

TO KNOW YOU

Written by

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FADE IN

EXT: STREET - ART GALLERY - DAY

SOFIA, (26), is making a phone call on a Motorola flip phone that is decorated with glittery stickers. Dressed completely in black, with green painted nails.

She smokes a cigarette while she talks on the phone to RICHY, (28), her on again, off again boyfriend.

RICHY (O.S.)

Hello?

SOFIA

Did you finger Ellie Goode?

RICHY (O.S.)

Sorry, what?

SOFIA

I had my tarot cards read by a psychic at the gallery and she said you did, just now, at the bus stop, even after you promised Richy, even after the blood ritual we did together, well, I did, for us, you know you're fucked right?

RICHY (O.S.)

Just now, at the bus stop? What bus stop? Babe i'm at home.

SOFIA

Why would she lie?

RICHY (O.S.)

Because it's bullshit babe.

SOFIA

It's not bullshit, it's serious man.

RICHY (O.S.)

What about last week, I remember you kept saying that was bullshit.

Sofia rolls her eyes.

SOFIA

(frustrated)

Do you have a fetish for fucking me off?

There is a beat of silence.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

What happened between me and Christianna has nothing to do with you, it has nothing to do with anything.

RICHY (O.S.)

You let Christianna fuck you on a blow up couch in the middle of the party, in the middle of everyone.

SOFIA

(really worked up)

This conversations really making me want a fucking hit right now but I can't because I'm at the gallery which you knew, which makes you the most inconsiderate low life fuck up I have ever met, and you said you'd be here, like where the fuck are you?

There is silence as Richy is silent on the phone line.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

I hope Satan has barbed wire around his strap on when he fucks you. I'm going to delete your number now. Goodbye Richy.

Sofia hangs up abruptly, taking the last drag of her cigarette before moving back inside the art gallery to socialize.

INT. ART GALLERY - MOMENTS LATER

It is the first day of Sofias open art house. We see a multitude of vivid paintings and portraits throughout the open space. Red light fills the room.

Sofia brushes through the crowd, passing by MARIANNE, (33)

Sofia stops in front of one of her main portraits. A white collared, grey suited CLIENT, (45) of Sofias is stood staring at the painting.

CLIENT

A little bit inappropriate for an art house display don't you think?

Sofia turns to the client.

SOFIA

Excuse me?

CLIENT

When I commissioned a piece I wasn't expecting so much...

SOFIA

So much what?

CLIENT

Nudity. You're painting women in such compromising pornographic positions, it seems unnecessarily graphic and explicit.

SOFIA

With all due respect sir, I hope you don't mind me asking if this conversation is about how explicit you think my paintings are or the fact that you can easily search up billions of photos of naked women in less than thirty seconds whenever you want to, like you could try for yourself right now if that might help you see things any differently sir ?

The client stares at Sofia stunned, completely lost for words.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

All you're looking at is the nudity sir, you're deciding it's explicit when its not about the nudity, it's about so much more than that, like the endless pressure to look a certain way because 'you'll only be pretty if your ribcage shows, 'because he'll only like you if the light falls on your collarbones just right'. It's about the way you're constantly being perceived, the hours you spend taking photos when you never even wanted to in the first place, because you think it might make him treat you with an ounce of respect, and still it never does.

CLIENT

I think you've made your point

SOFIA

When all it takes is for one random person to laugh at you or say you're asking for it and call you disgusting. That's exactly your sentiment when you try tell me that my paintings of naked women, women at their most fucking vulnerable and most honest are deemed to be too explicit for the world to see sir, and on that note I think you should leave.

CLIENT

I never meant to offend.

SOFIA

Women's bodies are anything but offensive sir now please the door is that way.

INT. OPPOSITE SIDE OF ART GALLERY - MOMENTS LATER

MARIANNE, is across the room from Sofia. She stares at an enlarged film photograph, eyes wide, completely entranced. A lady, HELENA, (38) standing next to her, glass of wine in hand and already a little tipsy, makes casual conversation with Marianne.

HELENA

It's beautiful isn't it?

MARIANNE

(confused)

Yes, but i'm not sure what it means.

HELENA

Sofia, the artist, the girl whose running the gallery, she was adopted as a child and this is the only photo she has of her family, her two older sisters and her.

MARIANNE

Are you a close friend of Sofias?

HELENA

(jokingly)

She's been coming to the wine and  
paint nights I host for as long as  
I can remember.

Helena offers Marianne a glass of red wine silently, still  
staring at the photograph.

MARIANNE

Oh, no I'm okay.

Helena finally turns to look at Marianne.

HELENA

You really look like her you know?  
If I didn't know any better I would  
say you were separated at birth.

MARIANNE

What makes you think that?

HELENA

You've the same sad blue eyes.

Helena stumbles off into the crowd as Marianne eyes move up  
from the portrait to Sofias artist description on the wall.  
Scanning the description, she notices Sofias contact details.

She pulls out her phone and goes back and forth making the  
motion to call Sofia.

Impulsively she takes a glass of wine straight from the hands  
of the stranger standing next to her, chugs it down in a  
matter of seconds for some soft courage before leaving the  
gallery.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Marianne dials Sofias phone number as she walks down the  
street. THE DIAL TONE RINGS.

INT. ART GALLERY - AT THE SAME TIME

Sofia is sitting on a glass bench in the middle of an  
ENDLESSLY CHATTING CROWD. She lets out a SIGH and rests her  
head on her hands. Her phone VIBRATES and reluctantly she  
answers.

SOFIA

Richy, I swear to fu...

MARIANNE

(timidly)

Oh, hey, you don't exactly know me...

SOFIA

If you're the woman trying to sell me a year long supply of zero calorie gluten whatever the fuck free chocolate chip banana bread, yeah I still don't want any and I'd appreciate if you could delete...

EXT. STREET - AT THE SAME TIME

Marianne hangs up on Sofia as she is mid sentence. She pauses on the street. She looks up to the sky for a moment or two before pulling her mobile phone back up.

Marianne proceeds to text Sofia the following message;

MARIANNE

We're not really strangers.

EXT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Marianne is sat across from her husband TOM (36). He pours her a glass of wine.

MARIANNE

(enthusiastically)

How was your day? I missed you.

TOM

Meetings after meetings, you know how hard work is, but I think we're closing in on the Salisbury deal.

MARIANNE

That's wonderful love.

TOM

What about you dear, what have you gotten up to today, no more trains to nowhere I hope?

MARIANNE

I went to an art gallery actually, it was incredible.

Toms phone CHIMES loudly on the table interrupting Marianne.

TOM  
 Sorry love, I really have to  
 respond to this, one second.

MARIANNE  
 Oh, okay, sure.

A WAITER brings over the couples food. Marianne continues to talk, hoping that she'll spark her husbands attention, refusing to let the table fall silent.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
 That wasn't actually what was  
 incredible about today, not really.  
 I think I finally found her.

Tom looks up at Marianne.

TOM  
 Huh?

He hasn't listened to a single thing she has said. He looks back down at his phone continuing to text. Marianne pokes her fork around her food.

MARIANNE  
 My sister Tom, I think I found her.

Toms fails to respond, completely disengaged from the conversation. Marianne notices his disinterest.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
 (hiding her hurt)  
 I feel so lucky!

Tom looks up again and smiles.

TOM  
 Lucky?

MARIANNE  
 To have you!

There is a subtle note of sarcasm in Mariannes voice as she reaches across the table to hold Tom's hand.

Tom smiles warmly at Marianne and without saying another word, his head drops down to his phone once again.

Mariannes smile fades away and she slumps back in her seat. She looks down at her food and out towards the street. There on the footpath lies a dead pigeon. She zones out completely gazing at it as Tom continues to type. She finds it both lovely and sad.



TOM (O.S.)  
 Marianne! Are you even listening to me?

Marianne is immediately broken out of her daydream.

TOM (CONT'D)  
 I'm just going to wash my hands, can you watch my food for me? Make sure they don't take it away.

MARIANNE  
 (softly)  
 Oh, yeah, sure love.

Marianne is left alone at the table, alone with her thoughts once again.

Mariannes phones RINGS. She shuffles through her bag eagerly and answers the call straight away.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
 Hello?

SOFIA (O.S)  
 Hey, sorry, am I calling the right number? It's Sofia, I never actually got your name I don't think? Have we met before? I'm terribly confused.

MARIANNE  
 Oh, sorry, hi, I tried calling earlier, it's Marianne.

SOFIA (O.S)  
 Okay?

MARIANNE  
 (apprehensively)  
 I'm not sure how to say this and what its going to mean to you but something so strange and surreal just happened and I think I'm your sister, I think you're my sister, I...I think we're sisters.

SOFIA (O.S.)  
 Don't joke around like that.

MARIANNE (O.S.)  
 No, I wouldn't lie, I promise, I mean it.

SOFIA

How can you mean something so big over the phone?

MARIANNE

The film photograph, in your exhibition, I came upon it by chance earlier, and well, I have the very same photo.

SOFIA

What do you mean?

Marianne pulls the tattered black and white photo up onto the table. Her fingers tap along its edges.

MARIANNE

There's the three of us in it right? With face paint and fairy wings and wands? You're on the left, laughing and smiling, missing your front tooth. I'm the girl standing on the right, the little badge on my t-shirt that says Marzipan on it? Everyone always called me that, I have the very same photo, its all i've ever had and i'll bet you anything the girl in between us? Our sister, she's grown up with the same photo her whole life too.

SOFIA

(Under her breath)

Why didn't the psychic fucking tell me this?

MARIANNE

Hello?

SOFIA

Oh, hi, sorry, yeah i'm still here, i'm just, trying to process it all, like this is terrifying but in the nicest way imaginable.

MARIANNE

I'm still trying to get my head around it all.

SOFIA

Yeah like total fucking backflip into oblivion.

There is a beat of silence between the two.

MARIANNE

But hey, would you wanna meet for a drink maybe, we could go to a bar or if you felt more comfortable even just a coffee, now I don't even drink coffee but I'll get like a hot chocolate or a mocha, pretend coffee.

SOFIA

You know what, fuck it, yeah you can show me the photo.

MARIANNE (O.S.)

Sometime next week maybe?

SOFIA

As long as you don't turn out to secretly be a psychotic axe murderer okay because I'm not cut out to be a final girl if shit gets fucked.

MARIANNE

(laughing)

I promise.

Tom arrives back to the table just as Marianne hangs up the call.

TOM

Who was that?

MARIANNE

I know I sound insane okay but I think I might have finally found someone I've always been looking for.

TOM

Yes, go on, elaborate.

MARIANNE

(apprehensively)

My sister Tom, I found my sister.

TOM

You're joking right?

MARIANNE

No, for real, Tom, today at the gallery, this is what I was sayi...

TOM  
 (interrupting)  
 You've taken your meds today right?  
 You're still taking them?

MARIANNE  
 (frustrated)  
 Yes Tom, I'm still taking them.

TOM  
 Right, okay, okay, so a sister!  
 That's a twist. All that time you  
 spent digging was worth it.

MARIANNE  
 I always told you how much I wanted  
 to find my family, after everything  
 with mum. It almost doesn't feel  
 real that I have found her.

TOM  
 I know love, I just worry about you  
 is all, I don't want you going out  
 there making a fool of yourself  
 love.

Marianne looks down at her food, biting her lip until it  
 bleeds.

Tom notes the silence at the table and digs into his food. He  
 scrapes his knife and fork on his plate again and again as he  
 eats.

MARIANNE  
 Obviously I'm a little guarded,  
 maybe even afraid she won't like me  
 or if it doesn't work out I'll feel  
 rejected in some way. She's a  
 complete stranger to me and yet  
 she's every single part of me Tom.

TOM  
 If you're happy, I'm happy for you  
 love. I mean that, I just want the  
 best for you.

Tom reaches across the table and takes Mariannes hand in his.  
 Tom glances out the window and sees the dead pigeon on the  
 street.

TOM (CONT'D)  
 Did you see the city hall up in  
 flames earlier?  
 (MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

I suppose it doesn't do much for  
it's people these days anyway.

MARIANNE

I think it's kind of beautiful  
because it's just so sad.

TOM

You always think the most offbeat  
sad shit is beautiful Marianne,  
thats what I love about you. I  
really do love you, you know, its  
all i've ever felt.

Marianne takes a sip of her wine.

MARIANNE

I've never felt it so well Tom.

INT. ICE CREAM CAFE - AFTERNOON

Marianne sits at a table in the corner of an ice cream cafe,  
a vanilla ice cream cone melts all over her hand, but she's  
too nervous to notice.

A customer walks into the shop followed by his dog, a King  
Charles Cavalier who runs over to Mariannes side. Marianne  
drops down to pet the dog, gushing over him. She lets the dog  
lick her ice-cream.

The door of the cafe CHIMES again, signaling another  
customer. Marianne looks up, making direct eye contact with  
Sofia.

SOFIA

(nervous)

Hi

MARIANNE

Hi, so nice to meet you oh my gosh

Marianne and Sofia hug one another.

SOFIA

How are you?

MARIANNE

I'm shaking, I have chills.

Marianne and Sofia grasp each others arms, staring at each  
other in awe.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

SOFIA

Yeah, I'm okay, I just didn't know what to expect really.

The two women sit down together.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

This is so unbelievable.

MARIANNE

I don't even know what to say, it's just so strange

SOFIA

Very surreal.

MARIANNE

But it's a good thing, it's so good.

SOFIA

You know I didn't think we'd look this much alike. We've the same eyes.

MARIANNE

The exact same bent nose.

SOFIA

It's stupid but i've always fucking hated my nose, I've always wanted to change it, and now I'm here seeing you I don't feel that way quite so much anymore.

MARIANNE

We're kind of living proof that generations of our face has been so loved and adored, that's what I always tell my daughters.

SOFIA

You have kids? No fucking way!

MARIANNE

Yeah, Lilly, she's eight and Emily, she just turned six. I adore those girls.

SOFIA

So do you know much about mum or the family history, anything at all?

MARIANNE

So I actually grew up with mum, but...

The cafe door CHIMES yet again and in rushes EDEN (30), a tall, dark haired woman. Eden wanders over to Sofia and Mariannes table.

EDEN

I am so late, I am so, so sorry.

MARIANNE

Sofia, I didn't really know how to tell you this over the phone but this is Eden, your other sister.

SOFIA

Oh my gosh.

MARIANNE

After you called, I thought well, I had nothing to lose and I have so many contacts in the journalism world because of my job and I just put out the photo of us three in as many newspapers and magazines as I could.

EDEN

I thought I was seeing things that weren't really there when I saw it. I sat there looking at it, for hours.

Sofia jaw drops in awe.

EDEN (CONT'D)

My late entrance probably adds a little more shock value to all this than it was supposed to, but Sofia, that's such a beautiful name, I am really excited to meet you.

Sofia struggles to say anything, she is completely dumbfounded. She slides the photo of her and her sisters as children onto the table. Marianne and Eden follow suit and do the same. Three identical photographs rest together on the table.

SOFIA

Somehow I convinced myself this was all a lie. I never thought for a second that I would ever be able to know how it felt to hug my sisters but you both have the photo. I've looked at that photo my whole life wondering about you both.

EDEN

I feel exactly the same.

SOFIA

It is kind of outrageous right?

MARIANNE

I was so nervous to meet you both, I don't think I have ever been this nervous in my whole life, I'm trembling, it doesn't feel real.

EDEN

I think everyone can probably hear our hearts beating right now.

The three sisters LAUGH together at the table.

SOFIA

Marianne was just telling me about mum, she grew up with her.

EDEN

Really? What is she like?

