

NEVER TOLD LOVE STORY

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET, BOSTON, DECEMBER - DAY

Cold. Light snow falls onto a busy one-way street filled with businesses and residences. Cars are moving bumper to bumper in the slow traffic. On the sidewalks, people are determined to finish their pre-holiday shopping on time.

INT. CHEVY CONVERTIBLE - DAY

MAX (35), an athletically built man, drives slowly with the rooftop down. Music is playing. He looks sad. Rare snowflakes fall on his head and shoulders as he stares forward, ignoring the crowd. The traffic light turns to red.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

EMMA (29) stands near the crosswalk among other people, waiting for the green light. She hears the music coming out of Max's Chevy as the car approaches the intersection. Emma looks curiously at Max. He stops the Chevy by the crosswalk and turns his head toward her. As he sees her, he tenses up as if he sees something unexpected.

INT. CHEVY CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Max stares at Emma as she walks in front of his car, crossing the intersection. She seems to be aware of his stare-down, but chooses not to look at him. She crosses the road and walks downstairs into a second-hand store.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Green light. Max drives through the intersection and parks. The rooftop is going up until it securely snaps. Max gets out and walks towards the second-hand store.

INT. SECOND-HAND STORE - DAY

Cheerful Christmas music is playing.

Emma stands by a rack, picking through the clothes. Finding nothing interesting, she walks to a kids' section and looks through the merchandise. She picks up a cute dress and smiles as she checks it out.

MAX (O.S.)
Can I ask you something?

Emma turns her head and sees Max holding a Hawaiian shirt in his hand.

MAX (CONT'D)
What do you think?

He places the shirt to his body. Emma looks at his silly smile.

EMMA
Sure, you'll look perfect in that convertible of yours, especially in this weather.

MAX
Oh, you've noticed.

EMMA
It was hard not to.

She puts the little dress in the cart and goes through other clothes.

MAX
You must have kids.

Emma glances at him as she continues her business.

MAX (CONT'D)
Anything for their father?

Emma stops.

EMMA
He's not around. Any more questions?

MAX
Just one.

Emma stares at him, waiting.

MAX (CONT'D)
I'm having lunch at my friend's restaurant, right around the corner. Would you join me?

EMMA
Really? Just like that?

MAX

Yeah, just like that. I can't promise you'll like the company. I can be hit or miss, but you'll love the food.

Emma shakes her head and is about to give him an answer.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm sure you have plenty of reasons to say "no", but trust me, none of them are as good as my friend's pasta. Please.

Emma grins.

MAX (CONT'D)

See, first smile. It's a good sign.

EMMA

What's your name?

MAX

Max. Yours?

EMMA

Emma.

MAX

Emma? It's beautiful. Shall we?

She glances at her watch.

EMMA

I need to get my daughter at 3.

MAX

We'll be done by two-thirty.

She grins as she shakes her head.

EMMA

OK, give me a minute.

She rolls her cart to a cashier.

INT. "POMODORO" RESTAURANT - DAY

It is a small traditional Italian restaurant with red-checked cloths covering tables. A small Christmas tree stands on a bar. There are a few customers eating lunch.

A HOSTESS, wearing a red Santa's hat, brings Max and Emma to their table.

MAX
(to the Hostess)
Thank you. Could you please let
Giuseppe know we're here?

HOSTESS
Of course.

As she walks to the kitchen, Max pulls out a chair for Emma.

EMMA
Thank you.

She sits down. Max sits across.

MAX
This's my favorite place. Giuseppe
is a magician and here he comes.

GIUSEPPE (60), in a white chef's jacket, walks to their table. Max stands up and offers him a handshake.

MAX (CONT'D)
Hello, my friend.

Giuseppe smiles widely and grabs Max's hand.

GIUSEPPE
We missed you on Sunday. Brunch was
amazing.

MAX
Sorry, something came up.

He points at Emma.

MAX (CONT'D)
This is Emma.

Giuseppe turns his head to Emma and freezes for a second. His smile disappears as he stares at her. Then, he turns his surprised eyes to Max. Max nods his head slightly.

MAX (CONT'D)
We just met. And I told Emma that
you are amazing. Please don't let
me down.

Giuseppe looks at Emma again. She smiles.

EMMA
Nice to meet you.

GIUSEPPE
Have you ever tried my famous
Ossobuco?

Emma shakes her head.

EMMA
I have never been here before.

She looks around.

EMMA (CONT'D)
It's very nice.

GIUSEPPE
Thank you. Let me prepare the
Occobuco for you. It's my mother's
recipe.

He looks up.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)
Rest in Heaven, Mama.

He looks at Emma again.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)
If I don't eat it at least once a
week, I'm depressed.

EMMA
Now I'm afraid to try it.

GIUSEPPE
What's your name again, child?

EMMA
Emma.

GIUSEPPE
Emma, I tell you this; you come
here any time you want and I'll
take care of you. OK? Now I have to
cook.
(to Max)
I'll bring appetizers and the
usual.

MAX
Thank you, Giuseppe.

Giuseppe nods and glances at Emma as he walks to the kitchen.

EMMA
He's nice.

MAX
He is.

INT. CHEVY CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Max is driving. Emma sits by his side. They see a school building ahead.

EMMA
There it is.

Max slows down and stops.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Thank you so much. It was amazing.

MAX
You're welcome. May I see you again?

EMMA
You have my number.

MAX
I do.

EMMA
OK, then.

She smiles at him and gets out of the car. She is about to close the door.

MAX
Emma, you forgot something.

He hands her the bag with clothes.

EMMA
Oh, thank you. Bye now.

MAX
Bye.

Emma closes the door and heads toward a group of parents waiting for their kids. As she makes another step, she looks back and sees no car. A slight sign of disappointment reflects in her eyes. She shakes her head, smiles and walks to the school.

EXT. CARSON BEACH - DAY

Patches of snow cover the beach. There is no one there but Max. He sits on a rock drinking Dunkin Donuts coffee from a paper cup and looking at the ocean. A commercial airplane descends toward Logan Airport. As Max watches the plane touching down the runway, his vision blurs.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JFK, DECEMBER 2010 - DAY

Light snow falls on the runway as an "AEROFLOT" plane touches the ground.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Staring outside from a small window is Max (25), and his wife ANGELA (18), a beautiful woman closely resembling Emma. Max kisses Angela on the cheek.

MAX

At last. Excited?

ANGELA

More like scared.

She snuggles closer to him as she looks outside.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Sound of airplanes, landing and taking off, mixes with the noise of the crowd waiting for busses and taxis.

Max and Angela drop their suitcases on the floor near a phone booth. Max gets a notebook from his pocket.

ANGELA

What if they don't remember you?

MAX

I did a huge favor for them, they must.

He picks up the phone, throws a few quarters in and dials a number. After a few long beeps, someone picks up the phone.

SARAH (V.O.)

Hello.

MAX
Sarah?

SARAH (V.O.)
Yes.

MAX
Sarah hi, it's Max from Saint Petersburg. Remember, I drove you and Peter to the airport?

SARAH (V.O.)
Oh yeah, Max. How could I forget?

MAX
Great, thank you. You said that when I'm in New York I should stop by. We've just landed at JFK, me and my wife.

Max looks at Angela and gives her thumb up. Angela smiles.

MAX (CONT'D)
I hoped that we could spend a night at your place before we figure things out.

There is a long silence on the other side of the wire.

MAX (CONT'D)
Sarah?

SARAH (V.O.)
Ahh, it's not very convenient. But I guess you could leave your luggage with us until tomorrow.

Max glances at Angela and smiles.

MAX
Great, what's your address?

Angela watches him writing the address in his notebook.

MAX (CONT'D)
I'll see you soon. Thank you.

He hangs up the phone.

ANGELA
So? Can we stay?

MAX
We can leave luggage till tomorrow.

ANGELA

Ahh... OK... Where are we gonna stay?

MAX

Don't worry, we'll figure something out.

He points at a GUY in the crowd.

MAX (CONT'D)

Is this the guy from our plane?

Angela looks at the guy.

ANGELA

I think so.

As the guy passes them by, Max grabs his arm.

MAX

Hey man, I think we were on the same plane.

GUY

So?

MAX

We need to get to Manhattan. Do you know how?

GUY

Sure. Do you want to split a taxi with me?

MAX

How much is it?

GUY

About twenty bucks each.

MAX

OK, we'll go with you.

GUY

OK.

He sees a taxi heading their way and waves his hand. The taxi swings to the curb and stops. Max looks at Angela and grabs the luggage. A taxi driver gets out and pops the trunk. He puts the suitcases in and walks back to his seat. As everyone gets inside, the taxi drives out of the airport.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Manhattan. Angela and Max look at the high-rises and myriad of people walking on the streets. Max looks at the guy.

MAX

Hey man, if we need to spend a night, where do we go?

GUY

How about a hotel?

MAX

I don't think I have enough money for that. Any other option?

The guy looks at him as he thinks.

GUY

I guess Grand Station would be another option. It's warm inside.

MAX

Thank you.

GUY

Sure.

EXT. STREET, MANHATTAN - DAY

The taxi stops by a building, the trunk pops up. Angela and Max get out from the car and get their luggage. The taxi drives away.

Max looks at the address in his notebook and then glances at the building's number.

MAX

Yep, we're here.

Angela looks at the tall buildings around her.

MAX (CONT'D)

We're in America, baby.

Angela is nervous. Max hugs her.

MAX (CONT'D)

We'll be OK.

ANGELA

It's a different world.

MAX

On the outside, but I'm sure people
are the same.

He kisses her forehead.

MAX (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Angela looks around again and follows him into the building.

INT. HALLWAY, BUILDING - DAY

Max and Angela walk to a door. They put their luggage on the floor. Max looks at Angela and then rings the bell. The door opens and SARAH (60s) shows up in the doorway. PETER (60s), Sarah's husband, is behind her in a wheelchair.

MAX

Hi Sarah.

Sarah checks them out and moves aside, letting Peter see them.

MAX (CONT'D)

Hello Peter.

He waves "Hi".

PETER

Max, what a surprise.

MAX

Yup, fresh from JFK.

Sarah and Peter glances at each other.

SARAH

OK, why don't you come in and then
we'll figure out what to do with
you.

MAX

Thank you.

He smiles at Angela and picks up the luggage. Angela looks at Sarah.

ANGELA

Thank you.

Sarah sighs.

