Exhibit 38

Justin,
I am VERY pleased. Really wonderful work. THANK YOU and please thank Blake!

The character work is especially good. More interesting, layered, richer and modern.

My notes are all mostly page notes (which are written on the draft.) Happy to discuss if you disagree or if anything is confusing.

The bigger question is - other than language - this does not read like an R rated movie. Readers of the book, the biggest book of last year, are expecting some HEAT.

We just cannot have an R rating for language. That would be a huge mistake.

I'm guessing the love scenes are still in process and have not been choreographed yet. Ultimately, that will be up to you and Blake to decide the specifics. I'm hoping they are sexy and grown up. I know they will be tasteful. But i am asking you to also think about moments that are outside the actual bedroom — moments that feel grown up and sexy so we deliver for an audience that is expecting an R rated movie.

So you will tell me the plan for the love making scenes when you know. But please work to find the balance between sweet/funny/endearing with moments of real heat. Not only for the audience, but also so when the movie transitions into the abuse section it doesn't feel like we switched from a rom com into a drama.

Very grateful to and for you.
Ange. x

IT ENDS WITH US

Screenplay

by

Christy Hall

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

Revisions by Justin Baldoni

WHITE PRODUCTION DRAFT 4.5.23
BLUE PRODUCTION DRAFT 5.1.23

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 dense forest on all sides - the foliage set ablaze by the spellbinding glory of early fall. The MUSIC continuing, as we steal into the car-

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

-Face-to-face with LILY BLOOM, 29. Her tousled hair, minimal makeup, blue jeans, and white v-neck t-shirt, all frame Lily with 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 with great trepidation. 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 arm 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 the door awaited by Jenny, 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- A MEMORY washing over her.

MATCH CUT TO:

6 **INT/EXT. LILY'S ROOM / ABANDONED HOUSE (MEMORY) - DAY** 6

LILY'S EXACT SAME POV: Peering out that SAME WINDOW, down on the now ABANDONED HOUSE next door, as she catches sight of a BOY WITH A BACKPACK, 18, sneaking out of one of the broken windows, unaware of Lily's gaze. A doorbell rings.

JENNY (O.S.)
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.

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. If I know one thing it's that--

LILY
(as she gets up, fucking with them)
You can never trust a redhead. They're crazy.

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

LILY (CONT'D)
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.

The true meaning only understood between mother and daughter. 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. Notices an older couple leaving the front door. She takes a breath. Looks up. A trapped woman on the verge.

10 OMITTED 10

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

We find Lily on the LEDGE of the rooftop. Finally letting herself release. Wiping her face with the sleeve of her hoodie draped over the FUNERAL DRESS. She looks out at the city. The lights calming her. The water barely visible. She feels like she can breathe. Just then -

this is changing yes?

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 quickly wiping away her tears.

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, amused and feeling strangely sorry for him. 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. With his chiseled physique, BURBERRY button-up, and gold watch, he's s*omething straight out of a magazine.*

With a calming EXHALE, he finally notices Lily sitting on the ledge near the door. **THEIR EYES MEET. He covers his embarrassment.** Softly-

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
Look- The last thing I need tonight is to see a beautiful woman fall to her death.
(MORE)

MAN (CONT'D)
(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. I didn't know that about Maraschino cherries.

LILY
I may have made that up- but they're pretty gross.

LILY (CONT'D)
So, what happ-

MAN
They definitely are- 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
Yep. They split it into two units and decided to live in one and sell the other.

LILY
Who bought the other?

MAN
I did.

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. A full-throated explosion. Barely able to speak.

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?

PREFER NOT. More elegant without and it's such a famous thing from movie Pretty Woman.

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
You from Boston, Lily?

LILY
Originally from Maine. I just moved here. Yeah I, uh, recently quit my corporate career to uh, follow my dreams. 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.

RYL
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. A thousand doves arcing from his mouth. His eyes crease beautifully as veins sprout from his neck and forehead. It's, in a word, adorable. He eventually pulls it together. Wiping tears of laughter away, over the following:

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, <u>DOCTOR RYLE KINCAID.</u>

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.

If this is right after funeral same day/same outfit to make less confusing … rather than he died on Monday should we add: he died on Monday. We buried him today in fact. (or how you guys decide to say.)

LILY
Well, one of them does... *did*. My dad. He... he died on Monday. That's why I came up here. To have a good cry and hopefully meet a wealthy neurosurgeon.

RYLE
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.

Absorbing her words, Ryle pensively turns. Adjusts the back of one of the LOUNGERS and lowers himself onto it. Feeling extremely comfortable, Lily claims the lounger next to him. And this is when... the two gaze upward in SILENCE. After a beat-

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. They lock eyes. Both a little surprised the other even exists. Then:

LILY (CONT'D)
Your turn.

A beat. He gathers his Naked Truth. Seemingly not wanting to play his own game. Then:

RYLE
I... watched a little boy die tonight. He was only five 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.

Can we make age Ryle says here same as Ryle's real age when it happened with his brother when Alyssa tells Lily the story please.

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. Thats what it'll do.

Good!

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 shrugs. What's there to say?

It's good he's less stiff than before … but want to still keep a bit of mystery about him in intro scene.
lily loosens him up as it goes.
this just doesn't sound like Ryle. and gotta be honest, it's not hot.

RYLE (CONT'D)
No way. Nope. You gotta tell me more, ~~just between us girls.~~ Details, now.

LILY
There's nothing really to tell. I was friends with this boy, he was incredibly kind and super talented at cooking and uh, being dreamy. He spent his whole life taking care of himself so he was pretty capable so that was cool for me to see.

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

Nice how she speaks of Atlas now …

LILY
(playfully)
~~How very 1% of you.~~
(then)
I say the homeless thing for shock value, he was just a kid havin' a hard time... 'kay, your turn. Something recent.

RYLE
~~What ever happened to him?~~

~~LILY~~
~~(openly but weighted)~~
Don't think you need… would cut for pacing.
~~I'm not sure, but I can't imagine he had much of a happy ending, sadly. Yeah...~~

RYLE
Damn. 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. You're beautiful.
(MORE)

RYLE (CONT'D)
And spicy. If you were into it, I would take you downstairs to my bedroom. And I would fuck you. And I would fuck you well.

They share the sexiest SILENCE you've ever seen onscreen as Lily ponders this with a racing heart. Simply-

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 don't eat carbs.

LILY
Well, c'mon. You don't 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?*

He smiles.

RYLE
All of them.

Off Lily. Somehow it wasn't turn off.

LILY
Well your honesty is refreshing, or off putting. I can't yet tell.

They stare at one another. This could go either way.

LILY (CONT'D)
I am... curious, though. Just cause I'm not one to sleep with someone I just met.

RYLE
Curious?

LILY
Yeah...

This rooftop scene more playful really great. But at this point here, finally at the VERY SEXY SILENCE let it play without the unreliable narrator line. Want to FEEL the difference and the transition and stop the one liners and be in this moment.

SILENCE. Ryle looking down at her lips again.

RYLE
Okay. Then. Exactly how far *would* you go?

Another very sexy silence. Then- In a whisper-

LILY
I'm not sure. ~~I'm an unreliable narrator.~~

He reaches out and grabs the edge of her lounge chair and- Drags it closer, their mouths only inches apart, their warm breath brushing softly against each other's lips.