MARIANNE

She actually, well, she struggled a lot and her husband, dad, he never gave her the support she needed you know? So it was a difficult time and I actually did end up being adopted when I got a little older too, but mum was lovely, and she always tried. She was beautiful.

EDEN

She's not around anymore is she?

Marianne shakes her head silently.

EDEN (CONT'D)

I guess history is frayed around the edges a little bit.



Sofia looks down at the white tiled floor, her nose SNIFFLING. Eden comforts her silently rubbing her back gently.

MARIANNE

Sorry, I never asked earlier, can I get you guys anything?

EDEN

Surprise me!

SOFIA

Could I get the, what is it, the strawberry pink gin? With a cone not a tub please?

MARIANNE

Yeah of course I'll be back in a minute.

EDEN

Thanks Marianne.

Marianne walks toward the cafe counter to order two more cones. Sofia and Eden turn to each other at the table.

EDEN (CONT'D)

She so lovely isn't she?

SOFIA

So fucking lovely.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marianne lies across the end of the bed, on top of the covers, humming softly, her feet delicately swaying in the air.

Tom, lies beside her, under the covers, reading a book.

TOM

What are you so happy about?

MARIANNE

I'm proud of myself, I did something unexpected today.

TOM

What?

Marianne sits up and turns to Tom.

MARIANNE

You promise you won't laugh if I tell you?

TOM

I promise. I won't laugh love.

There is a moment of silence as Marianne suddenly grows apprehensive, fidgeting with her hair.

MARIANNE

I met with Sofia today, Sofia and Eden. My biological sisters.

Marianne smiles at Tom.

TOM

Oh.

Tom returns his gaze back to his book.

TOM (CONT'D)

That's not so unexpected. Love are you sure about this? About these people? I mean they're practically strangers.

Marianne moves up towards Tom in the bed.

MARIANNE

They don't feel like strangers Tom, I would know. I've felt like one my entire life, up till now. It was instant Tom, just the feeling of being completely at ease around them. And you said you wanted to see me happy.

TOM

I did. Of course, I want to see you happy, that's all that matters to me love.

Tom slides his hands down Mariannes bare arms and holds onto her hands firmly.

MARIANNE

I just couldn't stop looking at their eyes you know, they were exactly as blue as mine are. There's definitely love for each other you know and I'm so glad I get to have that.

TOM

I love you Marianne.

Marianne stares down at Toms face, concentrating, analyzing.

MARIANNE

Do I make you happy?

TOM

I'm the happiest man in the whole entire world. I love everything about you Marianne, every single thing.

MARIANNE

So you're not mad at me?

TOM

Why would I be mad at you Marianne? I'm out here saying I love you. What would I be mad about? Is this about your sisters? Sofia and whats her name? Babe listen to me, I'm gonna be the first to say, I'm not too happy I have to share you now but I mean it when I say I'm happy for you. It's nice to see you smile again.

MARIANNE

I don't know, I just wanted to make sure I'm not doing anything wrong.

TOM

You couldn't do anything wrong even if you tried love.

Tom leans up and kisses Marianne on the forehead.

Marianne playfully kisses Toms face again and again.

Tom laughs.

INT. BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Tom is pulling different shirts off of hangers, getting dressed for work.

He admires himself in the mirror as he does so.

TOM

(calling out)

Love, did you iron this shirt?

Marianne appears beside Tom, still in her pajamas, with unbrushed tangled messy hair.

MARIANNE  
Oh, it was wrinkled.

TOM  
You can't iron a shirt like this love, it permanently damages the silk. It has to be steamed. I thought you knew this. You see?

Tom holds out the shirt to Marianne.

MARIANNE  
Oh, love, i'm sorry, i'm so, so sorry. Do you have another shirt you can wear?

TOM  
Not one that goes with this tie.

TOM (CONT'D)  
(under his breath)  
Fuck. What the hell am I gonna do.

MARIANNE  
Do you want me to run out somewhere, I can get you a new one, before I bring the girls to school?

TOM  
I don't have the fucking time for that.

Marianne is silent until LILLY (8) comes round the corner.

LILLY  
Can you plait my hair mum?

Marianne gently runs her fingers through Lillys hair as she looks to Tom for approval.

TOM  
It's okay, its okay, don't worry about it.

MARIANNE  
I'm sorry.

TOM  
Yeah, you said it before, its fine.

Marianne sits at the edge of her bed, gently plaiting Lillys hair.

EMILY (6) runs into the room, clutching her teddy bear.

EMILY

Can you teach me to plait hair too  
mommy?

MARIANNE

Of course little lady bug, here,  
scooch up

Emily sits up beside Marianne watching her closely as she plaits her sisters hair.

There is a beat of silence before Tom, storms down the stairs and out the front door, letting the door BANG to a violent close. He does not say goodbye to Lilly, Emily or Marianne. He does not 'have the time' for that.

EMILY

Why is daddy so angry mommy?

MARIANNE

He's not angry love, he's just  
stressed thats all.

Marianne playfully squeezes Emilys cheeks together and smiles.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Nothing you have to worry about  
love.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Okay, thats you princesses ready,  
have a pretty day little love-bugs,  
and enjoy the sleepover with Sierra  
and Hannah, you've both got your  
sleeping bags right?!

LILLY

We've got everything mum yes!

MARIANNE

Okay, ring me if you need anything  
or decide you want to come home  
tonight okay?

EMILY

We won't wanna come home!

MARIANNE

Okay, I'll come collect you for  
nine okay my loves?

Lilly and Emily kiss their mum on the cheek, grab their school bags and run for the bus to school, leaving Marianne all alone in the house.

Marianne slowly walks to the bathroom cabinet, takes her medication and lies back on her bed, staring up at the ceiling.

She reaches across her bed, grabbing her flip phone. She texts Sofia and Eden asking if they would be up for doing something together.

They respond immediately, saying yes with Sofia sending lots of text love heart emojis.

EXT. FRONT DRIVEWAY - DAY

Eden picks Marianne up from outside her house. Sofia is already in the front seat with her legs resting on the dashboard. Sunlight fills the car as the three sisters drive towards the ocean together.

As soon as Eden hits off the engine the three sisters jump out of the car and run up to the sand dunes together.

Sofia pulls out a VHS camcorder, which she uses to film her sisters with. We switch to grainy VHS camcorder footage here.

The sisters walk along the beach together.

EDEN

Growing up I always did things to extremes, at different ends of the spectrum, but finding out I had sisters, I had you, that made me realize how much of myself I had always been missing. I always felt so fucking out of place but, it makes so much sense to me now, I went my whole life feeling like my right arm was permanently missing, always waiting for it to come back and now looking at you, looking at the way our eyes match, seeing the way we hold ourselves, seeing all the ways we collide and crash together, I don't know where I end and you begin.

SOFIA

It's like I've never been afraid of anything at all, not dying in a fire or going broke, or crashing into the ocean in a falling plane, nothing ever shook me or made me cry, until you came into my life. I watched the world from my sidelines until you came into my life.

MARIANNE

It's like, yeah now I know what it feels like to wanna go outside and feel the sunlight on my skin again.

Sofia runs towards the water shouting for her sisters to follow.

SOFIA

Come on !

Eden follows Sofia into the water. Sofia films a wave CRASHING over Eden in the water and then moves the camera frame to Marianne sitting back on the sand watching them.

A red ladybird lands on Mariannes hand. She watches it as it slowly crawls across the back of her hand and just like that it begins to rain.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Marianne, come on!

Marianne finally runs into the ocean, joining her sisters in the water and the rain soaks their skin. They laugh together. They do not care that they are drenched, they are simply happy to be there, together. They feel alive.

INT. CAR - EVENING

The three sisters are back on the road again. Sofia sits in the front seat towel drying her wavy hair, jokingly pulling funny faces at Marianne in the backseat. Eden is driving.

She pulls out a cassette tape and punches it into the cd player.

'Roman Holiday' by 'Fontaines DC' plays softly in the background.

Sofia pulls out a bottle of wine from her backpack.

She takes a sip and offers it to her sisters.

EDEN  
I'm driving silly!

SOFIA  
Okay loser!

Marianne grabs the wine and takes a huge sip. She cannot help but LAUGH and the red wine spills from her mouth, which only makes her and Sofia burst into even more FEROCIOUS FITS OF LAUGHTER together.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - NIGHT

Darkness falls upon the three sisters as they wander through the amusement park.

Eden chugs the last of the wine to Sofias disappointment.

SOFIA  
Hey man, I wanted another sip!

EDEN  
You drank like the entire bottle  
Sofia!

SOFIA  
It's fine, I'll snag some here  
somewhere.

MARIANNE  
I got our tickets!

SOFIA  
Lets play this one!

The three sisters are fairly drunk at this point. They clumsily walk over to a gun target shooting booth.

Marianne, Sofia and Eden shoot at tiny targets with light up guns.

SOFIA (CONT'D)  
I won, I fucking won...oh I want  
that one please mister...wow thank  
you so much.

Sofia is handed a bright pink teddy bear backpack, which she slings around her shoulder, before winking flirtatiously at the red faced young man manning the booth.

Eden and Marianne pull Sofia away to a different ride, laughing hysterically.



EXT. BUMPER CARS - NIGHT

The three sisters rush to the bumper cars. They drive around the track aiming for each other through everyone else on the ride.

Mid way through the ride, Sofia stops driving and stands up on the seat of the bumper car, looking ahead.

SOFIA

Oh my fucking god...

Sofia jumps off her car and runs off the ride, somehow dodging all of the speeding cars as she does so.

AMUSEMENT PARK WORKER

Hey, no taking off your seatbelt before the times up!

MARIANNE

Sofia!

Marianne and Eden jump out of their shared car together and chase after their sister, forcing others in their cars to stop for them.

AMUSEMENT PARK WORKER

What do you's think you're playing at!?

When Marianne and Eden catch up with Sofia, she is munching on buttered popcorn and pink candy-floss.

SOFIA

(proudly)

Guys, look, the candy-floss matches my fucking backpack!

She hands the popcorn and candy-floss to Eden and Marianne, before reaching into her teddy bear backpack.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Oh, I also got this!

Sofia pulls out a bottle of expensive whiskey.

EDEN

What the....

MARIANNE

How do you do the things you do?

SOFIA

Robbed it off the guy at the kiss a toad stop because he wouldn't give a kid a prize...like respectfully he's a total fucking asshole, he doesn't need this...Oh we'll take those thank you very much.

Sofia shamelessly grabs three red paper cups with straws from two amusement park goers passing by.

EDEN

Fuck it!

Eden pours the whiskey into the paper cups and the sisters all take a sip together.

A mime comes up behind the sisters and taps Sofia on her shoulder. He gives her a flower and they share a short, playful dance together, before Sofia joins back up with her sisters.

MARIANNE

I've always been too afraid to go on one of those.

Marianne points up at a ferris-wheel decorated with iridescent ice blue lights.

Eden turns to Marianne, smiling.

EDEN

Come on!

The three sisters rush through the crowds, giggling as they do so until they are at the ferris-wheel.

INT. FERRIS WHEEL CARRIAGE - NIGHT

SOFIA

There are three times as many stars in the sky tonight can't you see?

Eden rests her head against Sofias shoulder.

EDEN

I'm going to love you guys forever and always.

MARIANNE

In ár gcroíthe go deo.

Eden throws her arms around her sisters as they watch the lights of the city glow beneath them.

INT. CAR. - NIGHT

The three sisters are stopped at a petrol station on their way back home. Sofia sits next to the driver's seat drunk texting Richy.

Marianne rests her head against the car window with her eyes closed in the back seat.

Eden comes running out of the petrol station carrying with her endless snacks and drinks. She throws a red slushy at the car window with incredible force, LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY as she does so. The slushy hits the window with a BANG startling Marianne abruptly awake from her sleep.

INT. MARIANNES FRONT DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Marianne hugs her sisters goodbye before getting out of the car and waving to them as they drive away. She fumbles around looking for her keys in her bag.

Marianne tries repeatedly to unlock the door but it is futile. The key doesn't fit in. She desperately calls Tom.

MARIANNE

Hey, love could you let me in please, somethings wrong with my key.

TOM (O.S.)

Are you serious Marianne?

MARIANNE

Oh, its just I seem to have the wrong key with me.

TOM (O.S.)

You stay out getting lashed acting like a complete cunt all night and you have the audacity to ask me to let you in?

MARIANNE

I...I...I was with Eden and Sofia Tom, thats all.

TOM (O.S.)

Till three am? Sure Marianne, you know you've really got this whole caring, loving wife and mother act down, staying out fucking around with who knows...God knows what.

MARIANNE

Can you please just let me in, it's cold and it's late, and I was excited to see you, to crawl into bed and see you.

TOM (O.S.)

Fucking delusional...Honestly Marianne, you can sleep out there for all I care, while the girls aren't here.

MARIANNE

Are you serious?

TOM (O.S.)

Oh, I'm dead fucking serious Marianne, whats the matter? Scared of the dark? Afraid somethings gonna come get you? Grow up Mari...

Marianne hangs up the call, frustrated, on the verge of tears.

She tries to phone Eden, but her phone runs out of credit.

Marianne snuffles as she wipes a tear away from her face and lies down on a patch of grass in the front garden, resting her head on her arm for the night.

EXT. FRONT DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Marianne slowly wakes up, rubbing her eyes groggily. Sunlight illuminates the soil all over her white dress.

MARIANNE

Fuck, the girls.

Marianne grabs her bag, turns to look at the house, before rushing down the driveway onto the street.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Marianne walks back up the driveway hand in hand with Lilly and Emily.

EMILY

Can we have cake for dinner tonight  
mum?

LILLY

Cake for dinner!

MARIANNE

Strawberry or chocolate?

LILLY

Chocolate!

EMILY

No, strawberry!

MARIANNE

What about chocolate and  
strawberry?

EMILY

Yay yes please!

LILLY

Thanks mum!

Marianne KNOCKS on the front door.

Tom instantly opens the door, boasting a huge smile. He bends  
down to hug Lilly and Emily.

TOM

My girls!

Tom hugs Lilly and Emily, kissing their foreheads.

TOM (CONT'D)

How was the sleepover?

LILLY

It was good!

EMILY

We're having cake for dinner!

TOM

What happened to mommy, you look  
like you've been eating dirt for  
breakfast?

Lilly and Emily run inside the house and dash up the stairs  
giggling together. Marianne stares at Tom.

Marianne goes to brush past Tom, but he grabs her by the wrist.

TOM (CONT'D)

Love, I'm not sure what happened last night but I want to apologize. The way I was acting...No one should ever talk to their wife in that way. I think I had a little too much whiskey, but thats no excuse. I am really sorry love, I promise I will make it up to you.

MARIANNE

My key, last night, it wouldn't work.

TOM

Oh, lets have a look at that.

Tom takes Mariannes key, secretly slipping it into his pocket and taking out a slightly different key. He locks and unlocks the front door with this key.

TOM (CONT'D)

See? Nothing wrong. You must have just been confused.

MARIANNE

I thought you said you changed the locks?

TOM

Darling, why would I ever dream of doing that? You're probably just overtired, it's okay these things happen, I'll go run you a bath.

Tom kisses Marianne on the forehead.

TOM (CONT'D)

I love you.

Marianne stares down at the floor. She does not respond.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Sofia waltzes through a supermarket in a thin white dress, tote bag in hand, she grabs a mini box of cereal and casually starts eating them as she walks, scanning the shelves. Earphones in her ears, she listens to music as she walks. She listens to 'The Couple Across The Way' by 'Fontaines DC'.

