

Mother & Saints

Screenplay by

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FADE IN:

SUPER: SPRING 1974

INT. GIRLS BATHROOM-HIGH SCHOOL-NIGHT

MARY JANE, 17. High school student. Smart but naïve. Dark hair, hazel eyes. Very attractive teenage girl.

MARCOS, 18. High school student and football player. Tall and handsome.

Mary Jane steps back towards the counter. She grips her hands onto the edge of the counter. Marcos reaches his arm up and touches Mary Jane's face. He kisses her neck.

MARY JANE

(moan)

You better hurry.

MARCOS

Alright.

Marcos lifts Mary Jane up onto the counter. He reaches underneath into her skirt and pulls down her panties. She unfastens his pants and pushes them down with the bottom of her shoes. Marcos leans close and presses up against Mary Jane.

MARY JANE

(moan)

EXT. PARKING LOT-HIGH SCHOOL-NIGHT

DALILA, late 30s. A homemaker and mother of four daughters. Kindhearted but strict.

TERESA, 12. A middle school student and Mary Jane's younger sister.

MACARENA, 9. A grade school student and the youngest sister of Mary Jane.

Dalila walks towards her **brown Station Wagon**. She opens the passenger door and looks at Teresa.

DALILA

Teresa, honey?

TERESA

Yes, mom?

DALILA

Go get your sister for me, please?

Teresa turns around and walks towards the school.

INT. GIRLS BATHROOM-HIGH SCHOOL-CONTINUOUS

Marcos backs away. Mary Jane looks at him.

MARY JANE

Will you call me tomorrow?

MARCOS

Maybe. I have scouts coming to see me play next week and my dad wants me to keep my focus on the game.

Mary Jane gets off the counter and reaches down. She pulls her panties up. She looks at Marcos and gives him a disgusted look.

MARY JANE

So, was this just another way to get you laid and me out of your life?

Marcos pulls his pants up and walks towards the bathroom door. He pulls the door open, and Teresa stands in front of Marcos. Teresa looks at him and then at Mary Jane.

TERESA

What are you doing in there?

MARY JANE

Nothing! What do you want?

TERESA

Mom's waiting.

MARY JANE

Go and tell her that I'm coming!

Teresa turns around and runs. Marcos looks at Mary Jane.

MARCOS

I'll call you tomorrow.

Marcos walks out of the bathroom.

EXT. PARKING LOT-HIGH SCHOOL-CONTINUOUS

Mary Jane walks towards the Station Wagon. She looks at Dalila. Dalila looks at Mary Jane.

DALILA

What took you so long?

MARY JANE

I was just grabbing my stuff.

Mary Jane rushes towards the passenger seat, and sits down next to Teresa. Dalila shuts the door.

INT. BATHROOM-AFTERNOON

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

Mary Jane sits on the toilet. A **Pregnancy Test** is set down on the counter. An **Egg Timer** goes off. Mary Jane grabs the test and looks at the plus signs. Her eyes grow in shock. She drops the test to the floor.

The door opens. Teresa walks in. She looks at Mary Jane and then at the test strip on the floor. Teresa reaches down and grabs the strip. Her eyes grow in shock.

TERESA

Mom's gonna kill you.

Mary Jane grabs Teresa by her arm and pulls her close to look her in the eyes.

MARY JANE

You can't tell mom. You got it!

Teresa nods her head "Yes."

MARY JANE (CONT'D)

Good.

INT. AUDITORIUM-CATHEDRAL-AFTERNOON

Kneeled down in front of the candles, her hands clutched together. Mary Jane's eyes closed as she prays to herself. She opens her eyes, and stands up. Marcos walks towards her. Mary Jane turns and looks at Marcos.

MARY JANE

Where have you been?

MARCOS
I told you, I had scouts watching.

MARY JANE
I've been trying to reach you!

MARCOS
I know. What's so important?

MARY JANE
I'm pregnant.

MARCOS
Pregnant?

MARY JANE
Yes. Remember, you and me in the
bathroom?

MARCOS
I thought you were on the pill?

MARY JANE
You assumed that on your own.

MARCOS
What do you want me to do about it?

MARY JANE
I don't want you to do anything.
I'll do what I have to on my own!

Mary Jane steps past Marcos. He grabs Mary Jane by her arm.

MARCOS
Let's go tell our parents together.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Dalila sits in her recliner, staring at Mary Jane and then at Marcos.

DALILA
What did you two want to tell me?

Mary Jane looks down at the floor. Her attention returns to Dalila.

MARY JANE
Mom, me and Marcos have decided
that we wanted to get married.

Dalila looks at Marcos.

DALILA
What do your parents have to say?

MARCOS
They support my decision.

DALILA
I do too.

Dalila stands up. Mary Jane stands up, and hugs Dalila.

INT. AUDITORIUM-CATHEDRAL-AFTERNOON

PRIEST, early 40s. A priest for ten years.

Mary Jane stands across from Marcos. Marcos looks down at his feet, then looks at Mary Jane.

PRIEST
Marcos?

Marcos looks at the Priest.

MARCOS
Yeah?

PRIEST
Do you take Mary Jane to be your
lawfully wedded wife?

MARCOS
I do.

The Priest looks at Mary Jane.

PRIEST
Do you Mary Jane take Marcos to be
your lawfully wedded husband?

MARY JANE
I do.

INT. BEDROOM-MORNING

Mary Jane lies in bed, asleep. Marcos sits up, looks at Mary Jane and stands up. He grabs his pants, shoes and shirt. Marcos rushes towards the bedroom door. He walks out. Mary Jane opens her eyes. She looks at the empty side of the bed.

MARY JANE
Marcos?

INT. KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

Mary Jane sits at the kitchen table. She takes a sip of tea from a coffee mug.

MARY JANE
(sob)

INT. DINER-EVENING

Mary Jane sits at the bar table. A waitress stands in front of her. DEIDRE, 18. Dark brown hair, brown eyes. Kind but overbearing. The oldest sister.

DEIDRE
Why don't you start working here?

MARY JANE
Here?

DEIDRE
What do you have to lose?

MARY JANE
Nothing, I guess.

DEIDRE
And you can't move back in with mom. So, I'll move in with you.

MARY JANE
You would do that?

DEIDRE
I'll move in this week.

INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Deidre walks into the bedroom. She sets a box down on her bed. Mary Jane sits on her bed, and watches Deidre unpack all her belongings from the box.

DEIDRE
What do you say we go buy you a crib?

MARY JANE
I don't have any money.

DEIDRE
No, it's on me. Consider it a gift.
Have you thought of any names?

MARY JANE
Not really.

DEIDRE
Come on, let's go. I'll unpack
later.

Mary Jane stands up. Deidre steps towards the doorway, grabs
ahold of Mary Jane's hand and walks her out of the bedroom.

INT. CLOTHING STORE-AFTERNOON

Mary Jane stands in front of a mirror. A *paternity night gown*
in front of her. She feels around her stomach, gently rubbing
her hand around.

MARY JANE
I can't wait to meet you.

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

Mary Jane stands in front of the bathroom mirror. She looks
at herself.

MONTAGE

-- Mary Jane at three months.

-- Mary Jane at six months.

-- Mary Jane at nine months.

BACK TO SCENE

Mary Jane rubs her stomach.

DEIDRE (O.S.)
Are you done yet!

MARY JANE
I'm coming!

DEIDRE
Hurry up! I got to get ready for
work!

MARY JANE
Hold on!

Mary Jane pulls the door open. She looks down at her feet and finds water dripping from her body to the bathroom floor. Deidre looks at Mary Jane.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
What's happening?

INT. PAITENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING

Mary Jane lays in her bed. Deidre walks around the room, holding the newborn baby. Mary Jane sits up.

MARY JANE
Let me see him?

Deidre steps towards her, and hands Mary Jane the newborn. She holds her son close to her face.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
I'm going to love you more than you
can imagine, Nicholas. I promise.

INT. DINER-NIGHT

Mary Jane sits in a chair, a book in her hand and leaning her head back against the wall. A young man walks into the diner. He steps towards the bar table, and sits on a stool. BOB VALENS, 19. Tall, handsome. Blonde hair, blue eyes. A construction worker. Kind, and down to earth. He leans over the bar table, and looks at Mary Jane.

BOB
Hello!

Mary Jane closes the book, stands up and grabs a coffee pot.

MARY JANE
I'm so sorry.

BOB
It's fine.

Mary Jane looks at Bob.

BOB (CONT'D)
Are you gonna pour that coffee
today or do you want me to come
back tomorrow?

MARY JANE
Oh, I'm sorry.

Mary Jane pours coffee into the mug right in front of Bob.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
Do you want anything else?

BOB
No, just coffee for right now.

MARY JANE
Okay. Just let me know.

Mary turns and sets the coffee pot down.

BOB
I know what I want now.

Mary Jane's eyes look down. She smiles.

MARY JANE
And what's that?

BOB
Your phone number.

MARY JANE
What do you want it for?

BOB
To ask you out on a date.

Mary Jane turns around and looks Bob in the eyes.

MARY JANE
Pick me up here tomorrow at eight,
okay?

BOB
Okay.

EXT. DINER-EVENING

Mary Jane sits on a bench, she looks around. A blue **Truck** pulls up to the curb. Mary Jane stands up and walks towards the truck.

EXT/INT. TRUCK-EVENING

Mary Jane opens the passenger door --

BOB
-- I hope you like Chinese food.

MARY JANE
You read my mind.

She sits -- and shuts the door -- Mary Jane fastens her seatbelt -- Bob looks at her, and then he puts the gear on DRIVE --

BOB
-- Here we go --

-- His foot hits the gas pedal -- and the truck drives --

INT. RESTAURANT-EVENING

Mary Jane and Bob sit in a booth. Their menus are held over their faces. Bob lowers his.

BOB
Do you see anything that you like?

Mary Jane lowers her menu.

MARY JANE
General Tso's Chicken sounds pretty good.

BOB
That's a good choice. I think I'm gonna get that too.

MARY JANE
What else do like to do besides eating or drinking coffee?

BOB
I like to go to the beach. What about you?

MARY JANE
I really don't have time to do anything these days.

BOB
Maybe on our second date, I can take you to the beach.