Gently, he tucks a piece of hair behind her ear, then slowly grazes his fingers against her neck and finds the zipper on the front of her hoodie. He begins to unzip it, revealing her cleavage perfectly displayed by the v-neck of her dress.

Do we have the wardrobe to orchestrate this choreography? This is super important to have right wardrobe to sell this moment of sexual tension.

Ryle taking in every detail, his eyes landing on Lily's **HEART TATTOO now revealed** on her collar bone. He works his fingers back up, gently touching it.

RYLE
Too far?

Heart thrashing around in her chest. In a whisper-

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)
Fffuuuuuuck.

She turns to stare at him - their faces inches apart when- A **PIERCING RING** rips through the air- Ryle's hand stiffening as they both realize it's a phone. *His phone.* Dropping his forehead to her shoulder-

RYLE
Dammit.

Lily frowns as he fumbles in his pocket for his phone, standing up and walking several feet away from her to take the call.

Ryle CANNOT operate high. Audience will HATE him from his intro scene at first preview and if we don't fix now you will have to cut out and use ADR to fix and it's never as good.

RYLE (CONT'D)
(Into the phone)
Dr. Kincaid. Shit. What did the CT Show? What about Roberts? Okay. Give me ten minutes. Prep the OR. See you soon.

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 fucking 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, suspended between the desire to stay and the pressing need to leave. Then he opens the DOOR and disappears down the stairwell.

Lily is left shaken to her core, changed and confused. By the pure honesty of this stranger and 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. *

It's good you're giving young Lily some atitude/ humor like older Lily in these flashbacks but think imp. we only see the sparks of this when she's young. Not full blown. She's not fully confident yet. Would wait a beat till she get's to know Atlas more. Leave to you to find the right balance …

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)
Ugh. 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 nothing like Ned Flanders.
(then)
Don't worry, my dad won't even know they're gone; he doesn't wear jeans, t-
VERY clever 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.

YOUNG ATLAS
~~He's good to you?~~

Do we need?

YOUNG LILY
~~(genuinely)~~
~~The best. Always.~~
(changing subjects to something less grey)
My parents won't be home for like 45 minutes if you want to watch tv...

YOUNG ATLAS
Ok cool. What's this?

YOUNG LILY
A television.

YOUNG ATLAS
Ohhhhhh. The fuuuuuture.

YOUNG LILY
You dunno Ellen? Ohmygod! It's my favorite show of all time. She's like my imaginary friend, except... she's real. And uh, doesn't know I exist. Yet? I even write her letters. So dumb. I know. She'll never see them.

YOUNG ATLAS
(anything could happen)
Maybe she will.

He uselessly encourages her. 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
So... How did you end up here?

Just something to be mindful of … Lily and Atlas need their own rhythm and way of talking that's different than the Lily/Ryle banter.

YOUNG ATLAS
It had great curb appeal.

YOUNG LILY
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 churros 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?~~

would cut for pacing.

~~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 just think 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 BLOOM'S (OLD STOREFRONT)** 23

LILY
Hi, so sorry I'm late. Still getting used to the city. I just moved here.
(He gives her nothing.)
'Cause you know... Sometimes, you wanna go, where everybody knows your name. And they're always glad you came...

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

LILY
Nahh. Just popular 80s sitcoms...

REALTOR (CONT'D)
Sign here.

She jumps to comply.

LILY (CONT'D)
You got it.

REALTOR (CONT'D)
Rent's due on the 3rd.

LILY (CONT'D)
Thank you so much, this is really a dr--

The man just leaves. Welcome to Boston.

LILY (CONT'D)
...it was great talking to you, as well.

She looks up to see a beautiful brick storefront. Walks up to the door, puts in the key and turns the handle, revealing-

24 **INT. LILY BLOOM'S (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 and pieces of material falling out of it. She looks up and around - beaming at the mess.

CUT TO:

25 **INT. LILY BLOOM'S - AFTERNOON** 25

Can you cover image without spade and rake too so you have choice in post?

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. I just didn't hear you come in. Can I help you?

She walks toward Lily and extends her hand.

ALLYSA
Yea, um, I'm Allysa.

LILY
Lily.

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

LILY
There is? Oh, I didn't put a sign up...

ALLYSA
Honestly it does look pretty old, but I still felt like maybe I should come in... maybe there is some help wanted?

Lily is not quite sure what to make of her yet.

LILY
Look I'm not really hiring yet... I just got the keys a few days ago-

Allysa is already off and taking a look around.

ALLYSA
Oh my gosh that's so exciting! What are you gonna do with it?

LILY
(with a sheepish chuckle)
Well... It's gonna be a flower shop.

Suddenly, Allysa spins around in a circle and exclaims-

ALLYSA
Ugh I hate flowers.

Up to you but think it's more powerful and more like Lily taking more of a risk pitching her vision without knowing Allysa hate's flowers. (and who really hates flowers?) but again, up to you all.

LILY
I don't know, I kinda... Wanna do something different.

ALLYSA
Like what...?

LILY
Like, I'm going to take everything everyone loves about flowers, and... do the complete opposite. There are shops on every corner for people who *love* flowers. But what flower shop can possibly cater to all the people who *hate* flowers?

ALLYSA
...Oh I'm not sure I exactly understand but that sounds creepy. Tell me more.

LILY
No, it's more like-

Lily, confused and interested in this woman, brings her over **to her sketch book, the pages are lined with her dream of what this flower shop will become.**

LILY (CONT'D)
What if, instead of showcasing the sweet side of flowers, I showcased the villainous side?

Flipping through the pages, Lily reveals her bold design ideas - unlike any flower shop anyone has ever seen.

LILY (CONT'D)
Instead of pink accents, I'll use darker colors, like a deep purple or even black, like Deep Caviar.
(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)
And instead of just spring and life, I'd also celebrate winter and death. Think dark flowers wrapped in things like leather and silver chains- The ideas are endless.

ALLYSA
Ok, but let me ask you... what if someone walks in and they just want a pink flower?

LILY
I'll still give them what they want but... I'd also offer them what they don't *know* they want... Ya know?

Allysa scrunches her forehead, Lily feeling excited to be pitching her idea to someone who isn't her mom.

ALLYSA
What?! That is so twisted, and dark, and really creepy but in a weirdly sexy way... you're right I didn't know I wanted it but I love it!

Taking the notebook, Allysa flips to the last page, finding Lily's magazine cut-outs, recreated to resemble that same storefront, with a sign reading, ***"LILY BLOOMS."***

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Ok look, let me just say... I don't believe in coincidences because I think that we can actually be more purposeful than that, like I like to meditate on things and call stuff in, and I have been asking for something for me... and I have a really good sense of people and I have to say - I have a really good feeling about what you want to create.
And I'm not going to pretend I'm some, like, amazing decor person, BUT- I am addicted to Pinterest, and I feel like this was supposed to happen to me today. I promise I'm not like some weirdo who's going all over town saying this to people, BUT, if YOU need any help... in HERE. I'd do it for free. And if you don't like me... I'll just leave!

LILY
I'm sorry, what? You would do what for free?

