allysa squeezes her arm.

RYLE (O.S.)
Whoa. You've been busy. This doesn't even look like the same shop.

Ryle appears behind them and joins their lineup, admiring the shop.

ALLYSA
Damn right.

RYLE
How's it going so far?

ALLYSA
We quite literally just opened.

RYLE
Wait, am I your first official customer?

LILY
You have to *buy* something to be considered a customer. Right now, you're loitering.

We go with Lily as she leaves him behind, walking into the shop.

RYLE (O.S.)
I want these. Can I get these delivered- as a gift?

This guy is relentless. Swoon. He grabs a vase full of PURPLE LILIES and sets them on the counter. Allysa circling around to the register- Lily trying not to be phased.

ALLYSA
(Scrunching up her nose)
You buying these for a girl?

RYLE
I am but... she'll probably send 'em back. She doesn't do casual.

ALLYSA
Good for her.

Allysa grabs a CARD and slides it toward him.

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Write a message on the front and the address you want it delivered to on the back.

Lily "nonchalantly" watches as he bends over the card and writes on both sides.

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
You bringing this "mystery girl" to my birthday on Friday? Because- If so- I have to plan for that.

CLOSE ON RYLE. Not looking up-

RYLE
You going, Lily?

ALLYSA
Of course she'll be there- She's my current best friend- She's not allowed to miss it-
(To Lily)
If you don't come, I'll quit.

With a chuckle, Ryle tucks the card into the envelope provided. Punching the sale into the register- A little jealous- Wanting him to leave-

LILY
That'll be fifty-one even.

He pulls out the cash and a crumpled one dollar bill that he futilely flattens.

RYLE
Isn't it good luck for a new business to hang the first dollar?

LILY
We're good, thanks.

The two lock eyes. He smiles sweetly.

RYLE
Congratulations.

With that, he walks out of the store. As soon as the door closes behind him, Allysa grabs the envelope.

ALLYSA
Of course my brother wants his dollar to be our first. And who the hell is he sending these to? Ryle doesn't buy girls flowers.
(regarding the card)
God, what a dummy - He wrote our address on the back, the one to the shop.

She pulls the card, reading it out loud-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Naked Truth: I can't stop thinking about you.

CLOSE ON LILY. That was a cute move.

32 OMITTED 32 *

33 **INT. ALLYSA'S LOFT, GRAND LIVING AREA - NIGHT** 33

We follow a stunning Lily into the party with a LIVE DJ, BARTENDER, PASSED HORS D'OEUVRES and CHAMPAGNE. AN INTERESTING ARRAY OF GUESTS, 20s to 40s, all dressed to the nines in this loft that takes up half of the entire top floor. * *

ALLYSA (O.S.)
You made it!

Lily turns to find Allysa, wearing a SPARKLY DRESS, four-inch heels and a BIRTHDAY TIARA- Champagne in one hand and a RIDING CROP in the other. Regarding the crop-

LILY
I missed something important.

ALLYSA
It's a long story.

Allysa laughs, throwing the crop over her shoulder- Grabbing Lily by the hand.

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Come in, come in!

She pulls Lily through a CROWD OF PEOPLE- An ATTENDANT grabbing the BIRTHDAY PRESENT from Lily as-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Hey, Babe! Look who's here!

Turning, Marshall grabs a glass of champagne from a PASSING TRAY and hands it to Lily. Yelling over the **MUSIC**-

MARSHALL
Lily! Welcome to our casa!

Marshall CLINKS his glass with Lily's- Lily taking a sip-

LILY
Holy shit, you have great taste.

ALLYSA
I know. And to think, I didn't even have to marry him for money.

MARSHALL
She's a real one. She's my day one. When we met I was broke and I drove a Toyota Camry.

LILY
Don't you still drive a Camry?

MARSHALL
Best car in the world. Convince me otherwise.

ALLYSA
He thinks that makes him relatable.

MARSHALL
Babe. Jeff Besos drives a Nissan leaf. I'm a man of the people.

LILY
How long have you been... excessively rich?

ALLYSA
About five years now.

MARSHALL
I sold a few apps I developed...

That's when Lily spots Ryle across the room, in a BLACK SUIT, sipping red wine and... talking to a STUNNING WOMAN, 20s.

ALLYSA (O.S.)
And now he just plays video games all day. His sedentary lifestyle is so hot.

Jealousy clawing at her insides, Lily turns to Allysa-

LILY
I'll be right back.

CLOSE ON LILY- Walking through the room, she intentionally walks right by Ryle and the Woman as she exits through the FRONT DOOR and-

34 **EXT. BOSTON LUXURY BUILDING, ROOFTOP - NIGHT** 34

-Out on the same rooftop- To find THREE STRAGGLERS from the party seated on the patio furniture. Ignoring them, Lily walks to the ledge with the BEST VIEW. When-

RYLE (O.S.)
Can we have a few minutes?

Lily turns to find Ryle standing near the other guests. Immediately, all three of them retreat. Once alone-

RYLE (CONT'D)
You didn't like the flowers?
(no reply)
You didn't like the card?

Ryle joins her at the ledge, the two looking out as they once did months ago.

LILY
I thought we were friends.

RYLE
We are friends.

She turns to him. Ryle matching her stare.

LILY
Then stop flirting with me.

RYLE
I'm not flirti-

LILY (CONT'D)
Stop buying me flowers.
Stop staring at me the way you are right now.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I'm just looking at you--

LILY (CONT'D)
Stop singing me stupid ass karaoke songs.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I thought that was a lovely ass song.

LILY
Just Stop. All of it. And it's fine. I understand. You told me from the get go who you are. It's ok. I just, *I* can't do that.

Silence. Ryle looks at her. Calculating his next move. Are they gonna fight or fuck.

RYLE
I like you.

LILY
What are you, five?

RYLE
Give me a chance here I'm trying.

LILY
This is trying? For a neurosurgeon, I'm horrified. Can you imagine if my life depended on you saving me. Dear god.

RYLE (CONT'D)
.....Can you for once just shut up for a second?

Lily halted by his boldness. She's gonna make him work for it.

LILY (CONT'D)
....Go on.

Naked.

RYLE
I like you. I like you Lily Bloom.

She waits..

RYLE (CONT'D)
But I don't *want* to like you.

LILY
Then don't.

Lily turns to leave.

Then, Ryle grabs her hand, and in one quick move spins her to face him. His hand grips the back of her neck. Now inches apart, they stare at each other. Every muscle in both their bodies on fire. Their breath becomes one. His sturdy grip juxtaposed by the gentle tilt of his head as he leans in to taste her lips. She breathlessly allows him. Weighing what this could mean. Their kiss is so delicate it could crack them both.

They pull apart.

Stare at each other. Walk away or ...

SMASH they devour each other, starved for more. It builds until

RYLE
(mouths still touching)
May I take you downstairs now.

LILY
(breathless)
I'd like that very much.

35 OMITTED 35

36 OMITTED 36 *

37 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, GRAND LIVING AREA - NIGHT** 37

They burst into his apartment, tearing at each other's bodies as they travel down the hall. And then each other's clothes as he leads her into-- *

38 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, MASTER BEDROOM - CONT'D** 38 *

They tumble in. She's up against the wall, going for his belt. He tugs at her straps, lowering them. *

LILY
Wait-

Stunned, Ryle stops. The two of them PANTING, hard.

RYLE
You want me to... stop?

LILY
No.

He continues to physically drink her in.

LILY (CONT'D)
(relenting to him)
Not at all.
(ugh)
But. Yes. *

Still breathing heavily, Ryle covers his disappointment. *

Respectfully, but still in her space. He stares into her.. She matches his stare. Wanting him. Badly. *

LILY (CONT'D)
... I don't want to have sex. Not yet. Not tonight.

RYLE
Excuse me?

LILY
... I can't do casual. I know you can't hang with that. Which is fine. But I just... Whatever... I have my own intimacy issues. *

He stares for a moment, completely unreadable. Then in one swift motion he walks away. Pissed? *

He then oddly starts to take off the rest his BLACK SUIT. * Laying the pieces on a nearby chair.

Off Lily, confused.

LILY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

RYLE
Getting ready for bed. We're going to sleep.

LILY
We're what?

He unbuttons his shirt.

RYLE
Oh, I turn into a pumpkin at 8:45.

Lily can't help but stare.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Excuse me. Do you mind?

He motions for her to turn around. Shirt comes off. She * stares. *

LILY
(seeing the sculpture that is * his body) *
My god.

RYLE
Uh hmm. Can you please not objectify me, ma'am?

He throws on a pair of old man pajamas and buttons them * to the top and turns to her.

Lily stands.

LILY
Well, do you have something I can wear?

RYLE
I do.

They lock eyes. You could cut the tension with a spork. Without breaking eye contact with her he grabs pajamas from his drawer.

Holding his gaze like her life depends on it, she pulls down her straps exposing herself. Unzips her dress. Drops it, daring him to look. He doesn't move. Holds her stare.

Lily lifts her arms. Ryle takes the cue replacing it with one of his pajama shirts. Pulling the garment back down over her body.

LILY
Pants please.

Holding her eyes. He hands her PJ pants. She puts them on.

He turns and lays on top of the bed. She joins him. Side by side like an old married couple in a 1950s sitcom. Ryle clicks off the lamp-

RYLE
Goodnight Lily Bloom..

LILY
Goodnight Ryle Kincaid.

The look of sweet excitement on both of their faces says it all. They are IN.

BLACKOUT.

39 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, KITCHEN - MORNING** 39

Groggy from sleep, Lily slips into the kitchen still wearing Ryle's pajamas.

She makes rummages the cabinet until she finds herself a box of Cheerios, hand deep in the box when she turns around. Jump scare to find...

ALLYSA
JESUS MARY & JOSEPH. What are YOU doing here?

LILY
Holy shit. What are you doing here?

Allysa nearly bathes in the cappuccino she's holding.

LILY (CONT'D)
...I thought I saw a help wanted sign out front.

ALLYSA
Oh. Oh. Oh god no this is awful.

LILY (CONT'D)
No. No, it's not as bad as you think.

Ryle enters still groggy in his PJs.

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Wait, what? You're wearing matching pajamas? When did this happen? WHAT is happening. Did you have a slumber party and braid each other's hair???

RYLE
We haven't even kissed.

LILY
We just kissed for the first time last night.

RYLE (CONT'D)
--We just kissed for the first time last night.

LILY
It's new. And it's probably nothing.

RYLE
I woudln't say it's nothing.

ALYSSA
You wouldn't??? We're literally in business together.

RYLE
I see why you're concerned, and I know. But this is different.

ALYSSA
Forgive me for not having faith in your ability to do something you've never done before.

LILY
I think we're getting a bit ahead of ourselves.

RYLE
My sister was a theatre major.

LILY (CONT'D)
And I love her for it. But I know what I'm dealing with here.

RYLE
Let me know when you two are done establishing about our relationship.

LILY
Well someone has to. You and I sure haven't.

RYLE
No sex.

LILY
What?

RYLE
That's what you need to know I'm willing to try?

ALYSSA
Yes!!

RYLE
Thank you, Alyssa.

ALLYSA
Sorry.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Let's try. I'll try. I'd be an idiot not to.

ALLYSA
I'm sorry. I appreciate that I have no say in your relationships, but I just have to say one last thing, when you eventually destroy it, because you will. I won't lose Lily. I'm not willing to let her go because of you, ever. Ok, I'm leaving now. I've lost my appetite.

She exits. All Ryle's focus is on Lily.

RYLE
Date me.

LILY
You are terrible at this.

RYLE
You can't say you weren't warned.

LILY
You think you can do this?

RYLE
I dont know. But I would very much like to kiss you again.

Off Lily. With love..

LILY
Don't make me regret it.

They kiss with such excitemnet that it reminds us of why people fall in love.

40 **EXT. BAR - NIGHT** 40

LILY and Ryle slow dance in the bar. Patrons around them drinking and watching sports. Completely in their own world.

A40 OMITTED A40

B40 OMITTED B40

C40 OMITTED MOVED TO E41 C40

A41 OMITTED A41 *

B41 OMITTED B41 *

C41 **INT. LILY BLOOMS - DAY** C41

Ryle very seriously helps Lily do kintsugi. He is using laser focus to glue the pieces back together, while Lily, working alongside him, keeps subtly pawing at him. He bats her hands away. * * *

D41 **EXT. BOSTON STREET - DAY** D41

Lily and Ryle walk hand in hand: talking, and talking, and talking.

E41 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT - NIGHT** E41

Lily sits on the couch watching Finding Nemo. Ryle in scrubs after a long surgery is asleep on her lap, transformed into a little boy. She notices his hand is shaking. She holds it and him while watching her show. * * *

41 **INT. LILY BLOOMS - DAY - SUMMER** 41

Landing on a huge bouquet of RED ROSES and a large takeout box of Lasagna on the counter top right in front of Lily. * * *

Rolling her eyes playfully, Allysa hands Lily a CARD.