MARY JANE
Works for me.
(laugh)

Mary Jane looks at Bob. Bob looks at her. A lot of passionate energy fills their hearts as they look at each other.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM-EVENING

Bob backs up to the wall. Mary Jane kisses him. Bob grabs Mary Jane by the back of her head and kisses her. He lifts her up off her feet.

INT. TRUCK-NIGHT

Bob sits in the driver seat. Mary Jane sits close to him. She kisses him.

MARY JANE
Can I tell you something?

BOB
Yes.

MARY JANE
I have a son.

BOB
You do?

MARY JANE
Your not mad are you?

BOB
No. How old is he?

MARY JANE
He's two months old.

BOB
I like to meet him.

MARY JANE
Let's go then.

Bob starts the truck. He wraps his arm around Mary Jane.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Mary Jane walks into the living room. Deidre is asleep on the couch. Bob walks in and shuts the door. Mary Jane turns to Bob. She puts her finger to her mouth.

MARY JANE
Shh!

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Bob sits on Mary Jane's bed. Mary Jane walks towards the crib. She leans down and lifts the infant up into her arms. She walks towards Bob. Mary Jane sits.

MARY JANE

This is Nicholas. Nicholas, this is Bob. I hope you both have room in your hearts to share me.

Mary Jane hands her infant son to Bob. He gently holds him close.

BOB

You have a beautiful mom, and I'm gonna do everything I can do to make her happy. You too.

Bob kisses Mary Jane. Mary Jane takes the infant from Bob.

The lights turned off. Bob and Mary Jane lay in bed. Her head pressed against his chest. His arm wrapped around her back.

EXT. BEACH-AFTERNOON

SUPER: SIX MONTHS LATER

Bob sits in a lounge chair. Mary Jane lays on a beach towel. Sunglasses on her face. Bob reaches into his pocket, and pulls out a ring box. He pushes himself up out of the chair and falls to his knees. Mary Jane opens her eyes. She sits up, and reaches for him.

MARY JANE

Are you alright?

BOB

Yes. Can you help me up?

Mary Jane stands up, and grabs Bob's arm. Bob shows her the ring box. Her eyes look surprised.

MARY JANE

What are you doing?

BOB

What does it look like?

MARY JANE

I don't want you to feel trapped or pressured.

BOB
I'm not. I won't leave you or break
your heart. What do you say?

Her eyes begin to water. She touches her face and fights back
the tears. Mary Jane nods her head "Yes."

MARY JANE
Yes!

Bob stands up.

BOB
You will!

MARY JANE
Yes!!

Bob hugs and kisses Mary Jane.

INT. BEDROOM-MORNING

Mary Jane sits in front of her **vanity**. Deidre stands behind
her, curling her hair with a **curling iron**.

MARY JANE
Are you almost done?

DEIDRE
Just give me a second.

MARY JANE
He's waiting!

DEIDRE
Don't rush me!

Deidre finishes the final curl in Mary Jane's hair bun.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)
There! Perfect.

Mary Jane looks at the finished curl.

MARY JANE
Oh! I love it!! Thank you!

Mary Jane stands up and hugs Deidre. Deidre pushes her back,
and hands her a boutique of **sunflowers**.

DEIDRE
Let's go get you married!

INT. HOTEL ROOM #115-HOTEL-NIGHT

Bob lays in bed. He waits patiently.

BOB
How's it going in there?

MARY JANE (O.S.)
I'm almost done.

BOB
Okay.

The bathroom door opens. Mary Jane steps out wearing a **white silk nightgown**. Bob's eyes grow with excitement.

BOB (CONT'D)
Come here, baby!

Mary Jane climbs onto the bed, and crawls towards Bob. Bob kisses her on the neck.

MARY JANE
(moan)

Bob lowers the strap on Mary Jane's nightgown. He kisses her shoulder.

INT. KITCHEN-MORNING

SUPER: FIVE YEARS LATER

Mary Jane stands over the stove. She cooks eggs, and bacon. Bob walks into the kitchen. He looks at 5-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS.

BOB
Hey, little man!

Bob walks towards Mary Jane. Bob grabs her by her arms.

MARY JANE
Your breakfast is ready.

Bob turns Mary Jane around. She holds a plate in front of him. He knocks the plate out of her hands.

BOB
Come on, babe! We haven't done it
in a while.

MARY JANE
No!! Not now!

Bob punches her. He drags her out of the kitchen by her legs and pulls her into the hallway.

INT. BEDROOM-MORNING

Bob pulls Mary Jane into the bedroom by her arms. He pushes her onto the bed and forces her down onto her stomach. Bob pulls down her sweatpants and underwear.

MARY JANE

Ugh!

Bob pulls his pants down and leans down on top of Mary Jane.

BOB

Oh!

(moan)

He quivers against her and falls to the floor. Her hand over her mouth.

MARY JANE

(sob)

Mary Jane pushes herself to stand to her feet and grabs the baseball bat leaned against the nightstand. She steps towards Bob and swings the bat into his head. She drops the bat and grabs a backpack from the closet. Mary Jane grabs some clothes from her dresser. She grabs clothes for 5-Year-Old Nicholas.

INT. KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS

Mary Jane reaches for 5-Year-Old Nicholas and pulls him out of his high chair. She rushes to the front door.

INT. CAR-MORNING

In the backseat of the car, 5-Year-Old Nicholas sits in his car seat. Mary Jane sits in the driver seat. She slams the door shut. Mary Jane looks in the rear view mirror and then looks at 5-Year-Old Nicholas. Her right eye is black.

MARY JANE

Hold on, baby.

Mary Jane starts the car, and drives.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

Mary Jane sits on the couch. She holds 5-Year-Old Nicholas on her lap. Deidre sits in a recliner. Mary Jane puts 5-Year-Old Nicholas down to his feet.

MARY JANE

Why don't you go and play?

DEIDRE

There's toys in my room, kiddo.

5-Year-Old Nicholas runs down the hallway. Mary Jane looks around, rubbing her thighs with both her hands.

MARY JANE

I need a cigarette.

DEIDRE

When did you start smoking?

MARY JANE

A couple of months. Do you have one?

DEIDRE

No.

MARY JANE

I got to get to the store.

DEIDRE

First, tell me where you left him?

MARY JANE

I left him on the bedroom floor.

DEIDRE

Tell me the whole truth?

MARY JANE

He took me into the room and you know the rest.

DEIDRE

He passed out.

MARY JANE

Yes!

DEIDRE

You did something before you left, didn't you?

MARY JANE

I hit him with a baseball bat.

Mary Jane rubs her hands over her face, and through her hair. A knock at the front door.

DEIDRE

Hold on!

Deidre gets up from the recliner and steps towards the door. She opens it to POLICE OFFICER #1 and #2, early 30s. On the police force for two and one year. Deidre holds the door open at a crack.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

Yes, can I help you?

POLICE OFFICER #1

Hello, do you mind letting us in?

DEIDRE

Actually I do mind? What's this about?

POLICE OFFICER #2

Is Mary Jane your sister?

DEIDRE

Yeah, so?

POLICE OFFICER #2

Is she here?

DEIDRE

Maybe, maybe not.

5-Year-Old Nicholas runs into the living room.

5-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Mommy! Mommy!

MARY JANE

Shit!

Police Officer #1 pushes the door open. He looks at Mary Jane. Police Officer #2 grabs his handcuffs from his belt, and steps into the living room.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Put your hands where I can see them!

INT. VISITING AREA-COUNTY JAIL-MORNING

At a table, Mary Jane holds 5-Year-Old Nicholas on her lap. She kisses him on the cheeks.

5-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Stop!
(laugh)

MARY JANE

Are you being a good boy?

5-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Yes!

Mary Jane looks at Deidre.

MARY JANE

Thank you for looking after him for me.

DEIDRE

He's actually a lot of fun to have around.

MARY JANE

What has the lawyer said?

DEIDRE

He's coming here tomorrow. He wants to hear everything that happened in that house.

MARY JANE

Please, whatever happens, take care of him for me.

DEIDRE

Don't talk like that, okay? He'll take care of you.

Deidre stands up, and grabs her purse from the table. Mary Jane kisses Nicholas on the cheek. 5-Year-Old Nicholas kisses Mary Jane on the cheek.

MARY JANE

Be a good boy, and take care of your aunt for me, okay?

5-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Do I have to go?

MARY JANE

Yes. Go get our room ready for me,
okay?

5-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Okay. I love you mommy.

Mary Jane kisses Nicholas and hugs him. Deidre reaches for his hand.

MARY JANE

I love you too.

5-Year-Old Nicholas grabs ahold of Deidre's hand. She walks towards the exit door. Mary Jane waves at him.

INT. JAIL CELL-COUNTY JAIL-NIGHT

Mary Jane lays down on her bed. A photograph of 5-Year-Old Nicholas in her hand. She kisses the photo and holds it close to her chest.

INT. VISITING AREA-COUNTY JAIL-CONTINUOUS

Mary Jane sits. A cup of coffee in her hand. She sips slowly.
LAWYER, early 20s. A lawyer for a year.

The Lawyer grabs a notebook and a pen from his briefcase.

LAWYER

Now, tell me what happened that morning?

MARY JANE

I was cooking breakfast, and Bob walks into the kitchen. He had been drinking.

LAWYER

Now, their gonna ask you about his reason for drinking. Do you know?

MARY JANE

He was laid off earlier that week.

LAWYER

How was he with you that week?

MARY JANE

Abusive.

LAWYER

Abusive how?

MARY JANE

He punched me in the stomach, and gave me a black eye.

LAWYER

What was the last straw for you?

MARY JANE

He dragged me into the bedroom and raped me!

(sob)

LAWYER

I'm sorry.

The Lawyer grabs a tissue pack from his briefcase and hands it to Mary Jane. She takes it from him.

MARY JANE

Thank you.

She wipes the tears from her face.

LAWYER

Get some rest and I'll see you tomorrow, okay?

MARY JANE

Okay.

INT. LIVING ROOM-AFTERNOON

5-Year-Old Nicholas sits on the couch. A look of disappointment on his face. Dalila steps towards the couch. She sits close to him.

DALILA

Why don't you go to the kitchen with me and get a snack?

5-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

No thank you.

DALILA

Honey?

5-Year-Old Nicholas looks at Dalila.

DALILA (CONT'D)

Don't worry.