SARAH

Come in.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

A steaming bowl of pasta with sausages stand in the middle of the table. Sarah fills the plates.

ANGELA

Thank you.

SARAH

You're welcome.

Angela takes a bite.

ANGELA

Mmm, it's so good.

SARAH

Enjoy.

She looks at Max.

SARAH (CONT'D)

So what's the plan?

Max has his mouth full of pasta. He shows them he needs a few seconds. Angela goes to the rescue.

ANGELA

Max wrote a screenplay we're going to sell.

Max nods as he chews.

SARAH

A screenplay?

She glances at Peter.

ANGELA

Yes, it's a good one.

Peter scratches his head.

PETER

OK... um... I'm sorry, but how much money do you have?

MAX

After twenty bucks we paid for the taxi, we have two hundred eighty dollars left.

Peter chuckles.

PETER

Two hundred eighty dollars?

He and Sarah look at each other.

PETER (CONT'D)

You guys have two-way tickets, right?

MAX

Yes, of course.

PETER

Please don't lose them.

He shakes his head.

PETER (CONT'D)

Two hundred eighty dollars. What were you thinking?

MAX

We have a plan.

SARAH

To sell a screenplay?

MAX

Yeah.

Sarah and Peter laugh as they shake their heads.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Light breaks through the curtains. Angela and Max are sleeping on a couch. Angela opens her eyes and stares at the rays of light.

Sarah walks in. Angela touches Max's shoulder. He opens his eyes.

SARAH

Hey guys, wake up. I found you a room in Brighton Beach. Let's get some coffee and you need to go. They're expecting you.

MAX
That's great! Thank you.

SARAH
OK, hurry.

She walks out. Max fixes Angela's hair.

MAX
I told you, everything's gonna be
OK.

Angela smiles.

ANGELA
I love you.

EXT. BRIGHTON BEACH, BROOKLYN - MORNING

Cold air. Steam comes out from Angela's and Max's mouths as they walk carrying their luggage. They look exhausted. Max glances at the building's numbers they pass by.

MAX
A few more. I think that's the one.

He nods at a four-story building at the end of the street.

ANGELA
It better be. I'm so tired.

MAX
It's OK love, we're almost there.

INT. BUILDING - MORNING

Angela and Max walk upstairs to the second floor and step to the door with the number five on it. They drop the luggage down and knock on the door.

It opens. IDA (30s), with an infant in her hands, checks them out.

IDA
May I help you?

MAX
We're here for the room.

Ida looks at the luggage on the floor.

IDA
Why luggage? It's just an
interview.

MAX
Interview? Sarah said that we've
got the room.

IDA
No, no, we just set up an
interview.

Angela and Max glances at each other.

MAX
She said...

The baby cries. Ida rocks it side to side as she looks at the
couple.

IDA
Well, since you're here, come on
in.

Angela and Max pickup their luggage and walk in.

INT. KITCHEN, APARTMENT - MORNING

They all sit around a weathered table. The baby is sleeping
in Ida's arms as she lightly rocks it.

IDA
So, the room is \$400 a month plus
\$400 deposit.

Max points at her.

MAX
Ida, right?

Ida nods.

IDA
Yeah.

MAX
OK, I tell you this - I'll give you
two hundred for the first two weeks
and I'll give you some jewelry as a
collateral before I get rest of the
money.

IDA
Are you kidding me?

MAX
No.

He takes a heavy gold ring from his finger and offers it to Ida.

MAX (CONT'D)
This is my grandfather's. My father gave it to me. I would never sell it. So, I promise you, I'll get the rest of the money before the first two weeks expire. Do we have a deal?

IDA
Wow.

She stares at Max, and then moves her eyes to Angela. Angela smiles with tears in her eyes. Ida shakes her head.

IDA (CONT'D)
Oh God, what should I do with you?

She thinks.

IDA (CONT'D)
Fine, two weeks. But if you don't find the money, you will move out with no problems for me. I have to pay my bills too. Deal?

Max and Angela exhale with relief.

MAX
Thank you! I promise you I'll get the money.

IDA
Sure. Let's go, let me show you your room.

She walks out of the kitchen, shaking her head.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Two-story buildings sit side by side on a main street. Most of them have businesses on the first floor.

Max crosses the road and looks at the company's names. He stops his eyes on a medical office.

INT. RECEPTION DESK, MEDICAL OFFICE - DAY

The door opens. The ring of a bell gets THE RECEPTIONIST'S attention. She looks up and sees Max walking in.

MAX

Hi.

RECEPTIONIST

May I help you?

MAX

I'm looking for a job and I was wondering if you have any positions available.

RECEPTIONIST

No, we don't.

MAX

Do you know anyone who is looking for help?

The receptionist shakes her head as she looks indifferently at Max.

RECEPTIONIST

Sorry.

MAX

OK, thank you.

He walks out.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Max looks disappointed as he comes out from other offices.

INT. SUPERMARKET - EVENING

A supermarket is busy. Uplifting Christmas music is playing.

Max walks with Angela between the aisles. They have a gallon of milk, a big bag of potatoes and potato chips in their cart. Max notices that Angela is looking at the carts full of groceries, other people moving around.

MAX

Are you OK?

ANGELA

Yeah.

She sees a woman with a little girl standing by an ice cream freezer. The woman gets a cone out of the freezer and gives it to her daughter. The girl happily peels off the paper from the ice cream and takes a bite.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

I want ice cream.

Max looks at the happy girl with the cone in her hand. He sighs and turns to Angela.

MAX

Love, we have only a little money left. I promise you, when I get a job I'll fill our freezer with all the ice cream you can eat. OK?

Angela cries as she looks at him.

ANGELA

I want ice cream; I miss home; I am tired of potatoes and cereal...

MAX

Come here.

He hugs her tight.

MAX (CONT'D)

Give me a bit of time. I'll get us on our feet, OK?

Angela sobs in his hands.

ANGELA

OK.

The little girl stares at crying Angela as she continues eating her ice cream. Their eyes meet. Angela smiles through her tears.

The mother of the girl takes her daughter's hand and walks down the aisle. The girl follows her mother as she constantly glances back at Angela.

INT. KITCHEN, APARTMENT - EVENING

Angela is frying potatoes. Max walks in. He looks tired and defeated.

ANGELA

Nothing?

Max shakes his head.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
It's OK, baby. Maybe tomorrow. We
still have a few days to come up
with the money.

Angela smiles lovingly at him.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Wash your hands, food is ready.

MAX
OK.

He washes his hands and sits at the table. Angela puts a
plate with fried potatoes in front him.

MAX (CONT'D)
Wow, caviar again.

ANGELA
Yes, and champagne.

She puts a glass of milk on the table.

MAX
Perfect.

Angela sits across from him with her food and milk. Max
raises his glass.

MAX (CONT'D)
Cheers.

ANGELA
Cheers.

They drink and then start eating. Angela looks at him with
some hesitation in her eyes. Max notices that.

MAX
What?

ANGELA
I was thinking, maybe I could try
to get a job.

Max grins.

MAX
I didn't bring my wife here to
work.

ANGELA

We have no money, love. Maybe I can work at a food store, and I can bring home some meat, real food. And it will be temporary until you get a job.

Max is thinking.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Please let me help.

MAX

You know I hate this idea?

ANGELA

I do.

She smiles and raises her glass of milk.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

We are a team, we'll get through everything together.

Max raises his glass.

MAX

For you.

ANGELA

For the team.

She smiles and drinks her milk.

INT. OFFICE, RUSSIAN FOOD STORE - MORNING

Angela and Max stand in front of NIKOLAI, a heavy man in his forties. He sits behind his desk looking at Max.

NIKOLAI

Here is the deal. She'll work for two weeks, no pay, and if she is good, I'll hire her.

He glances at Angela and then moves his eyes back to Max, waiting for his response.

MAX

Two weeks free?

NIKOLAI

Yeah. I have a ton of girls waiting for the opportunity.

MAX

I don't think it's fair.

NIKOLAI

Life is not fair, man. So yes or
no?

Max glances at Angela. She looks indecisive. He turns back to Nikolai.

MAX

I don't think so.

NIKOLAI

Fine.

He points at the door.

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)

Have a good day then.

Max takes Angela's hand.

MAX

Let's go.

They walk out of the office.

EXT. BRIGHTON BEACH - DAY

It is a sunny day. Seagulls are squawking as they fly over the calm ocean.

Angela and Max hold hands as they walk along the shore. Angela gazes at the sparkling ocean running away toward the horizon.

ANGELA

It's so beautiful.

She closes her eyes and deeply inhales the salty air. Two tears escape her eyes and run down her cheeks. Max hugs her.

MAX

One day I'll buy you a boat and
we'll travel all over the World.

Angela smiles through her tears.

ANGELA

I would love that.

MAX
You'll be my navigator.

ANGELA
I don't know how to read stars.

MAX
That's fine, we'll go where the
wind blows. Right?

Angela nods. Max wipes a tear on her cheek.

MAX (CONT'D)
Are you hungry?

Angela shakes her head.

MAX (CONT'D)
Liar.

He kisses her forehead. A seagull squawks.

CUT TO:

EXT. CARSON BEACH, PRESENT TIME - DAY

A seagull flies over Max, squawking.

Max looks up and smiles. He takes another sip of the Dunkin
coffee, glances at his watch and stands up.

INT. OFFICE, POWERHOUSE KICKBOXING - DAY

A window from the office is overlooking the main floor filled
with a boxing ring, heavy punching bags, a large training
area and weights. A few people are practicing on the bags.

ANDREI (38), athletically built, is sitting at his desk. He
glances at the window and sees Max entering the gym. After a
few seconds Max gets into the office.

MAX
Hey.

He sits in a chair across from Andrei.

MAX (CONT'D)
What's the emergency?

ANDREI
Jinno can't teach tonight. Family
emergency or something.

MAX

Again?

ANDREI

Yup.

MAX

What was it last time?

ANDREI

Geese were crossing the road for two hours.

MAN

Shit, this guy is something, eh?

ANDREI

Can you cover him?

MAX

Sure.

ANDREI

Thanks, man. I know it's your day off.

Max stands up.

MAX

Hey, you've covered my ass more than that.

ANDREI

Do you want to grab a bite?

MAX

No, I need to see someone.

ANDREI

See someone? You mean a girl?

MAX

I'll tell you later.

ANDREI

Come on.

He stands up.