Opening the CARD, Lily finds two words: ***"Dinner tonight. Where we first met. Wear something fancy. (Not pajamas)"***

A42 **EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT** A42

Lily walks through the stairwell doors to find a gorgeous candlelit table and a pizza box (He can't cook). She discovers Ryle, sitting on the lounge chair where they first shared their naked truths. He motions for her to sit next to him.

RYLE
(Serious)
There's something that I need to tell you. *

LILY
Ok.

RYLE
And I'm not sure how you're gonna take this, but you need to know. *

Fuck. *

RYLEI *
It turns out... I don't do causal. Not anymore. *

Fuck me. *

LILY
Wow. Oof. Okay. Well if you don't do casual how far would you go?

RYLE
I'm not sure.

She starts to take his jacket off.

LILY
Too far?

RYLE
Nope.

She unbuttons his shirt.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Not even close.

LILY
Tough crowd.

She turns to him and crawl on top of him as we-

MATCH CUT TO:

B42 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT - BEDROOM - NIGHT** B42

Lily throws him on the bed as she crawls on top of him. Her hands lacing behind his neck as she pulls him up in a seated position- The two now tangled. He goes to kiss her. She teases him.

LILY (CONT'D)
(playfully)
No kissing on the mouth.

RYLE
I make exceptions.

Charged with hunger and passion. The devour each other without kissing. Then they slow down. They drink each other in. Appreciating every part. The sexy ones and the boring ones. He works his way down her neck to the HALLOW HEART TATTOO on her collar bone. They go back and forth.

Then with strong arms, in one swoop, Ryle plants Lily on her back.

They hold each other's gaze. Then kiss like a great dam releasing. They consume each other as they begin to make love.

C42 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT BEDROOM - MORNING** C42

Morning light shines through Ryle's floor to ceiling windows gently kissing Lily's eyes. She's cuddled under his sheets. He enters fully dressed for work and grabbing last minute things on his way out. Trying, fruitlessly not to wake her. When he does- *

RYLE
Mornin'.

LILY
Mornin'.

RYLE
I gotta head in early, I'm so sorry.

LILY
In fairness, it's noon.

RYLE
We had a lot of catching up to do. Am I gonna see you tonight?

He kisses her face then her **hollow heart tattoo.** She giggles as he joins her seated on the bed

LILY
I can't, my mom's coming to town today and it's her dying wish to take me to this new restaurant.

RYLE
...There room for one more?

LILY
You want to meet my mother?

Clocking the trepidation in her voice-

RYLE
Is that a problem?

Covering the weight of the moment.

Lily
Umm I don't think it's a *good* idea. *
Yet... *

He stops he drinks her in with a sweet glance.

RYLE
I just want to meet the mother of the woman I love.

Agh! Sweet nerves and mischief pop him off the bed before he can catch her reaction. They both can't believe what he just said. As he walks out, without turning around. *

Before she can respond, he's gone. Her fingers graze her tattoo as she turns to face the sunshine.

42 OMITTED MOVED TO A44 42 *

A44 **INT. BOSTON GRACE HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - NEUROSURGERY FLOOR** A44 *

Lily bursts into the hospital on her way to the surgery * floor when she sees Ryle walking with an eight year old * girl in a wheelchair pre-surgery. She stands back * watching him. Ryle catches her out of the corner of his * eye, and heads her way. *

RYLE *
Hey. What's going on? You okay? *

LILY *
(buzzing) *
Hey, so sorry. You forgot this. *

She hands him an old notepad.

RYLE
That's not mine.

LILY
I know.

She's already started backing away.

LILY (CONT'D)
And I happen to love you too.

A couple of giddy school kids with shit eating grins. She turns away leaving him behind. Both full of helium. She glides down the hall, floating one foot off the ground.

CUT TO:

43 **OMITTED** 43

44 **INT. THE BUS (MEMORY) - DAY** 44

Looking out the window on the bus- it starts moving. Young Atlas, sits next to Young Lily, placing the **WOODEN HOLLOW HEART CARVED IN OAK** in her palm. *A gift.*

YOUNG LILY
Stop. You made this?

YOUNG ATLAS
Yeah from a piece of a branch, from your old oak tree. In case you forget--

Amazed, Young Lily stares at him. Those eyes.

YOUNG ATLAS (CONT'D)
--Strong and sturdy.

Without thinking, he reaches over and GRABS HER HAND, squeezing it. Young Lily basking in the warmth of his touch. A sexual tension between them steadily rising.

This is far more than mere friendship. So cosmic in nature, so mysterious and unexplainable... these two might be *soul mates.*

Diagonal from them, Katie pulls down her headphones and leans toward the GIRL beside her-

KATIE
Gross.

CLOSE ON YOUNG LILY AND YOUNG ATLAS AS-

KATIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
She probably has rabies now. *

Furious, Young Lily inhales, preparing to yell at Katie, but Young Atlas shakes his head. The BUS COMES TO A STOP on Lily's street. Young Lily stands.

YOUNG LILY
Get up.

YOUNG ATLAS
Don't.

YOUNG LILY
Get up.

Young Atlas reluctantly listens. Young Lily standing up defiantly- Grabs Young Atlas and pulls him in for a **KISS**- The whole BUS gasping. She pulls back, shoots **Katie the middle finger**, and proudly guides Young Atlas from the bus.

Outside the two march away, down the street. Chuckling * under his breath, Atlas has never been more amused. Lily, * a little human Tonka tank. *

YOUNG LILY (CONT'D) *
Strong AND sturdy. *

YOUNG ATLAS *
I'll say. *

45 **INT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, KITCHEN (MEMORY) - DAY** 45

CLOSE ON YOUNG LILY- Sitting on the counter, she glances at the clock, nearing three thirty. Young Atlas whipping up some batter.

YOUNG LILY
You're not even looking at a recipe.

YOUNG ATLAS
Don't need one.

YOUNG LILY
... You like to cook?

YOUNG ATLAS
Necessity is the mother of invention. I do love it though.

YOUNG LILY
I smell melted butter. Yumm. What are you making? Can I gargle it?

YOUNG ATLAS
Might be a little bumpy. “Hot Chocolate Cookies”. They’re my go to. Dark chocolate with a burnt marshmallow on top. My mom would splurge on swiss miss for us at christmas.

He offers her a spoonful of dough. Taking a taste-

YOUNG LILY
Oh, wow.

Licking her lips- With Young Atlas so close- It’s impossible not to feel that rise of sexual tension again. He starts spooning dough onto two sheets-

YOUNG ATLAS
Did you kiss me because you really wanted to, or- was it mostly to get back at Katie?

Lily is silent for the first time. He opens the oven door and puts the cookie sheets inside. Closes the door and- Pulls the oven mitt off his hand.

YOUNG ATLAS (CONT’D)
I’m fine with it either way, I just...

Throwing the mitt on the counter, Young Atlas walks over to Young Lily and places his hands on either side of her.

YOUNG ATLAS (CONT’D)
...Need a little clarity here.

Young Lily is suddenly holding her breath, having him this close. But Young Atlas doesn’t seem to be as nervous as she is. He stares at her. With a sweet grin.

YOUNG ATLAS (CONT’D)
Well?

Young Lily finds the bravery to match his stare. Her heart fluttering. In a hushed whisper that could make the hair on your arms stand up straight-

YOUNG LILY
I wanted to.

Young Atlas' eyes sparkle. He leans in. His lips inches from hers. And. The two begin to kiss. With such unadulterated passion, it's clear these two have been fantasizing about this moment.

Suddenly- We hear a **CAR PULL INTO THE DRIVEWAY.**

YOUNG LILY (CONT'D)
Shit! That's my dad, you have to go!

She jumps off the island, looking around the kitchen frantically- Young Atlas' hands going up to her cheeks, beckoning her to look at him. Calm and assured-

YOUNG ATLAS
Keep an eye on the cookies. They'll be finished in 12.5 minutes. *

He presses his lips to hers and for a moment time stops. He grabs his backpack and sneaks out the back door.

Making herself look busy, Young Lily starts cleaning up- As her father, Andrew Bloom, enters the kitchen from the garage door. Surprised-

ANDREW
Are you... cooking?

YOUNG LILY
Cookies. I'm baking cookies.

He sets his briefcase down on the kitchen table and HOLDS HER SWEET FACE, PROUD OF HIS BABY GIRL.

ANDREW
Pigs are flying. I wish I didn't love you so much.

YOUNG LILY
Same.

She means it with such love. *

A46 OMITTEDMOVED TO A44 A46 *

46 **INT. ROOT RESTAURANT - NIGHT (PRESENT)** 46

Lily guiding Ryle through a LIVELY restaurant toward Jenny's table. This place has been fully designed around a **GIANT TREE IN THE CENTER** - *it's beautiful.*

LILY
Hey, Mom.

Glancing up from her menu- Excited-

JENNY
Lily, this place is incredible, I'm already in love with it! Let's order cocktails. All of them.

Her eyes drift to Ryle standing right behind Lily. Word-soup cascades from Jenny's mouth.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Oop. Hi there. Hi. Hello. I'm Jenny's mom. I'm Lily--I'm Lily's *Mom*... I'm Jenny.

LILY
Jesus. Mom. This is... my friend, Ryle... who... I sleep with sometimes.

JENNY
(blushing)
Honey-you-don't-have-to-say-everything-out-loud.

Jenny reaches out her hand-

JENNY (CONT'D)
Nice to make your acquaintance.

Jenny returns the handshake.

RYLE
Ryle Kincaid. Nice to meet you, Ma'am.

Lily and Ryle sit at the table- Jenny raising an eyebrow at Lily- Trying to ease the awkwardness-

LILY
Allysa, who works with me, is Ryle's sister.

JENNY
Oh, yes, of course. Oh. You two look so much alike now that you mention it.

RYLE
We both favor our mother.

LILY
(under her breath)
Here it comes.

JENNY
People always say that about me and Lily.

Ryle seizes the opportunity to playfully wind Lily up.

RYLE
I can definitely see it in the eyes.

Ryle smiles brightly at Jenny. Full high beams.

RYLE (CONT'D)
With me and Allysa, it's our delicate noses. And feet. She has huge feet.

They laugh.

RYLE (CONT'D)
If you'll excuse me, I need to find the restroom. Be right back.

The moment he's out of earshot-

JENNY
How dare you? You've never - not once - mentioned that you're dating the most gorgeous specimen I've ever seen.

LILY
At least he's got a good personality to make up for it. It's new. It's only been a few months.

JENNY
That's long enough to tell your mother about your life- Where does he work? What does he do? When is he coming back?

LILY
Don't do that.

JENNY
What am I doing? I just want to know more about this exciting new prospect of yours- *I am your mother.*

LILY
(a beat and a sigh)
Boston Grace Hospital.

JENNY
(eyes bulging)
Wait... no.

LILY (CONT'D)
Mom? Don't.

WAITER (O.S.)
Welcome to Root. How we doin' on drinks? Can I get you anything?

LILY
Yes, thank you, I'll take alcohol. Surprise me.

Lifting her chin, Lily first see's his hands, and notices something she would recognize anywhere... a familiar scar. It can't be. She looks up and locks eyes with... the WAITER- **EVERYTHING FALLING INTO SLOW MOTION... LILY GAZING INTO HIS EYES. AND IT FEELS... LIKE HOME.**

This waiter is **ATLAS CORRIGAN**, now in his 30s. Lily's heart in her throat. Unable to speak. And somewhere in the background, we can hear the faint **SOUND OF THE MUSIC BOX** from Lily's bedroom - ***"Lily and Atlas' theme."***

EXPLODING INTO REAL TIME- Having no idea who this is-

JENNY
I'd love to try a Negroni. I've heard they're fabulous.

Atlas snaps out of his own trance and- Covers with a nod- Retreating through the SWINGING DOORS TO THE KITCHEN.

JENNY (CONT'D)
What in the world is wrong with you?

But before Lily can answer- Ryle rejoins the table-

RYLE
What'd I miss?

JENNY
(with a sparkle)
Mr. Kincaid. Are you, by chance, a doctor?

He politely sighs. He's been through this with Lily.

LILY
Don't do it.

RYLE
I am. A neurosurgeon.

JENNY
And what does a day-in-the-life of a neurosurgeon look like?

Lily glances back toward the KITCHEN DOORS. As Ryle explains, we stay with Lily. This conversation drifting into the background.

RYLE
Well- Every day is a bit different. I think that's why I love it so much. Next month, I get to perform a once-in-a-lifetime craniopagus separation-- conjoined twins. We've been studying them since they were born.

JENNY
(beyond impressed)
Is it dangerous?

Lily trying to join the conversation- Playing off her shock-

LILY
Uh- Yeah- It'll end up in medical journals and... It's amazing. He's amazing.