The front door opens. 5-Year-Old Nicholas looks up but loses his smile when he only sees Deidre. Deidre moves. Mary Jane steps towards the couch. 5-Year-Old Nicholas looks at Mary Jane. He jumps to her from the couch. Mary Jane hugs him.

MARY JANE

I'm here. No asshole in this world
is gonna come between you and me.

INT. STRIPPER LOUNGE-GENTLEMAN'S CLUB-NIGHT

SUPER: TEN YEARS LATER

Men in their early 30s and 40s surround the stripper pole. Mary Jane spins in circles with one hand gripped onto the pole. The men cheer for her as she removes her bra.

INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Mary Jane walks into the living room. She tosses her keys and purse to the coffee table.

TOM, early 30s. Tall, handsome. Plaid shirt, and blue jeans.

He grabs Mary Jane from behind and grabs at her chest and kisses her neck.

TOM

Do you want to take this to the
bedroom or do you want to do it
right here?

MARY JANE

Shh! My kid is sleeping!

TOM

So!

Tom unfastens her belt and pulls down Mary Jane's pants. He pulls down his pants. He slides down her panties.

MARY JANE

(pant)

INT. CLASSROOM-HIGH SCHOOL-MORNING

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS, a ninth grade student. Tall, dark hair, brown eyes. A troubled youth.

15-Year-Year-Old Nicholas sits in the back. He draws in his notebook. BULLY #1 and #2. Both 15 and 16 years old.

Bully #1 turns around and looks at 15-Year-Old Nicholas. He sets a newspaper clipping down on his desk. He looks at the cut out picture of Mary Jane. Bully #1 smiles. 15-Year-Old Nicholas balls up his fist.

BULLY #1

Can I come over for dinner, and
then your mom can go down on me
while I eat her foot.

15-Year-Old Nicholas punches Bully #1 across the face. Bully #1 falls to the floor. Bully #2 stands up. 15-Year-Old Nicholas punches Bully #2 in the stomach and kicks Bully #1 in the face.

INT. OFFICE-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

SECRETARY, early 30s. A secretary for two years.

The Secretary holds a receiver to her ear. She hangs it up. 15-Year-Old Nicholas sits in front of her at her desk.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry, Nicholas, she didn't
pick up.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Figures! Can you try someone else?

SECRETARY

Who?

EXT. PARKING LOT-HIGH SCHOOL-AFTERNOON

Bob and 15-Year-Old Nicholas walk in the parking lot. He looks at Bob.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Bob?

BOB

Yeah?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Thank you.

BOB

No problem but I think you need to
hit the books other than someone
else.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
It's hard to when other people can
taunt you about your mother.

BOB
That's why you should be the bigger
man and walk away.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Even with my mom?

BOB
No. She's always gonna be your
mother. You may not like her right
now but she's the woman that
brought you into this world.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
You still love her, don't you?

BOB
Yes, I do.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Then go back to her.

BOB
I can't.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Why?

BOB
Because we will kill each other!

15-Year-Old Nicholas stops. Bob looks at him.

BOB (CONT'D)
What are you doing? Let me take you
home?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
I don't want to go home. Thanks but
I would rather be alone right now.

15-Year-Old Nicholas turns and walks towards the sidewalk.

BOB
Come on, kid! Don't be like this?
It's nothing personal!

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS-AFTERNOON

15-Year-Old Nicholas passes by a window to a **Boxing Gym**. He looks and leans his face against the glass.

INT. MARY JANE'S BEDROOM-MORNING

Mary Jane lies in bed asleep with Tom. 15-Year-Old Nicholas steps into the bedroom. He steps towards her purse and reaches in. 15-Year-Old Nicholas takes two twenty dollar bills. He accidently knocks the purse from the dresser to the floor. 15-Year-Old Nicholas rushes out of the bedroom.

INT. BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

RYAN, late 20s. Tall, brownish blonde and brown eyes.

15-Year-Old Nicholas steps towards the counter. Receptionist, early 20s. A receptionist for a year. She looks at 15-Year-Old Nicholas.

RECEPTIONIST

Can I help you, sir?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Yeah, I like to join the gym.

RECEPTIONIST

Okay. The price to join is forty dollars?

15-Year-Old Nicholas reaches into his pocket and hands the Receptionist the money. She takes it and hands him a card to fill out.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

I just need you to fill this out for me, please!

15-Year-Old Nicholas fills out the card.

INT. BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

Mary Jane goes through her purse. She throws her wallet down and grabs a hold of her head, feeling stressed.

MARY JANE

Son of a bitch!

INT. BOXING GYM-CONTINUOUS

15-Year-Old Nicholas stands in front of a **punching bag**. He punches it lightly. Ryan walks past 15-Year-Old Nicholas. He approaches him.

RYAN
Your stance is wrong.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
It is?

RYAN
Yeah. Let me show you?

Ryan grabs a roll of masking tape from a bench. He places two pieces of tapes across each other.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Stand here.

15-Year-Old Nicholas stands on the cross of the tape.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Let me show you how to do your stance.

Ryan walks him towards the bag and then backwards. He pulls 15-Year-Old Nicholas's right leg backwards and puts his heel up on the back line. Ryan moves 15-Year-Old Nicholas's left foot towards the front end of the line.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Now, bend your legs, and put your weight down. Go forward on the line?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
How?

RYAN
Let me show you again.

Ryan puts himself in the same stance. 15-Year-Old Nicholas follows the movements.

RYAN (CONT'D)
One, two, three. Back!

He looks at Ryan. Ryan looks at him. Ryan stops.

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

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Nicholas.

RYAN

You seem like your eager to learn this fast. Come back tomorrow, and I will work with you.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Thanks.

RYAN

No problem.

15-Year-Old Nicholas shakes Ryan's hand. Ryan turns around and walks towards the other gym members.

INT. KITCHEN-EVENING

Mary Jane sits at the kitchen table. Her hands clutching on a bottle of *malt liquor*. 15-Year-Old Nicholas walks into the kitchen. He looks at Mary Jane.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Hey, mom.

Mary Jane looks at Nicholas.

MARY JANE

Did you take money from me?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

What money?

MARY JANE

My money. I had forty dollars. Did you take it?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Yeah.

MARY JANE

Cough it up!

Mary Jane stands up and walks towards 15-Year-Old Nicholas. He backs away from her.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

I spent it.

MARY JANE

On what?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Boxing lessons!

MARY JANE
Boxing? You?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Yeah.

Mary Jane steps towards the chair and sits.

MARY JANE
I'm still mad at you for not asking, and for not telling me about you being suspended!

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
So what now?

MARY JANE
You're grounded.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Can I at least go to my boxing lesson?

MARY JANE
Maybe. Only if you behave tonight and don't do anything to make me change my mind.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Deal. Will you come tomorrow?

MARY JANE
Yeah. I'll be there.

15-Year-Old Nicholas walks out of the kitchen.

INT. BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

Ryan and 15-Year-Old Nicholas stand face to face with each other.

RYAN
Remember to keep your arms up, and to always guard your face.

15-Year-Old Nicholas looks at the benches. Ryan looks at him.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Are you expecting somebody?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
My mom. I thought she would be
here.

RYAN
Remember, no distractions, okay?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Okay.

INT. DRESSING ROOM-GENTLEMAN'S CLUB-AFTERNOON

Mary Jane sits at her vanity, and leans down with a rolled up dollar bill up her nose. A line of cocaine on a little mirror.

MARY JANE
(sniff)

Mary Jane looks up at the ceiling.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
Ahh!!

INT. LOCKER ROOM-BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

15-Year-Old Nicholas sits on the bench, and sips from a bottle of water. Ryan steps past him.

RYAN
Nice work out there today, kid.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Thanks.

RYAN
You should be proud.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
I am.

RYAN
I get it. Your mom. Look, you put in a lot of hard work and that should count for something. I'll see you tomorrow.

Ryan walks out of the locker room. 15-Year-Old Nicholas wipes his face with a towel.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

Mary Jane lies on the couch asleep. Tom is asleep on the floor. 15-Year-Old slams the door shut. Mary Jane sits up, and looks at 15-Year-Old Nicholas.

MARY JANE

Kiddo! You startled me.

Mary Jane pushes Tom with her foot. Tom opens his eyes. He pulls himself up to the couch. He walks towards 15-Year-Old Nicholas.

TOM

Calm down, kid.

Tom grabs a hold of him. 15-Year-Old Nicholas looks at Tom's hand. He punches Tom across the face and knocks him onto the coffee table. 15-Year-Old Nicholas walks past Mary Jane and goes into his bedroom. He slams the door shut.

INT. NICHOLAS'S BEDROOM-EVENING

15-Year-Old Nicholas tosses his socks and briefs into his duffle bag. A knock on the bedroom door.

MARY JANE (O.S.)

Nicholas! Come on, open the door!
Let's talk about this, please!

15-Year-Old Nicholas grabs his shirts and pants. He tosses them in and zips up the duffle bag. 15-Year-Old Nicholas walks towards the bedroom window. He opens it and climbs out.

The door opens and Mary Jane walks into the bedroom. She looks around.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)

Nicholas!

She looks and sees the window open. Mary Jane backs up to the wall and crouches down to the floor. She covers her face. Tom steps into the bedroom.

TOM

Where is that little shit!

MARY JANE

He's gone.

TOM

Good. I better not see that kid here again!

MARY JANE

Get out.

TOM

What!

MARY JANE

You heard me! Get your shit and get out of my house!

TOM

The hell with you and your son!

Tom turns around and walks out of the bedroom.

EXT. BOXING GYM-NIGHT

15-Year-Old Nicholas looks at the window. He turns around and sits against the wall. His duffle bag sits on his lap. 15-Year-Old Nicholas sets it down on the ground, and slides himself to lay his head down. He closes his eyes. Ryan steps towards 15-Year-Old Nicholas.

RYAN

Kid?

He opens his eyes and looks at Ryan.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Yeah.

RYAN

Come on, you can sleep on the couch.

15-Year-Old Nicholas gets up, and grabs the duffle bag. Ryan unlocks the door and pulls it open.

INT. OFFICE-BOXING GYM-NIGHT

Ryan walks into his office. 15-Year-Old Nicholas sits on the couch.

RYAN

Let me get you a blanket and pillow.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

No, it's alright.

RYAN

I wasn't asking.

Ryan grabs a pillow from the top of his *file cabinet*. He tosses it to him.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Thanks.

RYAN

No problem.