MAX

Nothing to tell bro, if there is something you'll be the first to know.

ANDREI
Damn straight.

He gives Max their special handshake.

MAX
Later.

ANDREI
Later.

Max walks out.

INT. CHEVY CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Max drives slowly down a street as he looks at names of the businesses on the buildings. The signage "EASY ACCOUNTING" gets his attention. He parks the car nearby and gets out.

INT. RECEPTION AREA, "EASY ACCOUNTING" - DAY

Emma sits at the reception desk looking through a magazine. The entrance door opens. Emma looks up, and to her surprise she sees Max walking in.

MAX
Hey.

EMMA
Max?

Max looks around.

MAX
Nice place.

EMMA
How did you find me? Or... wait a second, do you have an appointment?

MAX
No, no. You gave me your business card when we had lunch.

EMMA
Duh... Sorry. Do you need some accounting help? Or...

MAX
How about dinner tonight?

EMMA

I can't.

MAX

I thought you liked the food last time, or... oh my God, was it the company?

Emma smiles at his silly face.

EMMA

Neither. Tonight, I'm helping with food baskets at my church.

Max gazes at her.

MAX

Food baskets?

EMMA

Yes, for homeless and poor people. For the Holidays.

MAX

That's very nice of you. Can I help?

EMMA

Are you serious?

MAX

Dead serious.

EMMA

I don't know what to say. Yes, that would be great.

MAX

Perfect. Where should I pick you up?

EMMA

Come to the church. I'll be there.

She writes the address on a sticky note and gives it to Max.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Here it is.

Max glances at the note.

MAX

OK. See you tonight.

EMMA

OK.

MAX

OK.

He walks backward toward the exit. Emma smiles as she watches him go.

MAX (CONT'D)

Bye.

EMMA

Bye.

Max walks out.

INT. BIG ROOM, CHURCH - EVENING

There are a few people in the room putting together food baskets.

Emma stands across from Max. They put cans of food and other groceries into a box standing in between them. Max lifts his eyes and sees that Emma is smiling as she looks at him. Max stares at her happy eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, APARTMENT, DECEMBER 24, 2010 - EVENING

Angela is peeling potatoes. Max sits nearby. There are two glasses of milk on the table. The mood is low.

Ida walks into the kitchen with the baby in her hands. She looks at the empty table.

IDA

Hey, guys.

Max lifts his eyes.

MAX/ANGELA

Hi.

IDA

You guys should go to the synagogue. They are giving away free baskets of food for Hanukah.

Angela and Max stare at her.

MAX

What?

IDA

You should go now before they run out of boxes.

ANGELA

They give it for free?

IDA

Yes, go now.

Angela looks at Max as she drops the potato and the knife into the pot.

ANGELA

What are you waiting for? Let's go.

She rushes away from the kitchen. Max looks at Ida.

MAX

Thank you.

He hurries out.

IDA

Sure.

She kisses her baby and smiles as she looks at baby's fat cheeks.

IDA (CONT'D)

Who is the best baby in the World?

The baby stares at her. Ida laughs and kisses her again.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - EVENING

There is a line of people going through a hall and into a big room. Angela and Max get closer to a distribution table. Andrei, ten years younger, stands behind the table handing out boxes with food to people.

Angela and Max are next. Andrei glances at them and puts a box on the table.

ANDREI

Happy Holidays.

ANGELA/MAX

Thank you.

Max looks at Andrei's busted knuckles.

MAX

Karate?

Andrei puts both of his heavy fists on the table, showing them off.

ANDREI

Karateka for life.

MAX

Cool. I do kickboxing.

ANDREI

Really? Do you wanna spar sometime?

He makes a few fake moves. Max grins.

MAX

Sure. Where?

ANDREI

Tomorrow, six in the morning, on the boardwalk near the cafeteria.

MAX

OK. I know where it is.

ANDREI

Oss.

He offers Max a fist bump. As they smack their fists, Andrei winks at Angela.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

I'll kick your brother's butt.

ANGELA

Good luck with that.

Max smiles at his wife and picks up the box.

MAX

(to Andrei)

I'll see you tomorrow.

He walks to the exit. Angela follows him.

ANDREI

Hey, don't be late.

Max nods. Andrei grins and puts another box on the table for the next person.

EXT. BOARDWALK, BRIGHTON BEACH - MORNING

The morning air is cold and crisp. Waves are crashing over the shore. There are a few people walking on the beach.

Max is running on the boardwalk toward the cafeteria. He sees Andrei. He is stretching his legs. Max slows down to a walk as he gets closer.

MAX

Hey.

ANDREI

Hey. You made it. I didn't get your name yesterday.

MAX

Max.

He offers a handshake. Andrei takes his hand.

ANDREI

Andrei. And what's name of your sister again?

MAX

If you mean my wife. Her name is Angela.

ANDREI

Wife? Good for you, she is beautiful.

Max grins.

MAX

Thanks. Do you want to move around a bit?

ANDREI

Sure. Show me what you've got.

They square off and start the sparring. Max is more elusive. As Andrei moves forward, Max moves to the side delivering two light punches to Andrei's head and finishes the combination with a kick to the body. Andrei stops.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

Shit. You're pretty good.

MAX

Thanks.

ANDREI
Dude, you should train or compete.

MAX
No one is hiring.

ANDREI
I know it's tough now. Talk to
Monya. He might help.

MAX
Who's Monya?

ANDREI
The rabbi at the synagogue I'm
living in.

MAX
You live in the synagogue?

ANDREI
Yup. It's not a resort, but... Talk
to Monya, man. At least he can give
you some advice.

MAX
I will. Thanks, man.

ANDREI
He is a bit strange, but he is a
good guy, he means well.

MAX
That's fine, I'll take any help I
can get.

ANDREI
All right then, let me kick your
ass again.

He gets into a fighting stance. Max grins.

MAX
Sure.

He gets into a stance.

INT. OFFICE, SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Angela and Max sit at a simple desk across from MONYA (40s), a skinny man with a wild hairdo and super thick glasses. His large magnified eyes are staring at Angela and Max.

MONYA

What are you looking for?

MAX

I was hoping to find a job as a kickboxing trainer, but at the moment I would consider any work.

Monya thinks very hard as he looks at Angela. After a few seconds of consideration, he moves his big eyes to Max.

MONYA

I don't know anyone who hires, but...

He glances at Angela again, then leans toward Max and lowers his voice.

MONYA (CONT'D)

She won't work as a prostitute? Will she?

Angela's jaw drops.

MAX

You say what?

MONYA

No, no, of course not, that's what I thought.

Max gets up and offers his hand to Angela.

MAX

Let's go.

Angela takes his hand and gets up. They walk to the exit.

MONYA

If you need anything, let me know.

Max and Angela leave without looking back.

EXT. BOARDWALK, BRIGHTON BEACH - MORNING

Andrei is running to the usual training spot and sees Max sitting on the rail. He looks grim. Andrei slows down and stops by Max.

ANDREI

Hey, why so gloomy?

Max gazes at him.

ANDREI (CONT'D)
Did you talk to Monya?

MAX
Yeah.

ANDREI
And?

MAX
He asked if Angela would work as a prostitute.

ANDREI
Oh, fuck. I'm sorry, man. You didn't kill the horny bastard, did you?

MAX
No.

He stares at Andrei.

MAX (CONT'D)
He is a good guy, right?

ANDREI
Listen, it's a fucking immigration, man. Some people will try to take advantage of you.

MAX
Obviously.

ANDREI
Dude, I'm trying to help.

MAX
I'm sorry. I'm just fucking losing my mind.

ANDREI
What happened?

MAX
I have to pay another two hundred for the room or we have to get out.

ANDREI
When?

MAX
Tomorrow.

ANDREI

Shit.

Max nods as he looks around in frustration.

MAX

Anyway.

He gets on his feet.

MAX (CONT'D)

See you around, man.

He is about to leave.

ANDREI

Hey, I can give you two hundred.

Max stops and stares at him.

MAX

Dude, you're sleeping in a
synagogue.

ANDREI

It's not a donation, you'll pay
back when you get a job.

Max gets emotional.

MAX

I don't know what to say. Shit... I
won't forget this.

ANDREI

I'll remind you if you do.

He makes a karate move.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

Let's move around. I need to kick
some ass today.

MAX

Not today, buddy.

He smiles as he gets into a fighting stance in front of
Andrei.

MAX (CONT'D)

Not today.

INT. KITCHEN, APARTMENT - DAY

Max walks into the kitchen and sees Ida with the baby. She looks uncomfortable as she stares at him.

IDA
Um, listen, Max, do you remember
our agreement?

MAX
I do.

He gets the money out of his pocket.

MAX (CONT'D)
As I promised.

IDA
Did you rob someone?

MAX
No.

IDA
OK, it doesn't matter.

She takes the money.

IDA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

MAX
Thank you.

IDA
I was thinking; you need to go see
Alex at the Jewish settlement help
centre. He's the husband of this
woman I know. He might help you
guys.

MAX
That would be great. Thank you so
much.

IDA
Let me get the address.

She walks out of the kitchen.

EXT. BUILDING - MORNING

Max and Angela walk outside. Strong wind blows snow into their faces. Angela snuggles in her coat as she looks at Max.

ANGELA

Baby, please take the bus. You can't walk over an hour in this weather.

MAX

I used to live in Siberia.

He points at the snow.

MAX (CONT'D)

This's nothing.

ANGELA

Why are you so stubborn?

He kisses her and fixes her hair.

MAX

I'll be OK. Go home before you become an icicle.

ANGELA

You'll be an icicle if you won't take the bus.

MAX

Tell me one more time, why do I love you so much?

ANGELA

Because I remind you your mother?

MAX

Right. See you soon.

He kisses her again and steps down onto the sidewalk. Angela sighs as she watches Max go into the storm.

INT. JEWISH SETTLEMENT HELP CENTRE - DAY

Max walks in and brushes snow off of his coat.

RECEPTIONIST

May I help you?

MAX

I have an appointment with Alex at twelve.

RECEPTIONIST

What's your name?

MAX

Max Karlov.

RECEPTIONIST

I'll let him know you're here.

MAX

Thank you.

He takes his coat off and sits down.

ALEX, a stocky man in his thirties, walks into the reception area and looks at Max.

ALEX

Max?

Max stands up.

MAX

Yes.

Alex offers a handshake.

ALEX

Alex Freedman.

Max shakes his hand.