DRINKS arrive, but they are being delivered by a DIFFERENT WAITER - female, 20s.

FEMALE WAITER
Here we go. What else can I put in for you?

JENNY
Wow. I can't wait to read about it. Congratulations.
(Conspiratorial)
I'm having a Negroni. I feel so rebellious.

LILY
My turn. I'll be right back... I gotta use the restroom.

WE TRACK WITH LILY- As she makes her way across the room- Scanning the face of every WAITER she passes- Until-

47 **INT. ROOT RESTAURANT, BATHROOM HALLWAY - NIGHT** 47

-She lands in the darkened, quiet hallway near the bathrooms. As soon as she's alone, Lily presses her back against the wall, trying to collect herself, when-

ATLAS (O.S.)
... Lily?

Lily glances up- Finding Atlas standing at the end of the hallway like a ghost straight out of the past. Bewildered-

LILY
... Atlas?

As if in a trance, they walk toward each other, meeting in the middle of the hall and... hug one another dearly.

ATLAS
Holy shit. You haven't changed at all.

He puts his hands on her shoulders and takes a step back.

LILY
I can't say the same about you. My mom didn't even recognize you.

ATLAS
(good-humored)
Probably for the best.

LILY
So- Did you end up going into the military or-?

ATLAS
Eight years. Yeah. Soon as I got out, I got myself to Boston.

LILY
(an inside joke)
Where everything's better.

ATLAS
You know it. What are you doing here? I mean obviously your eating, but *what* are you...? You're in Boston? How long are you visiting.

LILY
I live here. I oopened my flower shop

ATLAS
"LILY BLOOMS"

LILY (CONT'D)
Yeah. Over in Back Bay.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Wow... you really did it. I'm so happy for you. I'm not surprised though. So, who landed you in the end?

LILY
Oh, that's my um, his name's Ryle. I think you'd really like him. What about you? Married? Girlfriend?

ATLAS
Uh. Girlfriend. Her name is Cassie. She's great.

SILENCE. Neither of them moving. *Or else break the spell.*

LILY
I don't want to keep you, or get you in trouble or anything.

ATLAS
Nah my boss is pretty cool. But I'll let you get back to your company. Maybe I'll swing by the shop sometime. You said Back Bay, right?

She nods. He nods. And-

ATLAS (CONT'D)
It was really... really good to see you.

LILY
You too.

ATLAS
Lily Bloom's.

He looks at her with so much admiration. With so much more to say, so much more unsaid... he forces himself to walk away.

CLOSE ON LILY. As Atlas walks by her she turns to watch him leave as we-

MATCH CUT:

48 **INT. LILY'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM (MEMORY) - NIGHT** 48

Young Lily as she turns back to see Young Atlas peaking through the blinds of her bedroom window. Lily sits on the bed. Half eaten cookies on a plate between them. She is holding a deck of cards.

YOUNG LILY
Hey, you good? Those city hall meetings are never ending. You don't need to sress. They won't be home for *at least* an hour.

YOUNG ATLAS
Sorry - thought I heard a car pull up.

He sits back down. She demonstrates how to properly SHUFFLE CARDS.

YOUNG LILY
Ok, show me whatchu got.

She hands over the deck, Young Atlas giving it a whirl and the CARDS GO EVERYWHERE, making them both chuckle. After a beat-

YOUNG LILY (CONT'D)
What was it like living in Boston?

YOUNG ATLAS
Best years of my life. My uncle lived in an apartment building with the coolest rooftop deck. We would just sit and talk and look at the city for hours. The food is really great too. And the harbor. My uncle would take me fishing there sometimes.

YOUNG LILY
... Sounds like you miss it.

YOUNG ATLAS
Yea- Everything's better in Boston. Except the girls. Boston doesn't have *you*.

Emotion caught in her throat-

YOUNG LILY
I'm gonna miss you...

YOUNG ATLAS
Same. I don't know how you did it, but... somehow... you became my favorite person.

A beat. Then. Leaning in, he kisses her so gently and with such love.

YOUNG LILY
Same.

The two begin to kiss again. Lily takes off his shirt.

YOUNG ATLAS
Are you sure?

YOUNG LILY
Yeah. You? *

Young Lily climbing on top of him- When-

RYLE (V.O.)
(PRE-LAP)
Hey, Lily! You want a drink?

49 **INT. BOSTON BAR - DAY - SUMMER** 49

CLOSE ON LILY. Shaking from her thoughts of Atlas-

LILY
Uh, yeah- I'll take a wine.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL- A PACKED BAR during a Bruins game. Most everyone here in a ONESIE, including- Lily, Ryle, Allysa, and Marshall. To Lily- Objecting-

MARSHALL
You're in a onesie, Lily, you don't get *free wine* with a onesie!

LILY
Okay, fine, let's do this.

To the BARTENDER-

MARSHALL
Three *beers*, please, and a water for my lady-love.

He kisses Allysa - Lily and Ryle looking suspicious.

LILY
Wait. WHAT??? *

Outed, Allysa and Marshall glance at each other.

ALLYSA
We didn't plan on telling you here, but-

Suddenly, Marshall yells out-

MARSHALL
I'm gonna be a dad!

A few DRUNK PATRONS clap their hands- Raising their beers-

PATRONS
Woooo! / Right on, man! / Hell yeah!

Ryle looks stunned. Lily grabs him by the hand.

LILY
Congratulations, Uncle Ryle.

The bartender slides over three beers and one water for Allysa- Ryle holding up his beer to cheers- Ryle, stunned and feeling so sentimental.

RYLE
To Allysa. You're eleven months younger than I am, but- You still teach me, every day, what being a grown up looks like. *

The four CLINK their glasses together and drink.

LILY
(so charmed) *
No adult says grown up. (to Allyssa) I * didn't realize you two were so close in age.

ALLYSA
Oh, yeah- Three kids in three years- I feel so sorry for our mom.

The mood shifts. Allysa gives Ryle an apologetic look.

LILY
Three? You have another sibling?

Ryle straightens up, looking a little triggered. Gingerly-

ALLYSA
Uh... yeah... we had an older brother. *Emerson.* But...

She looks to Ryle, as if to sheepishly ask permission to speak on the matter. And. He simply shakes his head.

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
(simply)
He passed away when we were kids.

LILY
(a beat, struck)
I'm so sorry to hear that...

CLOSE ON LILY. Wanting to ask more. But the look on Ryle's face makes her dare not.

Suddenly- The Bruins score and- THE BAR EXPLODES WITH CHEERS. Ryle finally relaxing again. Lily leaving it be.

IN A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS-

WE WATCH THESE FOUR LIVE IT UP AT THE BAR IN THEIR ONESIES, LAUGHING AND DRINKING- RYLE GRABBING LILY AROUND THE WAIST AND KISSING HER AS-

50 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT** 50

-The two tumble into Lily's apartment, ripping at one another's onesies- Until they are both down to their underwear- Ryle kissing his way down Lily's torso. CLOSE ON LILY- As she arches her back in pure ecstasy.

CUT TO BLACK:

51 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON STUDIO APARTMENT - MORNING** 51

Lily awakens, entangled in the sheets.

RYLE
Good morning. You like frittata?

Lifting up, she finds Ryle in his boxers- In the open KITCHEN- pouring an egg mixture into a **CASSEROLE DISH**- And tossing it into the hot oven.

LILY
Oooo, I didn't know you could cook.

POP! He opens a nice bottle of Champagne and pours two glasses-

RYLE
I can't.

Joining her in bed with two champagne glasses and a jug of orange juice which he pours into their glasses.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Cheers.

They both take big gulps of the bootleg mimosas- Then- **He stares at Lily's HEART TATTOO, caressing it-**

RYLE (CONT'D)
This might possibly be my favorite part of you. What does it mean?

LILY
(lying)
Nothing really. Just. One of those silly things you do in high school.

- Ryle leans in and gently kisses the **HEART TATTOO.**

RYLE
I told my mom about you. She wants to meet you at some point.

LILY
Your mom. That sounds serious.

RYLE
Oh yeah. She's been dreaming about our "Mother-son" wedding dance since I was in her womb. Then it turned out she had a bad seed who's not the marrying type. *

LILY
I bite my thumb at your, sir. Be nice to my man.

They playfully squeal in love.

RYLE
What about your mom?

LILY
Oh she's foaming at the mouth. She's had her guest list drawn up since I was legal. Which is why, if I ever get married, I'm eloping to Vegas. * * *

RYLE
I didn't take you for such a trash panda.

LILY
You just wait. I'll continue to surprise you.

Laughing, they start to play fight. Ryle pinning her down, begins to kiss her stomach, working his way up her body - finding her lips. The two begin to kiss passionately- Lily's eyes rolling back, when- **BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP!**

The **FIRE ALARM** screams out- SMOKE billowing from the oven- The two scrambling to get out of bed- Ryle rushing into the SMALL KITCHEN- Lily right behind him.

LILY (CONT'D)
Oh shit!

Ryle pulls open the OVEN DOOR, the egg from the casserole bubbling over, burning black tar at the bottom of the oven- Blinded by the SMOKE- Not thinking- Still a little drunk from the night before- Ryle reaches in and-

LILY (CONT'D)
Wait, Ryle! You need a-

RYLE
Shit!

LILY (CONT'D)
-Pot holder.

The CASSEROLE falls from Ryle's hands and lands on the floor with a SMASH! Shattering broken glass everywhere.

Just as it falls we hear a loud SMACK! **Ryle turns as Lily gets KNOCKED back and falls to the floor. We didn't see what happened as there is so much smoke.**

EXTREME CLOSE UP ON LILY. On the ground. Dazed and confused. SMOKE CLOUDED all around her. Pain shooting through the corner of her left eye -- Ryle voice sounding far off, as if underwater.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Lily? Oh God Lily.

WE STAY ON LILY- Wrapping her arms over her shaking head, trying to make sense of the last fifteen seconds.

LILY
What happened...

We hear RYLE'S VOICE as he draws nearer- Coming into focus- Gently, pulling her close- Kissing her head-

RYLE
I... burned my hand and...

The room spinning- Unable to process- Tears welling- Lily is trembling- As Ryle assesses the cut on her face. Ryle goes to kiss her head.

LILY
Please! Just give me some space -

She pushes him off her. He falls back onto his hands. Then - slowly he looks down. A shard of glass now buried in his burnt palm. Blood trickling down his wrist. Lily remains so confused. The room still lingering with SMOKE. Broken glass, eggs, and now blood everywhere.

LILY (CONT'D)
Your hand. Oh My God. I didn't mean to...
I'm so sorry...

With his good hand lifts her chin.

RYLE
Screw the hand, Lily. I don't care about my hand. Are YOU okay?

Ryle pulls himself up, sticks his hand under the water and starts rinsing the blood. Lily grabs a towel. He looks back and forth between her eyes, assessing the cut on her face.

LILY
I don't know... I think...

He presses his mouth to Lily's and breathes her in. Lily is so upset, she starts to kiss him back, in need of comfort. Until- Ryle scoops her up- Gently laying her down on the floor. He kisses her wound. A mix of blood and tears now.

CLOSE ON LILY. Closing her eyes, accepting his apologies so viscerally, by the time she opens them again... it's clear she's convinced herself of one thing.

LILY (CONT'D)
... *It was an accident.*

SMASH TO BLACK.

52 OMITTED 52

A53 OMITTED A53

53 OMITTED 53

A54 **INT. RYLE'S CAR, BOSTON STREET** A54

Ryle waits in his car outside an old building. Lily bursts into the car and starts changing as soon as the door closes.

LILY
God I'm so sorry. I'm a disaster.

RYLE
All good, you're good. How was the wedding?

Ryle sweetly puts his hand on her leg to calm her.

LILY (CONT'D)
It too was a disaster, there's no way they're gonna make it. You should've see the way-

RYLE (CONT'D)
...but the flowers were amazing.

LILY (CONT'D)
Yes the flowers were off the charts if I do say so - wait, I'm so sorry. How was the surgery, how'd your sweet hand hold up?

RYLE
It was good. The strangest thing happened when I went in to remove the tumor from the pituitary...oh by the way Alyssa and Marshall got it all screwed up so we're going to Root- anyway when I went to cut the left-

LILY
Wait, Root? Why? We've already been there, I was dying to try the new place. Let's just call them.

Lily covering her panic.

RYLE
They're there now. Alyssa has already ordered 14 courses of appetizers...

LILY
Oh ok. Perfect. Yeah. The food is so good.

Lily flips down the mirror and checks her concealer covering her bruise as Ryle watches. Silence. Before they drive off he checks in with her. So much unsaid. Off Lily's reflection.

54 **INT. ROOT RESTAURANT - NIGHT** 54

Lily and Ryle enter *"Root"* on a bustling evening, Lily's eyes scan the room. No sign of Atlas. Just Allysa waving at her from a far table with Marshall.