She walks through the alcohol aisle, throwing a 70cl bottle of vodka into her tote bag, along with six cans of pink gin.

Sofia begins to walk towards the self checkouts but not before she throws a tub of pink strawberry ice cream, orange vitamin c tablets, 'paracetamols' and 'calpol' into her tote bag.

Sofia stands in line at the self checkouts. When it is her turn to pay, she pauses for a moment, scanning the last minute lines of goods at the checkout. She picks up a pack of sugar free gum and pays for that. Sofia only pays for the gum.

Sofia strolls out of the supermarket strategically in time with a group of teenage boys. The security tag on her bottle of vodka sets off the alarm system in the supermarket and instead of quickening her pace to get away from the store, Sofia turns and looks at the group of teenage boys, who immediately start to sprint. A security guard chases after the boys.

EXT. CURB - DAY

Sofia sits on the curb of the street, painting her nails pastel colours. She takes the pink ice cream, a wooden spoon and the bottle of vodka out of her tote bag while her nail polish is drying. Sofia takes a chug of straight vodka between her mouthfuls of the pink ice cream.

A man passing by drops a two euro coin at her feet.

SOFIA

I'm not homeless, fucking asshole.

Sofia is quite tipsy at this point. She takes out her phone and calls Richy. The phone rings for a few seconds before he answers.

RICHY

What do you want Sofia?

SOFIA

Nice to hear from you too Richy,  
someones in a good fucking mood.

RICHY

I'm busy Sofia.

SOFIA

Fingering Ellie Good again?

RICHY  
No, fuck Sofia, I'm working.

SOFIA  
Oh.

RICHY  
I told you that was always the plan.

SOFIA  
Just never pictured you as a nine to five kinda guy.

RICHY  
Things change don't they.

SOFIA  
Yeah.

RICHY  
Hows everything with you? You looking after yourself?

SOFIA  
Oh, I'm all good, I actually met...I ...feel like....I'm good, everythings good, so fucking good.

RICHY  
That's good, I'm happy you're doing good, telling me to fuck off was clearly a good move. Don't let me waste your time but take care of yourself okay?

SOFIA  
Richy I just wanted to tell you...

Richy hangs up before Sofia can finish her sentence.

SOFIA (CONT'D)  
I'm proud of you.

Sofia rests her elbows on her knees and spoons more pink ice-cream into her mouth, before letting her body fall back against the pavement. She lets out a sigh and stares up at the sky.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Marianne sits at her office chair biting her nails. Her eyes dart back and forth from her desk to her managers office.



The TICKING of the office clock is loud and distracting, like an overly fast heart beat. Eventually Eden coaxes herself up out of her seat and toward her managers office.

Marianne goes to knock on the door but is beaten to it by her manager Cullen marching out of his office.

CULLEN

Just the little woman I was looking for.

MARIANNE

Oh.

CULLEN

I wanna give this to you gently Marianne, but the material, you're proposing just doesn't stand up to level we strive for with the magazine, not when you look at whats front cover these days. Just stick to editing these for now okay?

MARIANNE

Just like that?

CULLEN

Listen Marianne, you're a good writer, you've proven that, but shit moves quick and people won't care to throw you a pity party because your work isn't giving enough.

Marianne trudges back to her desk, and slumps down in her chair.

The cacophony of voices across the office room is scathing as it runs into Mariannes ears. She shuts her eyes tight, sweat dripping down her face. Marianne shakes her head from side to side violently. The clicking of keyboard keys and pens adds to the racket seeping into her mind.

MARIANNE

(screaming)

I can't do this anymore.

Mariannes colleague Sarah stands up and looks at Marianne.

SARAH

What the hell Marianne? What are you doing?

Marianne looks around the room. Everyone is staring at her wide eyed.

MARIANNE

What are you looking at?

SARAH

Eden calm down.

MARIANNE

Everythings falling apart... I didn't get the promotion...I'm stuck editing other peoples writing ...I don't know what to do...I'm broke...I'm going to lose my job...I cant do what I fucking love because i'm not good enough and nobody fucking cares.

SARAH

Honey, honey, you're in the office, you need to calm down.

Marianne breaks down SOBBING, HYPERVENTILATING.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Go, take the rest of the day, sort yourself out okay. This isn't like you Eden.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Marianne is washing the dishes. 'Roys Tune' by 'Fontaines DC' plays softly in the background. Tom arrives home from work and hugs Marianne from behind. They sway together to the music. Tom guiding Marianne hips softly.

Marianne turns around and dots Toms nose with soapy bubbles from the sink.

Tom kisses Marianne in return, wetting her face with the soapy bubbles from his nose.

They laugh and proceed to dance hand in hand to the music together, as if they were recreating their wedding dance together. The air is sweet and romantic.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Tom spreads heaps of strawberry jam in between two croissants and hands one to Marianne who is sitting at the edge of the kitchen counter. Marianne takes a bite into the croissant and Tom gently wipes away jam from her face.

TOM

How was work my love?

MARIANNE

Oh they gave me the week off

TOM

Oh, don't tell me? You got the promotion didn't you!

MARIANNE

I got it.

TOM

So not only is my wife endlessly beautiful but she's also outrageously intelligent. I am so happy to see you accomplishing your dreams love.

MARIANNE

Oh it's pretty standard, you know to get time off to try find some inspiration, they know i'm a good writer, they trust me so its just about seeing the right thing.

Tom kisses Marianne and swipes a dot of jam off of her face.

TOM

That just means we get to spend more time together love. We should do something special, together, just us.

MARIANNE

I was actually thinking we should invite Sofia and Eden around for dinner tomorrow.

TOM

Oh yeah?

MARIANNE

I just think it would be nice, you know for you to meet them, for the girls to meet them.

TOM

You want the girls to meet them.

MARIANNE

I think so, yeah, I do, its important to me.

TOM

(theatrically)

Then a dinner party we shall throw my love.

Marianne GIGGLES into her croissant on the countertop. Excessive amounts of strawberry red jam spill out of the croissant. The doorbell rings.

TOM (CONT'D)

I got it honey.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tom opens the door and is met with Sarah, Mariannes colleague from the magazine.

TOM

Sarah...Hi, lovely to see you, is everything okay?

SARAH

I was passing by and Marianne won't answer anyones calls at work, to come clear our her desk so I just thought I would drop her things back.

TOM

Why the need to clear her desk, I thought she was given work time off for research?

SARAH

She quit Tom. She exploded at the office the other day and I tried to help out, I really did try to calm her down. Everyone saw and it just, I understand why she's been hesitant to come collect her things. I would be too if I had a meltdown like that.

TOM

So, she's done, she just quit?

SARAH

I'm sorry, I thought you already knew.

TOM

Oh its not your fault love, thanks for bringing her stuff round.

SARAH

Could you tell her I called? And I'm still here if she wants to talk or grab a coffee or anything.

TOM

Of course love, thank you.

Tom closes the front door and is met with Marianne glaring at him in the hallway as soon as he turns around.

MARIANNE

Sorry did I disturb you and her?

TOM

Why didn't you tell me about work love?

MARIANNE

No you can't backtrack your way out of this.

TOM

Out of what?

MARIANNE

How long have you two been a thing?

TOM

Excuse me?

MARIANNE

How long have you two been fucking?

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

I saw her, I saw how she looked at you Tom

TOM

Don't be silly Marianne!

MARIANNE

Fine then, I wont be silly.

Marianne stomps into the kitchen. Tom follows her.

TOM  
You never told me you quit

MARIANNE  
I said I was taking an extended  
holiday didn't I?

Marianne turns on the blender, directly blocking out the  
sound of Toms vice.

TOM  
Thats different.

MARIANNE  
Here I was making you a smoothie  
before she showed up.

Marianne hands Tom a pink smoothie. Tom takes a sip.

TOM  
It's good love, what's in it?

MARIANNE  
Strawberries, raspberries,  
blueberries, half a banana, peanut  
butter, honey, maca powder and  
coconut milk.

TOM  
It's great love, thank you, but I  
think this is something we need to  
talk about?

MARIANNE  
What is?

TOM  
You leaving your job honey.

Marianne storms out of the kitchen into the living room. Tom  
pursues her.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Talk to me, why don't you ever talk  
to me Marianne?

MARIANNE  
I don't want to talk Tom.

TOM  
Couples talk. Married couples talk.  
That's how it goes.

MARIANNE

Why do you always discount my feelings?

TOM

I'm trying to understand your feelings but you never let me in.

Tom reaches out to Marianne.

MARIANNE

Don't touch me!

TOM

Love, I just want to be there for you. I want us to be able to talk about things.

MARIANNE

What? When you come home from fucking Sarah?

TOM

I didn't fuck...fuck! My god whats wrong with you!?

Tom sits down on the couch taking the final sip of his smoothie.

Marianne bites her lip to try to hide her laughter.

TOM (CONT'D)

What's so fucking funny huh?

MARIANNE

No, I forgot to say, I blended raw cow brain into your smoothie too love.

TOM

You did what?

MARIANNE

I was trying to be kind love, because you're always complaining about missing out on your protein. I saw they do it on the television screen sometimes.

TOM

You're a vegan, who the fuck does that? Why are you acting this way? You're sick in the fucking head Marianne.

MARIANNE

You're the one drinking it love,  
not me. I want you to be healthy. I  
was only trying to help.

Tom approaches Marianne.

TOM

How much should I have to endure  
for the sake of this fucking  
marriage?

Tom smashes the smoothie glass in front of Marianne. Glass  
flicker into her skin, her bare feet are bloodied and red  
from the glass.

Marianne falls to the floor, crying, like a child.

MARIANNE

(sobbing)  
Why don't you love me anymore?

TOM

You make it impossible to love you  
Marianne and still, I try so  
fucking hard.

Marianne stares up at Tom, tears running down her cheeks.

TOM (CONT'D)

I can't do this, I can't fucking do  
this, I'm sorry.

Tom rushes out of the room, leaving Marianne on the floor,  
covered in glass.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Sofia cycles up to Mariannes driveway, listening to 'Liberty  
Bell' by 'Fontaines DC' on her 'iPod' shuffle. She cycles  
less than gracefully, CRASHING into a bush in the front yard  
which sends her falling off her bike, her 'iPod' shuffle  
breaking in the process.

Sofia rings the doorbell. Dogs start barking from inside the  
house. No one comes to answer the door.

SOFIA

Fuck!

Sofia walks through the front garden, parking her bike up  
against the side garden wall, before leaping over into the  
adjacent garden.



Sofia stands at the door, rooting through her bag. She takes out a bottle of gin and chugs it for ten seconds or so, before dousing herself in cheap body mist.

Finally, Sofia RINGS the doorbell.

Tom answers the door boasting a toothy grin.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Oh, wrong house I'm assuming? Is Marianne around?

TOM

Oh, yes, of course, you must be Eden? No wait, Sofia?

Sofia rubs her neck bashfully.

SOFIA

Sofia yeah.

TOM

Nice to meet you, I'm Tom, Mariannes husband.

SOFIA

Oh right, yes, Mariannes such a gem isn't she!

TOM

Oh I would know. She defines the only reason for feeling. Can I get you anything? Water?

SOFIA

If by water you mean wine then water sounds great.

Tom laughs at Sofias response.

TOM

Mariannes just upstairs with the girls, I'll go get her, but make yourself at home.

SOFIA

Oh, is there a bathroom I could use actually?

TOM

Just at the end of the hallway down there.

Tom points towards a dimly lit corridor before hurrying upstairs.

SOFIA  
Cheers, thanks.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sofia locks herself into the bathroom. She stares at her reflection in the mirror for a moment or two before rooting through her bag, pulling out a red lipstick, a cigarette and lighter and her bottle of alcohol.

She paints her lips red before lighting the cigarette and taking a drag.

SOFIA  
You got this, you so got this.

Sofia takes another quick shot of alcohol before she leaves the bathroom.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sofia is greeted by Marianne.

MARIANNE  
I'm so happy you could come! I'm so happy to see you!

Tom reappears, handing Sofia a tall glass of red wine.

TOM  
You want anything my love?

MARIANNE  
You can entertain the guests while I am finishing everything off in the kitchen. Watch for the door love, Eden should be here soon.

Sofia spots a small cut on Mariannes arm.

SOFIA  
(concerned)  
Oh, you've got a little gash, you're bleeding Marianne.

MARIANNE  
Oh, must have pricked myself off some thorns earlier, it's nothing really.

Sofia takes a big sip of her wine.

SOFIA

So, Tom, what is it that you do for a living?

Tom opens his mouth to speak, but before he can say a word, Sofia interjects.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

You know, thats such a fucking shit question, you know? It's the first thing everyone always asks you when you grow up, and I hate it because it assumes you have everything figured out, like people pretend like they wanna hear how you're miserable in a dead end job just because it pays your bills, and don't get me wrong, the worlds built around people working to get what they want right and I don't disagree, its just the fucking question, like do you get me Tom ?

TOM

I hear you.

SOFIA

So I'm gonna ask a different question, a better fucking question.

The doorbell RINGS as Sofia talks. Tom answers the door, still looking at Sofia. Eden walks in, carrying a bunch of flowers.

EDEN

(softly)

Hi, its lovely to meet you!

Eden and Tom hug briefly before she presents him with the flowers.

SOFIA

If you were to get arrested right?

EDEN

Oh god, she's on another one of her 'I'm asking bigger bolder questions' tangents isn't she! Sofias kind of really outstanding in that sense.

SOFIA  
Why thank you!

Eden kisses Sofia on the cheek.

SOFIA (CONT'D)  
So if you were about to be handcuffed up to prison right, why, what would it be for, what would you have done?

TOM  
(timidly)  
Oh, erm, big question, erm I'm not sure I really like to think of myself in that way.

SOFIA  
Oh it's only a bit of fun, it's not like I'm gonna actually think you've smuggled a fuck ton of drugs, if thats what you're answer was gonna be. I mean that would probably be my answer and I haven't done that, or maybe it would be for like robbing shit from a pharmacy, that does sound kinda cool.

EDEN  
I'd get locked up for an abortion probably.

SOFIA  
That's intense sis,

EDEN  
Yeah, well I can't help not wanting to have a child and I mean the laws here are fucked.

SOFIA  
Thats very true, come on Tom it's your turn!

TOM  
Oh, I don't know.

SOFIA  
Come on!

Marianne walks into the hallway.

MARIANNE

(exuding confidence)

Tom would get arrested for stabbing someone. There's no doubt.

Tom LAUGHS NERVOUSLY at Mariannes answer, waiting for Sofia and Eden to join in with his laughter. Sofia and Edens eyes raise up to each other. They are silent, taken aback by Mariannes answer, Sofia sips on her wine. The air in the room is awkward as Tom continues to laugh.

SOFIA

Don't tell me you guys are like fucking Bonnie and Clyde.

Eden looks down to the ground, where she is met by two young girls, Lilly and Emily hiding behind their fathers legs.

Eden bends down to the girls.

EDEN

(theatrically )

And who are these two absolute princesses? My gosh I can hardly see, the beauty simply blinds me!

Lilly and Emily GIGGLE. Lilly moves out from behind her father, curiosity painted on her face.

LILLY

I'm Lilly and this is Emily.

Lilly tugs Emily out from behind her fathers legs.

EMILY

You're my mommy's sister, and me and Lilly, we're sisters, we're best friends. Are you and mommy best friends?

EDEN

I think I'm a close second to being her best friend behind you two of course.

Lilly notices Edens sparkly nails.

LILLY

I like your nail varnish!

EDEN

Oh, thank you so much, I can do your nails later if you want to match!?

LILLY  
Really?

EDEN  
For sure!