15-Year-Old Nicholas kicks off his shoes and lays on the couch. Ryan sits at his desk, and looks through the information cards. He picks up the receiver and dials in a phone number.

INT. KITCHEN-NIGHT

The phone rings. Mary Jane rushes to the phone, and grabs the receiver.

MARY JANE

Hello!

RYAN (V.O.)

Hi, this Ryan from the boxing gym?
I have your son here.

MARY JANE

Is he alright?

RYAN (V.O.)

Yeah. He's asleep.

MARY JANE

Thank you for calling.

RYAN (V.O.)

No problem.

MARY JANE

I'll come by tomorrow.

RYAN (V.O.)

Sure.

MARY JANE

Thanks again.

RYAN (V.O.)

Your welcome. Good night.

MARY JANE

Night.

Mary Jane hangs up the receiver.

INT. BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

At the punching bag, 15-Year-Old Nicholas stands across from Ryan. His hands striking the bag.

RYAN

Remember to do your combination,
and then do your uppercut.

The front door opens, and Mary Jane steps in. She walks past the front desk and has a seat on the bench by the window. 15-Year-Old Nicholas looks at Mary Jane. Mary Jane waves at him. He looks at Ryan and punches the bag.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

What is she doing here?

RYAN

I called her.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

You what!

RYAN

I did the right thing. You can't
run away from her like she's the
bad guy.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

What are you? Some kind of
motivational speaker! I'm out of
here!! Thanks a lot!

15-Year-Old Nicholas walks towards the locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM-BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

15-Year-Old Nicholas walks up to his locker and punches it.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Ahh!!

Mary Jane walks into the locker room. He looks at her.

MARY JANE

I know I've been irresponsible and
I know I haven't made the best
choices. I can try. All I want for
you to do is to give me one last
chance.

Mary Jane steps towards 15-Year-Old Nicholas.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)
It's you and me, honey. Just us.

15-Year-Old Nicholas hugs Mary Jane. She kisses him on the cheek.

EXT. BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

Mary Jane and 15-Year-Old Nicholas step outside of the boxing gym. She waves her hand at Ryan.

INT. BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

Ryan waves back at Mary Jane.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL-MORNING

15-Year-Old Nicholas walks past the gate of the high school and towards the front doors. Tom rushes towards 15-Year-Old Nicholas and gets in front of him.

TOM
Nicholas! Just the man that I was
looking for!

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
What do you want?

TOM
Can't your mom's boyfriend just
come by and have a talk with her
little baby boy!

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Ex-boyfriend.

Tom puts his arm in front of 15-Year-Old Nicholas and stops him from walking.

TOM
How about you come with me and make
some money?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
And if I say no?

TOM

Then you and me will finish what you started after you threw the first punch.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

I have a condition too.

TOM

Really! What's that?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Stay out of my mom's life.

TOM

Deal.

15-Year-Old Nicholas shakes Tom's hand.

EXT. MINI MART-MORNING

Tom walks towards the mini mart.

TOM

Come with me.

15-Year-Old Nicholas looks at the mini mart.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

In there?

TOM

Come on!!

15-Year-Old Nicholas steps towards the mini mart.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

(breath)

INT. BASEMENT-MINI MART-MORNING

Tom walks down the stairs, and steps into a room surrounded by GAMBLERS. All in their late 30s and 40s. The Gamblers look at 15-Year-Old Nicholas. He looks at Tom.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

You're sick!

15-Year-Old Nicholas walks towards the center of the room. He looks down at a FIGHTER, early teens. A tall and muscular teenage boy. Stripped down to his boxer shorts. The Fighter looks up at 15-Year-Old Nicholas.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 Is this how you old perverts get
 off! By watching two boys fight and
 entertain you!

The Fighter stands up and punches 15-Year-Old Nicholas across
 the face. He looks at the Fighter with a glare.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 Really!

15-Year-Old Nicholas uppercuts the Fighter. The Fighter falls
 to the ground. Tom steps towards 15-Year-Old Nicholas and
 grabs his arm. He raises it up. 15-Year-Old Nicholas pulls
 his arm away.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 Don't touch me!!

He walks towards the stairs. Tom collects his winnings from
 all the Gamblers.

TOM
 Come on and cough it up, losers!

The Gamblers toss the money at him.

TOM (CONT'D)
 Thank you!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL-MORNING

15-Year-Old Nicholas walks towards the high school. Tom runs
 outside of the mini mart.

TOM
 Nick, wait!

15-Year-Old Nicholas turns around.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
 What!

Tom counts out three hundred dollars and hands it to him.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
 I don't want your dirty money! I
 was fighting for my mom remember!

TOM
 Don't be proud!

15-Year-Old Nicholas takes the money.

TOM (CONT'D)

See you tomorrow. Buy your mom something nice.

Tom walks towards the mini mart.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Tom?

Tom stops.

TOM

Yes?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Double it!

TOM

Atta boy!

Tom continues to walk to the mini mart.

INT. HALLWAY-HIGH SCHOOL-MORNING

15-Year-Old Nicholas walks through the hallway. HALL MONITOR, 15. A teenage boy with glasses, and thin built.

15-Year-Old Nicholas walks past the Hall Monitor.

HALL MONITOR

Excuse me?

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

You're excused.

The Hall Monitor walks behind 15-Year-Old Nicholas.

HALL MONITOR

Not so fast!

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

What!

The Hall Monitor hands 15-Year-Old Nicholas a **demerit**. He takes it, crumbles it into a ball and tosses it at the Hall Monitor.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Take this and shove it!

HALL MONITOR

That's littering.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Sue me!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE-HIGH SCHOOL-MORNING

15-Year-Old Nicholas sits. PRINCIPAL, early 40s. The Principal for ten years. He looks at 15-Year-Old Nicholas.

PRINCIPAL

Give me a reason to not kick you out of my school.

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

As you can see, I could care less about this school or your constant brown nosing students. You got more ass kissers here than I can count.

PRINCIPAL

Get out!

15-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

Because I tell it like it is!

PRINCIPAL

No, because you don't want to be here and I'm done trying!!

15-Year-Old Nicholas stands up and walks out of the office.

INT. BASEMENT-MINI MART-MORNING

A fight between 15-Year-Old Nicholas and another teenage boy erupts in the middle of the mat. 15-Year-Old Nicholas grabs him by his throat and chokes him from behind.

Opponent after opponent, 15-Year-Old Nicholas stands. REFEREE, early 20s. The Referee raises 15-Year-Old Nicholas's arm.

SUPER: FIVE YEARS LATER

His arm raised. NICHOLAS, 20. Tall, handsome. He lowers his arm.

Tom takes all the money from the Gamblers.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS-AFTERNOON

Nicholas walks down the downtown streets with Tom. Tom counts the money. He hands Nicholas five hundred dollars.

TOM
Here you go!

He takes it from Tom.

NICHOLAS
Thanks. Now that you have your
money, and after five years. We're
done!

TOM
Whoa! Hold on! We're done when I
say we're done.

NICHOLAS
Five years is long enough. Stay out
of my life and stay away from my
mom!

TOM
One more fight, huh?

NICHOLAS
Do you ever listen, or were you
kicked in the head too hard as a
kid!

TOM
I don't know, both. Give me one
last match!

NICHOLAS
Fine, whatever.

Nicholas walks away from Tom.

TOM
Tomorrow!

INT. MARY JANE'S BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Nicholas walks into the bedroom. Mary Jane lies in bed
asleep. He grabs a blanket and covers her. Nicholas turns off
the light.

INT. BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

Nicholas swings his arms at the punching bag. Ryan steps
towards Nicholas.

RYAN
Can I have a word with you?

Nicholas steps away from the punching bag and walks with Ryan.

INT. LOCKER ROOM-BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

Ryan walks into the the locker room. Nicholas walks in, and sits down on the bench.

NICHOLAS
What did you want to talk about?

RYAN
Your mom and me are concerned about you. She wanted me to ask if you've been fighting illegally. Have you?

NICHOLAS
What am I? Stupid?

RYAN
You tell me? You're not exactly trying to get your GED! You got expelled five years ago. Boxing doesn't have to be your only option.

NICHOLAS
Are you done! Can I go train now?

RYAN
No. Your done for today. Go home!

NICHOLAS
What!

Ryan walks past Nicholas.

RYAN
Go home.

He walks out of the locker room. Nicholas stands up and punches the wall.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

Nicholas walks into the living room. Mary Jane sits on the couch. Tears in her eyes.

MARY JANE
(sob)

Nicholas drops his duffle bag, and steps towards her.

NICHOLAS
What's wrong?

She looks at him.

MARY JANE
It's Bob.

NICHOLAS
What about him?

MARY JANE
He passed away.

Mary Jane hugs Nicholas. He wraps his arms around her.

INT. BATHROOM-MINI MART-MORNING

The sink running. Nicholas splashes water on his face. A knock on the door.

TOM (O.S.)
Hey! Are you coming out or what!

NICK
I'll be right there!!

INT. BASEMENT-MINI MART-MORNING

Nicholas stands in the middle of the mat. He looks at the other fighter standing across from him. CHICO, 21. Tall, dark hair and green eyes. He raises his arms up, and glares at Nicholas. The Referee signals his hands to start.

REFEREE
Begin!!

Nicholas grabs the white towel from Tom's shoulder and tosses it in the middle of the mat.

NICHOLAS
It's over!! I forfeit.

Tom pushes his hands into Nicholas's chest.

TOM
What the hell was that! You dumb little bastard!

Nicholas grabs Tom by his shirt. He pushes Tom into the wall.

TOM (CONT'D)
I'll see you around!

Tom rushes out of the basement.

EXT. MINI MART-MORNING

Nicholas walks and looks back at the mini mart. He looks away.

EXT. BACK YARD-EVENING

A birthday party in the back yard. Deidre stands at the barbeque grill. She flips the hamburgers and the hot dogs.

DEIDRE
Do you want anymore, Nick?

NICHOLAS
No thank you.

DEIDRE
What about you?

MARY JANE
No, I'm alright. Thanks.

Nicholas gets up and steps towards Deidre. He leans towards her.

NICHOLAS
Can you do me a favor?

DEIDRE
Yeah, anything.

NICHOLAS
Can mom stay the night over here tonight?

DEIDRE
What's going on, Nick?

NICHOLAS
Nothing. I just want my mom to be around her sister on her birthday.