LILY
Sorry we're late-- it's all my fault. One day I'll be good at time management.

They sit.

ALLYSA
Please don't worry, we've been having an entire happy hour. Wait baby, look at you, Ryle told me what happened, but... I didn't think it was *that* bad.

Lily glances at Ryle, wondering what he told her.

RYLE
It-was-such-a-mess- Eggs and glass everywhere. When she *slipped*, and I didn't catch her in time... *I* could kill me.

LILY
I've never been known for my grace. It's not my fault, my feet are too big for my body.

MARSHALL
Now I see why you two are best friends.

ALLYSA
You know what they say about girls with big feet--

MARSHALL (CONT'D)
How did that big surgery go? The one with the twins? Your hand hold up alright?

RYLE
Took 27 hours. Terrifying. But exhilarating.

MARSHALL
Damn! Only thing I've ever done for 27 hours straight is play Call of Duty. I'm proud of you, brother.

He offers a fist bump. A WAITER arrives, dropping off their entrees.

LILY
(to Allysa)
Yumm. You know mw too well. Any ideas on baby names yet?

MARSHALL
I love Nebraska, but-

ALLYSA
-I'm not naming this baby after a state.

MARSHALL
Let's go with state capitals? Even better. Juneau.

Alyssa roles her eyes.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)
I also love Topeka.

Locking eyes with Lily-

ALLYSA
This is going to be the demise of our marriage.

ATLAS (O.S.)
Hey folks, how's the meal tasting so far?

The four turn their heads to find **Atlas**-

ALLYSA
Honestly? I've only had two bites and this is already, literally, said and done, my new favorite restaurant.

ATLAS
Thank you. Yeah, that's really nice to hear. I've always loved cooking for people so-

LILY
You're the chef?

Atlas locks eyes with Lily, and without thinking-

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Chef. Sometimes waiter, sometimes dishwasher. When you own a restaurant it's important to wear all the hats. Gotta have roots, ya know? Still working on my chef puns.

MARSHALL
Love your creativity. Love supporting entrepreneur. I'm an entrepreneur myself. I'm actually allocating capital into local Boston small businesses...

AND THEN, IN SLOW MOTION, AS ALLYSA KEEPS TALKING- HER VOICE FADING IN THE BACKGROUND- ATLAS' GAZE FALLS TO THE BRUISE ON LILY'S LEFT EYE... THEN TO THE BANDAGE WRAPPED AROUND RYLE'S RIGHT HAND... THEN BACK TO LILY'S EYE.

Lily feels his suspicious gaze, she flicks her eyes to Ryle. Who catches her eyes in the moment. Sweetly. Then a moment of understanding, there's something unsaid happening.

EXPLODING BACK INTO REAL TIME - Atlas' jaw hardens and then... he walks away.

MARSHALL (CONT'D) *
Did I offend him? *

ALLYSA
No baby just keep saying "allocating * captial." *

Lily puts her hand on Ryle's arm- Quietly-

LILY
Bathroom.

He nods as Lily scoots out of the booth- And walks across the restaurant, head down, fast-paced. Ryle notices. *

55 **INT. ROOT RESTAURANT, WOMEN'S RESTROOM - NIGHT** 55

She enters the Women's single restroom, locking the door. Panicking. Shit. *

Her hands on the sink, Lily steadies herself. Then. Looks at her eye. Still not knowing what to make of it. She wants to cry, but cannot let herself.

Instead, she takes in a deep breath and- Unlocks the door to leave- REVEALING- **ATLAS**. Stepping inside and closing the door-

ATLAS
... What happened?

LILY
... Nothing.

His EYES narrow. *Knowing she's lying.*

LILY (CONT'D)
It was an accident.

ATLAS
I've heard that one before. Many times.

LILY
(a beat, simply)
... I'm not your mother.

ATLAS
(simply back)
Are you turning into yours? *

His words sting. Sting so hard. *

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Leave him.

LILY
Stop. You're outta line. You don't know what you're talking about. *

She reaches for the door, but- Atlas blocks it and slams it shut. Angry, she backs up.

LILY (CONT'D)
You're freaking me out. Atlas. STOP. *

ON ATLAS. Pausing a moment. Realizes his anger is misplaced. Then. He steps to the side, giving her safe passage to the door.

ATLAS
I'm sorry, I'm just... trying to repay the concern you once gave me.

Reaching for the door, Lily pulls it open- And steps-

56 **INT. ROOT RESTAURANT, BATHROOM HALLWAY - NIGHT** 56

-into the hallway, running right into... **RYLE.** His eyes ablaze as Atlas exits the women's bathroom behind her.

RYLE
... What the fuck? *

Turning, Atlas walks toward the kitchen- Ryle's eyes glued on his back- But right when Atlas reaches the doors, he pauses, and- Spins around, striding toward Ryle, grabbing him- And SLAMMING him against the wall.

ATLAS
You touch her again and I'll cut your hand off and shove it down your throat - you piece of shit. *

LILY
Atlas, stop!

Atlas releases Ryle forcefully, taking a huge step back- Ryle breathing heavily, staring at Atlas long and hard.

RYLE
...Atlas?

Ryle lets out a disbelieving laugh- To Lily-

RYLE (CONT'D)
This is Atlas? The homeless boy you pity-fucked? *

LILY CLOSES HER EYES- AND- IN AN INSTANT- Atlas lunges at Ryle and the two men start beating the shit out of each other- TWO WAITERS shoving past the SCREAMING Lily- Pinning the men against opposite walls- Atlas and Ryle left glaring at each other, breathing heavily. To Ryle-

ATLAS
Out! Get the hell out of my restaurant!

Turning, Ryle walks right by Lily as he marches down the hall- Locking eyes with her for a brief second. But there isn't anger there. Only hurt. Lots of hurt.

Left in the hall, Lily gives one last glance to Atlas. Seeing the disappointment written all across his face.

BACKING AWAY- WE TRACK WITH LILY AS SHE MARCHES-

57 **INT. ROOT RESTAURANT - NIGHT** 57

-into the main dining room, where she spots Ryle, grabbing his jacket from the booth and walking toward the exit without even looking at Allysa and Marshall.

Hurrying to the table, Lily grabs her purse. To Allysa-

LILY
We'll talk tomorrow. *

WE TRACK WITH LILY- As she rushes to catch up with Ryle-

58 **EXT. ROOT RESTAURANT - NIGHT** 58

-Pushing through the exit and out into street, Lily catches up to him.

LILY
Ryle, stop! Wait!

Suddenly, Ryle turns and punches at the air in rage-

RYLE
What the hell did you tell him, Lily?!
Did you tell him I hurt you?!

LILY
No- He- He saw my eye and your hand- And-
He just- *Assumed!*

Panting, Ryle shakes his head.

RYLE
... What was he doing in the bathroom?

LILY
... He's just an old friend that was worried about me, that's all.

Ryle forces the saddest smile we've ever seen on a human. He knows better.

RYLE
Lily?--

LILY
I don't know what you want me to say. There are plenty of people I know that you haven't met yet. *

They stand in the silence.

RYLE
You have my heart, you have all of me. * I've never been here before. Tell me if that's not- if I'm not...

Feeling guilty-

LILY
No I do. More than anything.

She means it. Hearing this, Ryle holds her in his arms.

RYLE
I love you, Lily. *It terrifies me how much.*

Leaning on Ryle's shoulder she closes her eyes.

LILY
I know. I know. Me too. *

CUT TO BLACK:

59 **INT. LILY'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM (MEMORY) - DUSK** 59

Tangled in the sheets, held in a lover's embrace, we find Young Lily and Young Atlas staring in each other's eyes. Caressing her face, Young Altas finally unveils he truth he's known for some time now.

YOUNG ATLAS
I love you, Lily. Everything about you. I love you.

Absorbing these words, Young Lily's eyes sparkle. And-

YOUNG LILY
I love you, too.

The two begin to kiss- Giggling a bit as they gear up to have sex again, when- Suddenly- Out of fucking nowhere- Someone POUNDS on the door- KNOCK! KNOCK!

ANDREW (O.S.)
Lily?! Who are you talking to?!

The door bursts open, Lily's father exploding inside - Finding Young Atlas in bed with his one and only daughter.

CLOSE ON YOUNG LILY- AS SHE WATCHES IN SLOW MOTION- AS HER FATHER KICKS OPEN THE DOOR, RIPS ATLAS OUT OF BED STARTS TO BEAT HIM TO A PULP. THE SOUND OF BONE CRUSHING PUNCHES AND KICKS MIXED WITH YOUNG LILY'S PIERCING SCREAM. *

BLACKOUT.

60 **EXT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, DRIVEWAY (MEMORY) - NIGHT** 60

EXTREME CLOSE UP ON YOUNG LILY. Her tearstained face looking almost catatonic, as she watches LOCAL PARAMEDICS loading Young Atlas' into an ambulance, **HIS BODY SO BLOODY IT'S ALMOST UNRECOGNIZABLE.** Alive. Just barely.

A short distance away, we see Andrew and Jenny Bloom, talking to the local **SHERIFF**- The same man that led Andrew's funeral in our opening- Only about fifteen years younger. Quietly to Andrew-

SHERIFF
... can't imagine what you've been through having found your little girl in such a compromising situation.

Jenny bursts into tears, pressing a tissue to her mouth-

JENNY
He forced her into it- I know it.

SHERIFF
(at a loss)
What do you want me to do, Andrew?
(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
I can file a report, but- If you'd rather not have this incident follow Lily around... we can keep it quiet.

Reeling, Andrew somberly looks over his shoulder and LOCKS EYES WITH YOUNG LILY. Her stares pleads with him, but he bristles- Turning back toward the Sheriff-

ANDREW
Get that little shit as far away from this town as you possibly can. And if he ever dares show his face again- *

EXTREME CLOSE UP OF YOUNG LILY- Tears streaming down her face as her father's words wash over her. Low and enraged-

ANDREW (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I want you to *take care of it.*

The ambulance doors close, Young Lily watching it as it drives down the street and disappears out of sight, sirens blaring.

OFF YOUNG LILY- Spiraling with the understanding that she will most likely never see Atlas ever again.

CUT TO:

61 **INT/EXT. LILY BLOOMS STORE - DAY - JANUARY** 61

Lily, working on a display in the window, "awakening" from her daydream as an ambulance speeds by the shop. When Allysa enters from the bathroom, **now sporting quite the BABY BUMP.**

ALLYSA
Uh- That's like- The billionth time I've peed today. This little peanut's really starting to press on the ol' bladder.

Taking a heavy seat- *

LILY
Why are even you here? It's so slow. You should be horizontal somewhere having Marshall rub your feet.

ALLYSA
First of all, I can't get Marshall to go anywhere near my feet. He has a thing. And also he doesn't let me whine as much as you do.

LILY
Whine away, my love. I am so here for it. But I'm not delivering your baby.

Allysa's gaze tilting toward the front door.

ALLYSA
Hey. Remember a few months ago when you told me I could never go back to my new favorite restaurant, because the boy you loved as a teenager is the owner and it would be unfair to Ryle?

LILY
Y*eah*. *

ALLYSA
If we can't go back there because of the owner - how is it fair that the owner gets to come here?

Turning, Lily spots what Allysa sees- **Atlas** exiting his truck across the street and- Heading their way. * *

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
(Quietly)
Okay. I know that you're with my brother and that I am with child, but- Can we please just take a moment to silently admire the perfection that is that man?

The door opens, Atlas entering. Lily stealing a shallow breath as the two lock eyes. *

LILY *
Allyssa, do you mind if we have a minute? *

ALLYSA *
I was just gonna go pee again. For a * while *

Lifting up and waddling to the bathroom, Allysa closes the door. Lily and Atlas are left alone.

Atlas takes in the flower shop. Beaming with pride.

ATLAS
Wow.

He looks around the room. Then looks at her. He doesn't even have the words. He smiles. She smiles... knows exactly what he's trying to say.

LILY
Thank you.

ATLAS
It's... I came by the next day after the restaraunt but he was here and I felt like I'd already done enough damage. I've driven by a few times but just didn't have it in me to come in. I just wanted to say... I'm really sorry. For what happened. And how that went down. I really wish I would have handled things better.

LILY
... It was a misunderstanding.

Atlas still doesn't buy it.

ATLAS
Was it?

Silence hangs between them. His eyes drifting to the register counter. Approaching it- He grabs two things- A pen and a sticky note. **Writing something down on the sticky note-** Casually-

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Let me see your phone.

LILY
Uh... okay...

Lily hands over her phone, watching as Atlas slips the OUTER CASE off and puts the **STICKY NOTE** between the case and the phone - then hands it back to her.

ATLAS
It's my number. In case you ever need it.

LILY
... I won't.