ALLYSA
Sorry. I would work. For you! Look Lily. This is very vulgar but I'm rich. I'm like really rich and it's gross but I literally have nothing to do. And I'm looking for a worthwhile adventure that isn't like deciding whether or not to get bangs. Like I want to help someone to self actualize, and not to be intense but I don't know if you're feeling what I'm feeling but maybe you could help me do that too?

Lily looks around the room. Realizing she could really use the help...

LILY
Well, if we did this, I can't let you work for free. But all my money just went to this lease, so- I could do like ten bucks an hour if you're really serious.

Allysa starts clapping, and if she weren't in heels, she'd be jumping up and down.

ALLYSA
YES! We are going to make this the darkest, sexiest, strangest flower shop Boston has ever seen and I swear I will be your best employee ever! I have an excellent work ethic.

With that, Lily chuckles, baffled by Allysa. These two women locking eyes.

LILY
Okay.

Lily puts out her hand.

ALLYSA
Okay?
(hugging her)
I'm sure this is hundred percent inappropriate but I really do think I'm starting to love you.

Our FLOWER SHOP montage music rises.

SMASH TO FLOWER SHOP MONTAGE:

26 OMITTED 26

Montage good but you could do in less if you need trims.

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

Lily and Alyssa do very unsexy dirty work renovating the flower shop. They find some treasures, and also some disgusting shit like a vile, mushy hairball of hell. As they cough and choke and nearly vomit...

B27 Another day of intense cleaning and treasure hunting this shit hole. We see them from behind. When they turn we reveal they have on full hazmat face masks. They've found **cool but broken vases** and an **iron table** that they set aside. B27

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 Alyssa rocks out in giant head phones, dancing and sweeping like she's headlining her own arena tour. C27

D27 The women paint the walls together when Lily stops. She has an idea. She grabs paints and pigments and starts experimenting. She starts to dip roses in black ink. Paints the leaves Bronze. Drops pigments in the vase water. Red. Purple. Black. D27

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

LILY
Marry me.

E27 The women are now moving lightweight* decorative items inside during a windstorm. The items keeps blowing away. They fruitlessly repeat the action over and over. E27

F27 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. F27

LILY (CONT'D)
I got this.

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

ALLYSA
~~We need the patriarchy. They're useless for everything except hanging tall, heavy things that we don't want to.~~
(MORE)

Don't think you need but up to you.

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

LILY
typo
No it makes you as sexy ass genius for knowing when to delegate.

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

LILY
Perfect. I prefer my handymen drunk. This is a great idea.

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 don't need a job babe! I got you. Just like I did last night ...

ALLYSA
Don't keep talking, first of all your with my brother, and second your on speaker so don't keep talking at all. 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! Damn woman- You look hot.

ALLYSA
(To Lily)
He's definitely drunk but it's fine.
(To Marshall)
Just come in and drag my brother with you.

MARSHALL (V.O.)
Okay. But I can't promise I'm gonna keep my hands to myself with that ass on...

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

ALLYSA
HANG UP! Oh boy- You're about to meet my husband *and* my brother, fair warning.

LILY
(laughing)
Okay.

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 shit! This looks dope. It's like Wednesday had a baby with Harry Potter.

ALLYSA
Marshall, come meet my boss 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.

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

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

LILY
It's a little hard to explain.

RYLE
I can try. I *am* a little inebriated.
(after a beat)
Lily and I met... a few months ago...
We... uh...

Can we sit in the power of this moment of them seeing each other again without the jokes? They probably never thought the would see each other again. Can't we have the looks tell the story …

LILY
~~I had cosmetic brain surgery.~~

~~RYLE~~
~~Yeah. Yes. She had a Brazilian brain lift. It's gorgeous now.~~

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

Flustered, Lily squirms with laughter.

LILY
No, we just... Talked.

Suddenly, Marshall starts to dry heave-

MARSHALL
Oop- I- Too much free beer. Here it comes.

Marshall steps toward the front door and almost falls-

ALLYSA
No, no, no not in here! Outside!

Allysa pulls Marshall to the curb outside- Where he takes a heavy seat, Allysa rubbing his back. Left alone-

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 10.

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)
Ask you out on a date.

LILY
~~Eat lasagna?~~

Don't think regular audience will get this is a carb joke. I had to read it like 3 times.

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?

suggest callback to your rooftop line … "remember I'm an emotionally selfish workaholic.

RYLE
Just a general refusal to grow up. Maybe? So, you're safe.

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

Putty in her hands-

RYLE
Fuck. Look. 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.

think stronger without. end it on lily's "friendship" line.

RYLE
~~*Friend zone.*~~

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)
funny
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.
(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.

this is important. more power if she doesn't make it about herself re; therapist line and her run on way of talking (which is great) but not here. defer to you

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

gorgeous line

Lily's heart betrays her as she and Ryle LOCK eyes again. He finishes the chorus as if he's singing directly to her, without even knowing it.

28 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON STUDIO APARTMENT - NIGHT** 28

Lily sits in bed sketching, feeling confused and restless, she closes it, wiggles into her sheets and rolls over...

MATCH CUT TO:

29 **INT. LILY'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM (MEMORY) - NIGHT** 29

YOUNG LILY. Trying to sleep, as an **INDISCERNIBLE ARGUMENT** RISES from downstairs between a MAN and her mother, Jenny. The YELLING growing increasingly intense. Young Lily pulls back her blanket.

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

JENNY (O.S.)
Please. Can you please-- Lily's upstairs.

CLOSE ON YOUNG LILY as she puts a pillow over her head, trying to block out the abuse.

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

Young Lily is pulling radishes (her outlet) around a large flowerbed. She lays down mulch and compost. He helps. *

YOUNG ATLAS *
... What made you want to grow things?

YOUNG LILY
... I don't know. I guess, it sorta... Feels like a reward.

YOUNG ATLAS
A reward for what?

YOUNG LILY
When I take really good care of my plants, they reward me with flowers and fruits and vegetables and stuff. But when I don't... they shrivel up.

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
I guess. We're kinda like that. Humans I mean.

Seeing his pain, Young Lily searches her soul for the right words to offer him comfort. And- Then-

YOUNG LILY
Yeah. But 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 before we were born. And, it'll still be there long after we're gone.

Emotion in his throat, Young Atlas gazes at the tree- As-

YOUNG LILY (CONT'D)
Most plants *do* need a lot of help to survive. But, some things, like Oak trees, are strong enough to take care of themselves. No matter if it's raining or snowing. They keep standing. *Strong and sturdy.*

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

YOUNG ATLAS
... I heard what happened last night.

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 Alyssa shouts from the door. *

ALLYSA
-You wanna do the honors?

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

Great visual great moment

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
It's perfect. *

LILY
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. * * *

ha!

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 **INT. BOSTON LUXURY BUILDING, TOP FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT** 32

Close on Lily's feet, we boom up to reveal she is in a PARTY DRESS. We stay behind her follow her into the-

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

-killer 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. We turn around and reveal Lily.

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
I had seven bucks and drove a Ford Pinto when she fell in love with me.

LILY
Don't you still drive a Ford Pinto?

MARSHALL
Best car in the world.

ALLYSA
Pintos explode if they're rear-ended, but * I'm glad you roll the dice to appear * eccentric. *

Did clearance ok this?

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're upset.

Feeling silly, Lily turns again to the view, hating how much her emotions have gotten the better of her.