MAX

Thank you for seeing me.

ALEX

Sure, come.

He leads the way.

INT. A CUBICAL - DAY

On the desk, there are pictures of Alex's family and an old computer monitor.

Alex and Max sit across from each other. Alex is laughing.

ALEX

That's a great story. I would love to see it made into a movie.

MAX

That's the idea. But in the meantime, I need to find a job. I have less than two weeks before we have to move out or pay the rent.

ALEX

I see. While I'm looking for a job for you, I'll introduce you to a friend of mine. He has a few residential buildings in the area. Maybe he can do something about your living situation.

MAX

That would be amazing. Thank you, Alex!

Alex stands up, Max follows.

ALEX

I'll be in touch.

MAX

Thank you again.

He is about to leave.

ALEX

How did you get here?

MAX

Walk.

ALEX

In this weather?

MAX

It's not too bad.

Alex shakes his head, gets a token from his pocket and gives it to Max.

ALEX

Take the bus.

MAX

I'm OK.

ALEX

Take it.

Max looks at the token and takes it.

MAX

Thank you.

ALEX

Take the bus.

Max smiles.

MAX

I will.

He walks out.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

The wind and snow are battering the bus stop's booth. Max stands with a few people inside, trying to protect himself from the wind.

The bus shows up from around the corner. It gets closer and stops. As it moves away, we can see no one but Max standing. He looks at the token in his hand, then puts it into his pocket and walks down the street into the storm.

CUT TO:

INT. CHEVY CONVERTIBLE, PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

Max is driving slowly down the street. Emma, in the passenger seat, points at a triple decker standing ahead.

EMMA

There it is.

Max drives to the house and stops.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Thank you for your help.

MAX

It felt good to give back.

Emma gives him a question-look.

MAX (CONT'D)

Years ago, a box like that meant my wife and I had nice food for holidays.

EMMA

Wife?

Max smiles sadly as he shakes his head.

MAX

Not anymore.

EMMA

I'm sorry.

Max nods.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Ah, would you like to have some tea?

Max smiles.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I have my mom and my daughter...

MAX

I would love to.

Emma smiles.

EMMA

OK.

INT. EMMA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Emma and Max walk in. There is the sound of a TV in the living room.

JENNY (O.S.)

Emma, is that you?

EMMA

Yes, Mom.

MORGAN, a six-year-old, runs to Emma and hugs her. Emma squats down and kisses the girl.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Hi, baby. Why aren't you in bed yet?

MORGAN

Grandma said that I can watch cartoons until you come.

JENNY (O.S.)

That's not true, you - little monkey.

JENNY (55) walks in and sees Max.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Ohh. Hello.

She fixes her hair as she glances at Emma with a surprised expression. Morgan stares at Max.

MORGAN

Who are you?

Max smiles and squats down.

MAX

My name is Max. What's yours?

MORGAN

Morgan.

EMMA

Morgan. It's late. You need to go to bed, baby. OK?

MORGAN

What are you going to do?

EMMA

We're gonna have some tea with Max and then he'll go home.

MORGAN

I want tea too.

EMMA

No. You need to go get ready now.

JENNY

Honey.

She takes Morgan's hand.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Let's go wash up and let mama have some tea with her friend.

She looks at Emma with a discreet look of approval.

EMMA
(to Morgan)
Go, honey. I will come and sing to
you later, OK?

MORGAN
OK.

Emma gives Morgan her cheek. Morgan kisses it and walks with
Jenny to the bathroom. Emma stands up.

EMMA
Sorry.

MAX
Don't be. She's adorable.

EMMA
Thank you. Are you hungry?

MAX
No, no, just tea is fine.

EMMA
OK.

She walks to the kitchen. Max smiles slightly with amusement
and looks around as he follows her.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

It is a simple but warm and cozy room. Emma and Max sit at
the table with tea and some cookies.

MAX
So you live with your mom.

EMMA
You noticed?

Max smiles and nods.

EMMA (CONT'D)
If not for her, I wouldn't know
what to do with Morgan.

MAX
In Russia it's normal. A few
generations live under the same
roof.

EMMA
It must be very...

MAX

Competitive, especially in the morning bathroom routine.

EMMA

Really? How many bathrooms did you have?

MAX

One for seven people.

EMMA

Oh my God, I should stop complaining.

MAX

I know, everything is in comparison.

EMMA

Right.

MAX

May I ask you something?

EMMA

If it's about Morgan's father - he left us.

MAX

Sorry, I didn't mean...

EMMA

It's fine. He is an artist. Apparently, the attachment was destroying his creativity.

MAX

That's a legit thing.

EMMA

Really?

MAX

How did you meet?

EMMA

At Emerson. I was a freshman, he was a senior. And when Morgan was born, I couldn't continue.

MAX

I'm sorry.

EMMA

That's OK, I'm not complaining.

She smiles with light sadness in her eyes.

EMMA (CONT'D)

My life is good. Anyway...

Jenny walks in. Emma and Max look at her.

JENNY

May I join you?

MAX

Sure.

He gets up and pulls a chair for her.

JENNY

Thank you.

She glances at Emma and sits down.

EMMA

Did she fall asleep?

JENNY

Yeah, almost instantly.

EMMA

Thank you, mom.

JENNY

Sure.

She looks at Max and then turns her head to Emma.

JENNY (CONT'D)

So, how did your second date go?

Emma chokes on a cookie.

MAX

Are you OK?

Emma inhales deeply as she glances at her mom.

EMMA

Yes, I'm OK, thank you, mom.

She coughs a few more times as she glances at Jenny.

JENNY

What did I say?

MAX

It was great. We put together boxes of food for the Holidays.

JENNY

That sounds exciting.

EMMA

Mom.

JENNY

You could do those boxes by yourself, baby. With your friend, you should watch a movie or do something fun.

MAX

Actually, it was cool.

(to Emma)

And we had a lot of fun doing it, right?

EMMA

Yes. Thank you.

She looks at her mother. Max glances at his watch.

MAX

I think it's my bedtime too. I should go.

He stands up and looks at Jenny.

MAX (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you, Jenny.

JENNY

Likewise.

Emma stands up.

EMMA

I'll walk you out.

They walk to the door.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Emma opens the door. Max passes by her. Emma places her hand on his shoulder. Max stops and turns to her.

EMMA

Thank you for today.

She gets on her tiptoes and kisses Max on his cheek. Max smiles as he looks at her. There is an uncomfortable pause.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Ahh... OK, call me.

MAX
I will.

He walks out. Puzzled, Emma closes the door and leans on it with her back. She shakes her head.

EMMA
That went well.

She sighs and walks to the bedroom.

INT. CARSON BEACH - MORNING

Frosty morning. Max sits on a rock with a cup of coffee. He sees a young couple walking on sand near the water. The guy hugs his girl. They laugh and kiss each other. Max smiles as he watches them.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BRIGHTON BEACH, BROOKLYN - DAY

It is a sunny and crisp day. Sound of small waves breaking over the shore mixes with seagulls' squawking.

Angela laughs happily as she spins around, looking at the blue sky. Max smiles as he watches her.

MAX
You know you're gonna fall.

ANGELA
You'll catch me.

She closes her eyes and starts falling. Max catches her back and neck, and then gently lays her down on the sand. She opens her eyes.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
I told you.

MAX
You did.

He kisses her. She shoves her fingers into his hair as she stares into his eyes.

ANGELA
Why do I love you so much?

MAX
That's a big mystery to me.

ANGELA
I know why.

MAX
Why?

ANGELA
Because you are my man.

MAX
I love you.

Angela pulls him in and kisses him gently.

ANGELA
Do you think about other women?

MAX
What?

He laughs.

MAX (CONT'D)
Are you crazy?

ANGELA
What if you want something
different? Some hot American woman.

MAX
Hmm, that sounds very...

He playfully looks at her.

MAX (CONT'D)
Tempting. May I have another kiss?

ANGELA
Not until you tell me...

Max rolls on top of her and looks into her eyes.

MAX
Then I'll kiss you, because I love
this woman more than anything in
the whole wide World.

ANGELA
You promise?

MAX
On my life.

She smiles.

ANGELA
OK, you can kiss me.

They kiss.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Should we go to see the apartment?

MAX
Ohh.

He glances at his watch.

MAX (CONT'D)
We have ten minutes to get there.

He gets up and pulls Angela on her feet. They laugh and run from the shore toward the buildings.

EXT. TWO-STORY DUPLEX - DAY

A traditional two-story house stands among similar houses.

Angela and Max walk to the duplex. They hear Latin music coming from the basement. Angela checks out the house and looks at Max.

ANGELA
Are you sure this is the house?

MAX
Yup.

ANGELA
It's nice, but how...

MAX
Babe, I told you, Alan will wait until I get a job. Don't you worry.

He smiles as he touches her nose with his finger.

MAX (CONT'D)
And there he comes.

He nods at a short man quickly walking towards them. ALAN (35) waves.

ALAN
Hey guys, sorry I'm late.

He shakes Max's hand and offers his hand to Angela. She takes it.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Alan. And you're Angela, I assume.

ANGELA
Yes. Nice to meet you.

ALAN
OK, let's see it.

He quickly walks to the stairs leading into the basement. Angela stares at the basement door and gives Max a look.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Unpainted vases cover the floor of the basement. Dust suspends in the air all the way to a very low ceiling.

Alan, Max and Angela walk in and get exposed to the Latino music blasting out of an old boombox. ABERTO, a young Latino man, is loudly singing along with it.

ALAN
This is Aberto, my worker.

Aberto looks at them as he polishes a vase. Max nods at him. Aberto nods back and takes a high note.

ALAN (CONT'D)
He wants to be a singer.

He leads Angela and Max through the room to a small door at the end, unlocks it and walks in.

INT. BASEMENT-APARTMENT - DAY

Angela has to bend down as she follows Alan into the apartment. Alan clicks the switch.

A single bulb, hanging on a wire, lights up a bare concrete box of a room.

In shock, Angela moves her eyes from a dirty ground level window to a dirty small kitchen and then to an open tiny shower space near a toilet. She turns to Max and sees that his head almost touches the bare pipes hanging by the ceiling. She looks down at the concrete floor and sees a centipede running by her foot. She screams and jumps toward Max. He hugs her as he looks around.

ANGELA
I can't live in here.

She cries.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Centipedes. I can't.

MAX
Baby, we'll be OK.

She looks around.