ATLAS
... I hope not.

A beat.

Then. Not knowing what more to say, Atlas turns and takes his leave, but just as he reaches the door-

LILY
Wait.

His hand on the doorknob, he pauses. Turning-

LILY (CONT'D)
What Ryle said to you that night, about us. He was just really upset, I... I promise I never said that.

The corner of Atlas' mouth curls with a smirk-

ATLAS
Believe me, Lily. I know it wasn't a pity... *I was there.* *

The door opens and closes, Lily watching as Atlas walks across the street- Back toward his car. Off Lily as -

THE PIERCING CRY OF AN INFANT TAKES US TO -

62 OMITTED 62

63 **INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING** 63

A CLOSE UP OF A LITTLE BABY GIRL, swaddled sweetly in Allysa's arms. Lily, Ryle, and Marshall by her side.

MARSHALL
Look at her. She's like a little alien.

ALLYSA
Don't say that, she's perfect.

MARSHALL
A perfect little alien.

Quietly to Ryle-

LILY
You're an uncle.

Squeezing Lily's hand, Ryle says nothing- Just stands in awe, watching Allysa hold her new baby.

ALLYSA
You want to hold her?

Ryle kind of stiffens up like he's nervous, but then he nods. Allysa leans over and puts the baby in his arms. Cradling the newborn gently, as if she was made of glass-

RYLE
You guys decide on a name yet?

Allysa and Marshall locks eyes. Then- With a grin-

ALLYSA
We wanted to name her after someone Marshall and I both think the world of, so... we added an E to your name.
(OFF RYLE)
We're calling her Rylee.

Ryle blows out a quick breath in shock. In a whisper-

RYLE
Wow... I don't know what to say... Thank you

A beat. Ryle staring at this child. Everyone staring at her. Basking in that innocent reminder of how precious life is... how fragile... how quickly it goes.

ALLYSA
You guys want kids?

Ryle and Lily lock eyes.

RYLE
Well... I'm not going to make her put on a white dress and have my babies.
(to Lily)
Unless she *wants to...* then I'd do it *tonight.*

LILY
... Shut up.

RYLE
Lily, I'd take you to Vegas and marry you right now. *

MARSHALL
Well shit! *

LILY
Ryle, you're drunk on baby smell.

RYLE
I'm serious as an aneurysm.

LILY
Please don't do neurosurgeon humor while proposing to me. You are prosing to me right now, right?

ALLYSA
(like she's watching the Superbowl)
YESSSS!!!!!

MARSHALL
He's gonna wife the shit outta you! *

He gets down on one knee, still holding the bundle of baby awkwardly in his arms.

RYLE
Will you marry me Lily Blossom Bloom?
Tonight.

LILY
You've lost your mind. *

She stops herself REALIZING and bends down kissing his face all over.

LILY (CONT'D)
Yes. Yes. Of course. Yes! *

HARD CUT TO:

64 **INT. "ONE HOUR CHAPEL" - DAY** 64

Wide two shot of Ryle and Lily sitting rigid on a bench. Dressed in full Elvis and Jessica Rabbit costume, **fluffy white generic stuffed bunny** sits oddly next to them on the bench.

His leg nervous bouncing. She notices and gently reaches her hand over to his knee to settle him. He looks to her. And both are reminded why they're doing this. The only two people in the world when-

SOUTHERN LADY VOICE (O.S.)
You ready?

Are they? They stand.

65 **INT. "ONE HOUR CHAPEL" - DAY** 65

They exchange vows A DRAG QUEEN DOLLY PARTON officiating RYLE puts a ring on Lily.

DOLLY
You may now kiss the bride Darlin!

Ryle and Lily kiss one another passionately.

A66 **EXT. "ONE HOUR CHAPEL" DOORS - DAY** A66

With a massive needle drop the doors burst open to reveal Lily and Ryle. We whip pan with them to:
The unmistakable electricity of the Vegas strip.

B66 **EXT. LAS VEGAS** B66

We fly over various MGM resorts.

66 **EXT. VEGAS STRIP (LOCATION TBD) - NIGHT** 66

They walk down the strip next. Talking. YARDSTICK SLUSHIES in hand. Having the best time ever.

67 **INT. ARIA HOTEL CASINO - NIGHT** 67

They play craps. Lily is about to roll her dice. But before she does Ryle stops her, grabs her hand, whispers something in her ear and blows on the dice. She rolls and of course wins. * * * *

A68 **EXT. VEGAS STRIP - BELLAGIO FOUNTAIN - NIGHT** A68

The two stand in front of the fountains. We see them from behind in silhouette. People everywhere. They reach out and grab hands, surging emotions paralleling the punctuation of the mammoth fountains.

68 OMITTED 68

A69 OMITTED A69

69 **INT. ARIA HOTEL PENTHOUSE SUITE - MORNING** 69

They enter in the early morning, to find a gorgeous suite, filled with rose pedals and candles overlooking the strip. Theres a nicely set table with candles and a slice of pizza on each plate. The two fall back on the bed exhausted.

They look at each other. Ryle eyes open lets out a fake snore. Lily hits him playfully and mounts him. She starts to sexily takes off her gloves. He stares at her... then fake snores again. Laughing she brings him into a kiss. She begins to unzip his Elvis costume. It's ridiculous but they love it.

He pulls her straps down revealing her naked back. He tries to get his pants off but struggles. They laugh. He flips her on her back. They make love. Then silhouetted with morning light Ryle stops. Their mouths inches apart. He looks at her. Smiles.

RYLE
Hi wife.

LILY
Hi husband.

BLACKOUT.

LILY (V.O.)
It's been two weeks, Mom-

70 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, KITCHEN - DAY** 70

We find Lily in the kitchen, chatting with Jenny on FACETIME from her iPad- While unloading a box of personal kitchen items- Having moved in with Ryle-

LILY
And I continue to be very sorry. But at some point you're gonna have to forgive me. I will wear you down.

Ryle passing through with a moving box. *

RYLE *
She will wear you down. *

JENNY **(ON SCREEN)** * LILY *
Not possible. * (sidebars to Ryle re *
her phone) *
Do you mind plugging this *
in? It's dead. *

RYLE *
For what it's worth, my mom is putting me *
up for adoption. *

He exits. *

JENNY *
I haven't been dreaming about your wedding day your whole life. I've been dreaming about it for MY whole life. You're my baby girl. I feel a little cheated. I'm sorry--

LILY
We really can't keep having this conversation. *

JENNY **(ON SCREEN)**
If I don't get to watch you walk down the aisle, I won't be denied watching you squirm. Wanna know how to make it up to me?

LILY
Yes, please.

JENNY **(ON SCREEN)**
Make me a grandbaby! Make me three. Triplets.

From the box, Lily finds that **NAPKIN**. *Her empty list.* *

LILY
(with a laugh)
You first. I've already signed you up for Tinder.

She pensively pins it to the fridge. *

JENNY **(ON SCREEN)**
(Laughing)
Well, I'll let ya know how that goes. So how do you like your new place?

Lifting the iPad, Lily REVERSES JENNY'S VIEW to the floor to ceiling windows looking out over Boston.

LILY
Bit of a dump.

Suddenly - CRASH! - a loud noise sounds, startling Lily- Causing her to yell out-

LILY (CONT'D)
Ryle?! You okay?
(no reply)
Sorry, Mom- I'll call you right back.

ENDING THE FACETIME CALL- WE TRACK WITH LILY AS- She flies out of the kitchen and-

71 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, MASTER BEDROOM - DAY** 71

Ryle is found sitting on the bed looking down at something in his hand, lamp broken to pieces on the floor. He looks like a wild man. ***On the verge of another breakdown.***

LILY
What happened?

Ryle looks up at her with a very grave expression.

LILY (CONT'D)
What's wrong? Hey, what's wrong?...

He holds up Lily's phone and just looks at her like she *should* know what's happening. But she has no idea.

RYLE
... I dropped your phone and the cover popped off... and-

He holds up his hand, REVEALING the **STICKY NOTE.**

CLOSE ON LILY, heart drops into her stomach.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I called the number.

HE looks at her. Heartbroken.

RYLE (CONT'D)
What aren't you telling me?

LILY
Nothing.

RYLE
Nothing?

Ryle slowly approaches her. Doesn't break eye contact. His hands cradle her face.

LILY
No.

RYLE
I would never lie to you.

LILY
It's nothing.

RYLE
Ok.

He explosively throws Lily's phone clear across the room, where it CRASHES against the wall, SHATTERING to the floor. Ryle storms out. Lily alone for a beat. She turns to chase him. *

72 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, LIVING ROOM - DAY** 72 *

Ryle hits the elevator button- Lily seconds behind him- Turning on his heels, Ryle takes the- *

73 **INT. RYLE'S BUILDING, STAIRWELL - DAY** 73

-Stairwell, Lily not far behind. Round and round they go-

LILY
It's not what you think!

Round and round- Until- Lily reaches out and- Grabs at the back of his shirt- Ryle turning and-

BLACKOUT.

FROM THE DARKNESS... INHALE, EXHALE, INHALE...

RYLE (V.O.)
(sweetly)
Shhh... be still.

74 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, MASTER BEDROOM - DAY** 74

Eyes fluttering open, the world looking like a dizzied dream... Lily finds herself back in the bedroom, lying on the bed... Ryle's gentle and steady hands soothing her.

RYLE
I'm right here, you're okay.

Barely able to move. The lights so bright. Lily reaches up with a shaking hand... to find a GASH on the top of her head, matted in her hair. With a bloody rag, Ryle presses the fabric to the wound. He applies glue to the wound - basically operating on her in his bedroom.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Try to be still...

LILY
... What happened?

Removing any excess glue, Ryle calmly puts supplies back into an open FIRST AID KIT and bandages the cut. Plainly-

RYLE
You fell down the stairs. About five minutes ago.

Lily silently notices the crumpled up piece of paper that holds **Atlas' number**. HE begins head injury triage.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Do you know who you are?

LILY
Lily Bloom.

RYLE
Do you know who I am?

LILY
My husband.

RYLE
Do you know where you are?

LILY
Our apartment.

RYLE
What am I doing right now?

LILY
Helping me.

He holds up his hand.

RYLE
How many fingers am I holding up?

LILY
Five.

RYLE
Tell me it's nothing.

LILY
It's nothing.

RYLE
Ok.

CLOSE ON LILY AS... **MUSIC RISES... "HORIZON"** by Aldous Harding. UNDERSCORING AS... Lily allows Ryle to comfort her... kissing him back...

75 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT - MORNING** 75

Lily stands alone in the bathroom, dabbing ointment on the gash matted in her hair.

She parts her hair, sweeping a handful of strands over the wound, covering it completely - masking the truth.

She stares at her reflection. Exhausted and gaunt. She covers the wound with a little beanie and-

76 **EXT. WATERFRONT - SUNSET (SEASON TIME-LAPSE)** 76

Lily walks, headphones in her ears. Jacket on. It's raining. Slowly, she begins to jog. As she jogs the seasons change around her. The anger and pain of what happened building inside her. She begins to run through Winter. Spring. Summer. Faster. Faster. She pushes herself until she can't. She stops, breathing hard. Wanting to scream.

77 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT** 77

-She crawls into bed. Rolling over, Ryle wraps his arms around her. Lily is left wide awake, staring at the ceiling. Convincing herself this is where she belongs.

78 **INT/EXT. LILY BLOOMS STORE - MORNING** 78

Lily quietly works on a bouquet. She puts her pain into her art. It's beautiful yet sad. The flowers speak to where she is emotionally.

After a quiet beat, Allysa comes barreling inside pushing a **fancy stroller** with two coffees and a magazine tucked under her arm - Gushing- *

ALLYSA
Lily!

Allysa walks toward Lily, shoves one of the coffees in her hand, then pulls the magazine from under her arm.

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Did you see the paper?! We're in the top ten, can you believe it? You freakin' did it, you twisted-genius!

Clocking the headline- **"BEST NEW BUSINESSES IN BOSTON"**-

LILY
Oh, wow...

Proudly, Lily glances through the article, spotting the restaurant **“ROOT”** listed as well. Her heart in her throat, she cannot bring herself to keep reading. Instead-

79 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, KITCHEN - NIGHT** 79

She takes to making a very special celebratory dinner- As she bobs around the kitchen- Swaying her hips to some **MUSIC**- An apron draped over a SEXY OUTFIT. *

Hearing the front door unlock- Lily excitedly throws off her apron- grabs two glasses of wine and- Meets Ryle as he enters from the swinging doors- his clothes and hair a little wet, holding a few copies of the same MAGAZINE. *

LILY *
Hey. *

RYLE *
Hey. *

Ryle sets the stack of magazines on the counter. Lily * handing him a glass of wine. Thinking he’s just tired-

LILY
You see the article? I can’t believe it. *

RYLE *
Yeah. Amazing. *

Ryle nods. Taking a sip of wine.