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. Stop buying me flowers. And stop staring at me the way you are right now. *

Not blinking, Ryle continues to stare. Lily giving him time to make his rebuttal. But he doesn't.

LILY (CONT'D)
What? Stop. What are you thinking right now? *

Ryle opens his mouth to speak, but falls silent. She starts to turn to leave. * *

RYLE *
I like you. *

It stops her. *

LILY *
What are you, five? *
(wanting to hear more) *
Go on. *

She's gonna make him work for it. *

RYLE *
But I don't *want* to like you. *

LILY *
Then don't. *

Lily turns and heads toward the door. Ryle watches her go. *

35 **INT. ALLYSA'S LOFT, GRAND LIVING AREA - NIGHT** 35

CLOSE ON LILY, grabbing Allysa's hand-

LILY
Hey, I'm sorry, this was so fun, I'm just * ?
way too 30s to be up this late. See you *
tomorrow. Happy Birthday. *

ALLYSA
You're the worst best friend I have. I * love you. See you tomorrow. *

Giving her a warm hug- *

Lily turns to take her leave, when-

RYLE (O.S.)
Lily, wait!

From the other side of the room, Ryle can be seen pushing through the crowd- Not slowing down-

LILY
Oh god.

Allysa stepping to the side as he plants himself right in front of Lily- it looks like he's going to kiss her but instead he grabs her hand.

RYLE
~~(slightly winded)~~
Hi. Again.

Half the room now watching. ~~She sees his best attempt at romance in spite of his awkwardness.~~

RYLE (CONT'D)
~~I was just gonna -- I have glossophobia. It's medical term for a fear of public speaking. I used to have to run to the bathroom --~~

please GOD NO mention of a run to the bathroom when we are supposed to be turning up the heat. He's Ryle. Not Michael Cera. (i do love Cera but …)

LILY
~~Please stop talking.~~

RYLE
I want to like you.

this scene is SO much sexier with less.

LILY
Ok. I'd like to hear more about that. If you want.

~~Genuinely appreciative for the lifeline.~~

RYLE
~~I want that very much.~~

He guides her out the door and-

36 **INT. BOSTON LUXURY BUILDING, TOP FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT** 36

Through the hallway, into the other door. What is she doing? The mischief of the moment fuels her--

I SO wish he could say something

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

ACTUALLY romantic before the first kiss. PAUSE the banter and playing cool or playing awkward and have a grown up romantic moment for our first kiss

-REVEALING the second half of the top floor. He walks in, closes the door. Silence. Neither move. Three feet apart they face off.

~~LILY~~
Well...

~~What's he going to say now to get her?~~

~~A silent nod and a flick of her hand like calling an animal to her--~~

We need these very few moments of heat/ sex to play.

~~LILY (CONT'D)~~
~~C'mon...~~

Ultimately, I'd love if you could give these two scenes bit more thought. Want it to be grown up. Great. May i

What happens next, happens fast. With unbridled passion, the two become one body against the wall. Their bodies aching for each other as- Ryle lifts Lily up- Hooking her legs around his waist and-

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

even hope for timeless?

He lays her on the bed- Climbing on top of her- When-

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. I need to... think.

Ryle covers his disappointment.

RYLE
Thinking is exactly what I had planned tonight.

Respectfully, he rolls over on his back. The two staring at the ceiling for a SILENCE. Then-

Lily turns to him. He matches her stare.

LILY
... I don't want to have sex. Not yet. Not tonight.

RYLE
Excuse me?

~~LILY~~
~~You should know-- I suffer from toxic masculinity.~~ I have my own intimacy issues, so I can't do casual. I don't trust that you can hang with that. And maybe you don't want to and that's fine. So...

He stares for a moment, completely unreadable. Then in one swift motion he gets off the bed. Pissed?

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

Off Lily, confused.

~~LILY (C~~CONT'D)
What are you doing?

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

I get we are making Ryle more 3d character and i'm all for it … much better.. but some moments better quiet.

LILY
We're what?

He unbuttons his shirt~~.~~

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

If you really love this fine do it … but can you cover so we get one without all the chatter and just see her looking at him … and audience with Lily POV as she's watching … and then have her ask for Pajamas? and then the thrill of that?

Lily can't help but stare.

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

~~He motions for her to turn around. Shirt comes off.~~

~~LILY~~
~~My god.~~

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

He begins to take off his pants. 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. Her breasts exposed below our frame. 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 * LILY *
JESUS MARY & JOSEPH. What are YOU doing here? * 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 * LILY (CONT'D) *
Oh. Oh. Oh god no this is awful. * No. No, it's not as bad as you think. *

Ryle enters still groggy in his PJs. *

ALLYSA (CONT'D) *
No. I just know my brother. And, I love him, I really do but look there's a reason he lives next door to me. He needs to be baby sat. *
(To Ryle) *
And I know you're standing right here but you know me, I'll say it in front of your face. And... but... *

RYLE (O.S.)
But *what?*

Allysa and Lily both turn- Finding Ryle standing in the doorway, still wearing his gray jogging pants, no shirt.

RYLE (CONT'D)
It sounded to me like you were about to give Lily a warning.

ALLYSA
Yeah, well- Forgive me for having very little "faith" in your ability to do something that you've never done before.

RYLE
Why are you inserting yourself in this conversation? This has nothing to do with you- It's none of your business- I see why you're concerned, and I know. *

ALLYSA
Lily and I are literally *in business* together! You can't just burst in like a bull in a china shop and break all our shit- You know how many girlfriends I've lost because of your bullshit?
(MORE)

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
We're building something here and I'm not gonna lose Lily, not without a goddamn fight, so you better check your honest-to-god level of sincerity here or you can fuck right off!

SILENCE. Our siblings too upset to say much more. Then-

LILY
Anyone care to hear what I have to say? Or should I just keep standing here... pretending to be invisible?

The siblings' shoulders drop, a bit ashamed. Softly-

ALLYSA
Of course we care.

LILY
(a beat, to Allysa)
I don't want things to get weird. That shop means everything to me.

RYLE
(Telling her why he likes her, pure facts.) And I want to do everything in my power for this to work. No games. No bullshit. * *

ALLYSA
... You better treat her right, or I'm gonna go seriously ballistic on your ass.

Taking the coffee mug with her, Allysa and Ryle exchange a sibling handshake of sorts. It's clear they love each other and have been through it. She stands and shuffles out of the kitchen. Leaving Lily and Ryle in SILENCE. After a beat, a little embarrassed-

RYLE
I can't say I blame her, I've been a perfect asshole up to this point.

LILY
What's changed?

RYLE
You.

Approaching her carefully, Ryle wraps his arms around her waist. Helplessly falling in love.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Let me be good to you. At least let me try.

Off Lily. Considering.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Tell me what you want. And I'll do it. I'll do anything.

A beat. Then with a smirk, Lily leans over and whispers in his ear-

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 OMITTEDMOVED TO E41 C40

A41 **INT LILY'S STUDIO - NIGHT** A41

Lily brushes her teeth while talking to Ryle on (Sony VIDEO CHAT). Ryle brushing his teeth.