MARIANNE  
Girls, do you want to go help  
decorate the table together?

LILLY  
Okay!

Lilly and Emily run into the dining room together.

LILLY (CONT'D)  
(shouting playfully )  
I'm sitting next to Eden!

EMILY  
No, I am!

MARIANNE  
Everythings ready guys, if you  
wanna come take a seat when you're  
ready. Tom what are you doing, you  
didn't even get Eden a glass of  
wine silly!

EDEN  
Oh, I can pour it myself, no  
worries.

INT. DINNERTABLE - EVENING

Marianne, Sofia, Eden, Tom, Lilly and Emily are all sat  
around the table.

TOM  
Yeah, I sell insurance.

Sofia, rests her head on her wrist, bored at Toms  
conversation. She looks at Eden.

EDEN  
Selling clouds to the sky

SOFIA  
Oh how did the interview go with  
the magazine?

MARIANNE

Oh, it went really well, works going great right now, I am very lucky.

Tom lets his knife and fork fall onto his plate sharply.

EDEN

You need to let us read some of your stuff!

TOM

Marianne never likes showing anyone her work, she's always been shy about letting people in, that kind of thing, very secretive even with all her novels.

SOFIA

You've written novels?

EDEN

I never knew you did anything outside of the crime magazine?

MARIANNE

Oh, no, yeah, so i'm an editor for the crime magazine.

TOM

But she dreams about writing novels, don't you love?

MARIANNE

It's something I've always loved, I've never actually published anything but I like to think maybe life will lend itself to let me write for a living someday.

EMILY

Mummy told me that she is going to write a story with me as the main character some day!

SOFIA

She should, that would be a great story!

EDEN

You know I think it's so funny when people have kids and they're all like 'oh I used to be so focused on me and now I'm not' and you're not like this Marianne, but a lot of people are and it's like, no it's still you, it's half you, it's a mini you, I mean, you made it. I think it's insane.

TOM

I'd like to think your mind might change when you decide to have children.

EDEN

Oh, I don't think I would make a very good mother, I can't see me ever having children really.

Sofia stuffs her mouth with food as she speaks.

SOFIA

This is so good, I forgot to eat today.

TOM

I have to excuse the lack of meat here, Mariannes a vegan.

Tom smiles at Marianne and holds her hand firmly.

TOM (CONT'D)

She's always out there trying to make things as difficult as possible.

SOFIA

Oh, no, don't be silly, I love everything here, I fucking hate meat.

TOM

I would have ordered food in for the special occasion, but Marianne wanted to prove something I guess. She's always trying to prove things of herself again and again.



TOM (CONT'D)

Actually, remember when you almost burned the house down love when you tried your hand at baking banana bread, I mean who the fuck does that!?

MARIANNE

Lets not say a word now love if it isn't true.

EDEN

No, it really is great, everything here, its wonderful Marianne, thank you.

SOFIA

My sisters a fucking chef like come on, this red pesto rice? Fucking obsessed.

TOM

I'd prefer if there was no cursing at the table Sofia if you'd mind maybe lowering your tone?

MARIANNE

I can make you something else if you would like?

TOM

Thats not what anybody is saying love, okay.

MARIANNE

I'll take care of it, its okay, it's no trouble.

TOM

(harshly)

Love, just leave it, everyone said it was fine okay...I just...want this to be a relaxing night.

Tom turns back to Sofia and Eden with a smile.

TOM (CONT'D)

She just wants everything to be perfect, you know how women can be, outrageously oversensitive about everything.

Marianne accidentally knocks over her glass of wine. It stains Toms white shirt. He stands up from the table.

TOM (CONT'D)  
 (Under his breath)  
 Fucking hell.

MARIANNE  
 Oh I'm so, so sorry love, oh I'll  
 go get a towel.

TOM  
 Don't bother, I'll sort it out,  
 you'll only make it worse. Fucking  
 good shirt this is Marianne, do you  
 even understand that? Fuck!

SOFIA  
 (whispering into Edens  
 ear.)  
 I thought fuck was on the bad  
 behavior list.

Eden and Sofia hush their laughter into their serviettes.

MARIANNE  
 I didn't mean to love, it was an  
 accident.

TOM  
 Think you've had enough to drink  
 tonight, don't you think Marianne?

Mariannes face is red, she looks at the food across the  
 table, not responding to Tom.

Eden and Sofia watch Tom and Marianne interact, awkwardly  
 picking at their food. A beat passes. Tom returns to the  
 table.

Sofia looks him sharp in the eyes. She begins to BARK LIKE A  
 DOG, confidently, GROWLING at Tom in a secret retaliation for  
 him shaming Marianne.

Tom drops his fork, dumbfounded.

TOM (CONT'D)  
 Did I miss something here?

Marianne turns to Lilly and Emily.

MARIANNE  
 Look daddy sounds like a dog when  
 he opens his mouth doesn't he?

Lilly and Emily join Sofia, BARKING MADLY, HYSTERICALLY. Slowly but surely Eden joins in too, BARKING until Marianne finally starts to BARK AND GROWL alongside the girls.

TOM

I thought we were all adults here,  
but I guess I thought wrong.

The women continue to BARK even more hysterically at the table. Tom's shoulders fall, his powerful stance at the table is no longer.

Sofia smiles smugly when silence finally falls amongst the table again. Tom excuses himself after a beat or two.

TOM (CONT'D)

I have to go make some work calls,  
so I'll leave you girls to it, but  
lovely night, lovely meeting you  
both.

Tom leaves the room without saying goodbye, kissing his wife, acknowledging his children or hugging Sofia and Eden.

Sofia reaches across the table and fills Marianne wine glass up to the top. Marianne, Sofia and Eden all laugh together.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sofia pulls her body up onto the kitchen countertop where she sits and lights a cigarette. She looks through a tower of mix tapes.

She takes a drag of the cigarette and passes it over to Marianne who takes a drag.

EDEN

Can I have one?

MARIANNE

You smoke?

EDEN

No, but we're celebrating.

MARIANNE

Damn straight, here.

SOFIA

No holding back tonight!

She pulls out a cd disc with the words 'heavenly mix' sharpied across it and throws it into the cd player.

EDEN

I still can't believe I found my sisters, like what the fuck!

Marianne takes another sip of wine.

MARIANNE

About earlier...I just wanted to say sorry you had to be there for all that.

EDEN

Tom just seems a little demanding Marianne.

MARIANNE

I see that yeah, he's a lovely man, deep down, it's just that when he blows a fuse, you better be ready to scream, because he'll tear right through you. It can hurt but I love him, and he hasn't laid a finger on me, he's never hit me and I'm only saying this because, well, I know people jump to conclusions so quickly, I would too, but I just need to learn to be better.

EDEN

Marianne you don't need to do anything, you're a great mum and I'm your sister, I just want to see you happy and safe and warm and okay?

MARIANNE

You really think so?

EDEN

I know it, because I see it, ever since I met you. Marianne if I could I would draw out all jagged, knotted pain from you, from Sofia too, from when we were all missing each other.

Marianne hugs Eden tightly.

MARIANNE

(softly)

I've been swallowed up in sadness  
and pain and every different kind  
of self hatred that exists Eden,  
but you, you and 'Fia', you've  
pulled me through it all, you're  
like sunlight to me.

THE MIXTAPE STARTS TO PLAY

Sofia dances slowly to the music, SINGING the words in time  
with the music.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

You icon Sofia!

EDEN

Okay, time for cake!

Sofia continues to dance around Eden, taking the knife from  
her hand as she does so.

EDEN (CONT'D)

Hey, what are you doing?

SOFIA

Drop that shit for a second, I  
wanna dance with my sisters okay.

Eden begins to move her body in time with the music alongside  
Sofia.

EDEN

You know it?

MARIANNE

Yeah, I think this one is pretty  
famous

SOFIA

Come on Marianne, sing!

Marianne walks awkwardly over to her two sisters and begins  
to sing softly.

EDEN

Thats our Marianne, letting her  
heart out!

SOFIA

You can fucking sing Marianne!

The three sisters dance together around the kitchen.

Marianne closes her eyes as she twirls through the kitchen, smiling, she feels free.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marianne and Tom, lie awake side by side in bed. Marianne rolls over to face Tom, speaking in a hushed voice.

MARIANNE

Say you're sorry.

TOM

For what?

MARIANNE

For dinner, earlier, for acting the way you did, when you knew how important this night was to me.

TOM

I'm sorry, I am, I said some things I didn't mean.

MARIANNE

Do you still love me unconditionally? Do you even like me?

Tom turns to face Marianne.

TOM

Of course I do, and I promise you I am going to try harder to understand, to be more understanding.

MARIANNE

You promise?

TOM

I promise love.

MARIANNE

Okay. I love you too. I'm sorry I'm so strange all the time.

TOM

Yeah, but I like strange and I love you, you're my wife, my beautiful wife.

Tom pulls Marianne closer to him, kissing her.

Marianne bites into Tom's shoulder, drawing blood. Tom winces in pain, as Marianne continues to smile at her husband.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

'California Dreaming' by the 'Mamas and Papas' plays on the radio as Marianne dices raw meat on a chopping board at the kitchen counter. She HUMS along softly to the chorus as she does so.

There is a deafening THUD as Tom arrives home from work, slamming the front door shut.

Instead of greeting his wife with a kiss hello he walks into the kitchen, looking her dead in the eyes with a straight face.

The upbeat music fills the silence between them.

TOM

Where are the girls?

MARIANNE

They're at ballet.

TOM

Okay, good because I've been thinking about it, and I don't want you to see those sisters of yours anymore, I don't think it's appropriate.

Marianne turns around to Tom.

MARIANNE

What?

TOM

Last night, they fucking ridiculed me Marianne.

MARIANNE

What are you talking about?

TOM

Is it that hard to understand? You are not to go see them again, they are not welcome in this house, I don't want them near the girls.

MARIANNE

They are my family Tom.

TOM

I'm you're fucking family, I'm your husband and you should be grateful at that after the way you've been acting. Did you see yourself last night? Because you were a fucking state Marianne.

MARIANNE

I was fine, I didn't do anything.

Tom CLAPS his hands in circles.

TOM

(shouting)

My wife is fucking delusional. All I ever asked of you Marianne was to not fucking embarrass me, not embarrass yourself. Nothing compares to the fucking trouble you always put me through.

Tears fill Mariannes eyes and her voice begins to wobble.

MARIANNE

(hurt)

I don't ask anything of you.

Tom grabs the kitchen knife out of Mariannes hands, pointing it towards her as he slowly backs her into a corner.

Staring Marianne dead in the eye, Tom points to the raw meat.

TOM

Eat it.

Marianne looks up at Tom, her body frozen in terror.

Tom picks up a piece of the bleeding red raw meat and puts it to Mariannes lips.

TOM (CONT'D)

Go on, fucking eat it.

MARIANNE

No.

TOM

What was that?

Tears stream down Mariannes face.

MARIANNE

I said no.



Tom immediately SLAPS Marianne across the face, sharply.

A red puffy faced Marianne reluctantly does as she is told, GAGGING VIOLENTLY as she forces herself to chew on the bloody raw meat.

Tom claps and cheers condescendingly as he watches Marianne struggle to swallow the meat.

Marianne breaks down, retching and sobbing, spitting the chewed up meat onto the kitchen tiles. Red saliva hangs from her mouth as her gaze stays focused on the floor.

TOM

Fuck! You can't do anything, you're not good at anything.

Tom shoves the chopping board of raw meat onto the kitchen tiles.

TOM (CONT'D)

Look what you did Marianne!

Tom knocks a vase of flowers off the kitchen counter sending it SMASHING onto the floor.

TOM (CONT'D)

(shouting aggressively)

There she goes again always fucking everything up.

MARIANNE

I'm a good mother.

TOM

You're good at being fucking delusional Marianne. You are nothing but an embarrassment and a burden to those girls, and if you ever think about taking them away from me, I am going to fucking hunt you down you ungrateful cunt. I'm not going to let you ruin their lives like you have done to mine. Look at you. You're worthless Marianne. You're meek, you're disgusting, you're fucking vile.

Tom playfully swirls the kitchen knife through the air, across Mariannes neck and down her shoulders to her hands as he speaks. He moves it as if it were a toy airplane or tiny toy car.

TOM (CONT'D)

(hysterical)

And whats funny is, I must be  
fucking worse, I must be sick in the  
head because I still fucking love  
you Mari....

Marianne instinctively STABS Tom in the stomach with a pair of stainless steel scissors. She stabs him deeply, twisting the scissors in his stomach before pulling them out of his body entirely.

Blood pours from Toms mouth as he FALLS to the cold kitchen tiles.

Marianne SCREAMS in pure horror at what she has done.

Tom reaches out for Marianne, GASPING for air on the floor as she backs herself into a tiny shivering heap on the floor.

Eventually Toms dying body comes to a final halt and all is still in the house.

INT. KITCHEN - HOURS LATER

Sofia cycles up the driveway of Mariannes house, Eden sits on the back of the bike holding onto Sofia. It starts to RAIN.

They bang on the front door. There is no answer.

They wander to the back of the house where the glass sliding door is ajar. They let themselves in, laughing and joking as they head inside the house.

SOFIA

(calling out )

Marianne?

Sofia and Eden walk towards the kitchen where they see Marianne in a heap on the floor, still clutching onto a pair of bloody scissors. Toms breathless body lies in a pool of blood in front of her.

EDEN

Marianne?

SOFIA

What the actual fuck?

EDEN

Are you okay? Are you hurt?

Mariannes eyes flood with tears.

EDEN (CONT'D)

Marianne?

MARIANNE

I'm sorry...I'm so  
sorry...I...I...didn't mean to.

Eden sits down next to Marianne, cradling her. Marianne is in a state of shock, her breathing is shallow.

Sofia bends down towards Toms body. She places two fingers on his wrist, checking his pulse.

SOFIA

Marianne, he's...his hearts  
stopped...I...I think he's gone  
Mari.

Marianne HEAVES through her tears on the floor. Eden comforts her sister, stroking her hair.

Sofia slips her hand from Toms wrist to his jacket pocket where she pulls out a large sum of bank notes. She slips the money into her purse before joining her sisters on the floor.

They hold onto each other tight, Eden and Sofia intimately soothing and protecting Marianne. Sofia and Eden hold up Mariannes head and affect DEEP BREATHING. Marianne is initially unwilling to settle but slowly she becomes fixed on her sisters faces who continue to affect DEEP MEASURED BREATHING. Marianne breathing trembles as she struggles to calm down.

Finally, Marianne BREAKS DOWN into tears. Everything she has been bottling up, all of the emotions that she has laboured to stifle, her darkest fears and biggest heartbreak, it all comes bursting out of her. She falls into deep anguished SOBS.

Still concentrated on their sister, Sofia and Eden also break down. They SOB intensely alongside Marianne. The three sisters here are so sympathetically connected, it is both heartwarming and unsettling.

Eventually Marianne regains her composure. She softly wipes away her own tears and the tears of her sisters.

MARIANNE

I need to.. I need to...

EDEN

Marianne, no, its okay.

MARIANNE  
Eden he's dead.

EDEN  
He pushed you to that point  
Marzipan, you know that right?

MARIANNE  
All I know is that my husband is in  
a pool of blood on the kitchen  
floor, because of me.

Marianne breaks down into hysterical SOBS once again.

SOFIA  
(sadly)  
I've never seen a dead body before.

MARIANNE  
I need to sort this, I need  
to...fuck what the fuck do I do.

Sofia turns to look at Eden as Marianne wipes her puffy face  
dry with her hands.