ANGELA
How're we gonna sleep? There's no furniture.

Alan looks around with a positive attitude.

ALAN
Hey, it's not too bad. I'll give you couch cushions from the office for a few days to sleep on.

Angela calms down a bit.

ALAN (CONT'D)
And on Tuesday we'll go to get your new furniture.

MAX
Why on Tuesday?

ALAN
It's trash day. I'll be back with the cushions.

On his way out, he throws the key on the counter.

Max and Angela hold each other tight as they listen to Aberto and the Latino music blasting from behind the wall. Loud steps and screams from the apartment above add to the cacophony of noises.

BACK TO:

INT. CARSON BEACH - MORNING

The young couple walks away.

Max takes a sip of his coffee and glances around. Another couple with a toddler and a dog walk on the beach.

The kid and the dog run to the shore. The father runs after them, laughing. He catches the child, grabs him and spins him around. The happy laughter reaches Max. He smiles as he watches them playing. After a while he gets his cell phone, scrolls to a number that says "Emma" and pushes the talk button. A few beeps. Emma picks up the phone.

EMMA (V.O.)

Hello.

MAX

Emma?

EMMA (V.O.)

Max?

MAX

Are you busy?

EMMA (V.O.)

No, not really. I was thinking to take Morgan to the playground.

MAX

How about pizza and ice cream on the beach?

EMMA (V.O.)

Hmm, that sounds good. I'm sure Morgan will be thrilled.

MAX

All right then, I'll pick you guys up in thirty minutes.

EMMA (V.O.)

OK.

Max hangs up. He watches the family for a few more seconds and stands up.

INT. PIZZERIA - DAY

It is a small place with a few tables. No customers but Morgan, Emma and Max.

They have paper plates with slices of pizza and some drinks in front of them. Max watches Morgan eating.

MAX
Hey, Morgan.

The girl looks at him.

MAX (CONT'D)
You go to school, right?

MORGAN
Aha.

She bites her pizza.

MAX
Let me guess, middle school?

Morgan grins.

MORGAN
You're silly. I'm in kindergarten.

MAX
Really? I thought you are at least twelve.

Morgan laughs.

MORGAN
No, I'm six.

MAX
Wow, you look older. Do you like school?

MORGAN
Yes, it's fun.

EMMA
In a few weeks she has her first class concert.

MAX
Wow, that's awesome! Can I come?

MORGAN
Yes, you can come. I will be singing.

She bites her pizza again. Emma proudly looks at her.

EMMA
She'll be in the first row.

MAX
First row? I would be scared to
death.

MORGAN
No, you wouldn't, you are big.

Max and Emma smile as they watch Morgan finishing the last slice of pizza. Max glances at Emma and freezes. Rays of sun highlight her hair. She looks beautiful. Their eyes meet. The pause gets a bit too long as they look at each other.

MAX
Ahh, are you guys ready for ice
cream?

MORGAN
Yay!

Max keeps his eyes on Emma.

MAX
I know a great place by the beach.

Emma smiles.

EMMA
OK.

Max smiles back.

MAX
OK.

He looks at Morgan.

MAX (CONT'D)
Are you ready?

MORGAN
Yes! I love ice cream.

MAX
Me too. Let's go get it.

They all stand up and walk to the exit.

EXT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

Morgan, Emma and Max walk out from the shop holding ice cream cones. They stroll down a small street, laughing and eating their desserts.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

A sandy beach. A few people are taking a walk by the calm water.

Max chases after Morgan. The girl is laughing her head off as she glances back at Max. He catches her and spins her around. Emma smiles as she watches them playing.

Emma and Max slowly stroll down the beach. Morgan sits on Max's neck. They are having a good time.

INT. CHEVY CONVERTIBLE - EVENING

Dark. Max drives down a street. He glances at Emma. She smiles.

EMMA

I think you've passed the house.

Max glances back.

MAX

Oh brother.

He makes a U-turn, drives back to Emma's house and stops.

MAX (CONT'D)

Here we are.

EMMA

Thank you for today.

MAX

Of course.

He turns to the back seat.

MAX (CONT'D)

Where's the monkey?

Morgan is leaning against the seatbelt, sleeping.

EMMA

Oh my God, she fell asleep.

She touches her leg.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Morgan wake up, we're home.

MAX
Let her sleep.

He turns the engine off.

MAX (CONT'D)
I'll bring her up.

EMMA
Thank you.

Max nods and gets out.

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

A nightlight is on. Morgan sleeps soundly on the bed. Emma covers her with a blanket and gives her a kiss. Max watches them. Emma stands up and looks at him.

EMMA
Thank you.

MAX
We're welcome.

Emma gets closer, puts her hands on his shoulders and kisses him. Max stares into her eyes and gently wraps his arms around her. She kisses him again and again until Max lets his guard down. He kisses her more and more passionately as he leads her out of Morgan's room.

INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Max is in the bed, sleeping. Rays of sun break through the curtains and fall on his face. He opens his eyes and looks around. Emma is not there.

Max gets up and puts his clothes on. He takes a step toward the door and sees a visualization board hanging on the wall. There are pictures of a fancy house, a Range Rover, a beautiful tropical beach, an engagement diamond ring and other things. Max smirks as he looks at the pictures and walks out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Emma is busy making pancakes and eggs.

MAX (V.O.)
Good morning.

Emma glances back and smiles as she sees him walking in.

EMMA
Good morning. Coffee?

MAX
I probably should go before they
see me.

EMMA
I think it's too late.

Max turns around and sees Morgan in her pajamas, and Jenny walking in.

MORGAN
You're back!

She runs to Max and hugs him. Max looks at Jenny.

MAX
Yes. I... wanted to find out how
you slept. And...

He glances at Jenny again.

MAX (CONT'D)
To tell your grandma how much fun
we had yesterday.

Jenny looks at blushing Emma and then turns her eyes to Max.

JENNY
I'm sure you had a lot of it.

MAX
Coffee?

JENNY
Sure.

She sits down at the table. Max walks to a coffee maker, pours coffee into a cup and brings it to Jenny. She stares at him.

JENNY (CONT'D)
OK, tell me about it.

MORGAN
I'll tell you, I'll tell you.

Max looks at Morgan with appreciation.

MAX
Thank you!

Emma giggles. Jenny shakes her head as she looks at Max.

JENNY
Saved by the bell.

She turns to Morgan.

JENNY (CONT'D)
OK, you little rabbit, tell me, how
much fun did you have?

She glances at Emma and Max again.

MORGAN
A lot! We eat pizza and then ice
cream, and then we ran on the
beach. And then...

She scratches her head.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
I don't remember.

EMMA
You fell asleep in the car, love.
(to Jenny)
We had a lot of fun, mom. OK?

Jenny glances at Max and nods.

JENNY
OK.

EMMA
Good.

She looks at everyone.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Are you guys ready for breakfast?

MORGAN
Yay.

MAX
Can I help?

EMMA
Sure, get the plates.

MAX
You got it.

Jenny sighs as she looks at their happy faces and then turns her attention to Morgan.

JENNY
So, what ice cream did you have?

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - MORNING

It is a simply decorated studio. A few photographs of Angela hang on the wall.

The entrance door opens, Max walks in. As he proceeds to the kitchen, he glances at Angela's photo. Max walks to the fridge and looks inside. After a few seconds, he shuts the fridge door and goes back to the picture. He stares at Angela's image.

MAX
I met someone... I thought I will
never feel it again.

He lower his eyes.

MAX (CONT'D)
Fuck... I...

He looks at Angela again.

MAX (CONT'D)
I've missed you. I've missed you so
much.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BASEMENT-APARTMENT - MORNING

Rays of sun are barely making their way through the dirty ground-floor window.

In the middle of the concrete room, in one line, lay three couch cushions. Hugging each other and fully clothed, Angela and Max are sleeping on the improvised bed.

Latino music breaks the silence from behind the thin wall. Max and Angela open their eyes. Max looks at the wall that the music is blasting from.

MAX
How considerate, you prick.

ANGELA
What time is it?

Max glances at his watch.

MAX
Seven.

ANGELA
Oh, my God.

Heavy steps from the apartment above shake off dust from the ceiling. The dirty particles fall on Angela and Max. Max brushes them off.

MAX
I guess it's time to get up.

He stands up and massages his back. There is a knock on the door. Max glances at Angela.

MAX (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

He walks to the door. Angela hears that he is talking to someone. She stands up and sees Max coming back with a smile on his face.

ANGELA
What?

MAX
That was Alan. He said that Alex got me a job.

Angela hugs him and cries.

MAX (CONT'D)
Why're you crying?

ANGELA
I'm happy.

Max kisses her.

MAX
You're so silly.

He grabs and spins her around. Angela laughs.

MAX (CONT'D)
I got a job!

INT. MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL - EVENING

Pictures of Bruce Lee are hanging on the walls. An old heavy bag is dangling in a corner.

Max, in a T-shirt and shorts, stands in front of a group of kids.

MAX
Now we're going to do cross
followed by round-house. Let me
show you.

Max performs the combination. He sees Andrei walking in.

MAX (CONT'D)
OK guys, now I want to see you do
it. Go.

As the group practices the combination, he walks to Andrei.

MAX (CONT'D)
Hey.

ANDREI
Looking good, bro.

MAX
Thanks. Ten more minutes, OK?

ANDREI
Take your time.

Max punches his shoulder lightly and walks back to the kids.

MAX
Good job, guys. Let's do it one
more time.

The kids punch and kick.

INT. BASEMENT-APARTMENT - EVENING

The apartment looks somewhat homie. A blanket covers a mattress in the corner. In the middle of the room are an old couch, a table and a few different chairs.

Angela stands by the stove, cooking. The door squeaks. Angela turns around and sees Max and Andrei walking in.

MAX

Hey, baby.

Angela smiles.

ANGELA

Hi. How was the class?

MAX

Good, good. Ten kids today.

ANDREI

What's that smell?

ANGELA

I'm making borsch. You guys go wash your hands. It's almost ready.

ANDREI

Angela let me ask you something.

ANGELA

What?

ANDREI

You're beautiful, smart, and you can cook borsch - where do I find a woman like you?

Angela grins as she shakes her head. Andrei points at Max.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

How did he get so lucky?

Angela kisses Max.

ANGELA

Because he just is.

Andrei looks at Max.

ANDREI

I don't get it, man.

MAX

Hey, before you talk yourself out of dinner, you better change the topic.