B41 **INT RYLE'S LOFT- KITCHEN - NIGHT** B41

The kitchen overflowing with food in pots, saucepans, chopped on the counter. At the center of it all, Lily and Ryle sit talking to one another. Not tending to anything but each other.

C41 **INT. LILY BLOOMS** C41

Ryle very seriously helps Lily with flower arrangements. They have a big order they're filling. Lily, working alongside him, keeps subtly pawing at him. He bats her hands away, sweetly laser focused.

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 TV. 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.

These montage beats as written - in process i know and had to beat the deadline - but they are all VERY PG. Can we PLEASE mix it up so we have both?

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

Landing on a huge bouquet of RED ROSES and a box of chocolates 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)
Before we go through with all this, I think there's something you should know.

LILY
Ok.

RYLE
So it turns out... I don't do causal. Not anymore.

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?

Great scene.
Great Idea.
Great call back.
Great execution.

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.~~

Can we not do this as a runner?

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 from the bathroom 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, joining her.

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
Wait, she's sick??

LILY
Unfortunately, no. Which means I have to go.

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
What am I supposed to say when she asks what you do?

RYLE
Yoga instructor?

LILY
Damn, your mind is sexy.

RYLE
Namaste.

He starts to leaves.

LILY
No, wait, never mind. I don't think it's a good idea. You're gonna meet her and project what I'll be like one day, not that we're talking that far in the future yet, but you know what I mean. I think you think you want to meet her, but you really don't. Trust me.

He stops and looks back in her eyes. Gives her HALLOW HEART TATTOO a kiss. Slows her down. And drinks her in with a sweet glance.

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

this is LOVELY clever way to say I love you. not cheesy. unexpected. elegant.

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.

RYLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Byeee.

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

42 OMITTEDMOVED TO A46 42

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
You... made this? For me?

YOUNG ATLAS
I carved it out of a branch, from that oak in your backyard.

Amazed, Young Lily stares at him. Those eyes.

YOUNG ATLAS (CONT'D)
(in a whisper)
Strong and sturdy. Don't forget.

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)
I can't believe she lets him touch her.
He wears the same clothes every day.

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- Chuckling under his breath- As the two march away, down the street-

YOUNG ATLAS
I can't believe you just did that!

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 *
... I probably love to cook as much as you love to grow things. *

YOUNG LILY *
typo What kind ~~if~~ cookies are you making? *

YOUNG ATLAS *
My signature cookies. I call them "Hot Chocolate Cookies". Chocolate with a burnt marshmallow on top. *

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 ~~just now~~ because you really wanted to, or- Was it mostly to get back at Katie? *

YOUNG LILY *
Oh... Uh... *

He opens the oven door and puts the cookie sheets inside. Closes the door and- Pulls the oven mitt off his hand. *

YOUNG ATLAS *
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-

this whole scene SO lovely

YOUNG ATLAS
Keep an eye on the cookies. They'll be finished in 12 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
Think of how many minutes a day it would free up if I you didn't have to tell me ~~you~~ I love you all the time.

typos

ANDREW
I'll keep ~~that mind~~, kiddo.

A46 **INT. BOSTON GRACE HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - NEUROSURGERY FLOOR** A46

Lily bursts into the hospital hallway with energy, looking for Ryle. She finds him through a window entertaining an eight year old girl in a wheelchair pre-surgery. She gently knocks on the window. Ryle steps out concerned but, morning after excited to see her.

NEW I LOVE YOU MOMENTS for Ryle and Lily just great. but worried does intercutting this young lily and young atlas first kiss scene in between undermine Lily's i love you? It's too good to have anything step on it.

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

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

She hands him an old notepad.

Let's think on this together if this is best placement. want to protect both present and past.

RYLE
That's not mine.

LILY
I know.

She's already started backing away.

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

aaaahhhhhh u guys this is lovely

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, one foot off the ground.

CUT TO:

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 Alyssa, 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 * JENNY (CONT'D) *
Yes. He's a doctor. * No. He's not a doctor. *

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 * RYLE *
Don't do it. * 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. *

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?

RYLE
We feel confident. It's an honor to even be a part of it.

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?

In love with Ryle- Wanting to celebrate-

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? * * *

LILY
Yeah... I live here. Own a flower shop over ~~on~~ Back Bay. It's called "*Lily Bloom's.*" * *

just fyi, people say IN back bay - it's a neighborhood.

ATLAS
Lily Bloom's. Wow... you really did it. I'm not surprised. I'm so happy for you. So. Who's the lucky guy? * * *

LILY
His name is Ryle... What about you? Married? Girlfriend?

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

Lily doesn't love hearing this. But covers with a smile. SILENCE. Neither of them moving. *Or else break the spell.*

ATLAS (CONT'D)
... I don't want to keep you. You should probably 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
Sit back down, those city hall meetings last forever - 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, now you try.

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 think 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, the two begin to kiss again. Lily takes off his shirt.

YOUNG ATLAS (CONT'D)
Are you sure?

YOUNG LILY
So sure.

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
Why aren't you making *Allysa* have a beer? She's wearing a onesie, too.

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 adulting looks like.

The four CLINK their glasses together and drink.

LILY
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. "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. I'm positive she's had her guest list drawn up since I was 15. Which is why, if I ever get married, I'm gonna elope to a chapel in 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
Fuck 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 **INT. CHURCH - BEHIND LAST ROW OF PEWS** A53

Lily finishing the final arrangements. Ryle enters with a bag of clothes, shoes, and her dopp kit/makeup bag. She starts to take off her clothes and change right there.

LILY
Thank you so much for coming here. Sorry I'm so late. Today has been a lot.

RYLE
(sweetly protective of her)
You're just gonna change right here?

LILY (CONT'D)
It's fine. Guests don't arrive for 20 mins. Night wedding. I love my oddball clientele.

She stops changing for a beat.

LILY (CONT'D)
God I'm so sorry. I'm a disaster. I'm just tired. And too busy. And tired of being too busy.

RYLE
All good, you're good. The flowers are gorgeous.

Ryle sweetly puts his hand on her to calm her.

LILY (CONT'D)
That's sweet to say with all you have going on. I'm am pretty proud that we pulled it off-- wait, I'm so sorry. How was the surgery, how'd your hand hold up?

As she pulls out her makeup bag.

RYLE
It was good. The strangest thing happened when I went in to cauterize the left -- oh by the way, Alyssa and Marshall got it all screwed up so we're going to Root, the place we went to with your mom -- anyway when I went to cut the-

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

She covers her panic. Applies lipstick while he speaks, though her ability to hear or process what he's saying has left her.

RYLE
It's fine. They're already there. Allysa has already ordered half the menu. So when I went to cut the-

LILY
Oh ok. Perfect. Yeah. The food is so good. I'm excited.

She finishes getting ready. She sneaks a look at her concealer covering her bruise. He invisibly clocks it but neither admit it.

LILY (CONT'D)
That's amazing. I'm so happy it went well. Ok... shall we?

They smile at each other. So much unsaid.

53 OMITTED 53

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. ~~Creative people are terrible at time management.~~

They sit.

ALLYSA
Please don't worry for a second 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
Terrifying. But exhilarating.

MARSHALL
I'm proud of you, brother.

A WAITER arrives, dropping off their entrees.

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

typo

MARSHALL
I love Nebraska, but-

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

MARSHALL
Idaho?