SOFIA  
What do you suppose we do? Hide the  
body like we're in some sort of  
fucking thriller?

MARIANNE  
I don't think we're exactly  
qualified to get away with  
something like that.

EDEN  
Marianne, think of your girls.

MARIANNE  
I've already wrecked everything  
I've killed their father. I killed  
it all.

EDEN  
That man did not know what it meant  
to be a father, nor did he know how  
to be a good fucking husband.

MARIANNE  
That doesn't mean he should be  
dead.

SOFIA

It's okay Marzipan, it's okay, it's not your fault, none of this is your fault okay?

EDEN

What we're going to do is pretend like none of this ever happened.

SOFIA

Honestly, Marianne, I think that's our best shot.

MARIANNE

If I just own up then it'll be over, and you guys will be fine.

SOFIA

Marianne, I don't think I can lose you again. I've spent my whole life feeling so fucking out of place, like my right arm was permanently missing and I was always waiting for it to come back, and now that it has, I can't lose that. You're as much a part of me as I will ever be Marianne. You're all I have.

EDEN

It's like we're part of an endless fabric, like all your threads are woven into mine Marianne. We're meant to be together and I'm not gonna let the world take you from me twice, either of you.

MARIANNE

I just don't see how someone like me can ever run away from this.

SOFIA

Which is why we are here.

EDEN

I say we throw him in the bathtub for now, clean up this place and gather ourselves. People are going to have questions sooner or later.

MARIANNE

I think I'm going to be sick.

Marianne runs for the kitchen sink where she vomits violently.

Sofia goes to her sisters side, pulling her hair back up out of her face.

Eden sits still on the floor staring, wide eyed at Tom.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

Marianne sits at the top step of the staircase, resting her head against the wall. She stares into space, disassociating.

Sofia and Eden HEAVE, out of breath as they DRAG Toms body across the bathroom floor and over into the bathtub.

There is a sickening loud THUD when Toms body hits the bathtub.

SOFIA (O.S)  
I'm gonna be sick, I'm gonna be sick.

Sofia THROWS UP into the bathroom sink.

EDEN (O.S)  
Okay, so we'll just lock the door and he should be find here until we come up with something.

SOFIA (O.S)  
Come up with what Eden! It's a fucking dead body!

EDEN (O.S)  
Very well aware of that Sofia yes, you have to calm down, Mariannes grieving.

SOFIA (O.S)  
We're all grieving Eden! We are so fucking out of our depth here.

EDEN (O.S)  
Go on, ring the police then, go on, here take my phone.

SOFIA (O.S)  
Stop fucking with me Eden you know I'm not going to do that.

EDEN (O.S)  
So calm down, you're my baby sister, it's okay, I'm going to look after you, I'm going to take care of this.

(MORE)

EDEN (O.S) (CONT'D)  
I'm going to sort the kitchen but  
you're gonna be alright okay?

SOFIA (O.S)  
Yeah, I'll be down in a few  
minutes.

EDEN (O.S)  
You know I love you right?.

SOFIA (O.S)  
I love you too.

Eden emerges from the bathroom and walks down the stairs with Marianne.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Sofia stares at her reflection in the bathroom mirror but she can't keep her eyes from staring at Tom's body through the mirror. She opens the mirrored bathroom cabinet to block out the view of Toms body.

Her shaky hands run through everything in the cabinet until she stops at the bottle of medication she saw the same night of the dinner party. This time however she takes the pills, swallowing two and pocketing the rest. She has officially relapsed.

Sofia closes the cabinet, takes a DEEP BREATH and leaves the bathroom.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Sofia joins her sisters in the kitchen. She puts on a CD before she too takes a sponge, wets it and scrubs the red blood out of the kitchen tiles. The three sisters SCRUB the floor as music begins to fill the room.

INT. BALLET SCHOOL - DAY

Ballet class has just come to an end. Crowds of young girls rush out of the ballet hall to be greeted by their parents.

Lilly and Emily are the last of the girls to emerge, however no one is waiting to greet them. Marianne is nowhere to be seen. They walk outside together, holding hands and sit at the curb of the road. Emily rests her head against Lillys shoulder.

EMILY  
Maybe something happened.

LILLY  
Nothing happened Emily.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

It is much later in the day now and Marianne is driving Lilly and Emily home from class. Lilly sits next to her sleeping sister in the backseat as Marianne RAMBLES about her day in the front seat.

MARIANNE  
They called out to me to just do it girls, I could feel it...I...I had to follow their voices...I was completely surrounded, engulfed, trapped, it was beautiful.

Marianne moves her hands on and off the steering wheel as she rambles.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
I heard...everything...my heart beating...my blood rushing through my veins...I felt life...like...I belonged...so...so beautiful

Marianne LAUGHS HYSTERICALLY to herself.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
Oh you should have heard it...I have to show you both.

The car comes to a halt. Marianne twists around the drivers seat to face her daughters.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
I can show you right now.

Lilly immediately jumps out of the car and storms up the driveway.

Marianne leaves the car with the engine still running to follow her daughter.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
(calling out )  
Lilly...Lilly

Lilly stops at the front door and glares back at Marianne.

Marianne stands at the end of the driveway watching Lilly storm into the house. She is dressed in a white nightdress and a silk dressing gown.



Emily climbs from the back of the car into the drivers seat, pulling the keys out from the car. The lights from the car go out as Emily walks up the driveway holding her mothers hand.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Marianne, Lilly and Emily are eating dinner together. Bowls of lettuce leaves and tomatoes sit in front of the girls. Emily GRINDS an excessive amount of salt onto her food.

MARIANNE

How is it girls?

The table is silent. Lilly picks around at her food with disinterest. Marianne glances back and forth between the girls as she eats cherry tomatoes.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Lilly, come on, eat up.

LILLY

(shouting, completely  
unimpressed)

Why can't it ever be something  
normal?

Emily rests her fork back down on the table. The table stays silent. Marianne stands up and takes away Lilly and Emilys plates.

EMILY

Mum!

Marianne leaves the room. Lilly and Emily look across the table at each other.

Moments later Marianne returns, wearing fairy wings and a tiara on her head. She stops in front of Lilly and pulls out a wand from behind her back. She twirls the wand around Lilly. Marianne kneels down on the kitchen floor and pulls up a paper crown for Lilly and Emily. The two girls GIGGLE.

MARIANNE

Hail little miss Lilly and Emily,  
the two most beautiful girls in the  
whole world.

Marianne pulls flowers from the vase on the kitchen table and sprinkles their petals all over Lilly and Emily

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Rulers of the kitchen realm!

Marianne reaches over to the countertop and grabs a dial up phone, giving it to Lilly.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
 What shall be on the menu tonight?  
 Oh you may order whatever you like.

Lilly smiles up at her mum as she picks up the phone.

INT. SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Lilly and Emily are fast asleep on the couch. Marianne is pacing the other side of the room on the phone. She is talking to Sofia and Eden.

MARIANNE  
 We can never go back, I can never  
 go back. I hate the way they look  
 at me, it's like they know what  
 I've done.

Mariannes voice wakes Lilly up. Lilly remains still but her eyes follow her mum as she paces.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
 No, I've told them the bathroom  
 door is broken, I've told them not  
 to go near there. It's okay.

Lilly quietly listens to her mums conversation on the phone.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
 Eden! Of course I've thought about  
 that. I'll find a new job! One  
 where I can stay at home, a better  
 job!

There is a beat of silence.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
 No, I haven't told them yet.

Marianne looks at her two daughters. Lilly closes her eyes, pretending to be sound asleep.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
 (growing in frustration)  
 Eden stop it, stop it, I'm tired,  
 I'm doing the best I can okay, I'm  
 putting the girls to bed. No  
 they're already asleep.

Marianne gently carries the girls to bed, tucking them in and kissing them goodnight.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marianne lies awake twisting and turning in bed. She throws her duvet off the bed, struggling to sleep. She stares up at the ceiling for a moment or two before jumping out of bed.

Marianne strolls into the living room. The lights are off. She falls to the floor, looking at a pile of her daughters drawings. She picks up a family drawing signed off by Emily. We see Marianne, Tom, Lilly and Emily carefully drawn and coloured in. Marianne RIPS the drawing in two. Marianne begins to TEAR UP all of the drawings, BREATHING ERRATICALLY.

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT

Marianne sits at the back door steps, smoking a cigarette. Her eyes are empty.

A light turns on in the kitchen behind her and out appears Lilly, who walks up to Marianne outside.

LILLY

Are you not sleeping mum?

Mariannes response is delayed. She appears startled, confused.

MARIANNE

Sorry, honey, did I wake you?

Marianne puts out her cigarette and leads Lilly back inside the house.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Lets get you back to bed.

Lilly stops in the sitting room, staring at the torn up drawings.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Come on honey-bug.

LILLY

Can I sleep in your bed tonight?

Marianne nods and leads Lilly into her bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marianne and Lilly are getting comfy in bed just as the door opens, spilling light into the room. Emily walks in and shuts the door behind her.

MARIANNE

Hey little ladybird. What are you doing up?

Emily crawls into bed beside Marianne.

EMILY

Mommy, I'm scared.

MARIANNE

Another nightmare?

EMILY

Yeah.

MARIANNE

My poor little baby, come here, it was just a dream.

Marianne tucks Emily into bed beside her, giving her a gentle kiss on the head.

EMILY

But I saw it!

MARIANNE

It wasn't real love, monsters aren't real. You're safe with mummy, now lets all try to sleep okay.

EMILY

Okay.

Marianne, Lilly and Emily talk in unison.

MARIANNE, LILLY, EMILY

(in unison)

Sweet dreams and custard creams!

LILLY

Goodnight mum.

EMILY

Goodnight mommy.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Marianne goes to use the toilet. As she sits on the toilet seat, she glances over to Tom in the bathtub. His hand hangs over the edge of the tub. The sight is enough to make Marianne break down into A FIT OF SOBS on the toilet seat.

Eventually she pulls herself together and stands up to wipe herself. She FLUSHES the toilet and SPRAYS room spray all around the bathroom, before leaving and locking the door behind her.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Marianne lies on the couch, flicking aimlessly through daytime television shows. There is a KNOCK at the door. Marianne is shocked to see that Lilly and Emily have brought home a stray dog. A Golden Retriever.

MARIANNE

Girls.

EMILY

He doesn't have a home mum!

LILLY

Please?

MARIANNE

We can't have a dog, I've told you this before, come on we'll bring him somewhere.

Emily starts to tear up.

LILLY

I'll look after him mum, I'll do everything.

MARIANNE

Of course you will, for a week, until it's left to me to feed him and clean up after him, it's always all left to me girls, no, we're not doing this.

Emily runs into the house and up the stairs SOBBING.

LILLY

Dad always said we could get a dog.

Lilly storms past her mother and follows her sister up the stairs.

Marianne is left at the doorstep. The golden retriever stares up at her. She SIGHS and takes the dog inside.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

MARIANNE

Come on girls, time for bed.

LILLY

Misfit is gonna sleep in my bed tonight.

EMILY

But I am his favourite.

LILLY

No you're not.

EMILY

Yes I am!

MARIANNE

Did you brush your teeth?

LILLY

Yeah.

Lilly stops in her tracks when she sees the dog 'MISFIT' sitting outside the upstairs bathroom, WINING AND CLAWING at the door.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Is he okay mum? Why is he acting like that?

EMILY

Why is he crying?

MARIANNE

He's probably just confused about where he is love. It's a complete new world for him.

EMILY

What if he is sad mum?

MARIANNE

I'm sure he's just getting used to his surroundings okay?

LILLY

It's strange.

Marianne tucks Lilly and Emily into bed.

MARIANNE

I'll bring him in after I let him  
out okay love?

LILLY

Okay.

Marianne kisses Lilly and Emily on the forehead and turns off  
the light as she leaves their room.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Marianne plaits Lillys hair who in turn plaits Emilys hair.

Marianne stares absentmindedly into the distance as she holds  
onto Lillys hair.

LILLY

I gave you a yellow bow.

EMILY

But I wanted a pink one.

LILLY

Pink doesn't match your outfit  
Emily. Yellow is pretty.

EMILY

Pretty like me!

Lilly tugs on Emilys plait

EMILY (CONT'D)

Mommy!

MARIANNE

What?

LILLY

Are you done mum?

Marianne doesn't respond. Lilly turns around to look at  
Marianne.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Mum, are you done?

Marianne takes a deep breathe in and smiles down at her  
daughters.

MARIANNE

Done!

LILLY

Is everything okay?

Marianne LAUGHS SOFTLY and reaches for the girls backpacks.

MARIANNE

You'll be late little love-bugs,  
come on, Emily, here take your bag.

EMILY

Don't you have to go to work mommy?

MARIANNE

Mommy took another day off so I get  
to stay home!

LILLY

I want to stay too.

EMILY

Me too!

MARIANNE

Girls, come on, you have to go to  
school.

Emily hugs Marianne.

EMILY

Okay, bye mommy!

LILLY

Mum, when is dad coming back?

MARIANNE

I'm not so sure my love but soon  
okay, he's coming back soon.

LILLY

I miss him.

MARIANNE

I miss him too love, he's just  
working really hard right now okay,

LILLY

(dejected)  
Okay.



MARIANNE

Why don't we have an indoor picnic after school okay, and we can make some cards to send to dad?

LILLY

You promise?

MARIANNE

I promise.

Marianne hands Lilly her schoolbag.

Lilly stares up at her Marianne for a moment or two before reluctantly taking her bag and hugging her mother.

LILLY

Bye mum.

MARIANNE

Bye honey, have a good day at school.

Marianne is left alone in her bedroom. She SCRATCHES at her neck until it is red raw.

There is A LOUD KNOCK at the door.

Marianne trembles, creeping very slowly down the stairs out to the front hall.

The KNOCKING continues, getting louder and louder.

Finally Marianne answers the door.

POLICE OFFICER

Good evening, I am detective McKenna, this is detective Lyons. We were wondering if we could ask you some questions?

MARIANNE

What about exactly?

POLICE OFFICER

I have been informed that a Mister Tom Soncrieff has fallen out of sight, that would be your husband if I am correct?

MARIANNE

Yes, he was, he is I mean...we separated recently.

POLICE OFFICER

He has been reported missing by  
members of his family.

MARIANNE

Oh

DET. MCKENNA

Can we come in?

INT. SITTING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Marianne sits on the couch facing the two police officers.

MARIANNE

So I've just been keeping myself  
busy with the kids and my sisters  
since he left, it was really sudden  
you know, everything's been so  
sudden and abrupt lately.

DET. MCKENNA

What do you mean?

MARIANNE

Oh, it's just that...sorry I don't  
mean to waste your time.

DET. MCKENNA

No, go on.

MARIANNE

A little while before we decided to  
part ways, Tom and I, I met my, I  
was adopted very young and I  
finally got to meet my biological  
sisters for the very first time and  
it was so out of nowhere you know,  
but it finally felt like my life  
was how it was meant to be, until  
Tom walked out on us, but I think  
it would be much worse if I didn't  
have my sisters

DET. MCKENNA

When did you meet these people?  
These sisters of yours?

MARIANNE

Oh, it must have been maybe four  
five weeks or so ago?

DET. LYONS

So they are your sisters but  
they're not really your sisters  
just yet?

MARIANNE

What do you mean?

DET. LYONS

A sister is someone you need to  
connect with for years don't you  
think, surely sometimes it must  
feel like these people are complete  
strangers to you?

MARIANNE

I don't mean to pry but were you  
ever adopted and separated from  
your family police officer?

DET. LYONS

No.

MARIANNE

Then I don't expect you could ever  
understand a situation like mine.