ANDREI

Fine. Remember I told that I have an uncle in Boston.

MAX

Yeah.

ANGELA

(to Max)

Baby, can you give me the bowls?

MAX

Sure.

(to Andrei)

Let's talk when we eat.

He takes the bowls from the counter and brings them to Angela. One by one, she fills them with borsch. Andrei and Max carry them to the table. Angela gets spoons, places them by each bowl and checks the table.

ANGELA

OK, let's sit down.

They all sit down. Max tastes the borsch.

MAX

Oh, my God.

Angela looks a bit scared as she stares at Max.

MAX (CONT'D)

It's so delicious.

ANGELA

You're not lying, are you?

Max looks at Andrei.

MAX

Andrei?

Andrei takes a spoonful of the borsch and as he tries it he looks at Angela.

ANDREI

Unbelievable.

Angela gives him a suspicious look.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

I'm serious! It's even better than my grandmother's.

ANGELA

OK, now you're pushing it.

She tries it herself.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Hmm, not bad.

MAX
It's awesome, baby.

He looks at Andrei.

MAX (CONT'D)
So, what were you talking about?

ANDREI
My uncle. He just bought a commercial building in Boston. We can open a Martial Arts school over there and make all this cash for ourselves.

MAX
We have no money to get the equipment and to pay rent.

ANDREI
I have two thousand saved and I'm sure my uncle will give us a few months rent free. What do you think?

MAX
I don't know; I have a job here and...

ANDREI
Dude, you came to another country with three hundred dollars and now you're afraid to move to Boston? Come on!

MAX
I'm not afraid. We just started figuring stuff out.

ANDREI
Max, you work for pennies. In Boston we'll work for ourselves. Think about that.

Max looks at Angela.

MAX
What do you think?

ANGELA

I actually can see it - you guys will train and I'll do the front desk. I think it's a great idea.

She gazes around.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

And I'm definitely not gonna miss the centipedes or our lovely neighbors. Ever.

MAX

Boston?

ANGELA/ANDREI

Boston!

EXT. BOSTON - DAY

The view of Boston.

EXT. STRIP MALL, JUNE - DAY

A sign, "PowerHouse Kickboxing" hangs above a door in the middle of a cheap-looking strip mall.

A car stops near the club. A young kid in a karate uniform gets out and runs into the club.

INT. POWERHOUSE KICKBOXING - DAY

The club is freshly painted and neat. Angela sits behind the front desk. A few parents are sitting nearby, observing the class in progress.

DANNY, the kid from the car, runs in and takes his shoes off. Angela glances at the clock hanging on the wall. It shows 5:10pm. Angela looks at the kid.

ANGELA

Danny, you're late.

DANNY

Sorry.

He runs into the group of kids. Max looks at him.

MAX

Danny, ten push-ups.

Danny drops on the floor and does the push-ups. He is back on his feet.

MAX (CONT'D)

Good. Now...

Max gets the Muay Thai pads on his hands and walks toward the first row of kids and places the pads in front of one them.

MAX (CONT'D)

Jab, cross!

The kid punches the pads.

MAX (CONT'D)

Everybody, do the same. Jab, cross!

Max places the pads in front of another kid. The kid punches the pads as the other kids do the combo in the air.

MAX (CONT'D)

Cross, knee!

The kid follows the direction. Max moves to another student.

MAX (CONT'D)

Cross, knee!

The kid hits the pads.

Andrei walks in and smiles looking at the big group.

MAX (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Good job! One more time. Go!

Andrei looks at Angela.

ANDREI

Wow.

Angela smiles as she nods.

CUT TO:

Kids are screaming as they punch and kick. Angela looks at the clock. It shows 6pm. Max, with sweat on his forehead, takes off the pads and throws them on the floor.

MAX

Good job, everyone! See you all
Wednesday.

Kids run to their parents. Parents wave to Max and Angela before they leave.

Andrei waits until the last person leaves the club and looks at Angela and Max.

ANDREI
So, what did I tell you?

MAX
That was the biggest class so far.

ANDREI
I think we need to expand.

MAX
I think we need to build this one to the fullest first.

ANDREI
Come on, bro, we need to aim big.

Max smiles as he looks at Angela.

MAX
OK, let's think big.

He kisses Angela on the cheek.

EXT. CARSON BEACH - DAY

Sunny day. A few people are sunbathing on the beach. Angela and Max walk by the water looking at the Harbor islands.

ANGELA
I would love to have a picnic on one of those islands.

MAX
You're like a penguin, all about the water.

ANGELA
You're a penguin.

She pushes Max into the water and splashes him. Max drags her in and both of them fall into the water laughing. They playfully fight and end up kissing each other.

MAX
I have a surprise for you.

ANGELA
What?

Max shakes his head.

MAX

Ahh ahh...

ANGELA

Please, what is it?

MAX

Nope.

ANGELA

Come on, you know I hate surprises.

MAX

OK, I give you a clue. What food are you dying to try?

ANGELA

Are you taking me to a restaurant?

MAX

If you give me a kiss.

ANGELA

To a real one? Seriously?

Max nods.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Are we going to have Italian? Yes?

MAX

Yes.

ANGELA

I love you so much!

She kisses him all over his face. Max laughs as he tries to escape.

INT. "POMODORO" RESTAURANT - EVENING

It is a small and outdated place. There are no customers inside.

MARIA (75) stands behind a scratched wooden bar counter wiping it with a cloth.

The entrance door opens and SETH (40s) and STEPHANY (30s) stumble in laughing. They are tipsy. Stephany looks around.

STEPHANY

Where did you bring me?

She stops her eyes on Maria.

STEPHANY (CONT'D)
There is a cutie. She must know
some ancient recipes.

Seth tries to control his laughter.

SETH
Be nice, Steph.

Maria's eyes light up with anger.

Giuseppe walks out from the kitchen and sees the couple.

GIUSEPPE
Hi there.

Stephany looks at Giuseppe's heavy figure and whispers to Seth.

STEPHANY
I think this's the cook.

They both burst in laughter. Maria walks out from the bar and heads towards them.

MARIA
Mangia merde e morte! Bastardi!
(Eat shit and die, bastards!)

Giuseppe stares at Maria.

GIUSEPPE
Mama!

Seth gets serious.

SETH
What did she say?

GIUSEPPE
She said, if you would like to have
a table, please sit down.

Stephany stares at Maria.

STEPHANY
I don't want to eat in this dump.

She grabs Seth's hand.

STEPHANY (CONT'D)
Let's go.

As she pulls Seth out, she glances at Maria again.

STEPHANY (CONT'D)
You go fuck yourself, old bitch!

Giuseppe angrily shoos them as he walks towards the couple.

GIUSEPPE
Vaffanculo! Mangia merde e morte!
(Go fuck yourself! Eat shit and die!)

After the couple quickly escapes from him, he walks to Maria.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, mama!

He glances at the door.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)
Assholes.

The door opens, Angela and Max walk in. They see angry-looking Giuseppe and Maria.

MAX
Are you open?

MARIA
I can't deal with people anymore.

She storms out into the kitchen. Giuseppe looks at Angela's and Max's confused faces.

GIUSEPPE
Are you here for dinner?

MAX
If that's OK.

GIUSEPPE
Sure, come in.

He comes to the table by the window and pulls a chair for Angela.

ANGELA
Thank you.

She sits down. Max sits across from her. Giuseppe still has the residue of the anger in his eyes.

GIUSEPPE
Would you like something to drink?

ANGELA
Sure. Ahh, what do you have?

GIUSEPPE
Beer, wine, vodka, water?

Max smiles as he watches his wife.

ANGELA
I guess wine?

She glances at Max. He nods "yes". She smiles at Giuseppe.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Yes, wine.

GIUSEPPE
White or red?

ANGELA
I'm sorry, I've never been in a
fancy restaurant before.

GIUSEPPE
Fancy?

Angela looks around.

ANGELA
Your place is beautiful.

Giuseppe's eyes tear up.

GIUSEPPE
Sei un bellissimo angelo. (You're a
beautiful angel)

He walks to the kitchen. Max stares at Angela.

MAX
What did he say?

ANGELA
Something about an angel. I think.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Maria stands by the stove, smoking a cigarette. Giuseppe
walks in.

GIUSEPPE
Mama, you can't smoke in here.

MARIA

Don't tell me what to do. I'm
upset.

She takes a deep puff. Giuseppe shakes his head, puts two plates on the counter and fills them with cold cuts. Maria is watching him.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Finally, we have customers.

GIUSEPPE

It's on the house.

Maria stares at him with her burning eyes.

MARIA

Are you stupid? We need money!

Giuseppe keeps working on the plates with the cold cuts.

GIUSEPPE

She said that our restaurant is
beautiful and fancy.

Maria blinks a few times as she watches Giuseppe and then storms out from the kitchen.

INT. MAIN FLOOR, RESTAURANT - EVENING

Maria walks behind the bar. She grabs a bottle of wine and heads toward Angela and Max. As she reaches them, she stomps the bottle in the middle of their table.

MARIA

On the house.

She walks back into the kitchen, leaving Angela and Max confused.

CUT TO:

Italian music is playing. Food and bottles of wine are on the table. Giuseppe makes another round and lifts his glass. They all look tipsy.

GIUSEPPE

For beautiful Pomodoro.

They all raise their glasses.

EVERYONE

For beautiful Pomodoro.

They drink.

The door opens, and a group of people walks in. They look around.

MAN

Are you guys open?

GIUSEPPE

Yes! Welcome to Pomodoro!

He finishes his drink and stands up. The group laughs.

MAN

This looks like a fun place. Sign us up.

He and his friends go to an open table. Maria looks at Angela.

MARIA

I'll be right back.

She walks to the bar, takes menus and brings them to the new guests. The door opens again and a few more people walk in. Maria and Giuseppe look at them with a big smile. Giuseppe places his hands on Angela's and Max's shoulders.

GIUSEPPE

You're my lucky charms.

He pats them on their backs and walks happily into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. RECEPTION AREA, EASY ACCOUNTING - DAY

Emma sits behind her desk. She glances at the window and sees Max's Chevy parking by the office. Max gets out and walks in holding a Dunkin Donuts box in his hands and two cups of coffee.

EMMA

Max? What are you doing here?

MAX

I brought you donuts.

He places the box and the cups on the desk.

EMMA

Donuts?

MAX
Sure, they're good for you.