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 restaraunt it's important to wear all the hats. Gotta have roots, ya know? Still working on my chef puns.

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, Allysa mid-sentence.

MARSHALL
...Good chat my man.

ALLYSA
Oh what an odd bird. He must be a genius.

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.

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

She enters the Women's single restroom, locking the door. Quietly-

LILY
Shit. Shit, shit, 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)
... No. But are you turning into yours?

His words sting. Sting so hard, tears kiss Lily's eyes.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Leave him.

LILY
Leave him? What are you talking about?
He's not like that- Ryle's a good person.

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

LILY (CONT'D)
I'm more scared of you right now than I have ever been of him.

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 fucking hand off and shove it down your throat - you piece of shit.

Good bumped up Atlas anger.

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
It's a long story- 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.

RYLE
...Ok. Ok.

They stand in the silence.

RYLE (CONT'D)
You have my heart, Lily, 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.

this scene is great too

RYLE
I hate this.

Sweetly.

LILY
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 KICKED 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? 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 fucking 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- Massaging her boobs- Whining-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
And my boobs... *my boobs*, Lily... every time my shirt moves, my nibs feel like they're on friggin' fire... make it stop.

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.~~

up to you ... but first line SO good

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
Uh... *yeah*.

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** paying a parking meter 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. After an awkward beat-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
(Whispering)
Ok I'm gonna go pee again and give you guys some privacy.

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-fuck... *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
Seriously, though. What are we waiting for?

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!!!!!

so far on paper … which is NOT a complete picture i know, but so far we are only R for language. Let's discuss.

MARSHALL
He's gonna wife the fuck outta you!

RYLE
~~We're not getting any younger. And~~ I've never been more sure about anything or anyone in my life.

He gets down on one knee, still holding the bundle of baby awkwardly in his arms.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Will you marry me Lily Blossom Bloom? Tonight.

LILY
Tonight? I don't even know how we could pull that off. You've lost your mind.

She stops herself REALIZING and bends down kissing his face all over.

I thought it was good we had mention Vegas here in previous draft. Easier for transition. Think it will play even better given you set up Lily wants to elope (due to mom) in previous scene.

LILY (CONT'D)
Yes. Yes. Of course. Yes! ~~But how are we gonna—~~

RYLE
~~I got this~~... ~~But I might need 'til tomorrow.~~

LILY
~~I knew you'd get cold feet.~~

No one cares about logistics in movies. think you can cut.

HARD CUT TO:

64 **INT. "ONE HOUR CHAPEL" - DAY** 64

Ryle and Lily sitting rigid on a bench. Dressed in full Elvis and Jessica Rabbit costume, a **fluffy white generic stuffed bunny** sits oddly next to them on the bench.

I'm good with this waiting scene if you all want it, but if you need cuts …

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. Ryle blows on her dice. Lily 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 *

Again, fine with morning if you guys love but think it's more romantic at night with fountain behind them. more the fantasy for the viewer. but you're call.

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. *

Do we have actual choreography yet for "make love" scenes?

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. *

JENNY **(ON SCREEN)**
Not possible. 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. *

From the box, Lily finds that **NAPKIN.** *Her empty list.* And. After a beat. She pensively pins it to the fridge.

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. * *

LILY
(with a laugh)
You first. I've already signed you up for Tinder. * *

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

-into the master bedroom, where 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)
You're scaring me - 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
Funny thing... I dropped your phone by accident and- The cover popped off and-

He holds up his hand, REVEALING the **STICKY NOTE.**

RYLE (CONT'D)
-I find this number hidden on the back.

CLOSE ON LILY. Her face screaming - ***"Oh-god, no-no-no."***

RYLE (CONT'D)
I thought. *"Huh. That's weird. Lily doesn't hide things from me."*

He angrily crumbles the number in his fist and looks at Lily. Whose heart drops into her stomach.

RYLE (CONT'D)
So... I called it.

Eerily, he stands and-

RYLE (CONT'D)
He's lucky I got his fucking voicemail!

-Chucks Lily's phone clear across the room- Where it CRASHES against the wall, SHATTERING to the floor-

LILY
Stop-it-I-can-explain!

But Ryle is already gone- Lily running after him- As he-

72 **INT. RYLE'S BUILDING, TOP FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY** 72

-Bursts from his loft and 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. Right after I found *this.*

Ryle places something on the pillow next to Lily. The crumpled up piece of paper that holds **Atlas' number.**

RYLE (CONT'D)
How did you get it? And why are you hiding it?

Shaking her head, Lily tries to explain.

LILY
He... he came to the store... he was only there for five minutes, you can ask Allysa... and he gave that to me...

Ryle breathes out a shaky breath.

LILY (CONT'D)
... I've never used it, I forgot it was even there.

Nodding with relief, deeply afraid to lose the one thing he loves most, Ryle looks at Lily in a way that actually makes us pity him.

RYLE
... Tell me it's nothing. Swear on our marriage.

LILY
... It's nothing. *I swear.*

CLOSE ON LILY AS... **MUSIC RISES... "HORIZON"** by Aldous Harding. UNDERSCORING AS... Lily allows Ryle to comfort her... kissing him back... as she weeps...

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 newspaper 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 LITTLE BLACK TEDDY.

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 NEWSPAPER.

LILY
Welcome home.

Ryle sets the stack of newspapers on the counter. Lily handing him a glass of wine. Thinking he's just tired-

LILY (CONT'D)
You see the article? Pretty cool, huh?

Ryle nods. Taking a sip of wine.

LILY (CONT'D)
Anyway. 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... I told you.

Locking eyes with her, Ryle takes another sip.

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. In a haunting whisper-

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, Lily falls SILENT- Ryle taking the paper and picking up where she left off- Growing angry-

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. When. Suddenly. Ryle violently starts hitting the NEWSPAPER against the counter - WHACK! WHACK! - Lily quickly landing on her feet and hurrying into the-

80 **INT. RYLE'S LOFT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT** 80

-Living room, Ryle chasing after her- Grabbing her and spinning her around- And- Throwing her on the couch.

LILY
Stop! You don't understand!

But Ryle is no longer Ryle- Lily pushing away from him as-

RYLE
He's everywhere- That fucking tattoo used to be my favorite goddamn part 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.)
Please be quiet- You'll wake up Lily.

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. It's not funny, this hand is my fucking career.

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

WE TRACK WITH LILY AS SHE RUNS TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR- RYLE FADING OVER HER SHOULDER- COMING TO HIS SENSES-

RYLE
Oh-god! Oh my god- *Lily?!*

Grabbing her purse and a jacket hanging by the door- Lily-

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?!

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 from the REARVIEW.

A86 **INT. LILY CAR, NIGHT** A86 *

again this just about time $ but i don't think you need and super powerful her going right to Atlas. her safety. speaks volumes.

Lily sits in her parked car. Trapped. Lost. Scared. * Embarrassed. Alone. She picks her phone to call Allysa, * but realizes she can't, then her mom... can't either... * She puts her phone down. Totally alone. *

86 **INT. ROOTS RESTAURANT, KITCHEN** 86

CLOSE ON FLAMES AS THEY EXPLODE UP FROM A SAUTÉ PAN. We reveal Atlas cooking up something amazing in the kitchen. As he cooks, he feels something to his right. We follow his gaze as he sees-

LILY. Standing at the entrance to the kitchen. Her coat covering her bare legs. Hair wet. Mascara stained eyes. She looks at him.

ours too!! this is gonna be so emotional!!!