DET. LYONS

Oh but I am trying to.

MARIANNE

I wish I could be more help but I  
haven't heard from Tom since he  
left that night. I've been leaving  
him voice messages ever since,  
hoping he might decide to answer.

DET. MCKENNA

That is quite unsatisfactory  
considering you are the last  
witness to see Tom alive

MARIANNE

Why do you say alive? You say that  
as if something bad has happened.

DET. MCKENNA

Nothing for you to worry about for  
now.

The dog BARKS and WHINES, SCRATCHING relentlessly at the  
bathroom door.

Detective McKenna looks up to the ceiling, with his eyebrows raised.

DET. MCKENNA (CONT'D)  
He sounds rather distressed.

MARIANNE  
Oh you know how puppies are, worse than babies really.

INT. FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Marianne double locks the front door.

She leans her back against the door staring up the stares. The dog continues to BARK and SCRATCH at the bathroom door. Marianne phones Eden and Sofia.

MARIANNE  
Yeah, the girls just went to school, I think we should do it today...I don't want to do it either but we're only going to keep putting it off if we don't do this and I'm gonna have to get rid of the dog if we just leave him to rot there. Okay, yeah, I'll see you soon.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Marianne, Sofia and Eden stand together in a circle in the crowded pink tiled bathroom. They are dressed down to their underwear. Sofias eyes dart back and forth from Toms body in the bathtub and back to her sisters again and again and again.

SOFIA  
I'm not fucking doing it guys, theres no fucking way.

EDEN  
I'm sick to my stomach.

SOFIA  
Not enough drinks in the world would make me wanna do this shit.

MARIANNE  
Rock-paper-scissors is the best way I think to decide who does what.

SOFIA

You wanna play a fucking game to decide this shit?

MARIANNE

We're never going to agree so it's the only thing I can think of.

EDEN

I hate that I'm saying this, but she's right Sofia, it's the fairest way.

SOFIA

I mean she killed him, she can do it herself.

EDEN

Sofia!

SOFIA

Sorry, that was a dumb fucking thing to say. Okay fuck it lets do it.

Marianne, Sofia and Eden, play a game of rock-paper-scissors. Marianne and Sofia jointly win the first round by playing scissors against Eden who chose paper. Marianne goes on to win the second and third round of the game.

EDEN

Fuck.

MARIANNE

You got this Eden, it's so fine, it's going to be so fine okay. Sofia you can hand her what she needs okay?

SOFIA

Yeah, okay.

Sofia turns to the sink and fills up three glasses with gin. She hands a glass of gin to her sisters. They all CLINK their glasses together before taking a sip.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Fucking cheers.

Eden puts on a pair of green headphones and grabs her mp3 player, before she turns to kneel down at the edge of the bath. She switches on her music, at full volume before taking another huge sip of her gin.

'1 4 2' BY 'INNER WAVE' PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

Sofia sits on the toilet next to the bathtub and hands Eden different silver instruments and blades one by one. A kitchen knife, a hammer, a lighter.

Marianne lies her body down on the cold bathroom tiles. She stares up at the ceiling completely dazed. She feels numb.

We do not explicitly see Eden dismembering Toms body as her hands move back and forth. Blood flickers onto her bare chest and shoulders as she works.

INT. SITTING ROOM - EVENING

Marianne sits on a pastel green picnic blanket spread cross the sitting room floor with Lilly and Emily. There are plastic bowls filled with popcorn and strawberries alongside paper plates with half eaten slices of victoria sponge cake.

Lilly and Emily are making cards to send to their father, Tom, completely unaware of the events that transpired between him and Marianne, completely unaware of his death.

Marianne herself is also writing a lengthy letter to him.

LILLY

Mum, how do you spell airplane?

Marianne does not respond, too concentrated on her writing. Lilly TAPS Mariannes arm with a marker.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Mum, how do I spell airplane?

Emily looks up at Lilly and Marianne. Marianne still does not respond. She is dazed. Lilly SLAPS her mother on the arm.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Mum! Can you help me spell airplane please?

Mariannes eyebrows furrow, still she does not answer. Lilly SLAPS her harder on the head this time, innocently desperate to gain her mothers attention.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Mum!

MARIANNE

Don't do that, Lilly, stop it.

Lilly playfully TAPS her mothers arm again. Marianne grabs Lilly by the arm.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
Don't you dare do that ever again  
Lilly, okay you do not slap your  
mum.

Lilly plays off her mothers criticism with a LAUGH. Marianne holds Lilly firmly by her two shoulders.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
Do you understand me? You never hit  
mum like that again okay.

Lilly stares back at her mother sternly, wriggling to get out of her grasp. Lilly SLAPS her mum again.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
No. You do not do that.

Marianne picks Lilly up and brings her into the kitchen.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
You're to stay in here and think  
about the way you've behaved okay?

Lilly tries to get up, pinching at her mother.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
I do not want to see you right now  
okay, you are to stay here.

Marianne walks out of the kitchen SLAMMING the door behind her so forcefully that the glass panes in the door SMASH.

Marianne and Lilly looks at the shattered glass from opposite sides of the door. Tears stream down Lillies face. Mariannes expression is emotionally dull in comparison.

EXT. LANDFILL SITE - DAY

Marianne, Sofia and Eden walk through a landfill site together, holding hands. Marianne carries a large blue ice cooler with her. The ice cooler contains Toms body.

The girls walk in silence until they reach a large ditch in the earth. Destroyed cars and scratched up pieces of furniture lie at the bottom of the ditch.

Birds SQUAWK overhead in the sky as Marianne throws the ice cooler down into the ditch. The three sisters watch as it tumbles down deep into the earth.

The air is cold and crisp and the breeze breaks the silence between the sisters.

SOFIA

(dejected)

I wonder what mum would say if she saw us now, if she saw what we're doing?

MARIANNE

Mum drowned in a bathtub when I was little.

There is a beat of silence between the women. Sofia and Eden stare into the ditch as they silently accept the news about their mother.

EDEN

There's a great terror in being alive isn't there?

MARIANNE

We should go.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Eden starts the car engine and reverses out of her parking space as it begins to rain heavily. Sofia plays an old CD as they drive away from the site.

"MAMA YOU BEEN ON MY MIND" BY 'JEFF BUCKLEY' FILLS THE CAR WITH A SOFT SOUND.

Marianne gazes out of the window as it begins to rain

EXT. STREET. - DAY

A pigeon lies dead on the street. Lilly and Emily bend down at it with both fascination and disgust.

Lilly pokes at it gently with a twig.

EMILY

Is it dead?

LILLY

Obviously.

EMILY

It looks like it's just sleeping.



LILLY  
It's not sleeping.

EMILY  
I know.

LILLY  
Touch it!

EMILY  
I'm not touching it! You touch it!

LILLY  
I dare you to touch it!

EMILY  
No.

LILLY  
I knew you would be too afraid to!

Emily reluctantly pokes the dead pigeon with one finger.

EMILY  
Now its your turn!

LILLY  
No way!

EMILY  
You have to!

LILLY  
I'm not touching it.

EMILY  
Fine.

Emily points at Lillys face with the finger she touched the bird with.

LILLY  
No!

Lilly screams and runs down the street followed by Emily.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

When Lilly and Emily get home the front door is locked. They RING the doorbell but there is no answer.

LILLY  
Mum!

Lilly leads Emily around the back of the house, where the sliding glass door is ajar.

Slowly the two girls tiptoe into the house, Marianne is nowhere to be seen.

EMILY

Mommy?

LILLY

Mum, we're home?!

The two girls find Marianne staring out of the kitchen window, completely withdrawn, holding a sharp kitchen knife in one hand and dripping wet strawberries in the other.

Mariannes hold on the strawberries is so strong that she is squishing them in her fist. Red juice drips from her hand.

Lilly approaches her mother and takes the knife out of her hand.

Marianne slowly turns around to her girls. Lilly hugs Marianne tight.

EMILY

Is mommy sad again?

Lilly nods in response to her sister.

Marianne stares down at Emily.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Mommy, it's okay, sit down.

Marianne falls slowly to the kitchen floor, with Lilly and Emily.

Mariannes breathing is erratic, irregular. She gazes down at Emily with wide eyes.

MARIANNE

I'm so small, so meek, so useless.

Marianne is repeating the same words that Tom used to describe her the day she killed him.

Lilly hugs Marianne even tighter, beginning to cry.

LILLY

How can you say that? Don't you ever think about us?

MARIANNE  
But I'm worthless.

Emily puts her hand on her mothers cheek, looking deep into her eyes.

EMILY  
We need you!

MARIANNE  
Someday you won't.

LILLY  
We'll always need you.

MARIANNE  
I wont always be here.

LILLY  
Stop, stop it.

MARIANNE  
You won't need me when I'm dead.

LILLY  
(shouting)  
Stop.

Marianne turns and looks at Lilly.

EMILY  
Mommy?

Marianne looks at Lilly and Emily, her lips quivering, tears falling down her cheeks. She finally comes back to reality.

MARIANNE  
I'm sorry.

Marianne strokes her daughters hair softly and pulls them in closer to her.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, I am so sorry. Mommy just gets a little sad sometimes is all, but I'll try better to be more normal.

LILLY  
You don't have to be normal. You just have to be our mum.

Marianne kisses Lillys forehead and the three of them sit still on the kitchen floor until Mariannes breathing has calmed.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Marianne dances and playfully chases Lilly and Emily around the kitchen. They are LAUGHING, smiling, happy.

The doorbell RINGS. Marianne just about hears it through the music. She hugs her two girls and goes to answer the door.

Sofia and Eden burst inside. Sofia puts a party hat on Mariannes head.

SOFIA

I have big news guys.

MARIANNE

News?

EDEN

She refused to tell me on the drive over here, she wanted to tell us altogether.

MARIANNE

Good or bad news?

EDEN

Look at her, she's delighted with herself.

SOFIA

Right so, well obviously I've seen how unhappy you've been and how we're fucking all over the gaff after this shit so I took it upon myself to organize a little holiday away.

MARIANNE

A holiday?

EDEN

Are you being serious right now?

SOFIA

We're going to fucking Greece ladies.

EDEN

Where did you get the money to even do this?

SOFIA

I have been...saving.

EDEN

That's surprising for you to say

SOFIA

It doesn't matter, what matters is that we're fucking going on holidays together.

MARIANNE

I can't leave the girls Sofia.

SOFIA

You don't have to worry I got five tickets, they are coming with us.

MARIANNE

You're serious?

SOFIA

You think I'd book us a trip and leave them here, no fucking way.

MARIANNE

You really did that? I don't know what to say.

SOFIA

You don't have to say anything, do you have any wine Marianne?

MARIANNE

There should be some on the top shelf.

Sofia hugs Marianne and whispers into her ear.

SOFIA

This is going to be good for us 'Marzipan'.

MARIANNE

I'll have to let work know. I told them i'd have a story by now.

SOFIA

Tell them you're on a new creative buzz.

(MORE)

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Look at us Marzipan, we are living  
the story right now.

Eden hugs Sofia.

EDEN

Time to celebrate ladies.

Sofia and Eden look at one another

SOFIA

Wine?

EDEN

Stop reading my mind my god. You  
want a glass Marianne?

EDEN (CONT'D)

'Fia' wait.

Sofia and Eden run into the kitchen together, leaving  
Marianne watching them from the hallway. Her eyes are glazed  
over.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Marianne, Sofia, Eden, Lilly and Emily run through the  
airport to the exit. It is bright outside, incredibly sunny.

MARIANNE

Which way are the buses?

SOFIA

Fuck that, we're getting a taxi.

INT. CAR - DAY

The sisters sit inside the taxi together. Lilly and Emily are  
asleep, side by side, their heads resting against each other.

Sofia lays her down onto Eden lap in the backseat. Marianne  
rolls down her window in the front seat and lets her hair  
blow in the soft breeze.

INT. HOTEL RECEPTION - DAY

The hotel receptionist hands the three sisters their room  
keys.

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

Enjoy your stay ladies, if you need anything at any hour feel free to give us a call down in reception. Have a wonderful day!

EDEN

Thank you so much!

Sofia takes two complimentary cocktails from the hotel staff while Marianne, Eden, Lilly and Emily rush into the lift together. They barely fit inside with all of their luggage. Sofia gets to the lift just as the doors close.

SOFIA

Fuck!

Sofia chugs her cocktails, and runs up the stairs, beating her sisters to the top level.

INT. SIXTH FLOOR - DAY

The elevator doors open and out pours the girls. Sofia walks past the lift and opens her hotel room door.

SOFIA

You took your sweet time. Maybe try the stairs next time.

EDEN

I wanna see the view from the room!

Sofia runs into the room and jumps up onto the king sized bed. She pulls Lilly and Emily up on to the bed where they all jump until the neat covers are all ruffled.

Marianne opens the glass sliding door onto the balcony. Sunlight drenches her skin as she breathes in the salted ocean air.

Eden joins her on the balcony.

EDEN (CONT'D)

It's beautiful isn't it?

MARIANNE

I never thought anything could be prettier than the water back home.

EDEN

Growing up beside the sea must have been nice.

MARIANNE

Yeah, I can't imagine ever being far from the water. It's like when you breathe in the ocean air or step into the cold water it washes away everything that's bad.

There is a beat of silence as the two women look to the ocean.

EDEN

What are you thinking about?

MARIANNE

Mum. It's silly but I feel like maybe if she had the chance to stand here and see life from as high as we are right now, maybe, maybe she would have felt differently about everything, maybe she would have felt more hopeful.

EDEN

You know you can't blame yourself for everything that happened Marianne. Life just erupts in ways you can't control sometimes.

MARIANNE

I guess I will always feel like I didn't do enough though you know.

EDEN

You were a child Marianne, you were grieving too, just like mum.

MARIANNE

Yeah but she still felt all alone didn't she.

EDEN

All the fires that start Marianne, they can't always be saved.

Eden puts her arms around Marianne, comforting her silently.

Sofia joins Marianne and Eden on the balcony.

SOFIA

I hope you guys know that I've never felt as loved as I do with each of you.

(MORE)



## SOFIA (CONT'D)

Ever since the day I met you both,  
it's like together you're a sunrise  
I just cant stop watching and I  
swear if I blink I am so fucking  
frightened I'll miss something. I'm  
happy we're here, together.

The three sisters look at each other arm in arm, swaying in the soft breeze together. There is an overwhelming love in their eyes.

## EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Marianne floats on her back in the middle of an empty swimming pool. With her phone to her ear and eyes staring up at the clouds she leaves a voicemail message for Tom.

## MARIANNE

Hi love, I am just calling to say I miss you, the girls really miss you too. I hope you're okay. We're having the best time here, Lilly is teaching Emily how to swim and they're obsessed with covering themselves in sunscreen thinking they look like ice cream...It's nice here, it's really nice...I almost don't want to ever have to leave...Thats all I wanted to tell you really...but I hope you're okay...I hope you're having a pretty day wherever you are...I love you.

Marianne sends the voicemail before letting her body sink underneath the water.

## EXT. BAR - DAY

Sofia sits at a beach bar, alone, drinking.

A lanky pasty Irish tourist SAM, (25) approaches Sofia at the bar.

## SAM

Hi...I'm Sam.

## SOFIA

Oh hi.

## SAM

So what's your name?

Sofia lies to Sam with complete disinterest.

SOFIA  
Helga.

SAM  
Holga?

SOFIA  
No. H-E-L-L G-A.

SAM  
Helga, thats fucking hot. So, you  
been here long?

SOFIA  
Wouldn't you like to know.