EMMA
You mean good for my butt?

Max opens the box. Emma sees four delicious looking donuts.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Oh my God! You're so bad.

MAX
Come on, take one.

Emma stares at them.

EMMA
I can't, I shouldn't.

Max takes a bite and rolls his eyes.

MAX
Mmm, so good.

EMMA
You're such a devil.

She takes a donut, bites it and chews it with her eyes closed.

EMMA (CONT'D)
I'm gonna be so sorry tomorrow.

MAX
For sure.

Emma hits him with her hand. Max laughs.

EMMA
Are you serious? I'm trying to keep my figure.

MAX
OK, it was good to see you. I got to go now.

He kisses her on the cheek and walks to the door.

EMMA
That's it?

MAX
Yeah, I have a class to teach. See you guys tonight.

EMMA

OK, don't be late. Morgan chatted all morning about that. She'll drive me crazy if you're not on time.

MAX

Don't worry, I'm a sport driver.

He smiles and walks out. Emma looks at the donut in her hand.

EMMA

So bad.

She takes another bite.

INT. TRAMPOLINE PARK - EVENING

Music is playing. Emma watches Max and Morgan jumping on the trampolines. They both are laughing.

MORGAN

Do the butt trick.

MAX

You got it.

He jumps up, lands on his butt and bounces up on his feet. Morgan laughs and does the same.

MAX (CONT'D)

Catch me.

He bounces away. Morgan follows him.

Emma smiles as she watches them playing.

EXT. EMMA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Max stops his car by the house. Emma and Morgan get out. Max walks with them to the stairs. Morgan hugs him.

MORGAN

It was the best day of my life.

She looks up.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Can we do it again?

MAX

Of course.

MORGAN

Will you come to my concert
tomorrow?

MAX

I wouldn't miss it for the World.

MORGAN

Promise?

MAX

Pinky promise.

He gives Morgan his pinky. Morgan hooks her little pinky on his.

MORGAN

I love you.

She hugs him again. Max gets a bit emotional as he looks at Emma.

EMMA

Thank you.

Max nods.

INT. CHEVY CONVERTIBLE - EVENING

Max is cruising around.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dim light illuminates Angela's picture on the wall.

Max lies on the bed, staring at the picture. An almost empty bottle of wine stands on a coffee table near the bed. Max's eyes are shutting slowly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SHOES STORE - DAY

Sunny day. It is dazzling inside.

Max leans with his shoulder against a shelf with women's shoes. He smiles as he watches Angela, dressed in tight leggings and white shirt, picking through the shoes. She glances at Max and shows him a shiny pair of high heels. Max nods.

EXT. SHOES STORE, STREET - DAY

Angela, in the new high heels, comes out from the store. Max follows her. Some jazzy rhythmic music starts playing.

Angela walks down the street with a sassy attitude. Max dances around her Travolta style. Angela gives him sexy looks as she continues her walk. She steps into a crack and breaks a heel.

ANGELA

OHH!

The music stops.

CUT TO:

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Max lies on the bed, sleeping. The doorbell rings.

Max walks to the door. As he opens it, he sees Emma standing in front of him.

EMMA

I couldn't sleep.

MAX

How did you get here?

EMMA

I took Jenny's car. May I come in?

MAX

Sure.

He moves to the side, letting her in. Emma walks in and looks around. She notices the bottle of wine by the bed and then sees Angela's pictures. She stares at them. There is an obvious similarity between her and Angela. Her demeanor changes to confusion. She grins as she looks at Max.

EMMA

Is that why you followed me?

Max is silent. She points at the portrait.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Because I look like your wife?

She stares at Max, waiting for his response.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Talk to me.

MAX

It's complicated.

EMMA

Complicated? You don't know what complicated is! Raising a kid alone, giving up on dreams - that's complicated.

Max grins.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Do you think it's funny?

MAX

I don't think you understand what hardship is. For some people, having just two bathrooms could be very hard.

EMMA

What?

MAX

Listen...

He takes her hand.

MAX (CONT'D)

Yes, I saw my wife in you.

Emma takes her hand away.

EMMA

Oh, my God.

She walks to the exit.

MAX

Emma wait.

She stops by the door and turns to Max. Tears in her eyes.

EMMA

I thought we had something, but I guess it's too complicated for you.

MAX

Emma...

EMMA

You know, I got used to it, you can hurt me, but don't you dare hurt Morgan. Stay away from us.

She storms out from the apartment. Max stares at the door in distraught.

MAX

Fuck.

He moves his disoriented eyes to Angela's picture.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POWERHOUSE KICKBOXING - EVENING

The class is over. Angela stands by the door saying "goodbye" to the parents and kids. She notices that Max is watching her. Angela smiles and sends him an air kiss. Max smiles back.

Everyone left. Angela, Max and Andrei stand near the desk.

ANDREI

I spoke to my uncle about the corner location.

MAX

And?

ANDREI

We got it!

Max and Angela are supper excited.

MAX

We're gonna make so much money.

ANGELA

We need to hire more people.

ANDREI

Oh yeah, first million is coming up.

ANGELA

I think we need to celebrate.

ANDREI

Right on, girl. Katya's band is playing in Underground Cafe tonight.

Angela looks playfully at Max.

ANGELA

Ooh, somebody is going to dance tonight.

MAX

I don't think so. I was working all day.

ANDREI

Come on, grandpa, don't complain.

MAX

Grandpa?

He punches Andrei in the shoulder. Andrei laughs.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'll show you who the grandpa is.

They both get into fighting stances.

ANGELA

OK, OK, boys, save your energy for the dance floor.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAFE - NIGHT

The cafe is hippy and free-spirited. There are tons of patrons at the bar drinking. Funky people on the dance floor.

On the illuminated stage, KATYA (30), a beautiful girl with tattoos on her arms and pink hair, is hitting her guitar's strings hard as she jams with her band.

Angela, with her eyes closed and with a cocktail in her hand, dances in front of Max. She roughs up her hair as she gives Max a seductive look and touches his leg. Max smiles as he watches his drunk wife going overboard with her dance skills. He takes a sip of cold water from his bottle and stops dancing.

MAX

Baby, I think we need to go home.

ANGELA

No.

She gives him another sexy look. Max shakes his head and pours the cold water on her neck and her back. Angela enjoys it.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Oh, that feels good.

She grabs his bottle and splashes Max with cold water too.

MAX
Babe, come on, I'm not playing. We
have to go home.

ANGELA
A few more minutes.

Max takes her hand and pulls her through the dancing crowd to the exit. As she follows him, Angela continues her dance.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Please. It's so much fun.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

The taxi driver glances at the reflexion of Angela in the back-view mirror. Tears are running down her cheeks. She smudges black mascara all over her face with her hand. Max watches her patiently.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
Not fair!

MAX
Come on, love, you had a lot of fun
and now it's time to go home.

Angela sobs.

ANGELA
I'm young and beautiful and I want
to dance!

Max smiles as he looks at smudges of the black mascara all over her face.

MAX
You are beautiful and very young.

Angela stares at him.

ANGELA
Don't make fun of me. I want to
dance.

The taxi driver smiles and shakes his head.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Through a window, a full moon's light falls on Max's face. There is a sound of pain. Max opens his eyes and looks to the side. He sees Angela in bed up on her hands and knees. She breathes rapidly, and then she screams in pain. Max grabs her shoulder.

MAX

Baby, what's wrong?

Angela cries.

ANGELA

My stomach. It's on fire.

Max jumps from the bed and quickly dresses up.

MAX

We need to get you to the hospital.

ANGELA

No.

She screams in pain and then takes a few rapid breaths.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

No, no. Give me a minute, it'll go away.

MAX

Are you kidding! Come on, put the robe on.

He sits her up and throws the robe over her.

MAX (CONT'D)

Come on, love, stand up.

He helps her get up and walks her out of the room.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM, EMERGENCY - NIGHT

Angela, sedated by medications, lies in a bed surrounded by the medical equipment. She looks pale, her eyes are closed. Max sits by the bed holding her hand.

MAX

Everything will be OK, baby.
Doctors know what to do.

The curtain moves aside, and A DOCTOR walks in. He looks at Angela and then at Max.

DOCTOR
May I talk to you?

Max stands up.

MAX
Yes.

DOCTOR
Follow me, please.

He walks out. Max kisses Angela's hand.

MAX
I'll be right back, love.

He kisses her hand again and walks out.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Max walks in and sees the doctor sitting behind his desk.

DOCTOR
Sit down.

Max sits in the chair.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
I'm afraid I have bad news for you.

Max stares at him.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Your wife has cervical cancer.

MAX
What?

Max shakes his head.

MAX (CONT'D)
No. No. I think you need to check
it again.

DOCTOR
It was caused by the Human
Papilloma Virus. And...

Max is stunned as he stares at the Doctor.

MAX
You can treat it, right?

DOCTOR
Unfortunately, it's too late. It
metastasized to her vital organs.
I'm sorry.

Max's eyes fill with tears.

MAX
You can treat her, right? You must
do something.

The Doctor shakes his head.

DOCTOR
I am so sorry.

Max stares at him in stunned disbelief.

INT. POWERHOUSE KICKBOXING - DAY

Upbeat music is playing. Andrei trains three middle-aged
ladies on the heavy bags. They have boxing gloves on.

ANDREI
Jab, cross, round-house.

The women punch and kick.

ANDREI (CONT'D)
Awesome! Good job, ladies!

The door opens and Andrei sees Max walking in. He lost
weight, unshaved with dark circles under his eyes. Andrei
looks at the ladies.

ANDREI (CONT'D)
You guys continue the combination.
I'll be right back.

WOMAN
Don't be too long. We need our
instructor.

They giggle.

ANDREI
OK, OK.

He runs to Max.

ANDREI (CONT'D)
Jesus, man, you look like shit.

Max glances at the women and then looks at Andrei.

MAX
I need money.

Andrei is thinking.

MAX (CONT'D)
She is in pain. You know I'll pay
you back.

ANDREI
Yeah, of course. Come.

He walks to the office. Max follows.

INT. OFFICE, MARTIAL ARTS CLUB - DAY

Andrei opens a safe and gets a box out. He places it on the desk and opens it. There are a few twenties and some fives inside. Andrei scoops the money up.

ANDREI
How is she doing?

Max shakes his head in distraught.

ANDREI (CONT'D)
Fuck. I'm sorry, man.

He extends his hand with the money.