Off Atlas. His heart breaking. Knowing what this means.

87 **INT. ROXBURY GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT** 87

We find Lily sitting on a examining table, wearing a hospital gown. REVERSE TO REVEAL- **Atlas**, standing on the other side of the room as a DOCTOR BROWN - female, 50s - cleans up the blood from the BITE MARK left on her collar bone. Atlas doesn't take his eyes off Lily.

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.

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 want 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 **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.*

89 **INT. ATLAS' HOUSE (VARIOUS) - NIGHT** 89

Entering first, Atlas flips on a few lights. *

ATLAS
You hungry?

Lily shakes her head. She doesn't have words.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
I'll show you where your sleeping...

90 **INT. ATLAS' HOUSE, PRIMARY BEDROOM - NIGHT** 90

Opening the door to the bedroom, Atlas lingers in the doorway as Lily enters. Points to the private bathroom-

ATLAS
There's a shower in there if you need it.

Lily takes in the room, it's clearly Atlas' room.

LILY
...this is your room. I can sleep on the couch

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Lily... It's all good.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
sweet I love sleeping on that couch.

He grabs a pair of old sweats and a t-shirt from the dresser. **The irony is not lost on either of them. The cosmic *role reversal* they never saw coming.**

ATLAS (CONT'D)
... here...

Deeply touched. She can barely get the words out.

LILY
... Thank you.

Nodding, Atlas simply nods and closes the door.

91 **INT. ATLAS' HOUSE, PRIMARY BATHROOM - NIGHT** 91

Inside the shower, Lily sits with her legs curled into her chest as the water falls down like rain. Crying so hard, she barely makes a sound.

92 **INT. ATLAS' HOUSE, PRIMARY BEDROOM - MORNING** 92

The sunlight gently kissing Lily awake, she lifts up in bed, hearing a WARM BUSTLING from across the house.

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.

ATLAS
Morning. Hope you're hungry.

LILY
I am.

He slides her a glass of OJ. Lily watches as Atlas puts the finishing touches on some gorgeous crepes, eggs, and sausage-

ATLAS
Coffee?

LILY
Yes, please, thank you.

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.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
I'll be back as soon as I can. And I'll bring you something really tasty, okay? Until then, raid the fridge, watch some TV- Make yourself at home. *

LILY
Are you sure?

ATLAS
Yes. *

He opens a drawer and pulls out a pen and paper and writes something on it before he leaves.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
See you soon.

The door shuts quietly. Lily stands up and walks to 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. Lily finally looks at her phone. Skipping through the MISSED CALLS and countless texts from Ryle- she lands on a text from Allysa, it's a photo of her and Rylee. *

ALLYSA **(TEXT)**
Came by the shop with Rylee, but it's closed. You okay? Can't get a hold of you guys!

Lily tosses her phone to the far end of the couch- Doing everything in her power not to just lose it again.

Needing a distraction she finally opens the DVR recordings and see's **multiple seasons of ELLEN have been recorded.** So damn sweet. She turns one on.

Lily watches Ellen, finally smiling.

ATLAS (O.S.)
Hey.

She looks up to find Atlas with TAKEOUT BAGS from his own restaurant. *

Setting the food on the coffee table, Atlas sits beside her.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
(Re the TV)
Happy you found them.

Lily smiles. He knows her so well. He starts unpacking a ton of food.

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**- They are both laughing. Food eaten. His feet are on the table. Lily leans over and puts her head on his shoulder. It's innocent, like old times. His thumb brushes the outside of her shoulder. A95

LILY
(whispers)
Atlas...
(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I got so mad at you that night at the restaurant. You were right. I always knew you were right, deep down, I just... didn't want to admit it.
(a beat)
You can say "I told you so" now.

ATLAS
This isn't something I wanted to be right about...

He looks at her. So much he wants to say. In this moment they feel 18 again. We don't know if they are going to kiss. And then he squeezes her shoulder and kisses her forehead. She covers her face with her hands - gently pulling away from him.

THANK YOU!

LILY
There's no Cassie is there?

Caught, Atlas submits.

ATLAS
No. There isn't.

After a very stunned SILENCE-

LILY
You... lied to me? Why would you lie to me?

ATLAS
You were with someone.

LILY
We had just started dating...

She falls SILENT. With grace and calm-

ATLAS
I said what I needed to say in the moment. Because I didn't know how serious you were, and you looked really happy. That's all I've ever wanted for you.

With a sigh, Atlas stares at the **HEART** on her collar bone, ***the bite mark there*** - deeply regretting his lie.

Lily can feel the tears forming. She turns to leave but he grabs her hand - gently.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Lily. Please. Talk to me.

She can't help it.

LILY
Why did you never come back for me?

He wasn't expecting this.

ATLAS
I did.

Lily is stunned.

LILY
Wait, what?

ATLAS
When I was on leave after my first tour - I went straight to Maine to find you.

Lily feels like she's had the wind knocked out of her.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
I ran into one of your friends, she told me which college you went to. I walked around your campus for two days looking for you. Finally, I saw you. You were sitting in a courtyard with a group of friends. You were laughing... you looked so happy. I had never felt that kind of happiness for another person. Seeing you that way. Just knowing you were okay... I was walking towards you, then a guy came up behind you, wrapped his arms around you. When you saw him, you lit up like a Christmas tree. So I left and did four more years.

She closes her eyes. She can't believe this.

LILY
That was just a boy I dated for a few months...

ATLAS
All I knew was that you were happy. For years I regretted not saying anything to you but at that point in my life I had nothing to my name... nothing to offer... and you deserve so much more than that.

On Lily, grieving the life that could have been.

LILY
perfect
Your timing sucks.

They both smile. He shrugs.

The **MUSIC BOX *("Lily and Atlas' Theme)*** playing faintly in the background, one last time. The MUSIC UNDERSCORING as-

95 **EXT. ATLAS' TRUCK / BOSTON STREET - MORNING** 95

The next morning, Atlas pulls up in front of Lily's car, left by the restaraunt. They exit and walk up Lily's car. The two linger, neither of them wanting to say goodbye.

she's pregnant the father is an abuser. Atlas would never let her leave without knowing she has a safe plan before he just drops her and walks away. Even if we hint they had this conversation already off screen .. he offered for her to stay with him, etc.

LILY
Thank you.

ATLAS
Yeah, no, of course...

With that, they 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. He backs away and looks at her. Gives her a wink. And turns towards his truck.

But just as Lily opens the door and starts to get in- Atlas rushes back. A side of him we haven't seen.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
Look. I know this is the last thing you need to hear right now, but I have to say it because I've walked away from you too many times without saying anything. At all.
(Then)
... the night before we met, when I first broke into that old house... I didn't go in there because I needed a place to stay...

Off Lily- confused.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
... I broke in there to kill myself.

Having never heard this before, Lily sucks in a breath.

ATLAS (CONT'D)
I remember I was sitting on this musty old living room floor with a razor in my hand... and then out of the corner of my eye, through the broken window... your bedroom light came on.