DEIDRE
That's sweet. Yeah, of course.

NICHOLAS
Thanks.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL-EVENING

Nicholas walks towards the entrance of the high school. He looks at the car parked across the street.

INT. TOM'S CAR-EVENING

His elbow against the driver door. Tom sucks his tongue on a toothpick.

INT. CLASSROOM-HIGH SCHOOL-EVENING

INSTRUCTOR, early 40s. An instructor for ten years.

The Instructor stands in front of Nicholas, STUDENT #1 and #2. Both in their late 40s.

INSTRUCTOR

Begin!!

Nicholas opens the **test booklet** and fills in the bubbles on the **test sheet**.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS-NIGHT

Nicholas walks down the sidewalk. The car slowly follows him down the street.

EXT. ALLEY-NIGHT

Nicholas walks through an alley. The headlights of Tom's car shine into the alley.

INT. TOM'S CAR-NIGHT

Tom turns off the car, opens the driver door and gets out.

EXT. ALLEY-CONTINUOUS

Nicholas steps towards a door. He opens it and walks in. Tom walks towards the door. He pushes the door open and step in.

TOM

Nick, my good man! Come on out and say hello to your uncle Tom!!

INT. BOXING GYM-NIGHT

Tom steps into the boxing gym. He looks around.

TOM
Come out, Nick!

Tom looks behind the punching bags. He walks towards the front door of the boxing gym.

RYAN
Hey!!

Tom turns around. Ryan uppercuts Tom through the glass door. He looks at Tom as he lies on the ground.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS-NIGHT

Nicholas walks down the sidewalk.

INT. LIVING ROOM-MORNING

Nicholas lies on the couch asleep. Deidre pulls the drapes open.

DEIDRE
Rise and shine sleepy head!

Nicholas covers his face.

NICHOLAS
Are you crazy!

DEIDRE
Come on! Your mom is waiting.

Deidre walks out of the living room.

EXT. CEMETERY-MORNING

Mary Jane sits. She looks down at the casket being lowered. She tosses a white rose on top of it. Nicholas throws a red rose. He watches it fall.

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

Mary Jane sits on a bench. She eats half of a foot long sandwich. Nicholas tears an envelope open.

MARY JANE

Open it!

NICHOLAS

I'm working on it!

Nicholas pulls out the **test scores sheet**. He looks at the scores.

MARY JANE

Well?

NICHOLAS

I passed!

Mary Jane leans towards the sheet.

MARY JANE

You did pass!

Mary Jane hugs him.

MARY JANE (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you, honey.

INT. DINER-AFTERNOON

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

At the bar table, Mary Jane smokes a cigarette. She sets it down on the ashtray.

CUSTOMER #1 and #2, both in their early 20s.

Mary Jane pours coffee into their mugs. She sets the coffee pot down on its burner. Mary Jane picks the cigarette up and rest it between her lips.

CUSTOMER #1

Those will kill you, you know?

MARY JANE

You sound just like my son.

CUSTOMER #2

Maybe you should listen to him.

MARY JANE

What is this? The customer's always right day!

CUSTOMER #1

Sometimes.

MARY JANE
I'll take that advice one day. For
now, I'll see you guys tomorrow.

CUSTOMER #1
Later, Mary Jane.

Mary Jane grabs her purse, and walks out of the diner.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS-AFTERNOON

A smile on her face, Mary Jane walks towards the crosswalk. The *Walk* signal appears. Mary Jane crosses the street. A car turns on a red light. The car hits Mary Jane. She rolls to the side of the road. Her eyes are open but there is no sign of life. PEDESTRIAN #1, #2, and #3 gather around. All in their 40s and 50s.

PEDESTRIAN #1
It's Mary Jane!

PEDESTRIAN #2
Call 911!

PEDESTRIAN #1
She's gone.

Pedestrian #3's eyes fill with tears.

PEDESTRIAN #3
(sob)

INT. KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

In the kitchen, cleaning and wiping down the counter. Deidre finishes washing the dishes and puts them on the dish rack. The phone rings. Deidre grabs the receiver.

DEIDRE
Hello?

INT. FRONT YARD-AFTERNOON

Nicholas is kneeled down, digging a hole with a small shovel. He lays a couple of flowers in and covers the hole with dirt. Deidre steps towards Nicholas.

DEIDRE
(sob)

Nicholas looks at Deidre. He stands up.

NICHOLAS
 You look upset? What's going on,
 Deidre?

Deidre looks down.

DEIDRE
 (sob)

NICHOLAS
 Stop messing with me!

DEIDRE
 I'm not messing with you. I wish I
 was.
 (sob)

Nicholas turns and throws the small shovel at the front
 window of the house.

NICHOLAS
 Son of a bitch!

Nicholas walks away from the yard. Deidre covers her face
 with the palm of her hands.

DEIDRE
 Nick!

INT. AUDITORIUM-FUNERAL HOME-MORNING

Nicholas sits in the back row. Deidre sits in the front. She
 looks at Nicholas. A emotionless look on his face.

Nicholas stands in front of a portrait of Mary Jane. He looks
 down at a urn. Deidre steps towards Nicholas. She touches his
 back.

DEIDRE
 Come on, let's go?

NICHOLAS
 When was this picture taken?

DEIDRE
 When she was in high school.

NICHOLAS
 She looks beautiful. Happy.

DEIDRE
 Let me give you a ride home?

Nicholas turns, and walks. Deidre grabs the urn and the portrait. She walks towards the exit door.

INT. DINER-AFTERNOON

At a table with Nicholas, Deidre sits. She pushes a plate of apple pie towards him.

DEIDRE
Come on, Nick, you need to eat something?

NICHOLAS
I can't.

DEIDRE
I'll be right back, okay?

NICHOLAS
Okay.

Deidre gets up and walks towards the restroom. Ryan steps towards the table.

RYAN
Is this seat taken?

Nicholas looks at Ryan.

NICHOLAS
No. Go ahead.

Ryan sits.

RYAN
I'm sorry for your loss.

NICHOLAS
Thank you.

RYAN
She was a good woman.

NICHOLAS
Yeah, she was.

RYAN
What are you gonna do now?

NICHOLAS
I don't know. Best thing to do is to take it day by day. I have to find a job.

RYAN

How about boxing part time?

NICHOLAS

No. After what happened, it won't feel right.

RYAN

What about helping me train?

NICHOLAS

That's your thing, not mine.

RYAN

What are your other options?

Nicholas picks up his coffee mug and takes a sip.

NICHOLAS

I could be a maintenance man.

RYAN

Anything I can do?

NICHOLAS

Can you be my reference?

RYAN

Yeah. No problem.

INT. LIVING ROOM-APARTMENT-EVENING

Nicholas stands in the middle of the living room. A small box under his arm. Ryan steps into the room. He holds a bigger box.

RYAN

This is a nice place.

NICHOLAS

I think it's gonna work out here.

Ryan sets the box down.

RYAN

I'm gonna go get another one.

Nick sets the small box down onto the big one. He follows Ryan.

EXT. PARKING LOT-APARTMENT COMPLEX-EVENING

Nicholas lifts the last box from the back of the truck. He sets it down. Ryan shakes Nicholas's hand.

NICHOLAS
Thanks for your help.

RYAN
No problem. Don't be a stranger.

NICHOLAS
I won't.

RYAN
You really should get a license,
and get a car.

NICHOLAS
Nah! I choose to do the smart thing
and take the bus.

RYAN
I'll see you around.

Ryan walks towards his truck and opens the door. He looks at Nicholas.

RYAN (CONT'D)
See ya!

He gets into the truck and shuts the door. The truck starts. Nicholas turns around and walks towards the apartment complex.

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-MORNING

An alarm clock goes off. Nicholas turns it off. He moves around and sits up. He rubs his eyes. Nicholas falls on his back to the bed.

NICHOLAS
Not yet, please!

INT. DINER-MORNING

At the bar table, Nicholas is laying his head down. A hand slams down on the table. Nicholas opens his eyes and looks at the soft looking skin. Red nail polish and a gold bracelet on the wrist. He looks at her. SUZIE RAINES, 19. Blonde hair, hazel eyes. An attractive looking young lady. Nicholas raises his head, and looks at her.

SUZIE
 Sorry, sweetie but you can't sleep
 in here.

NICHOLAS
 I know.

SUZIE
 Can I interest you in some coffee
 and a piece of apple pie?

NICHOLAS
 Coffee yeah. I don't know about the
 pie.

SUZIE
 It's homemade and I made it myself.

Nicholas looks down, feeling ashamed.

NICHOLAS
 I'll take a piece.

SUZIE
 Good choice.

Suzie grabs a plate from the counter and sets it down in
 front of Nicholas.

NICHOLAS
 Thank you.

SUZIE
 No problem. Let me know if you want
 anything else.

NICHOLAS
 This is good for now.

Suzie walks towards the other customers. Nicholas eats his
 pie.

EXT. MOTEL-MORNING

Nicholas walks towards a motel. He looks at the **Want Ads** in
 the newspaper. It reads: MAINTENANCE MAN NEEDED.

INT. OFFICE-MOTEL-MORNING

MOTEL MANAGER, late 30s. Manager for six years.

Nicholas walks into the office. The Motel Manager looks up at him.

MOTEL MANAGER
How may I help you?

NICHOLAS
I'm here for the maintenance job?

MOTEL MANAGER
Do you have any experience?

NICHOLAS
No.

MOTEL MANAGER
Sorry but I need a person that has experience.

NICHOLAS
I'm a fast learner, I have references. I have a GED!

MOTEL MANAGER
Alright. Write down your references. If everything checks out fine, I'll give you a shot.

NICHOLAS
Thank you. Do you mind if I use one of your pens?

MOTEL MANAGER
No, go ahead.

Nicholas takes a pen and writes down the phone numbers, and hands the sheet of paper to the Motel Manager. He takes it and steps towards his desk.

MOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)
You can go ahead and have a seat?

NICHOLAS
Thank you.

Nicholas sits on a chair across from the front desk. The Motel Manager sits at his desk. He grabs the receiver and dials.

INT. OFFICE-BOXING GYM-MORNING

The phone rings. Ryan grabs the receiver and puts it to his ear.

RYAN

Hello?

MOTEL MANAGER (V.O.)