RYLE (CONT’D) *
What’s all this? *

LILY
I thought we could celebrate. *

Pulling the wine from his lips, Ryle’s gaze falls to the **TATTOO** on Lily’s collar bone. The **HOLLOW HEART.** Plainly-

RYLE
Remind me what that means again?

She touches the HOLLOW HEART TATTOO. Then-

LILY
Uh... What? *

Locking eyes with her, Ryle takes another sip.

LILY (CONT'D) *
I told you. *

RYLE
It really doesn't mean anything?

Ryle is acting weird. Lily hesitates to answer. Finally, she simply shakes her head.

Ryle takes two steps toward her, backing Lily into the counter. His hands grabbing her waist, he kisses her, hard- Lifting her up and setting her down on the countertop, standing between her knees.

Breathing heavily, Ryle's warm lips slides across hers as he takes a FISTFUL OF HER HAIR... and tugs gently so that she's looking at him. *

RYLE (CONT'D)
You read it yet?

Looking disturbed, Lily doesn't answer- Ryle tugging harder at her hair- Then- He oddly releases his grip- Backing away. The two stare at each other. Until. He grabs one of the NEWSPAPERS- Handing it to her-

RYLE (CONT'D)
Read it. Out loud.

Afraid, Lily takes the PAPER and...

LILY
What's this about?

Lily feels greatly exposed, vulnerable, sitting on the counter in a little teddy- Ryle repeating himself-

RYLE
Read it.

Lily stares at him. And then, does as she is told.

LILY
"The votes are in-"

He flips the paper over where it starts in the middle of the article, and he points to a sentence-

RYLE
The last paragraph.

Lily pauses. Not trusting where this is going. But afraid to make any sudden movements. Voice shaking-

LILY
"The business with the highest number of votes should come as no surprise. The iconic *'Root'* on Marketson..."

Locking eyes with Ryle, Lily is growing increasingly nervous. But Ryle only nods at her to continue.

LILY (CONT'D)
"When interviewed, the owner... Atlas Corrigan... finally revealed the true history of the meaning behind the name of his business. 'When I was a kid,' Chef Corrigan stated. 'I carved a small hollow heart from an oak tree... for a girl.'"

Lily locks eyes with Ryle again, pleading-

LILY (CONT'D)
I don't want to read anymore.

RYLE
Keep. Reading.

LILY
"'It was meant to represent something she said to me once... about how strong trees are, how deep their roots can go. So, when it came time to come up with a name for my restaurant, this one just made sense, because this girl made such a huge impact on my life'... he said."

Her voice cracking. She goes to finish but Ryle who has memorized it finishes it for her.

LILY (CONT'D)
"When asked if the girl was..."

RYLE
"When asked if the girl was aware he named a restaurant after her, Corrigan smiled knowingly and said, 'Next question.'"

The two lock eyes.

RYLE (CONT'D)
You don't want me.

LILY
(terrified)
I do.

Suddenly, Ryle grabs the glass of wine off the counter and - throws it at the mirror, shattering it.

Raging that she's so clearly lying. Lily quickly lands on her feet and hurries into the-

80 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT** 80

Living room, Ryle chasing after her. Grabbing her and spinning her around. Throwing her on the couch.

LILY
Stop! Get off of me.

But Ryle is no longer Ryle- Lily pushing away from him as-

RYLE
This tattoo was one of my favorite goddamn parts of you.

His hands grip her ankles and he yanks her down until she's beneath him- His hands pinning her wrists-

LILY
Please- Let me go.

Suddenly- The voice of her mother is in her head- Mirroring the inflection of what she just said.

JENNY (V.O.)
Stop. Please. Please. Lily's sleeping.

EXTREME CLOSE UP ON LILY AS SHE SUFFERS A FLASH OF RECOVERED MEMORY- A SHOCKINGLY PARALLEL-

81 **INT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, LIVING ROOM (MEMORY) - NIGHT** 81

CLOSE ON YOUNG LILY- As she peeks around the corner- To find her father, **ANDREW BLOOM**, on the couch with Jenny-

One hand around her throat- The other pulling up her dress- Jenny crying, trying to fight him off.

82 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, LIVING ROOM (BACK TO SCENE) - NIGHT** 82

Startled by the memory, Lily starts to grow more and more desperate to get Ryle off of her- But it's no use-

LILY'S LIFE FLASHING BEFORE HER EYES. RED FLAGS SHE SHOULD HAVE SEEN ALL ALONG. THE UNSPOKEN TRUTH OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WHEN RYLE BURNED HIS HAND - WHAT SHE MADE HERSELF FORGET, AND WE UNDERSTAND **THAT DEEP DOWN SHE'S KNOWN ALL ALONG:**

FLASH OF MEMORY: LILY LAUGHING. RYLE REACHES FOR THE CASSEROLE DISH- LILY TRYING TO WARN HIM, WHEN- RYLE BURNS HIS HAND AND-

RYLE (O.S.)
Goddammit, Lily. My hand.

LILY LAUGHS AND IN HIS ANGER- TURNS AND- BACKHANDS LILY AGAINST HER LEFT TEMPLE-

FLASH OF MEMORY: RYLE CIRCLES THE STAIRWELL- LILY GRABBING FOR HIS SHIRT, WHEN- RYLE PUSHES HER- AND- SHE FALLS.

FLASH, FLASH, FLASH- The truth of her mother- Mixed with her own stark reality-

BACK TO:

83 **INT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, LIVING ROOM (MEMORY) - NIGHT** 83

Lily comes down the stairs and see's her father chocking her mother.

YOUNG LILY
Mom? Dad? What's happening?

JENNY
It's okay baby, go back to bed. I'm okay.

84 **BACK TO SCENE-** Everything- All the shit- Building up inside Lily- Until it boils over and- Just as Ryle sinks his teeth into Lily's skin, right where the **HEART TATTOO** is placed- She lurches at him, SCREAMING with all her might. She screams for her mother who couldn't and all the women who have suffered and been silenced like this. As pure adrenaline and pain forces Ryle off of her and 84

RYLE
(a shift as if she's misunderstanding)
Wait, wait, Lily?!

WE TRACK WITH LILY AS SHE RUNS TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR- RYLE FADING OVER HER SHOULDER-

85 **EXT. RYLE'S BUILDING, ENTRANCE - NIGHT** 85 *

-Explodes from the building barefoot, jacket draped over her teddy- Searching her purse as she runs- Lifting her CAR KEYS- Ryle exiting the building- Running after her-

RYLE
Lily?! Wait. I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. *

But Lily doesn't stop- She doesn't slow down- As she UNLOCKS her car- Hops inside and- SLAMS the door- Starts the engine and- Just as Ryle presses himself against the glass of the window- Lily peels away- Ryle looking utterly distraught as his image fades in the background. *

A86 OMITTED A86 *

A86 **INT. LILY CAR, NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)** A86 *

Lily drives in the pouring rain, her entire body shaking. * She can't keep driving. She stops. Trapped. Lost. Scared. * Embarrassed. Alone. She picks her phone to call Allysa, * then her mom... She puts her phone down. Totally alone. *

86 **INT. ROOTS RESTAURANT, KITCHEN** 86 *

CLOSE ON Lily. Soaked from the rain. Tear stained eyes * that say it all,looking at: *

Atlas. He feels her and turns. His heart breaking. He * knows what this means. *

86 OMITTED 86 *

87 **INT. ROXBURY GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT** 87

We find Lily sitting on a examining table, wearing a hospital gown. They sit facing one another in complete * silence. Neither move. For an amorphous, but long time. * Waiting. Then. *

LILY *
I was never gonna become her. *

ATLAS *
You're not her. This is just a blip. *

He looks at her. So much he wants to say. In this moment they feel 18 again. And, for the first time, Atlas finally sees the HOLLOW HEART TATTOO. It sends chills up his spine. Seeing their emblem of strength punctured and bleeding.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Is that?

LILY
Yes.

AtLAS
I didn't know you'd remember that.

LILY
Always.

She's always loved him. And he finally sees it.

ATLAS
There's something I need to tell you. And I'm know there's a better time and place, but I've walked away from you too many times without saying anything, at all and I just want you to know--

He's interrupted mid sentence by ER DOCTOR BROWN - female, 50s - burts in a hurry cleans up the blood from the BITE MARK left on her collar bone.

DOCTOR BROWN
Sorry for the delay. Every bed is full tonight. I have your paperwork and I see you're choosing not to press charges, is that correct?

Lily can't bear to look at Atlas as his hands clench in spite of himself.

LILY
That's correct. It's uh, just. A couple of bruises and this here.

She embarrasingly indicates to the bite mark which Doctor Brown approaches and cleans as she speaks. She's seen this too many times to be sappy about it.

DOCTOR BROWN
We have a certain examination for these situations. It's called a SANE exam. It's optional, of course, but-

LILY
Oh, I, I wasn't... He didn't...

Lily almost says the word "**rape,**" but can't get it out. Searching her eyes- Dr. Brown asks-

DOCTOR BROWN
Did he try?

Lily's eyes drift to Atlas. Seeing the pain in his expression, she shakes her head. Softly-

LILY
I don't need the exam, thank you. *

Nodding grimly, Dr. Brown flashes a light into both of her eyes. Glancing at Lily's paperwork-

DOCTOR BROWN
I'd like to rule out a concussion, but given your situation, I don't want to administer a CT. I'd like to keep you for observation instead.

LILY
Why don't you want to administer a CT?

DOCTOR BROWN
We don't like to perform X-rays on pregnant women unless it's vital. We'll monitor you for complications and if there are no further concerns, you'll be free to go.

CLOSE ON LILY. The wind knocked out of her. CLOSE ON ATLAS. Also rendered speechless. Clocking this-

DOCTOR BROWN (CONT'D)
I apologize, did you not know?

Silent, Lily sits stunned. *

*

88 OMITTED 88 *

88 **INT/EXT. ATLAS' TRUCK (MOVING) - NIGHT** 88 *

Atlas drives through the night, Lily curled up in the passenger seat - staring out the window, too exhausted to cry. Too in shock to speak. *Feeling submerged. Silence..* *

LILY
There's no Cassie is there?

Nothing.

ATLAS
No.

Devasting silence. Their lives could've been so different.

89 **INT. ATLAS' HOUSE (VARIOUS) - NIGHT** 89

Atlas opens the door as Lily enters his apartment. It feels familiar. Safe. They stand in the unsaid then, he sweetly leaves her for a moment.

She's alone for the first time with a pot of feeling about to boil over when: he reenters with a pair of old sweats and a t-shirt. **The irony is not lost on either of them. The cosmic *role reversal* they never saw coming.**

ATLAS
... here...

Deeply touched. She can barely get the words out. He points to his room.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
There's a shower in there if you need

LILY
No, I'm not gonna, that's your room... I can sleep on the couch

ATLAS
I love that couch.

LILY
... Thank you.

Atlas simply nods. So much more to say. But not tonight.

91 **INT. ATLAS' HOUSE, BATHROOM - NIGHT** 91

Lily enters the bathroom. Finally alone. She turns on the shower and then undresses, through the pain. Each layer that comes off she sees markers of her experience. Shedding their love story she stops and really looks at herself in the mirror. How did this become her?

She on the ground in front of the shower, legs curled to her chest as the water falls down like rain behind her. She doesn't make a sound.

92 OMITTED 92

93 **INT. ATLAS' HOUSE, KITCHEN - MORNING** 93

Timidly peering into the kitchen, Lily finds **Atlas...** making an impressive breakfast. His energy is calm. His presence steady. **A basket full of produce from the farmers market on the counter.** He finishes squeezing OJ.

He slides her a glass of fresh OJ. Lily watches as Atlas puts the finishing touches on some gorgeous crepes, eggs, and sausage. Lily watches as Atlas lays a perfect breakfast before her. It's almost too pretty to eat.

ATLAS
So I-uh... have to go in to work today.

Standing, Atlas grabs his jacket. He opens a drawer and pulls out a pen and paper and writes something on it before he leaves.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
I'll be back as soon as I can. And I'll bring you something tasty, okay? Until then, raid the fridge, make yourself at home.

LILY
I'm sorry. This is all so. Embarrassing.

ATLAS
(he means it)
I know. See you soon.

The door shuts quietly. Lily looks across the counter to read what he wrote. Three simple words that have so long bound them together: ***Strong and sturdy.***

94 **INT. ATLAS' HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY TO NIGHT** 94

We transition from Day to Night as Lily just sits... in silence. Trying to figure out how this has become her life.

ATLAS (O.S.)
Hey.

She looks up to find Atlas with TAKEOUT BAGS from his own restaurant. He starts unpacking a ton of food on the coffee table

ATLAS (CONT'D)
I wasn't sure what to bring you, so... I just went with a few fan favorites.