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 crazy but it's true, and just seeing your face... in the light... I wanted to end it... but I couldn't do it. The very next day, you knocked on the door. And fed me.
(pointedly)
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)
I love you, Lily. *I never stopped...*
And in the future... If by some miracle you ever find yourself in the position to love again. Fall in love with me.

Lily simply nods...

With one last look goodbye, Lily gets into her car and watches 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, but... I didn't know he was capable of this.

She's trying to make sense of it-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
Has he... ever told you about Emerson?

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... I think you deserve to know...

(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?

A beat-

ALLYSA
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 and... 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)
Ryle shot him. Emerson. His best friend. His big brother. And... he's never been the same since.

With great compassion, Lily grabs Allysa's hands as she continues to weep. Barely able to speak-

ALLYSA (CONT'D)
My brother loves you... he loves you so much... You have changed his entire life, 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.

It takes a moment for her words to register. These two women wrapping their arms around each other 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. Finally, he turns to Lily- Softly- Simply-

RYLE
Most days I'm fine. But... every now and again... I just... I don't know... I get so angry that I... lose control.
(voice quivering)
I know I hit you after I burned my hand. I know I pushed you down the stairs. I know I hurt you... but... I can change.

SILENCE. Lily gathering her strength. Readying to distill her own Naked Truth. Finally- 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 still exists... but nothing you've gone through and nothing I do gives you the right to lay one fucking 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.

RYLE (CONT'D)
One more try, that's all I'm asking for.

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
Can you promise me something? Until this baby comes, and I decide whats best for us... please don't try to talk me into forgiving you. And please don't try to kiss me again. It's... very confusing.

She pulls from his chest and looks at him. Softly-

RYLE
Promise.

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, The OBGYN standing by. They both look at the monitor.

OBGYN
... do you want to know?

LILY
~~You can tell already?~~

fine … just a trim for pacing suggestion

OBGYN
~~We can.~~

Not sure. She thinks of Ryle. In some way, wishing he was here. Gathering her strength

LILY
Ok.

OBGYN
See that? That's her little head.

LILY
Her?

As we push in on Lily... her whole world changing. *

99 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON TWO BEDROOM, NURSERY - DAY** 99

Now 7 months pregnant - Lily paints a GARDEN MURAL on the wall in her apartment. Transforming her den into a nursery. ALYSSA comes up behind her and hugs her. They look at the mural. * * * *

100 **OMITTED** 100 *

A101 **INT. LILY'S BOSTON TWO BEDROOM, LIVING ROOM DAY** A101 *

WHO SENT THE PIES????? let it be atlas, let it be atlas let it be atlas .... but it's probably alyssa or ryle.

She hears a knock. Opens the doors to pizza and a handwritten note and a Lily: "In case you two are hungry. Consume while hot*". * * *

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 drink 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.)
You still have that toolbox of yours?

Forcing a "cheery" voice- As if all is well-

LILY
Yeah. Be right there.

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 give you all 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 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
Just like you *never intentionally* meant to hurt me?

With a sigh- Filled with shame- Shaking his head-

RYLE
You are my wife... 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.

With a sigh, Ryle flops on his back, staring at the ceiling. Then- Simply- Almost afraid to ask-

RYLE
If I got help... is there still a chance that... you'd take me back?

LILY
... Right now my only priority is having this baby.

RYLE
One monumental, life-changing thing at a time. Got it.

Ryle makes his way to his feet. Pushing the crib against the wall and placing the mattress on top. It's finished.

RYLE (CONT'D)
I should get to work.

Lily tries to push herself out of the rocking chair, but struggles- Ryle reaching for her hand to help her up.

Once she's standing, Ryle doesn't immediately release her hand. The two only a few inches apart. With a sigh, Lily presses her forehead against his chest and closes her eyes. His cheek meets the top of her head and they stand completely still, neither wanting to move. Then Ryle releases her hands.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Check on you later?

LILY
'Kay.

And with that, Ryle takes his leave, Lily remaining in the nursery. Her gaze falling on the GARDEN MURAL. And it gives her a sense of hope.

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
Can't wait.

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
Call the florist on Broadway, they owe 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.

ALYSSA (O.S.)
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 and excitement- Taking his place at Lily's side.

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!

PUSH and SQUEEZE and SWEAT and SCREAM-

RYLE
There she is... she's here...

Lily opens her eyes, the doctor holding the baby up. Just as the nurse is going to take her away to clean her. *

LILY *
No. No. Bring her to me. *

The BABY GIRL is placed on Lily's chest, the absolute greatest moment of her life- As Ryle cuts the umbilical cord... *

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. Then- In a whisper-

RYLE
Naked truth? She's so much prettier than Allysa and Marshall's baby.

The two laugh- Lily elbowing him.

RYLE (CONT'D)
Kidding, kidding.
(a beat)
What do you want to call her?

LILY
I was thinking 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
We could call her Emma. Or Emmy.
(OFF RYLE)
What do you think?

RYLE
... 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.

Lily is now crying, too, but 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?"

Kissing the baby's forehead, Ryle weeps.

LILY (CONT'D)
Tell me. I need to know what you would say to our daughter if the person she loves, ever hurts her.

A sob breaks from his chest. As 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 and wipes his eyes. 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. 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
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 **EXT. LILY'S MAINE HOME, DRIVEWAY - DAY** 110

Lily drives by her childhood home. She slows to a stop. A SOLD sign in the front lawn. Her eyes fall to... The condemned house now fixed up and beautiful. And next to it the **MIGHTY OAK TREE.** Standing tall, sturdy and strong. And. It gifts Lily the courage to-

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.

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.
(MORE)

JENNY (CONT'D)
To show you... what it meant to be strong. 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 dad.

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. BOYLSTON STREET (FARMERS MARKET) - DAY** 113

Lily. Five years older. Five years wiser. Walking through the farmers market on Boylston Street on a bright, sunny day. We pan down to reveal she is holding hands with **EMMY**, now 5, looking happy and healthy.

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, guess what?

RYLE
Oh-my-goodness- *What?*

He puts her down and kneels down face to face with Emmy. *

EMMY
I grew six whole inches- Mommy marked it on her wall!

Ryle glances up at Lily who whispers-

LILY
Millimeters.

RYLE
Wow! You are so big!

Lifting Emmy into his arms-

RYLE (CONT'D)
(To Lily)
Did you get my email?

LILY
Yeah, about the playpen recall?

Ryle pops Emmy into her carseat. Lily throws her overnight bag in the trunk.

RYLE
Didn't we buy one of those for her?

LILY
Yeah, but it broke like a month ago. I threw it in the dumpster.

Touching Emmy's chin with his fingers-

RYLE
Did you hear that, Emmy? Your mommy saved your life.

Emmy just laughs. Ryle kisses her forehead sweetly. Lily watching them fondly. Assured that, despite his brokenness... ***Ryle is a good dad.***

LILY
Okay, honey- Give me one last kiss.

Lily leans over, Emmy kisses her on the mouth. To Ryle-

LILY (CONT'D)
Have a good weekend.

RYLE
See ya Monday.

Ryle starts to buckling Emmy in the backseat- Lily heads back the way she came...

114 **EXT. FARMERS MARKET - A FEW MINUTES LATER** 114 *

She 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.

THANK YOU!!

Ange x