Yeah, I'm a manager at a local motel and I have a young man here. He goes by Nicholas Valens. I wanted to get a good idea of how he worked with you.

RYAN

I was his boxing coach. He's very eager and willing to do the work. I worked with him for five years. He helped me keep my gym clean. If that makes any difference?

MOTEL MANAGER (V.O.)

It helps. Thank you.

RYAN

Alright. Have a good day.

MOTEL MANAGER (V.O.)

Goodbye.

INT. OFFICE-MOTEL-CONTINUOUS

The Motel Manager hangs up the receiver, gets up and approaches the front desk.

MOTEL MANAGER

Your reference put in a good word for you. Come and fill in this time card.

Nicholas stands up and walks to the front desk. He signs his name on the card and hands it back to the Motel Manager.

MOTEL MANAGER (CONT'D)

Come by tomorrow at six. Don't be late!

NICHOLAS

I won't. Thank you.

Nicholas rushes out of the office.

INT. BOXING GYM-EVENING

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

Ryan steps towards the front doors and locks them. He hears a noise. Ryan walks towards the locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM-BOXING GYM-EVENING

Ryan walks into the locker room, and looks around. He steps towards his office door. Tom grabs Ryan from behind and chokes him.

RYAN

How!
(choke)

TOM

I was in a coma!

Tom puts a gun to Ryan's head.

TOM (CONT'D)

So long!

Tom pulls the trigger.

INT. DINER-AFTERNOON

Nicholas sits at the bar table. He looks at the front window and sees Suzie walking to the front door. He opens the newspaper in his hands and pretends he's not paying any attention to anyone, including Suzie. Suzie walks around the bar table. She looks at Nicholas while she is putting on her apron.

SUZIE

Anything good happening in the world today?

NICHOLAS

It's the news, it's never good.

SUZIE

You do have a good point there.

She stands in front of him. Nicholas lowers the newspaper.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

What can I get for you?

NICHOLAS

A piece of apple pie and coffee.

SUZIE

Coming right up!

Suzie steps towards the pies and cuts a slice of apple pie. Nicholas looks at the headline on the newspaper. It reads: BOXER TRAINER FOUND DEAD.

Suzie steps towards Nicholas. Nicholas reaches into his pants pocket and pulls out a twenty dollar bill. He tosses it to the table.

NICHOLAS

Thank you.

Nicholas rushes towards the front doors. Suzie looks at him and watches him rush out of the diner.

SUZIE

No problem.

She looks confused, thinking she did something wrong.

INT. TAXI-AFTERNOON

TAXI DRIVER, early 30s. A driver for ten years.

Nicholas leans his head towards the front seats of the taxi.

NICHOLAS

Come on, drive faster!!

TAXI DRIVER

I can't go any faster, sir!

INT./EXT. TAXI-AFTERNOON

Nicholas opens the passenger door and looks at the boxing gym.

NICHOLAS

Wait!!

EXT. BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON

Nicholas runs towards the building and rushes towards the glass doors. He pulls on them.

POLICE OFFICER, early 30s. A police officer for ten years.

POLICE OFFICER

Hey, kid! I'm sorry, but this is a crime scene.

Nicholas looks at the Police Officer.

NICHOLAS
I knew the owner.

POLICE OFFICER
I'm sorry.

Nicholas turns away and walks towards the taxi.

EXT. PARK-AFTERNOON

Nicholas sits on a bench. He leans forward and holds his hands together. Deidre stands at a **Hot Dog stand**. She turns and walks towards the bench. Deidre reaches her hand out and hands him a hot dog. Nicholas looks at the hot dog.

NICHOLAS
I'm not hungry.

Deidre sits down.

DEIDRE
Come on, you have to eat something.

NICHOLAS
I can't.

DEIDRE
Can I tell you something?

NICHOLAS
Will it help me forget about everyone dying?

DEIDRE
People die, Nick. It's just a part of life. When your mom found out she was pregnant with you, she was scared. One because she was seventeen. Two, she didn't know how she was gonna support you.

NICHOLAS
Why'd she go through with it?

DEIDRE
She knew you were all she wanted.

Nicholas looks at Deidre.

NICHOLAS
I was.

DEIDRE

Yes.

NICHOLAS

How does it help get me from
grieving?

DEIDRE

Life goes on. Especially for the
ones that passed on.

NICHOLAS

How would she have felt about me
being with someone?

DEIDRE

There's a girl?

A slow smirk forms on his face.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

There is! Go for it.

INT. DINER-MORNING

Suzie sits in front of the bar table. A newspaper in her hands. She lowers the newspaper and looks at Nicholas. He steps in and walks towards the her.

SUZIE

Did you forget something?

NICHOLAS

No. Can we try again?

SUZIE

Are you sure you want me to serve
you?

NICHOLAS

Yes.

Suzie folds up the newspaper and sets it down. She stands up and steps towards the pies. Nicholas lifts a **Pink Carnation** to the bar table and sets it down. Suzie walks towards him and sets a plate down in front of him.

SUZIE

Coffee?

Suzie grabs the carnation from the bar table. She smiles.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
How do you want your coffee?

NICHOLAS
I'll take it black.

SUZIE
Coming right up!

Suzie steps towards the coffee pot.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-AFTERNOON

Nicholas walks with Suzie down the sidewalk. She lifts the carnation to her nose.

SUZIE
Thanks for the carnation. It's beautiful.

NICHOLAS
Like you.

Suzie looks at him, smiles and reaches for his hand. Nicholas holds her hand and walks with her.

INT. MOTEL ROOM #5-MOTEL-MORNING

Nicholas vacuums the floor in the motel room.

He sprays the counters with *cleaning solution* and wipes them with a washcloth.

EXT. MOTEL-AFTERNOON

Nicholas walks towards the dumpster, and tosses two garbage bags in.

The Motel Manager walks past Nicholas. He looks at him.

MOTEL MANAGER
Nicholas, nice job today. Keep it up!

NICHOLAS
Thank you, sir!

EXT. BACK YARD-AFTERNOON

In the back yard, Deidre stands at the barbeque grill. She flips chicken legs and hamburgers. Suzie walks beside Nicholas. He holds her hand. Deidre looks at Nicholas.

DEIDRE

Kiddo!

Deidre looks at Suzie.

DEIDRE (CONT'D)

And you must be the young lady my nephew has been talking so much about.

Suzie looks at Nicholas.

SUZIE

Really. What has he said?

DEIDRE

Let's go eat, and chat about it.

INT. KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

Deidre stands at the counter, preparing **potato salad**, and **corn on the cob**. Suzie prepares the **sweet tea**. She stirs it around.

DEIDRE

Nick tells me that your a waitress?

Suzie looks back at Deidre.

SUZIE

Yeah, I'm only doing it part time while I go to college.

DEIDRE

What do your parents think of Nick?

SUZIE

They died a couple of years ago.

DEIDRE

I'm sorry.

SUZIE

And what about Nick's mother? Is she coming?

DEIDRE
She died last year.

Suzie looks at the tea. A saddened look on her face.

EXT. BACK YARD-CONTINUOUS

Suzie eats her food. She looks at Nicholas. Nicholas looks at her.

DEIDRE
Your baby cousin is growing.

NICHOLAS
Hayley?

DEIDRE
She's starting to talk.

NICHOLAS
Cute kid.

DEIDRE
Would you believe it, that's what your mom wanted to call you if you were a girl.

NICHOLAS
Thank God I'm not.

SUZIE
(laugh)

Nicholas looks down at his food.

NICHOLAS
Mom was such a character. Fun to be around. You would have liked her.

SUZIE
I'm sure we both would have liked each other.

INT. SUZIE'S CAR-EVENING

In the passenger seat, Nicholas sits. He looks at Suzie.

NICHOLAS
What did you think of my aunt?

SUZIE
She's nice.

Suzie parks the car, and shuts off the ignition. Nicholas takes off his seatbelt.

NICHOLAS
Do you want to come in?

SUZIE
Maybe it's not such a good idea.

NICHOLAS
I understand.

Nicholas opens the passenger door.

SUZIE
Okay, let's go.

INT. LIVING ROOM-APARTMENT-EVENING

The front door opens. Nicholas walks in. He looks at Suzie.

NICHOLAS
Come on in.

Suzie steps in and shuts the door. She locks it.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Do you want to watch a movie?

SUZIE
I'm pretty tired.

Nicholas reaches for her hand. She grabs ahold of his hand. He pulls Suzie into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-NIGHT

Nicholas and Suzie lie in bed together.

INT. TOM'S CAR-NIGHT

Tom sits in his car. He has his eyes set on the entire apartment complex.

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Nicholas rubs his hands on Suzie's face. Suzie opens her eyes.

SUZIE

Hmm.
(laugh)

NICHOLAS

Did you sleep alright?

SUZIE

Yes.

NICHOLAS

I got to go to work.

SUZIE

Do you want me to give you a ride?

NICHOLAS

No, I can walk. You just sleep.
I'll see you at the diner.

Nicholas kisses Suzie.

SUZIE

I love you.

NICHOLAS

I love you too.

Nicholas walks out of the bedroom.

EXT. MOTEL-MORNING

Nicholas walks towards the motel. Tom parks the car at the curb across the street.

INT. TOM'S CAR-MORNING

Tom turns the car off.

EXT. MOTEL-CONTINUOUS

Nicholas steps towards the dumpster. He tosses a garbage bag in. He looks at Tom's car.

INT. TOM'S CAR-CONTINUOUS

Tom starts the car and drives away from the motel.

EXT. MOTEL-CONTINUOUS

Nicholas looks and his eyes follow the car as it drives away.

MOTEL MANAGER
Everything alright, Nicholas?

NICHOLAS
Yeah. Everything's cool.

Nicholas walks towards the office.

EXT. DINER-AFTERNOON

Tom's car parked at the curb of the diner. Nicholas looks around and then looks at the car.

INT. DINER-AFTERNOON

Nicholas pulls the door open. He walks towards the bar table. Tom sits. Suzie stands in front of Tom and pours coffee into his mug. Nicholas walks towards his stool.

SUZIE
(laugh)

Suzie looks at Nicholas.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
Hey, babe!

Suzie leans towards him and kisses him on the lips. Nicholas looks at Tom.

NICHOLAS
Who's your new friend?

SUZIE
Oh, I just met him. What's your name?

TOM
It's Tom. Your Suzie.