SAM  
Aye, barman, I'll get a jammy  
ginger and whatever the lady is  
having.

SOFIA  
I'll get a glass of sav blanc  
please, cheers.

SAM  
I like your dress

SOFIA  
You do?

SAM  
Yeah

SOFIA  
Thanks...I like...your hat.

SAM  
Awh I never take it off because my  
hair is always a fucking mess.

SOFIA  
Nah, come on lets see!

Sofia grabs the hat off of Sams head, revealing boxed dyed  
ice white peroxide blonde hair.

Sofia LAUGHS.

SOFIA (CONT'D)  
I'm going to call you casper and  
I'm going to keep the hat.

SAM

What?

SOFIA

Your hair, makes you look like  
casper the ghost, I like it.

SAM

I don't know about that.

Sofia sips on her wine.

SAM (CONT'D)

Hey, so there's gonna be a gaff  
tonight if you wanna come down at  
Elia?

SOFIA

Oh I don't know abo...

Sofia is distracted by a familiar voice in the distance.

EDEN

(shouting from afar)  
Sofia, is that you? Sofia!

Sofia and Eden run off down the promenade together LAUGHING  
like teenagers, leaving Sam alone at the bar.

EXT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Marianne, Sofia, Eden, Lilly and Emily sit around a white  
clothed table in a courtyard restaurant.

Marianne is dazed, biting her fingernail until it bleeds. She  
drops her finger into a glass of ice cold water, swirling her  
finger around in the water, turning it red.

Sofia moves her finger back and forth over the melting wax  
candle flame in the middle of the table.

LILLY

How do you do that?

Sofia smiles.

SOFIA

It's magic.

Sofia gently moves Lillys hand over the candle flame.

Lilly smiles.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

See?

EDEN

Oh guys, listen to this poem I came read today, it's beautiful, it made me cry.

Sofia leans into the table.

EDEN (CONT'D)

It's called 'The Two Headed Calf' and I wrote it down, okay so it goes like.

Eden reads the poem off a napkin.

EDEN (CONT'D)

Tomorrow when the farm boys find this freak of nature, they will wrap his body in newspaper and carry him to the museum. But tonight he is alive and in the north field with his mother. It is a perfect summer evening, the moon rising over the orchard, the wind in the grass. And as he stares into the sky, there are twice as many stars as usual.

SOFIA

Fuck

MARIANNE

I wish I wrote that.

SOFIA

I would get that tattooed on my body if I could.

EDEN

Why couldn't you?

SOFIA

Correction, I could, but I am fucking broke.

MARIANNE

Because you brought us on this holiday silly girl.

SOFIA

That is also correct.

The sisters all LAUGH together at the table.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Marianne sits across from a smartly dressed woman, a publisher. Marianne pours the woman a glass of red wine.

FEMALE PUBLISHER

It's lovely to sit down with you Marianne, and put a face to the words I read, you know?

MARIANNE

What did you think of it?

FEMALE PUBLISHER

I certainly loved the jagged vulnerability of it all, I thought some of the characters were really interesting, a lot of it felt very true to life, almost too true to life, you know?

MARIANNE

So you enjoyed it?

FEMALE PUBLISHER

I think it has potential.

MARIANNE

Oh

FEMALE PUBLISHER

Listen Marianne, I am going to be honest with you. I don't feel like it's exactly ready right now, I don't think I can commit to this project, especially when you look at what's top of the shelf these days you know? I think if you put in the time to research and come back to me in six months or so then we could have a discussion.

MARIANNE

Thats all?

## FEMALE PUBLISHER

You're a first time writer Marianne and I can see the strength in you as a writer, I have no doubt I'll see your novels selling top shelf someday, now, however is not the time.

## MARIANNE

(hiding her hurt)

You know, you're probably right.

Marianne fills the female publishers glass of wine right up to the top, smiling garishly at her all the while.

## INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Marianne, Sofia, Eden, Lilly and Eden are all snuggled in bed together. Lilly and Emily are practically asleep, drooling on their pillows. The sisters are watching television together, the local news station.

A live breaking news broadcast appears on the tiny square television.

## NEWS BROADCAST

A young woman has been brutally murdered. Her body was discovered in the back lot of a restaurant, with multiple stab wounds. Local police have declared this as a homicide and are urgently asking the public to come forward if they have any relevant information regarding the womans murder.

A young woman, (32) has been murdered two blocks away from where Marianne and her sisters and daughters are staying. An independent publisher traveling abroad, found stabbed to death.

An image of the woman appears on screen. It is the same woman who Marianne met with to try to get her book published earlier that day.

Marianne, Sofia and Eden are glued to the television screen. Sofia shifts in her bedsheets.

## SOFIA

Isn't it mad how you can be tucked up in bed like a little baby and all the while someones getting stabbed to bits.

(MORE)

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Don't you ever think about that sometimes? How it's probably happening every second somewhere in the world?

MARIANNE

You're so morbid Sofia.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Marianne and Sofia are lying on the beach together, sharing a cigarette.

Eden is playing with Lilly and Emily further down the beach close to the water.

Sofia swigs a bottle of red wine.

SAM

There she is!

Sam sits down next to Sofia. Marianne stares up at Sam while Sofia continues to look ahead.

Sam lights up a cigarette. Cigarette ash falls onto Sofias bare skin.

SOFIA

It's not good for you that.

Sam points at the burning cigarette in Sofias hand.

SAM

That has never bothered you before.

SOFIA

This is Marianne, my sister.

SAM

(sarcastic)

Marianne that's a lovely name, it's very nice to meet you.

Sam shakes Mariannes hand awkwardly.

Sofia LAUGHS.

SOFIA

What do you want casper?

SAM

I think I got a winning joint for tonight.

Eden runs up to Sofia and Marianne, joining them on the sand.

Sam subtly reveals a baggie of cocaine in his pocket to Sofia.

Sofia kisses her sisters on their cheeks, grabs onto Sams arm and stands up.

SOFIA

Got to go.

MARIANNE

What? Where?

EDEN

Is this the guy from the bar?  
Sofias got a boyfriend!

SOFIA

Shut up, no I don't

The sisters LAUGH together, Sams face goes red.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

I'll call you okay. I love you.

MARIANNE

Love you.

EDEN

She is insane.

Marianne takes the cigarette from Edens hand and inhales the final drag.

MARIANNE

We all are.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Sofia and Sam are dancing together in a crowded nightclub.

'NOT IN LOVE' BY 'CRYSTAL CASTLES & ROBERT SMITH' PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

Sofia robs a tray of shots off people passing by her.

SOFIA

Wouldn't normally go for a dance  
with someone I've just met.

SAM

We haven't just met!



SOFIA  
You keep telling yourself that.

SAM  
Come on what we doing next mystery  
girl?

Sofia leads Sam into the bathroom, where she kisses him,  
intensely against the wall.

'POOLS TO BATHE IN' BY 'THE JAPANESE HOUSE PLAYS IN THE  
BACKGROUND.

Sofia reaches her hand into Sams trouser pocket and pulls out  
the baggie of drugs, holding it up to him, grinning.

Sam takes the baggie, drawing up lines of cocaine on the  
bathroom sink.

Sofia and Sam snort the lines of cocaine.

SOFIA  
This is the best night of my life.

Sam sinks his lips into Sofias neck and they kiss intensely  
in the bathroom stall.

EXT. STREET. - NIGHT

SAM  
Hey, come on, I'll walk you home,  
back to your hotel.

SOFIA  
I'll be fine on my own.

SAM  
Let me walk you home love.

SOFIA  
Love?

SAM  
You heard about the girl that got  
killed here the other night didn't  
you, I'd prefer to see you home  
safe.

SOFIA  
Why are you calling me love? You  
don't know me, we're just  
strangers.

Sofia begins to back away from Sam with sudden distrust.

SAM

Come on 'Fia' it's okay.

SOFIA

Why the fuck should I trust you?  
What makes you any different hey?

SAM

What the fuck are you on about  
love?

SOFIA

Something bad happened, someone got  
hurt.

SAM

You're sounding like a fucking  
final girl here.

SOFIA

Someone got hurt.

SAM

What are you talking about?

SOFIA

We're just strangers, we don't know  
each other, you could hurt me, I'll  
only hurt you.

SAM

We just fucked Sofia I'm hardly out  
to hurt you here am I, I want to  
get you home safe.

SOFIA

Stop it! Stop it!

Heavy traffic ROARS past Sofia in her flimsy thin white  
dress.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

I keep saying it never happened but  
it did happen, it happened.

SAM

'Fia', please stop.

Sam tries to hug Sofia but she refuses to be touched.

SOFIA

That's why we're all here, we had to escape, to get away from it all.

Sam gives Sofia a light SLAP across the cheek.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Slap me again!

SAM

What, no.

SOFIA

Hit me again, come on, I fucking deserve it.

SAM

(desperately begging)  
Sofia, please stop.

Sofia pushes Sam to the curb and runs into the middle of the road.

Sam chases after Sofia.

SAM (CONT'D)

Sofia wait, stop, you're going to get hurt.

Sofia stands in between heavy fast moving traffic.

SOFIA

I' don't want to feel afraid anymore.

A lorry SPEEDS directly towards Sofia.

Sam pushes Sofia out of the way, his body taking the impact of the car.

Sofia rolls to the side of the road, SOBBING.

Sam lies injured on the road.

Sofia, runs away from the scene as people rush out of their vehicles to help Sam.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Sofia BURSTS into the hotel room and rushes inside the bathroom, SOBBING HYSTERICALLY.

She grabs a pink shaving razor and holds it to her wrist.

She presses it into her skin drawing blood.

Her body squirms in pain and goes to push the razor deeper into her skin until the bathroom door creaks open and in comes Lilly staring at her with wide eyes.

Lilly SCREAMS in pure horror at Sofia and in rushes Marianne and Eden. Marianne pulls Lilly out of the bathroom. Eden rushes to Sofia, grabbing the razor off of her.

Sofia SCREAMS at what she has done.

'ALTERED STATES' BY 'CURRENT JOYS' PLAYS SOFTLY IN THE BACKGROUND.

EDEN  
(panicked)  
Oh my god, oh my fucking god.

Tears stream down Eden's face.

EDEN (CONT'D)  
(calling out)  
Marianne! Marianne

SOFIA  
I'm scared Eden it really hurts.

Eden looks around the bathroom frantically.

EDEN  
It's okay, its okay, I got you.

Eden wraps a pink silk scarf around Sofias wrist.

Sofias breathing falters, she is HYPERVENTILATING.

Marianne joins her sisters back in the bathroom, locking the door behind her.

Eden and Marianne lift Sofia into the bathtub where they lie next to her, soothing her.

SOFIA  
I'm sorry, I'm so sorry.

MARIANNE  
It's okay, it's going to be okay.

EDEN  
We're going to look after you  
'Fia', its okay.

SOFIA

I'm so sorry.

EDEN

You don't have to apologise.

SOFIA

I just had a really bad night, you know. I didn't mean for Lilly to...

Sofia BREAKS DOWN INTO TEARS.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to...I didn't mean to.

EDEN

Marianne, they're sleeping you have to be quiet, its okay.

Sofia head falls against Mariannes chest.

SOFIA

I'm sorry.

EDEN

It's okay, it's okay.

SOFIA

I'm sorry.

Marianne and Eden hug each other tightly until Marianne is calm and her breathing is regulated.

MARIANNE

It's not your fault 'Fia' we weren't there, we should have been there..

SOFIA

I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to.

EDEN

It's okay 'Fia' you just have to take a breath. We're here with you okay?

MARIANNE

Yeah and we're not going anywhere.

EDEN

Just take a little breath my love.

SOFIA

I'm not going to do it again. I'm  
not going to do it again.

The sisters lie in the bathtub together, kissing each others  
frail arms, soothing each other softly.

EXT. RESTUARANT - DAYTIME

Marianne sits facing two smartly dressed publishers. They  
speak with South Dublin tinged Irish accents. The female  
publisher pours a glass of wine for everyone at the table.

PUBLISHER

It's one of the best novels I have  
read in a long time. I really loved  
hearing such a distinctive female  
voice throughout.

FEMALE PUBLISHER

I thought the sheer honesty and raw  
vulnerability of each character was  
incredible, thats what I loved.

Marianne pours more wine into her glass until it reaches the  
brim.

PUBLISHER

It's very dark and dangerous,  
theres something incredibly  
seductive about it.

FEMALE PUBLISHER

It's really a brave piece Marianne.  
What inspired you to write the  
piece exactly?

Marianne is stuck for words. She KNOCKS OVER her glass of  
wine to distract from the conversation.

MARIANNE

Oh...

PUBLISHER

Marianne, so, I am going to be very  
direct with you. How would you feel  
if we just put a figure out on the  
table right now.

MARIANNE

Right now?

PUBLISHER

I mean, we're here, sitting with you because we adore the novel, you don't just hop on a plane every chance you can get and it's the same for you here with us, that is if you accept this offer.

MARIANNE

What is the offer exactly?

The female publisher writes a figure onto a napkin and slides it across to Marianne

PUBLISHER

That is cash in hand right here right now.

MARIANNE

Double it.

PUBLISHER

I can assure you for being a first time writer, we are offering a very substantial figure Miss Soncrieff.

MARIANNE

Yes and I won't hesitate to agree as soon as you double your offer.

The publishers turn to one another and then back to Marianne.

The female publisher CLINKS her glass of wine with Marianne in celebration.

FEMALE PUBLISHER

I think a congratulations is in order Mrs. Soncrieff.

Marianne leans back in her chair grinning. She looks down and spots a ladybird crawling across her bare leg. She crushes it into a red pulp with her finger, before taking another sip of wine and smiling back at the two publishers innocently.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Eden lies across her bed. Her phone RINGS and she answers immediately.

SOFIA (O.S.)

Hi, can I come over?

EDEN

I don't think that's a good idea.

SOFIA (O.S.)

What why?

EDEN

The girls are still shaken after everything, Lillys barely spoken a word since.

SOFIA (O.S.)

I didn't mean for all that Eden.

EDEN

I know you didn't but it happened. You never told me you were struggling like that again.

SOFIA (O.S.)

I promise, i'm not, I swear.

EDEN

Please don't lie to me Sofia.

SOFIA (O.S.)

Then let me come see you, I'll talk to the girls. I'll promise them I will stop, I'll go sober for good, I swear.

EDEN

You should be making that promise for yourself before anyone else Fia, the girls have been hurt enough, we all have...I just want you to be okay.

SOFIA (O.S.)

So I can't come see you?

EDEN

I think we should just take some time okay?

SOFIA (O.S.)

You're going to go home without me aren't you? You and Marianne are gonna leave me.

EDEN

I would never do that.



SOFIA (O.S.)

Well if nobody cares then why does  
it matter if I stay sober or not?

EDEN

You know I care Sof...

Sofia hangs up the call before Eden can finish speaking.

Eden throws her phone off the edge of the bed and pulls her guitar close to her chest. She lies there strumming the strings.

She sits up and begins SINGING SOFTLY.

EDEN (CONT'D)

(singing softly, making up  
the words as she goes)

**SUN WON'T YOU SHINE ON ME?  
SUN WON'T YOU SHINE ON MY HEAD?  
SUN WON'T YOU SHINE LIKE YOU SHINE  
ON SOFIAS DRESS?  
SOW HER COLOUR IN ME,  
HIDE ME IN HER CHARM.  
LAY ME DOWN IN THE BLANKET OF HER  
ARMS.  
I WANT TO DRESS LIKE SOFIA DOES.  
I WANT TO DRESS LIKE SOFIA DOES.**

The music is soft and spare, the lyrics melancholy but warm, feeling every word as she sings about her sister.