ANDREI (CONT'D)
That's all we have.

Max nods and takes the money. He is about to leave.

ANDREI (CONT'D)
I'm sorry to bring it up but when
can you work again? We're losing
business, bro.

Max shakes the money.

MAX
I'll pay you back.

He walks out.

ANDREI
(quietly)
Shit.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

The window is open. A light breeze moves the curtains. A visualization board hangs on the wall by the bed. There are pictures of a house, a sport car, an affluent couple pushing a stroller in the park and a family of three having a picnic on a beach.

Angela lies in bed with her eyes closed. She looks fragile. Max, cleaned up and shaved, sits by her side looking at her. As he fixes her hair, she opens her eyes.

MAX

Hey.

She smiles.

ANGELA

Hey.

MAX

How're you doing?

ANGELA

Tired.

Max's eyes are full of love.

MAX

I have a surprise for you.

Angela smiles.

ANGELA

You know I hate surprises.

Max nods.

MAX

I do. But you can't blame a messenger.

ANGELA

Messenger? What are you up to?

MAX

I think we should dress you up.

ANGELA

Are we going somewhere?

Max smiles and nods.

MAX
Definitely.

He kisses her hand. Her eyes shine with love as she looks at him.

ANGELA
Where?

MAX
All the way to the moon.

ANGELA
Liar.

INT. SMALL BOAT - DAY

Angela, in a white dress, sits on Max's lap as they speed up toward the Harbor Islands. She closes her eyes and forcefully inhales the salty air.

As the boat goes around Gallops island Angela sees a table covered with a white cloth and a few chairs standing on the sandy beach. Giuseppe, Andrei and Katya, with her guitar, wave to them.

ANGELA
A picnic? On the beach?

Max smiles.

MAX
Like you always wanted.

ANGELA
Thank you.

She kisses him. Max hugs her. His eyes tear up.

The boat slows down and lands on the shore.

EXT. BEACH, GALLOPS ISLAND - DAY

Andrei runs to the boat.

ANDREI
Hey, guys.

Angela waves her hand. Andrei grabs a line and pulls the front of the boat onto the shore.

Max stands up, holding Angela in his hands. Andrei, fully dressed, walks into the water and extends his arms.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

I got you, girl.

Angela smiles and shakes her head as she looks at him.

Max leans down and carefully places Angela into Andrei's arms.

MAX

Be careful.

ANDREI

Dude, don't get wet.

He walks onto the shore holding Angela. Giuseppe smiles widely.

GIUSEPPE

Hi Angel.

ANGELA

Giuseppe.

Andrei walks to the table and lowers Angela into the chair.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Thank you, Andrei.

ANDREI

Of course.

GIUSEPPE

I hope you're hungry. I made your special dish and my best cannoli ever.

Angela looks tired. She smiles.

ANGELA

Thank you, Giuseppe.

GIUSEPPE

Anything for you, Angel.

He heads to the table. Katya touches the strings. A beautiful melody morphs harmonically with the sound of the ocean. Angela smiles at her and nods "Thank you". Katya smiles back.

Max pulls another chair closer to Angela and sits down. He takes her hand.

MAX
Hey, beautiful.

Angela looks at his hand. There is no ring on his finger.

ANGELA
Your grandfather's ring?

She looks at him.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
You shouldn't have.

MAX
It's just jewelry. Everything
important to me is right here.

He looks into her eyes and smiles.

ANGELA
Remember those high heels you
bought me? I was so proud.

MAX
And then the heel broke.

He laughs.

MAX (CONT'D)
You were so mad.

ANGELA
It was a disaster. They were so
beautiful.

MAX
Yes, very shiny.

Angela smiles.

ANGELA
I had such a good time with you...
I don't want to leave you.

MAX
Come on, baby, you never will.

He kisses her hand.

MAX (CONT'D)
You never will.

ANGELA
I want you to promise me something.

MAX
Anything.

ANGELA
Say it.

MAX
I promise.

ANGELA
I want you to find a good woman
who'll take care of you and who'll
give you a child.

MAX
No, no, no.

ANGELA
You can't break your promise. So,
you've got to find a woman. And...

She looks at the ocean.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
I want you to spread my ashes over
the ocean at our beach.

MAX
Please stop. You're not going
anywhere.

Angela smiles sadly and turns her tired eyes to the endless
water.

ANGELA
I want to feel the ocean. Could you
bring me over there?

MAX
Of course, love.

He takes Angela into his hands and stands up.

Giuseppe puts together a plate for Angela. He turns around
and sees Max, with Angela in his arms, walking into the
water.

Max, in his slacks and shoes, walks into the water up to his
waist and lowers Angela down. She floats on small waves as
Max supports her body and head. The salty water soaks the
dress and plays with her long hair.

Angela looks around with her disoriented eyes.

ANGELA

Max?

MAX

Yes, love.

ANGELA

I can't see you.

She breathes in rapidly as she tries to find Max.

MAX

I'm here, love...

He puts his lips on her forehead. Tears roll down his cheeks.

ANGELA

Max...

MAX

I'm here, baby. I'm here.

He stares at her pale and beautiful face. Angela calms down and closes her eyes. Two tear-drops roll down her cheeks. She stops breathing.

MAX (CONT'D)

Baby? Please... Oh fuck...

He cries over her body.

INT. ANGELA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Max turns the light on. He is drunk, a bottle of vodka is in his hand. He gazes around and stops his eyes on the visualization board. He stares at it.

DISSOLVES TO:

Angela sits on the bed with a magazine on her lap. She cuts out a picture of an affluent couple pushing a stroller with a baby down a road. She glances at Max and smiles.

ANGELA

One day, it's us.

CUT TO:

As Angela's image dissolves in the air, Max screams and throws the bottle into the visualization board. It breaks to pieces.

Max sits on the bed and sobs.

INT. "POMODORO" RESTAURANT - EVENING

The restaurant is empty. Maria, Giuseppe, Andrei, Katya and Max sit at the table. An urn and Angela's picture stand in the middle of the table with plates of food and bottles of wine.

Giuseppe raises his glass.

GIUSEPPE

I want to drink for this incredible woman I met here. She was a true angel on Earth, and now she's an angel in Heaven.

He wipes away a tear.

GIUSEPPE (CONT'D)

For Angela.

Max smiles sadly at Angela's picture and raises his glass.

MAX

For you, baby.

MARIA/ANDREI/KATYA

For Angela.

They all drink to the end. Maria wipes her teary eyes.

Everyone eats but Max. He stands up.

ANDREI

It's dark, bro. I don't think it's a good idea.

MAX

She needs the water.

GIUSEPPE

Max, we should go all together. I mean it.

MAX

Thank you, guys. But I want to be alone with her.

He takes the urn and then looks at everyone.

MAX (CONT'D)

I love you all.

He walks to the exit holding the urn.

ANDREI

Let me come with you.

Max shakes his head and walks out.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

Damn.

GIUSEPPE

Should we go after him?

Andrei stands up.

ANDREI

You guys stay. I'll keep an eye on
him.

He walks out.

EXT. CARSON BEACH - NIGHT

Dark. Lights of Boston are visible from the distance.

Max walks into the water and scatters the ashes around. At the end, he shakes the urn and then throws it far into the ocean.

Andrei walks onto the beach. He sees a lonely figure sitting by the water. He comes closer, puts a blanket over Max's shoulders and sits by his side.

The sun is rising over Max and Andrei, still sitting together at the beach.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CARSON BEACH, PRESENT TIME - MORNING

The sun is rising. Sound of small waves crashing over the shore mixes with seagulls' squawking.

Andrei sees Max sitting near the water. He walks toward him.

Max hears steps. He glances over his shoulder and sees Andrei. He sits near him.

ANDREI

I knew you were gonna be here.

MAX

Thanks for coming.

He takes a rock and throws it into the water. Andrei looks at him.

ANDREI

Three years past, bro. I think it's time to move on.

MAX

I don't know. It still hurts so much.

Andrei looks at the ocean.

ANDREI

Tell her about Emma.

MAX

What?

Andrei stands up.

ANDREI

Talk to Angela. I'm sure she wants only the best for you.

He glances at the ocean again.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

Talk to her, man.

He heads to his car. Max gazes at him for a second and then turns back to the ocean. A smile of hope touches his lips.

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Max is pacing around the apartment. He stops by the fridge, opens the door and then shuts it. After a few seconds of deliberation, Max walks to the bed and sits on it. As he stares at Angela's pictures, his vision fades out.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Sunny day. Small waves are splashing on the shore.

Morgan is laughing as she looks at Max. He falls on his knees near the water and opens his arms for a hug. Morgan charges into his arms. He embraces her as he looks at Emma.

She smiles back at him, mesmerized by his and Morgan's connection.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Max still sits on his bed looking at Angela's picture. He moves his eyes to his phone and picks it up. He scrolls through the numbers and stops on "EMMA". After staring at it for a few seconds, he finds his courage and dials the number.

EMMA (V.O.)

Hello.

Music starts playing, kids are singing.

We can see Max talking on the phone. He is nervous. As he continues the conversation, a light smile touches his lips. The conversation leads to laughter. Max stands up and walks to the exit. On his way, he stops by Angela's picture. He smiles at it, gives it a nod and rushes out from the apartment.

EXT. AUDITORIUM, SCHOOL - DAY

On a stage, kids are singing. The auditorium is filled with proud parents. Some have flowers.

Emma watches Morgan singing in the first row. The girl looks sad. She takes a high note and suddenly smiles as she stares at someone standing by the exit.

Emma looks back and sees Max. He holds a bouquet of red roses and a toy monkey in his hands.

As the performance winds down, Morgan runs off of the stage and charges toward Max. She jumps into his open arms.

MORGAN

You came!

Max laughs, trying to hold back his tears.

MAX

I wouldn't miss it for the World.

MORGAN

I love you.

She hugs him tight.

MAX

I love you, Monkey.

He kisses her cheek and looks around looking for someone. He sees Emma moving through the aisle towards them.

Max tenses up as he watches Emma getting closer. She takes a few last steps and looks straight into his eyes.

EMMA

You're late.

MAX

Traffic is...

EMMA

Shut up.

She hugs him and Morgan. Happy tears fill her eyes.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Just shut up.

She gently touches his face and then kisses him.

Sound of someone clapping. Emma and Max look around and see people getting up on their feet. They smile and clap as they look at the three of them.

Happiness fills the room.

The End.