Lily nods gratefully.

CUT TO:

A95 **LATER**- Food eaten. A95

He looks at her. So much he wants to say. In this moment they feel 18 again. SILENCE-

LILY
You lied to me. Why would you do that?

ATLAS
You were with someone.

She falls SILENT. With grace and calm-

ATLAS (CONT'D)
I said what I needed to say in the moment. Because you looked really happy. That's all I've ever wanted for you.

LILY
What about what I want for me.

With a sigh, Atlas stares at the HEART on her collar bone, the bite mark there - deeply regretting his lie.

ATLAS.
I'm sorry.

LILY
Me too.

Sliding doors. He stands, taking his cue.

ATLAS
You good if I hit the hay?

She stands up to out of clear his "bed". They look at each other 2 feet apart.

LILY
Goodnight.

Neither move.

ATLAS
The night I broke into that house-- the night before we met-- I didn't go in there because I needed a place to stay. I broke in there to kill myself.

Having never heard this before, Lily sucks in a breath.

AtLAS (CONT'D)
I was sitting on the floor of this musty old living room with a... and then out of the corner of my eye. your bedroom light came on-- through that broken window...

CLOSE ON ATLAS. Remembering it like it was yesterday.

AtLAS (CONT'D)
I could see you, just barely through the curtains... and the way the light hit you... It made you look like an angel. And. I know that sounds-- but it's true, and just seeing your face... in the light... I wanted to end it... and I couldn't do it. The very next day, you knocked on the door. And fed me -- And I'm not saying this because I want anything from you. I'm saying this to witness you-- who you are.
(simply)
You saved my life...

The two stare at one another, wanting to reach out, to hold each other... But they know they cannot. Should not. Must not.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
That's who you are. No one can take that from you.

She smiles sweetly. Devastated.

LILY
Strong and sturdy.

The **MUSIC BOX** ***("Lily and Atlas' Theme)*** playing faintly in the background, one last time. The MUSIC UNDERSCORING as-

95 **EXT. BOSTON STREET - MORNING** 95 *

Atlas walks Lily to her car, parked outside from the night before. The two linger, neither of them wanting to say goodbye. *

LILY
Thank you.

ATLAS
Yeah, no, of course... *

But just as Lily opens the door and starts to get out- Atlas turns back. A side of him we haven't seen.

ATLAS (CONT'D) *
I love you, Lily. *

LILY *
I know I love you too-- *

ATLAS *
No, I love you Lily Bloom. *I never* *
stopped... *

So much she wants to say but can't and he knows it. He grabs her shoulders with such grounding and protective love, like he might kiss her if she let him, but he knows he can't. He .pulls her in to a bear hug. It feels so familiar. So right. Two survivors standing together. As one. Atlas doesn't want to let her go but he knows he has to. But before he does he whispers in her ear *

ATLAS (CONT'D) *
In the future... If by some chance you *
ever find yourself in the position to... *
love again. Fall in love with me.

He lets go. In every way. *

ATLAS (CONT'D) *
Ok. I've said enough. *

With one last look he takes his leave. As he walks away. *

LILY
...Okay. *

He turns. Softly smiles. And she closes the door. * Watching as Atlas drives away and out of sight. The **MUSIC BOX** playing... all the way to the final note.

SMASH TO:

96 **INT. LILY BLOOMS STORE - DAY** 96

The shop is closed, we find Lily and Allysa sitting at the back of the store- Lily having just told her everything-

ALLYSA
Oh, Lily.

Allysa falls quiet for a moment. Shaken to her core. Then-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
I know Ryle's been through a lot... we all have... I didn't know he was capable of this. *

She's trying to make sense of it- *

Surprised, Lily shakes her head. Allysa's voice quaking with grief as she continues-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
I'm not trying to make any excuses... what he's done is inexcusable, I just... *
(OFF LILY)
I've watched him, my entire life, I've seen how afraid he's been to open his heart to anyone, ever since we were kids. He's been dying inside, Lily. Little by little. Until he met you.

LILY
(softly)
... What happened? What happened to Emerson?

Allysa's entire body responds. *

LILY (CONT'D) *
You don't have to.. if it's too much. *

ALLYSA
No. You deserve to know... Our dad... he used to have a gun. And. One day. Ryle and Emerson were... they playing in the house... pretending to be cowboys. And. They found it. *

CLOSE ON LILY. Struck with horror. When-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Ryle was only six years old -I was five- and... *
(MORE)

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
he didn't even know he was holding a real gun... he thought it was just pretend... until it was too late.

Allysa breaks down. Haunted by what she is about to utter-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Emerson... His best friend. Our big brother. And... he's never been the same since. His funeral...

She looks around lost.

ALYSSA
I used to really like flowers.

Lily finally understands her on a deeper level than she thought possible. Lily grabs her. Two women shattered, holding space for eachother's pain.

ALLYSA
My brother loves you... he loves you so much... You have changed his entire life, you changed my life. That's what you do. You grow people.You've made him someone I never thought he could be.
(OFF LILY)
As his sister, I wish more than anything that you could find a way to forgive him.But as your best friend... I have to tell you that if you take him.back... I will never speak to you again.

LILY
You're the best friend I've ever had.

ALLYSA
I'll be an even better auntie.

These two women grieving over the mutual unending love and unspeakable anger they both have for Ryle in this moment.

97 **EXT. BOSTON LUXURY BUILDING, ROOFTOP - DUSK** 97

Opening the door to the rooftop, Lily steps out to find Ryle, across the way, his back to her, staring out at the sunset. The opposite of their first meeting.

LILY
... I told your sister what happened.

Ryle seems surprised to hear Lily's voice. But he doesn't turn around. Approaching him carefully, Lily stands beside him, watching the sky turn to pink, purple, gold.

LILY (CONT'D)
And then... she told me about Emerson.

SILENCE. Ryle letting out a soft exhale. Exposed. Vulnerable. Nowhere to hide. She looks at him almost like a little boy.

LILY (CONT'D)
Do you know what you did to me?

He turns to Lily. Softly. Simply.

RYLE
I know I hit you after I burned my hand.
I know I ...on the stairs, I pushed you.
I hurt you... I'm so sorry. I know.
Most days I'm fine. But... every now and again... I just... lose control.

SILENCE. Lily gathering her strength. With grace and dignity.

LILY
... I'm sorry your childhood has affected you the way it has... and I'm sorry you can't handle that I had a childhood boyfriend who, I loved very much, who still exists... but nothing you've gone through and nothing I do gives you the right to lay one goddamn finger on me...

Accepting every word, Ryle takes a heavy seat on one of the loungers, still looking out at the horizon. Finally-

RYLE
You're right.
(a heavy beat)
I'm sorry... I'm so sorry.

SILENCE. A complicated silence. Then. Lily takes a heavy seat next to him. After a beat- Quietly-

LILY
I'm pregnant.

Bewildered by this news, Ryle lifts up to sitting. Then-

RYLE
Lily...

Reaching out, he gently pulls Lily close. The pain of his touch rippling through her. But she doesn't push him away. She still loves him, after all, despite everything.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Please...

He presses his lips desperately to hers. When she doesn't push him away, his mouth comes back a second time. When their lips meet a third time, they don't leave. *

Looking tired, and in need of his touch, Lily gives in. Knowing it's so wrong and so good and so painful.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I love you.

Passionately, his hand gently wraps in her hair and in an instant, she's transferred back to that night.

FLASHES OF MEMORY: Lily in the kitchen, his hand tugging at her hair. Ryle pins Lily's wrists against the couch. Ryle bites her HEART TATTOO...

BACK TO SCENE- ON THE ROOF- Lily becomes unresponsive. Ryle feeling her freeze, he pulls back. And she doesn't even have to say anything. Her eyes tell him that she can no longer stand being touched by him.

WE HOLD HERE IN THIS MOMENT. As the sun sets in the sky. The light fading on their love. In the very place it first began. Right there. On a roof in Boston...

LILY
Stop. No... *

RYLE *
I'll do the work. Let me show you, I'm so *
sorry, please believe me. *

LILY *
Stop. Until this baby comes, and I decide *
whats best for us... don't try to talk me *
into forgiving you. Please *

She pulls from his chest and looks at him. Softly- *

LILY (CONT'D) *
Got it? *

RYLE *
Ok. *

MUSIC RISES. **"REVERIE"** by Isaac Gracie. The song from our opening. And for the first time. We finally hear the beautiful lyrics wash over us as- **LILY'S NINE MONTHS OF PREGNANCY PROGRESSES:**

98 **INT. BOSTON GRACE HOSPITAL, ULTRASOUND ROOM - DAY** 98

20 weeks. Lily gets an ultrasound, Nurse Julie standing by. They both look at the monitor.

NURSE JULIE
... do you want to know?

LILY
You can tell already?

NURSE JULIE
We can.

Not sure. She thinks of Ryle. In some way, wishing he was here. Gathering her strength

LILY
Ok.

NURSE JULIE
See that? That's her little head.

LILY
Her?

As we push in on Lily... her whole world changing.

99 OMITTED 99

100 **OMITTED** 100

A101 OMITTED A101

B101 **EXT. FARMER'S MARKET** B101

Lily, 7 months pregnant, tote bag in hand walks through the market alone.

C101 **INT. LILY BLOOMS** C101

Lily works on a flower arrangement. She feels nauseous. Allysa runs over and hands her a wastebasket.

101 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON TWO BEDROOM, KITCHEN - NIGHT** 101

We find Lily in the kitchen alone, an empty chair in front of her. She drinks tea. Boxes of all the baby stuff she has to put together all around. She feels a little kick, and while it's so sweet, it's clear she has no one to share it with. OFF LILY. Suffering a wave of complicated emotion as she looks at her phone and...

PRE-LAP: DING-DONG!

102 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON TWO BEDROOM, FOYER - MORNING** 102

Approaching the door, Lily takes in a deep breath and- Opens it- REVEALING Ryle holding flowers. *And dammit.* He looks great.

RYLE
Sorry, I... didn't want to show up empty handed.

He offers the flowers, Lily accepting them.

LILY
The nursery's right back there.

Entering, Ryle looks nervous. They both do. Like teenagers on their very first date. Stomachs in knots.

LILY (CONT'D)
Something to drink?

RYLE
Water, thank you.

103 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON TWO BEDROOM, KITCHEN - MORNING** 103

Escaping into the kitchen, pressing her back against the wall, panting against every imaginable emotion. Wanting to run to him, to feel his embrace. *It would be so easy.*

Pressing a fist against her mouth, she swallows back a silent scream, keeping the full weight of her confusing grief bottled. Then- From the other side of the apartment-

RYLE (O.S.)
Where's your toolbox? *

It's too comfortable. Forcing a "cheery" voice- As if all is well- *

LILY
I got it. Be right back.. *

104 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON TWO BEDROOM, NURSERY - MORNING** 104

The crib nearly assembled, we find Ryle on the ground, tightening the screws with care. Lily watching him from a rocking chair. Searching for "chit-chat"-

RYLE
Allysa told me about the mural.

Lily looks to the GARDEN MURAL they painted on the wall- Complete with almost every single fruit and vegetable that can grow in a home garden.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I knew you could draw, but wow... I didn't know you could *paint* like that.

LILY
Yep. There's lots we didn't know. About each other.

Loaded.

RYLE
I will never be sorry enough.

LILY
(plainly)
Yeah.

Suddenly, Lily's GASPS. Her hands moving to her stomach. She wants to share what she's experiencing. But chooses to keep it for herself. He notices...

RYLE
Is she...

LILY
Yeah.

He respects her boundary. Then--

LILY (CONT'D)
You wanna feel?

RYLE
Really? Yeah. I'd really like that.

Crawling on all fours, Ryle plants himself at Lily's feet.

Lily takes his hands and places them on her stomach. An immense gesture that doesn't go unnoticed by either. They're both quiet for a moment, both waiting for it to happen again.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I don't feel anything.

LILY
She's on her own time, give it a minute.

They wait, a couple beats more- When they feel another kick- Causing them both to chuckle-

LILY (CONT'D)
She's a spicy meatball.

RYLE
Thank god.

As their smiles fade a bit, both suddenly feeling the familiar comfort and complication of this moment. Respectfully, Ryle pulls back his hand. But. He remains at her feet. As if dutifully surrendering to his Queen. Silence.

RYLE (CONT'D)
... I don't know what you want from me. What role you want me to have. I'm trying to do what you asked...to give you the space you need, but at the same time I want to help more than you can possibly know. I want to be in our baby's life. I want to be your husband and I want to be good at it. But I have no idea what's going through your head. Okay. Now you go. *

LILY
... I don't want to keep you from your child. But what kind of mother would I be if I didn't ...have serious concern for the way you lose control? How do I know something won't set you off while you're alone with this baby? * * *

Agony flooding his eyes- Adamantly-

RYLE
I would never.