SUZIE
How'd you know that?

TOM
Your name tag.

Suzie looks down, and looks back at Tom.

SUZIE

I forget about it sometimes.

Nicholas looks at Tom and looks at Suzie. Suzie turns to the order window.

NICHOLAS

(whisper)

Don't play games with me!

TOM

(whisper)

You played games with me first.

NICHOLAS

(whisper)

Leave her alone!

Suzie turns to Nicholas and Tom. She holds two plates of food.

SUZIE

This is my last order, Nick and then we can go. It was nice meeting you, Tom.

TOM

You too.

Suzie walks towards the booths. Tom looks at Nicholas.

TOM (CONT'D)

Anytime I want, I can get to her like that!

Tom snaps his fingers.

TOM (CONT'D)

And Ryan can't do anything because he's dead!! So is your mother!

Nick balls up his fist. Tom looks at his fist.

TOM (CONT'D)

You want to hit me so bad but you won't. Has Nickie poo lost his balls over a nice piece of ass.

Tom gets up. He tosses a five dollar bill to the table and touches Nicholas on his shoulder. He walks around him.

TOM (CONT'D)

Tell your girlfriend goodbye for me.

Tom walks away from the bar table and steps towards the front doors.

INT. SUZIE'S CAR-AFTERNOON

Suzie drives the car. She looks at Nicholas.

SUZIE
Why are you so quiet?

NICHOLAS
No reason.

SUZIE
You've been this way ever since we left the diner. Does it have something to do with me talking to Tom?

NICHOLAS
About him?

SUZIE
What's wrong with him?

NICHOLAS
Don't talk to him no more.

SUZIE
Babe, don't be jealous.

NICHOLAS
Just don't talk to him, okay? You see him, run the other way!

SUZIE
Alright.

INT. GYM-EVENING

Nicholas sits on a bench. He wraps his hand in gauze. He drives his fist into the palm of his other hand.

He walks towards the punching bag.

RYAN (V.O.)
Always remember the stance.

Nicholas moves his left foot towards the front line and his right leg to the back line. He raises his fist and begins to punch the bag.

RYAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Remember to keep your opponent
 guessing on what you're going to
 do. The best thing to do is to make
 them look at your feet.

Nicholas moves around the lines and punches the bag more.

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-EVENING

An alarm from a Pager goes off. Suzie opens her eyes. She sits up and looks at the number. She reaches for the receiver and dials in the number.

SUZIE
 Hello?

MANAGER (V.O.)
 Hello, Suzie? Do you mind coming in
 tonight?

SUZIE
 Tonight?

MANAGER (V.O.)
 Yes.

SUZIE
 Okay. I'll be there in ten minutes.

MANAGER (V.O.)
 Thank you.

SUZIE
 No problem.

Suzie hangs up the receiver. She looks around the bedroom.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
 Nick!

INT. DINER-EVENING

The diner is not busy. One customer sits at the bar table. Suzie steps in. Tom turns and looks at Suzie.

TOM
 Suzie!

SUZIE
 Tom. This is a surprise.

TOM
Isn't it.

Suzie steps towards the bar table and she walks around.

SUZIE
Look, I'm really flattered but I
have a boyfriend.

Tom grabs Suzie by her arm. She pulls her arm away.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
Let go!!

Suzie falls to the floor.

NICHOLAS
Hey!

Tom looks at Nicholas.

TOM
The boyfriend! I'm so scared!!

NICHOLAS
You should be. That's my girl your
messing with.

TOM
I thought guys like you shared,
Nick.

Tom looks at Suzie. He stands up and walks towards Nicholas.

TOM (CONT'D)
See you around.

Tom walks out of the diner.

Suzie stands up. She leans against the bar table.

SUZIE
Where'd you come from?

Nicholas points up in the air.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
Very funny smartass!

NICHOLAS
Where's everyone else?

SUZIE

It's just me tonight. Will you stay here with me?

NICHOLAS

Of course.

Nicholas steps towards the bar table. He leans towards Suzie and kisses her.

SUZIE

I'll get you some coffee.

She grabs a mug and pours the coffee. She sets the mug down in front of him.

EXT. PARKING LOT-APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT

Tom walks towards Suzie's car. He shakes a can of white spray paint.

TOM

Too bad, so sad.

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-MORNING

In the bedroom, Suzie lies with Nicholas. She kisses him. He kisses her.

EXT. PARKING LOT-APARTMENT COMPLEX-CONTINUOUS

Tom walks towards Suzie's car. A bat in his hand. He swings the bat into the windshield.

TOM

(laugh)

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Suzie stops kissing him.

SUZIE

Did you hear that?

NICHOLAS

Hear what?

SUZIE

Sounds like broken glass!

Suzie gets out of bed, and rushes out of the bedroom.

EXT. PARKING LOT-APARTMENT COMPLEX-CONTINUOUS

Suzie rushes towards her car. Nicholas walks towards her and the car. Her eyes grow in shock at the white spray paint written on the hood of the car. It reads: Nick Has No Balls!

Suzie looks at Nicholas. He turns around and walks towards the apartment complex.

SUZIE

Nick!

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Nicholas pulls a pair of pants from the closet and puts them on. Suzie rushes into the bedroom. She looks at what he's doing.

SUZIE

So, your gonna go beat him! Is that it?

NICHOLAS

You don't understand!

SUZIE

Then tell me?

NICHOLAS

I can't!

SUZIE

Then why are you doing this?

Nicholas looks away. Suzie looks at him deeply.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

It's a pride thing. I get it. Then go!

Nicholas grabs his duffle bag from the floor. He walks towards Suzie and leans towards her for a kiss. Suzie pulls away and Nicholas walks towards the doorway.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

Don't expect me to be here!

Nicholas walks out of the bedroom.

INT. TAXI-NIGHT

Nicholas sits in the passenger seat. He stares outside the window.

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Suzie looks outside the window.

EXT. BOXING GYM-NIGHT

Nicholas steps towards the boxing gym.

NICHOLAS
Just like old times.

INT. BOXING GYM-NIGHT

Nicholas walks into the boxing gym. He looks around and sees Tom standing in the ring. Nicholas tosses his duffle onto the apron of the ring.

TOM
Smart boy. You didn't even need
your mother to help you find your
way.

Nicholas rolls into the ring and stands up. He stares at Tom.

NICHOLAS
Let's get this over with!

Nicholas leans down. Tom pulls a gun out from behind his back. He points it at Nicholas.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
That won't be necessary.

Nicholas looks at Tom.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Are you gonna shoot me or fight me
like a man!

Tom tosses his to the floor and takes off his coat. Tom gets into a stance and holds his arms up. Nicholas looks at the movement in his body.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
What the hell!

Tom gets closer to Nicholas. He punches Nicholas across the face. Nicholas falls against the ropes. He looks at Tom. Nicholas pulls himself up. He puts himself in a stance. Tom moves towards Nicholas.

He swings and Tom ducks. He uppercuts Nicholas. Nicholas falls to the mat. Tom steps towards Nicholas. He stands over him.

TOM

You better get up if you want to finish this!

Tom backs away. Nicholas stands up. He looks at Tom.

NICHOLAS

Something tells me you boxed before.

TOM

Ryan was my brother.

NICHOLAS

What!

TOM

Years ago, our father died. Ryan, being his favorite, got everything! I got nothing!

NICHOLAS

That's why you killed him?

TOM

I had to. Your hero wasn't as innocent as you think. He was sleeping with your mother behind your back!

Nicholas looks away.

TOM (CONT'D)

Oh! You didn't know. Yeah, I followed them both back here. And what do I see, your mom doing the dirty deeds with my little brother!

INT. OFFICE-BOXING GYM-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK

Together in bed, Ryan lays on top of Mary Jane. Mary Jane grabs his back.

MARY JANE

(pant)
(moan)

EXT. ALLEY-AFTERNOON

Tom looks through the window.

INT. BOXING GYM-BACK TO PRESENT

Nicholas kneels down to the mat. He looks down and his eyes wander around like tops. Tom steps towards Nicholas. A wicked grin on his face. Tom leans against the ropes.

TOM

And I can't forget about your
mother! How hitting her with my car
was the icing on the cake.
(laugh)

Nicholas drives his fist upwards and uppercuts Tom out of the ring. Tom falls onto a weight training bench. The barbell falls down on to Tom's neck and crushes his throat. Nicholas looks away.

EXT. BOXING GYM-NIGHT

Nicholas stands outside.

PARAMEDIC #1 and #2. Both in their early 30s.

Paramedic #1 wheels Tom's body out. Nicholas looks away.

Police Officer steps towards Nicholas. He looks at him.

POLICE OFFICER

I remember you. Are you alright?

NICHOLAS

I will be but he won't.

POLICE OFFICER

What went on in there?

NICHOLAS

A friendly contest.

POLICE OFFICER

Can I call you a cab?

NICHOLAS
I'm not under arrest?

POLICE OFFICER
It was an accident, right?

NICHOLAS
Right.

POLICE OFFICER
We'll be in touch. For now, stay
out of trouble.

NICHOLAS
No problem.

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-MORNING

In the bedroom, Suzie lays in bed. Her body curled in a ball. The bedroom door opens. Suzie burst up. She looks at him. Nicholas steps towards her. Suzie steps towards Nicholas. She hugs him.

INT. MOTEL ROOM #2-MOTEL-MORNING

Nicholas vacuums the floor of the motel room.

EXT. PARKING LOT-MOTEL-MORNING

Nicholas tosses a garbage bag into the dumpster. He looks around and smacks his palms together.

GIRL #1 and #2. Both in their early 20s.

Girl #1 walks past Nicholas. She looks at him. Girl #1 touches his hand.

GIRL #1
Are you looking for a good time?

NICHOLAS
Maybe. You?

GIRL #1
Always. How about I get a room, and
you can help me with something.

NICHOLAS
Lucky for you, I'm off!

Girl #1 walks towards the office. Girl #2 grabs Nicholas's hand. She walks him towards the rooms.

GIRL #2
I hope you can handle us at the same time.

INT. MOTEL ROOM #2-MOTEL-MORNING

Nicholas lays on top of Girl #1. He drives himself into her.

GIRL #1
(pant)

Girl #2 kisses Nicholas. He proceeds with Girl #1.

EXT. PARKING LOT-MOTEL-EVENING

Nicholas walks out of the parking lot. He looks around. The Motel Manager steps outside the office.