EDEN (CONT'D)

(singing softly)

**THE COMFORT OF HER LINEN DRESSES  
NEVER STAIN.  
BUT MINE I ALWAYS RUIN BUT SHE  
LOVES ME ALL THE SAME.  
I WANNA LOVE LIKE SOFIA DOES  
I WANNA LOVE LIKE SOFIA DOES  
SUN WONT YOU SHINE ON ME?  
SUN WONT YOU SHINE ON MY HEAD?  
SUN WONT YOU SHINE LIKE YOU SHINE  
ON SOFIAS DRESS?**

INT. SOFIAS HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Sofia sits at the edge of her unmade bed picking at a scab on her knee. Edens singing can still be heard although she is not present in the room.

EDEN (O.S.)

**I WANNA DRESS LIKE SOFIAS DRESS.  
I WANNA DRESS LIKE SOFIAS DRESS.  
I WANNA DRESS LIKE SOFIAS DRESS.  
DRESS ME UP IN SOFIA'S DRESS  
I WANNA DRESS LIKE SOFIA.**

There is a KNOCK on the door. Sofia reluctantly drags herself out of bed. She answers the door to a bruised faced Sam. He offers a bunch of handpicked flowers out to her.

Sofia slowly takes the flowers.

SOFIA

Hi.

SAM

Hi.

SOFIA

Oh, erm, come in.

Sofia and Sam sit side by side at the very edge of Sofias hotel room bed. The air in the room is awkward and anxious.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

The rooms not normally this messy.

SAM

How are you, like really?

SOFIA

I should be the one asking you that really. I should be the one bringing you flowers.

SAM

I'm okay.

SOFIA

I'm really sorry about it all, everything that happened, you getting hurt.

SAM

You don't have to apologise.

There is a beat of silence.

SAM (CONT'D)

What are you thinking about?

SOFIA

Oh, erm, I mean...

SAM  
Like actually.

SOFIA  
Look at me, I mean I fucked it.

Sam reaches over and holds Sofias hand softly. He notices the bandages around her wrist.

SAM  
If I knew Sofia I would have never...

SOFIA  
No, I know, its okay, it's not your fault.

There is a beat of silence between the two.

SAM  
Don't you think it's strange how you say they're your sisters and yet you hardly know them?

SOFIA  
I hardly know them?

SAM  
You grow up with your sisters or your brothers you know, thats years spent together.

SOFIA  
Yeah but I never got to, I never got that.

SAM  
I know, I know. I just think it must be so strange for someone of that intensity to suddenly come into your life. One sister let alone two. Like that's your whole family but at the same time you've spent your whole lives being strangers to one another don't you think.

SOFIA  
Sam I feel like a stranger in the face of most people.

There is an awkward silence.

Sam reaches out and rubs Sofias back very gently, before standing up to leave.

Sam silently offers her a baggie of crushed pills.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

No, I promised myself I would stop.

SAM

You sure? They might help with the pain thats all?

SOFIA

I don't want to hurt anybody anymore. I don't want to keep hurting myself.

SAM

Will you call me once sunlight hits your skin again yeah?

SOFIA

Yeah, sure.

SAM

No, like, promise me, it's not me to go about things not knowing how the people I care about, how they're doing.

SOFIA

I will tell you how I am okay?

SAM

Okay.

Sofia shows Sam to the door of her apartment room. It is as if they are about to embrace but they do not. Sofia shuts the door and softly wanders back to her bed where she pulls up her laptop.

She pulls up a tab using the bad hotel wifi where types up Edens name into the search bar.

Nothing shows up.

Sofia types full Mariannes name in the search-bar and in flow numerous articles detailing the murder of a mother by her infant daughter. Sofia clicks onto an article. She reads about how a 'Marianne Lawless' murdered her own mother when she was just an infant and subsequently placed into the foster care system. Her interest is piqued. There is a photo attached to the article. The very same photo of the three girls as children.

Sofia throws her laptop away from her body, holding her knees into her chest. She is horrified, appalled.

Slowly Sofia picks up the phone on her bedside table and calls down to reception.

SOFIA

Hey, sorry to bother you...I...I was just wondering if I could double check what name room 246 is booked under please?

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

Yes, miss, room number 246 was booked under a Miss Marianne Lawless.

Sofias mouth opens to respond but no words come out. She cannot speak. Tears stream down her face and she drops the phone, backing into the headboard of her bed.

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

Emily and Eden lie flat on their backs on the balcony staring up at the blue sky and white clouds. They move tiny plastic airplanes through the air together playfully.

Lilly joins them on the balcony.

LILLY

I made you a present Eden.

Eden sits up.

EDEN

For me?

LILLY

Here you go, I hope you like it.

Lilly hands Eden a drawing of her with Lilly, Emily and Sofia. Marianne is missing from the picture.

EDEN

I love it, oh my gosh thank you.

LILLY

I drew all of us.

EDEN

Wheres Marianne?

EMILY

She doesn't like it when we draw pictures for her.

EDEN

Oh really?

LILLY

She always tears them up.

EDEN

Oh, well i'm keeping this forever, this is like treasure to me.

Eden pulls the two girls in for a hug.

EDEN (CONT'D)

You know I love you girls more than anything right?

EMILY

You really mean that?

EDEN

I would rather be sat with you than anywhere away from you girls. Every day I see you both and how radiant and beautiful and intelligent you are. I hope you know that you can do anything you want to in life, I will always be there okay.

LILLY

I love you Eden

EDEN

I love you too.

LILLY

Always?

EDEN

Always.

The girls slowly wander back inside leaving Eden alone on the balcony.

Eden lies back down and holds the picture up to the sky. The drawing is done on one of Mariannes manuscript pages for her novel. Eden casually tries to make out all the sentences on the page behind the drawing.

She sits up suddenly, alarmed. The words detail Toms murder, the whole page incriminates Eden and Sofia directly in the crime.

Eden goes back inside the hotel room, searching through all of Mariannes things, before finally pulling out a first draft copy of the manuscript she is working on. She flicks through the pages. We see flashback images appear on screen as Eden reads of the horrors that Tom faced in his marriage with Marianne. Marianne was not the helpless victim she always portrayed herself to be.

A SERIES OF  
FLASHBACKS

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

We see Tom surprise Marianne with a bouquet of flowers. Marianne responds by immediately throwing the flowers in the bin before storming off on Tom.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

We see Marianne seething, cutting up Toms shirts.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

We see Marianne smashing a vodka bottle and threatening Tom with a shard of glass.

MARIANNE

You think they'll ever believe you  
over me?

INT. KITCHEN DAY

Marianne forces Tom to eat raw meat. When he says no, Marianne slaps him sharply across the face. Marianne points a kitchen knife at Tom as he gags and wretches chewing on the raw meat.

MARIANNE

(screaming)  
Stop fucking crying!

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

You're worthless Tom. You're meek,  
you're disgusting, you're fucking  
vile.

Marianne grows more and more aggressive and hysterical towards Tom until she stabs him with a pair of kitchen scissors, completely unprovoked, twisting the scissors mercilessly in his body.

PRESENT DAY

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Marianne jumps into the hotel room.

She is greeted by her two sisters, Sofia and Eden trying on various pairs of sunglasses together. They stop and stare Marianne dead in the face.

Marianne's smile falls flat when she is met with her sisters' unenthusiastic grins.

SOFIA

Smile like you mean it sis.

MARIANNE

Where are the girls?

EDEN

They're at their swimming lessons, I just dropped them off.

MARIANNE

Oh, good okay.

EDEN

Good? okay? Marianne you've barely spent two seconds with those girls on this trip, do you even realize that? You should be thinking about them Marianne.

MARIANNE

I think I realize a whole lot more than you do, being their fucking mother Eden. Do you even realize I have to be their mother and their fucking father now Eden? Do you realize how hard that is?

SOFIA

Do you realize we've caught you out Marianne?

Sofia and Eden grin at Marianne. Marianne's gaze falls to the floor where she sees floorboards covered with endless pages upon pages from her new novel.



MARIANNE

Caught me out? What are you going on about?

SOFIA

The lies Marianne, all the fucking lies. You playing the victim all the time.

MARIANNE

I don't understand.

SOFIA

You told us mum died, you told us she drowned.

EDEN

You drowned mum in the bathtub. You killed mum.

MARIANNE

I had to be the one to find her, do you have any idea how fucking horrific that is for a child? To watch your mother slowly lose her grip on life, to watch all you have in the world fade away.

EDEN

You're sick Marianne, you need help, they should have given you help.

MARIANNE

She was sick actually, I just put her out of her own misery, and you know who caused that? You know what made her so fucking miserable. You two.

EDEN

Don't you dare put the blame on us.

MARIANNE

She couldn't stand the fact that she gave you two away, the guilt ate her alive, she was dead long before I pushed her underneath the water.

SOFIA

It was the same with Tom wasn't it? Wasn't it Marianne?

(MORE)

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Go on tell us how you had no other choice, how you were forced to do what you did because you're always the poor helpless little victim.

MARIANNE

Why are you bringing up the past like this when you know I can't get out from under all of that. I'm your sister, I did you a favor. I made this perfect life for us together.

EDEN

He never did any of those things to you did he Marianne? He was harmless wasn't he?

MARIANNE

(shouting aggressively )  
Stop it, stop it, stop it.

EDEN

(hurt)  
We bled ourselves dry, we eviscerated ourselves for you Marianne. How can you be so heartless?

MARIANNE

How can you say any of that. I'm your sister, I am all you have.

SOFIA

That's not true.

MARIANNE

You're deluded, you're lying to yourselves. You're callous and you're crass.

EDEN

We're not like you Marianne, we're nothing like you.

MARIANNE

I think you'll find you're both very like me, whether you like it or not you cut up Tom's body. You could have called the ambulance, the police, you could have saved that man's life, the option was always there. I never forced you to do anything did I?

(MORE)

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

I know I'm selfish, I've done selfish things my whole life.

Marianne claps her hands together as if applauding in an audience of a show.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

But you two? You really outdid yourselves here.

SOFIA

We loved you, we cared about you, we were trying to help you, protect you Marianne, can't you see that? You hated us away from the very start.

MARIANNE

You never cared about me, if you cared about me you wouldn't be saying all of this.

SOFIA

Do you really think we would have put ourselves through all of that torture and suffering if we cared so little for you. Do you realize how much we risked and wrecked ourselves for you Marianne.

EDEN

It's like you're right in front of me and I am just looking straight through you.

Sofia starts to CRY.

MARIANNE

(hysterical)

I did you a favor. I am the fucking victim here. I'm the one who is hurting and yet you're the one crying? Why are you fucking crying?

Marianne runs at Sofia with a knife.

Eden impulsively WHACKS Marianne in the face with an iron. Marianne blacks out.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Eden sits in the corner of the room STRUMMING her guitar, SINGING SOFTLY. Sofia sits close to Edens frame. Lilly and Sofia sit wrapped in towels cuddled into Eden and Sofia.

On the other side of the room. Marianne is still out cold, laying in bed. She looks like she is sleeping peacefully.

SOFIA

(whispering)

Can I rest my head on your  
shoulder?

MARIANNE

Yeah.

Sofia head falls to rest against Edens shoulder. Eden sings softly. This is a warm and intimate moment shared between the four girls.

EDEN

(singing softly)

**BLANKET COVERED CHILD,  
LAYING ON HER BED.  
LILLY SAW A SPIDER,  
CRAWLING ON ITS LEGS,  
MOTHER LAYS HER HEAD.  
MOTHER OH MOTHER,  
MOTHER CANNOT REST.  
MOTHER OH MOTHER,  
MOTHER CANNOT REST.  
LONELY LIKE THE MOON,  
FRAGILE LIKE A FLOWER.  
LONELY IN HER ROOM,  
WIDOW AND HER LOVER.  
MOTHER OH MOTHER,  
MOTHER GETS A REST.  
MOTHER OH MOTHER,  
MOTHER GETS A REST.**

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Sofia and Eden sit on the bathroom floor shaving and bleaching each other's hair to alter their appearance. They are not panicked, but caring, gentle and loving towards one another. Lilly and Emily sit next to them, their hair wrapped up in towels.

LILLY

Is mommy the bad guy?

EDEN

Mommy is just hurting right now love, but she is going to be okay, nothing bad is going to happen to her.

LILLY

Are you going to leave us too?

Eden holds Lilly and Emilys hands.

EDEN

Never.

Sofia turns to look at the girls.

SOFIA

We're a family.

LILLY

You promise?

EDEN

I promise little ladybug, I love you.

SOFIA

Forever and always.

EDEN

Time to brush your teeth!

Lilly and Emily hold out their fingers, Eden squeezes toothpaste onto their delicate fingers and they brush their teeth. Emily and Lilly try to cover Eden and Sofias faces with the toothpaste on their fingers. They play-fight together on the bathroom floor.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

There is a frantic banging on the hotel room door which wakes Marianne from her sleep. She is the only one in the room. All her sisters and children's belongings are gone. She turns to her bedside table and finds that her mp3 player, her book deal money and a photograph of her mother are all missing too.

FEMALE POLICE OFFICER

If you do not open the door we will be forced to act as necessary, we have grounds to arrest a Miss Marianne Lawless in connection with multiple murders as well as identity fraud.

Marianne SCREAMS IN CHILDISH RAGE. She can no longer play the victim.

INT. THRIFT SHOP - DAY

Eden, Sofia, Lilly and Emily dash in and out of small thrift shops, with Lilly and Emily picking out new outfits for Eden and Sofia.

SOFIA

Eden?

EDEN

Yeah, you okay?

SOFIA

I just wanted to say I love you, and thank you for always being there for me even when I didn't see it. I've never had that before.

EDEN

You're my baby sister Sofia, I only ever want to see you happy and warm and loved.

Sofia continues browsing the thrift store clothing rails. She Turns back to Eden.

SOFIA

Do you think Marianne ever cared about us?

EDEN

I think she cares a lot more than she'll ever admit, she reached out to us, she is the one who started all of this, I just think, maybe her feelings are upside down, the wrong way out.

SOFIA

I'm happy she started all of this you know? As morbid as it is I finally have a family.

EDEN

I love you.

Sofia smiles at Eden. Lilly and Emily tug on Edens dress. Eden looks down to the girls. They're arms are overflowing with long flowing summer dresses in pastel yellows, creams and florals.

LILLY

You have to try all of these on!

EMILY

Every single one, you and Sofia.

Eden and Sofia laugh softly at the girls.

EXT. CARPARK - MOMENTS LATER

The girls steal a small faded green car together.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Marianne attempts to jump off her hotel room balcony but is apprehended by two police men after kicking in her hotel room door.

Marianne smiles hysterically, struggling violently to free herself from their grip, but it is futile. Endless police men and security officers swarm her hotel room.

INT. CAR - EVENING

'NABOKOV' BY 'FONTAINES DC' PLAYS ON MARIANNE'S SMALL MP3 PLAYER.

Eden and Sofia share their earphones. Eden drives while Sofia sits with her back to the dashboard next to her, sticking her tongue out at Lilly in the backseat who films Sofia on the VHS camcorder. Emily lies across the two back seats next to her.

We switch to the VHS camcorder footage where we see an airplane rise into the sky as the sun falls below the horizon.

The girls all collectively smile. Despite the circumstances they have never felt as confident, self-assured and unstoppable. For the first time in their lives they are the ones in control, choosing to swim against the current and pave their own pathway, together in life. Two generations of sisters driving towards the sunset. It's like they are living a dream, one that they'll never wake up from.

FADE OUT.