LILY
You *never* intentionally hurt me. *

With a sigh- Filled with shame- Shaking his head-

RYLE
I am your husband. I'm supposed to be the one who protects you from the monsters, I'm not supposed to be one...

Ryle falls SILENT. Like a little boy reduced to a shell of shame. Seeing this... Lily's shoulders soften.

LILY
I don't believe you're a monster. But I do think you could become one, if the people around you, the ones who love you the most, keep looking the other way... pretending like you don't need help.

RYLE
Maybe I could switch therapists, or find a treatment center? For people like me...

LILY
You mean abusers?

RYLE
Yes. I mean abusers.

LILY
I think getting help is a really good idea.

RYLE
Then I will.

With a sigh, Lily presses her forehead against his, bowed in front of her. They sit, hunched into eachother with only their baby and tehir pain betwen them. Neither wanting to move.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I'll check on you two later ...if that's ok.

LILY
That's ok.

Lily remaining in the nursery, more alone than ever.

105 **INT. LILY BLOOMS STORE - DAY** 105

Entering her beloved store, Lily is immediately greeted by ALLYSA, nursing baby Rylee in one hand and drinking a latte in the other.

ALLYSA
I don't want to scare you but you have great boobs and I want you to enjoy them while you can because my nipples feel like someone spilled hot sauce on them and then used them for a punching bag.

LILY
Yum. *

ALLYSA
Oh! Our order of red roses was damaged in shipment, but we've got the Levenberg funeral today and they specifically wanted red roses for the casket spray- What should we do?

Heading toward the office-

LILY
The florist on Broadway owes me a favor. *

ALLYSA
Ooooh. So mob boss of you.

-But before Lily enters her office- WATER trickles down her legs. Confused, she stares down at the trickle of water on the floor- Allysa still cluelessly firing off another question.

ALLYSA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Oh and about these invoices. Did you want me to pay them today or wait?

OFF LILY- registering what is happening, right as we-

106 **INT. BOSTON GRACE HOSPITAL, LILY'S ROOM - DAY** 106

-Find Lily in the middle of intense labor- Ryle entering, * wearing his scrubs, having just run from another side of the hospital, bursting with nerves. He rushes by her * side, puts his hand on the railing. She puts her hand on * his and grips it hard. *

IN A SERIES OF QUICK CUTS- In a blur of pain and HEAVY BREATHING- Lily squeezing Ryle's hand with every push-

DOCTOR
She's crowning- Just a few more pushes!

RYLE * NURSE *
You're doing great. Almost * Don't let it go. Keep *
there. * bearing. *

One final herculean PUSH and SCREAM, and the doctor holds the baby up.

RYLE (CONT'D) *
There she is... You did it. She's here... *
That's our baby girl. *

As Ryle cuts the umbilical cord, The BABY is placed on Lily's chest, the absolute greatest moment of her life. Lily speaks to her as if they're the only two people in the world.

LILY
There you are. Hi. Hi my angel. It's your mama.

107 **LATER-** We find the INFANT CHILD on Lily's chest again, but now she's been cleaned and swaddled in a blanket. Lily and Ryle can do nothing but stare at her. 107

LILY (CONT'D)
Look. She's trying to open her eyes.

RYLE
Hi, Baby. It's us. It's Mommy and Daddy.

The BABY yawns and Lily and Ryle both smile at each other, having just fallen even more in love with her. In the QUIET that follows, the last NURSE leaves the room and they're finally alone.

LILY
Here.

Lily hands the little bundle over, Lily laying her head on Ryle's shoulder. The two still staring at their child.

RYLE *
Thank you. *

Then- In a whisper- *

RYLE (CONT'D)
What do you want to call her?

LILY
We could name her after your brother.

In shock, Ryle tilts his head toward Lily. Holding back as best he can. Barely audible-

RYLE
Emerson?

Nodding- Softly-

LILY
Yeah. Little Emmy. *
(OFF RYLE)
What do you think?

RYLE
(words and time choking him)
...Yeah. Yeah... Thank you.

Touched, he leans down and kisses EMMY on her forehead. After a beat, Lily pulls away from his shoulder so she can watch him hold her. It's a beautiful thing. Seeing Ryle's face. As if he would do anything to protect her.

Seeing this- Lily finally forms her decision.

LILY
Ryle?
(plainly, kindly)
I want a divorce.

Her words hitting him like voltage, he winces and looks back down at the baby, his shoulders hunched forward.

RYLE
... Please don't do this.

LILY
... I'm not making this decision for you or for me. *I'm doing it for her.*
(a beat, simply)
What would you do? If one of these days, this little girl looks up at you and says, "My boyfriend hit me." What would you say to her?

He pulls Emmy to his chest and buries his face against the top of her blanket, unable to speak. Gently-

LILY (CONT'D)
What if she came to you and said, "Daddy? My husband pushed me down the stairs. But he said it was an accident."

Ryle's shoulders begin to shake, and for the first time since the day they met, he has TEARS. Real tears that rush down his cheeks as he holds his daughter tightly.

With a strength we haven't seen yet she keeps going. *

LILY (CONT'D)
What if... she came to you and said, "My husband held me down while I begged him to stop. But he swears he'll never do it again. What should I do?"

Ryle kisses the baby's forehead. *

LILY (CONT'D)
Tell me. I need to know what you would say to our daughter if the person she loves, ever hurts her.

He offers the most Naked Truth he could ever possibly muster... *

RYLE
I would beg her... to leave him.

He leans toward Lily and wraps an arm around her. His mouth moving to Lily's ear as he cradles his wife and daughter close to his chest.

RYLE (CONT'D)
And I would beg her never to go back. *She's worth so much more.*

With that, they both become a mess of broken hearts and shattered dreams. Holding each other. Holding their daughter.

Then. Ryle hands the baby back to Lily. He stands up, still trying to catch his breath. *

He points toward the hallway, letting Lily know he needs to go gather himself. He's sadder than we've ever seen him as he walks toward the door and opens it, pausing, turning to LOCK EYES WITH LILY... as if to thank her for doing what he could never do.

RYLE (CONT'D)
It was really nice meeting you Lily Blossom Bloom.

LILY
It was nice meetin you Ryle Kincaid. *

And then. He's gone.

Left alone in SILENCE, Lily stares upon the bundle in her arms, her flesh and blood, her baby girl.

LILY (CONT'D)
There you go bubba.
(then)
It stops here. With you and me.

Leaning in, she kisses Emmy and offers her a very quiet promise... a secret whisper only the walls can hear...

LILY (CONT'D)
It ends with us...

108 **EXT. MAINE TWO-LANE HIGHWAY - EARLY MORNING** 108

Swooping along a two-lane highway, we find Lily's car-

109 **INT/EXT. LILY'S CAR (MOVING) - EARLY MORNING** 109

-As she makes another pilgrimage back to her hometown. BABY EMMY in the back. Sucking on her pacifier.

110 OMITTED 110 *

111 **EXT. CEMETERY - DAY** 111

We find the three generations of Bloom's taking a little walk together. Jenny holding her granddaughter. We don't reveal where they are.

JENNY
She looks so much like you.
(To Emmy)
You look just like your mama. Huh, Bubba?

LILY
Thank you, mama. There's a little of her dad in there too.

Jenny doesn't quite know what to say.

LILY (CONT'D)
It's okay. We can talk about it.

We can see Jenny letting her guard down. Finally allowing reality to settle in.

JENNY
How is he?

LILY
I don't... I honestly don't know. He took a sabbatical from work, so that's good. He's taking time to get real help. For her. He knows it's over. But...

Silence. Jenny holds Emmy tight. Her armor starting to crack. Emotion seeping through.

JENNY
Your mama is such a strong woman. You're lucky, kid.

Jenny stops walking.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Your father... he was so gentle when we met... he was kind.
(warmly)
My god, he was-- I remember when you were a little shrimp like this. When your foot could fit in the palm of my hand...

Jenny, swallows hard. Looking for the words. In her eyes, resentment mixes with the beauty of the moment. A beat.

JENNY (CONT'D)
The first time he hit me it felt like-- like my world shattered. Fifteen seconds was all it took to completely change everything.

LILY
Mom, you don't have to--

JENNY
I do.
(She continues)
He was so sorry, he swore it would never happen again. And I loved him. *

A cynical laugh escapes her lips.

JENNY (CONT'D)
The second time, he was even *more* sorry. The third time... I was already losing sight of what was normal. I wanted so bad to protect you - to give you everything. To show you... what it meant to be strong. I thought I could fix him. *
(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)
By the fourth time... the fourth time...
I was sorry.

Shaking her head, at a loss. She takes her daughter in. All of her. So much pride.

JENNY (CONT'D)
...but now look at you. You did what I couldn't do. You found it. That strength...

Jenny looks at Lily in a way she never has.

JENNY (CONT'D)
When you called me and told me you left him... it, um--
(barely able to find the words)
...Thank you.

Jenny wraps up Lily- holding her tightly. Barely audible-

JENNY (CONT'D)
Thank you.

OFF LILY. Finally fully forgiving her mother. *For good.*

CUT TO:

112 **EXT. CEMETERY, ANDREW BLOOMS RESTING PLACE - DAY** 112

Where Lily stands in front of her father's grave for the very first time. Baby Emmy strapped to her torso, and Jenny standing a bit behind, Lily pulls the **NAPKIN** from her HOODIE JACKET... and we get the slightest glimpse that... ***she's finally finished the list.***

Her voice shaking. Her lip quivering.

LILY
Goodbye pops.

With that, Lily bends over and places the **NAPKIN** near the headstone. Then. Summoning the kind of strength and surrender that is so rare, so powerful, it's cosmic-

She straightens up. And. Walks away.

We stay on the napkin, barely able to make out a few of the five things. As all three generations walk away.

MUSIC RISING- UNDERSCORING AS WE-

FADE TO:

113 **EXT. BOSTON STREET (FARMERS MARKET) - DAY** 113 *

Lily. Five years older. Five years wiser. Walking through the farmers market on a bright, sunny day. We pan down to * reveal she is holding hands with **EMMY**, now 5, bursting with excitement to see her daddy.

EMMY
Where is he? Where is he?

LILY
Bubba, you're hurting my ego. *

Rounding the corner, Lily spots Ryle near his car, his face lighting up when he sees them approaching. Emmy runs up to Ryle. He scoops her up into his arms and smothers her in kisses.

EMMY
Daddy, daddy, guess what?

RYLE
Oh-my-goodness- *What?*

He puts her down and kneels down face to face with Emmy.

EMMY * RYLE (CONT'D) *
I grew six whole inches- * Wow! In 5 days?? *
Mommy marked it on her *
wall! *

LILY *
Millimeters. *

RYLE
(pshh)) *
Inches. You are so big! *

Lifting Emmy into his arms-

RYLE (CONT'D)
(To Lily)
D'you get my email? *

LILY
Yeah, yeah but we threw it away before *
the recall. *

Ryle pops Emmy into her carseat. Lily throws her overnight bag in the trunk.

RYLE
Did you hear that, Emmy? Your mommy keeps you safe.

Lily sidebars with Ryle

LILY
Not from Ocean. That kid's such a jerk.

RYLE
I mean, her parents named her *Ocean*.

LILY
But with a "S.H."

RYLE
Our bugs got this.

Ryle kisses her forehead sweetly. Lily watching them fondly. Assured that, despite his brokenness... ***Ryle is a good dad.***

LILY
Okay, bubba- Gimme one last kiss, but not a drop more.

Lily leans over, Emmy kisses her on the mouth. To Ryle-

LILY (CONT'D)
Have a good weekend you two. You've got my whole world right there.

RYLE
I know. Mine too.
(he means it deeply)
See ya Monday mama.

Ryle starts to buckling Emmy in the backseat.

EMMY
(mischievous as all hell)
Bye mama!! See you Tuesday!!

LILY
You dirty rat. Love you guys.

RYLE
Love you too.

And he does. Deeply. Lily walks away with confidence.

114 **EXT. FARMERS MARKET - A FEW MINUTES LATER** 114

Lily strolls through the market - taking in all the beauty.

The sunlight through the trees. A STREET PERFORMER creating GIANT BUBBLES with two sticks and a rope. The bustling flower market. A BUSKER playing his guitar.

And from all this glorious poetry in motion... While she stops to smell some flowers, Lily spots someone in the crowd. A familiar face.

Atlas.

He hasn't seen her yet. But it's as if he can *feel* her stare. His gaze finding hers within the sea of people.

The two LOCK EYES. As they did for the first time many years ago.

ON ATLAS. As a remarkable grin spreads wide on his lips.

ON LILY. Smiling back. Looking more free and assured than we have ever seen her. Eyes void of all fear.

Strong... And sturdy... Ready to dare to love again. As Lily takes a step in his direction we...

BLACKOUT.