MOTEL MANAGER
Hey!

NICHOLAS
Yes, sir?

The Motel Manager points his finger at him.

MOTEL MANAGER
Don't do that shit no more!

NICHOLAS
Do what?

MOTEL MANAGER
You know what! You do it again and your fired! Got it!

NICHOLAS
Got it.

The Motel Manager walks into the office.

MOTEL MANAGER
See you tomorrow!

Nicholas walks away.

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-NIGHT

MARRIED WOMAN, early 30s.

The Married Woman lays in bed. Nicholas leans towards her and kisses her on her neck.

MARRIED WOMAN
You better do me fast. My husband
gets off work soon.

NICHOLAS
No problem.

MARRIED WOMAN
(laugh)

EXT. PARKING LOT-APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT

The Married Woman and Nicholas walk towards the Married Woman's car. She kisses Nicholas on the cheek.

INT. SUZIE'S CAR-NIGHT

Suzie looks. Her eyes water with tears. She grips her hands onto the steering wheel. Tears stream down her cheek.

SUZIE
(sob)

INT. BEDROOM-APARTMENT-AFTERNOON

SUPER: FIVE YEARS LATER

Suzie and Nicholas lay in bed under the covers. He goes back and forth.

SUZIE
(pant)
(moan)

Suzie grab ahold of his hair. He thrust himself against her.

SUZIE (CONT'D)
(breath)

He kisses her.

INT. DINER-AFTERNOON

Deidre sits at a booth. Suzie sits across from her. Deidre looks at Suzie.

DEIDRE
What's wrong?

Suzie looks at Deidre.

SUZIE
I'm pregnant.

DEIDRE
You are? Does Nick know?

SUZIE
No.

DEIDRE
Aren't you happy?

SUZIE
Yes and no.

DEIDRE
What is going on?

SUZIE
I can't wait for him. I have to do what's best for my child. Not him.

DEIDRE
Then do what's best. You have my support.

SUZIE
Thank you.

INT. PAITENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-EVENING

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

Suzie lies in a bed. She looks out the window, and pays no attention to the door being open or who comes in. Nicholas steps in. A boutique of flowers in his hand. Suzie looks at Nicholas, then turns back to look out the window.

SUZIE
What are you doing here?

NICHOLAS
They called me.

SUZIE

Why don't you get out of here! It's over.

NICHOLAS

Suzie?

SUZIE

Get the fuck out!!

Nicholas turns around and walks out. Tears fall from Suzie's eyes and hit her pillow.

Deidre walks into the patient room. She touches Suzie on her shoulder. Suzie sits up and hugs Deidre.

DEIDRE

You did what needed to be done.

INT. HALLWAY-HOSPITAL-EVENING

Nicholas walks down the hallway. He tosses the boutique of flowers into the garbage can.

INT. DINER-AFTERNOON

Suzie stands at the bar table. She rubs on her stomach.

INT. LIVING ROOM-SUZIE'S HOUSE-MORNING

Suzie sits in a rocking chair. She nurses her newborn daughter. Deidre sits and rocks Suzie's newborn son.

SUZIE

How's Nick doing?

DEIDRE

He hasn't really talked to me too much. He's busy with that girl. Their living together now.

SUZIE

Hopefully he can move past his phase.

DEIDRE

I hope so.

INT. LIBRARY-AFTERNOON

Suzie sits at a table. She reads from a law book.

A young man sits across from Suzie. MARK, 28. Tall and handsome. Dark brown hair, blue eyes.

Mark looks at her.

MARK
How's it going?

SUZIE
Pretty good. You?

MARK
Just this law stuff. You have to know them all.

SUZIE
Yeah.

MARK
My name's Mark. What's your name?

SUZIE
Suzie.

MARK
Pretty name.

SUZIE
Thank you.

MARK
Maybe we could study together.

SUZIE
I'm sorry. I'm not ready to start dating. I just got out of a bad relationship.

MARK
I didn't say date. I said study.

SUZIE
I can give it a shot.

MARK
Meet me here tomorrow, okay?

SUZIE
Okay.

INT. OFFICE-AFTERNOON

Suzie sits at her desk. Piles of paperwork sits beside her. The phone rings. Suzie grabs the receiver.

SUZIE

Hello?

LADY (V.O.)

Hello, is Suzanne Raines available?

SUZIE

This is she? Who am I speaking with?

LADY (V.O.)

I'm the representative of Deidre Rivers.

SUZIE

Yes. How is she?

LADY (V.O.)

I'm sorry but Ms. Rivers passed away yesterday. I'm just informing you of her funeral. It's gonna be this Saturday.

SUZIE

May I ask why I'm being contacted?

LADY (V.O.)

She considered you to be part of her family. Have a nice day.

SUZIE

You too. Goodbye.

Suzie hangs up the receiver. Tears run down her cheek. She wipes them away.

INT. OFFICE-AFTERNOON

LAWYER, late 20s. A lawyer for ten years.

Suzie sits in front of the lawyer.

LAWYER

Ms. Rivers had asked me to contact you as soon as possible.

SUZIE

What's this all about?

LAWYER

She wrote a will and informed me to give you a check for two hundred thousand dollars.

SUZIE

What? Why?

LAWYER

You are the mother of her nephew's children.

The Lawyer hands Suzie an envelope. Suzie takes it.

INT. LIVING ROOM-EVENING

Suzie sits on the sofa with Mark. She sips from a wine glass. Mark kisses her on the neck.

SUZIE

That tickles!
(laugh)

MARK

Will you marry me?

SUZIE

Mark, stop playing.

MARK

I'm not playing.

Mark reaches into his pocket and opens the ring box.

MARK (CONT'D)

What do you say?

Suzie's eyes fill with tears. She wipes them away.

SUZIE

Okay.

Mark kisses her.

INT. OFFICE-AFTERNOON

SUPER: THIRTEEN YEARS LATER

Suzie sits at her desk. She types on her computer.

SECRETARY, early 30s. A secretary for five years.

The Secretary walks into Suzie's office. She tosses the **Homicide Report** section of the newspaper on top of her keyboard.

SUZIE

What am I looking at here?

SECRETARY

Read the headline?

Suzie's eyes wander to a name that looks familiar. It reads: Local man, Nick Valens, found dead in backyard. No suspects have been identified at this time.

Suzie looks at the Secretary. She stands up. Suzie rushes out of the office.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

What's going on! I wanted you to read the story about the old man!

INT. BATHROOM-AFTERNOON

She rushes into the bathroom. Suzie leans on the counter.

SUZIE

(sob)

Nick!

Suzie covers her mouth. Tears in her eyes.

INT. LOBBY-FUNERAL HOME-MORNING

In the lobby, Suzie sits along with her four children.

MARY, 14. A eighth grade student. Dark brown hair, and brown eyes.

BRIAN, 14. A eighth grade student. Light brown hair, and hazel eyes.

TOBY, 12. A sixth grade student. Blonde hair, green eyes.

MARGO, 10. A fifth grade student. Sandy blonde hair and blue eyes.

Margo and Toby play on the floor. Toby snatches Margo's doll away.

MARGO

Give it back!

Suzie stands up. She snatches the doll away from Toby and tosses it to Margo.

SUZIE
(whisper)
Cut it out!

Suzie looks around. She sits down.

INT. VALENS HOUSE-KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

BRENDA VALENS, 33. A paralegal. Dark brown hair, and brown eyes. A down to earth woman.

Brenda sits at the table. A small mug of tea in her hand. Suzie steps towards the table.

SUZIE
Hi?

BRENDA
Hey? Do I know you?

SUZIE
Nick and I were together.

BRENDA
You must be Suzie?

SUZIE
Yes. Can I sit down?

BRENDA
Sure.

Suzie pulls out a chair and sits.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
I didn't see you at the funeral?

SUZIE
I wasn't in the room. I stood up in the lobby because my kids were being wild and I didn't want them to make any noise.

BRENDA
Nick did mention you a couple of times.

SUZIE
I know this isn't my business but I just like to ask. How'd it happen?

BRENDA

He brought someone home with him. A girl. No one saw anything.

SUZIE

I'm sorry.

BRENDA

So am I. I'm sorry for what is coming her way.

SUZIE

If you don't mind, I like to have a chat with you.

BRENDA

With me? Okay.

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS HOUSE-EVENING

In the dining room, Brenda walks in. She sits down in a recliner. Suzie sits in the recliner across from Brenda.

BRENDA

Now that we have some time to talk, what else do you want to know?

SUZIE

What did he say about me?

BRENDA

He felt bad about everything he put you through.

SUZIE

Did he ever say why or what made him do what he was doing?

BRENDA

A phase or something. He found out something about his mom, and boxing coach.

SUZIE

What was it?

BRENDA

They were having an affair. His coach was murdered. That was all he told me.

SUZIE

That night he came back different.
Like his innocence disappeared. How
was he with the girls?

BRENDA

He was lovable and he was happy
being around them.

SUZIE

Did he ever tell you about a guy
that was harassing him?

BRENDA

He mentioned it once. The guy was
dating his mom, she dumped him and
used Nick to make money. Nick threw
the fight, and never fought again.

SUZIE

Anything else?

BRENDA

Nick went and fought him. It didn't
end well. He told me he hit him so
hard that he knocked him out of the
ring. The guy broke his neck from
the dumbbell falling onto him.

Mary walks into the dining room and approaches Suzie.

MARY

Mom?

SUZIE

Yeah, what is it?

MARY

We're hungry.

SUZIE

We're almost done here, okay?

MARY

Okay.

Brenda stands up. She walks towards the kitchen.

BRENDA

Come with me, sweetie.

INT. KITCHEN-VALENS HOUSE-EVENING

Mary, Brian, Toby and Margo sit at the dinner table. Lasagna on the table. Brenda walks in and sets a tray of garlic bread down on.

BRENDA
Is it good?

Mary and Brian nod their heads "Yes."

Brenda walks towards the dining room.

INT. DINING ROOM-VALENS HOUSE-EVENING

Brenda walks in and motions her hand for Suzie to follow her.

BRENDA
Come with me?

INT. BEDROOM-VALENS HOUSE-EVENING

Brenda walks into the bedroom. She approaches a shelf and pulls a **photo album** out.

BRENDA
You can sit down.

Suzie sits. Brenda sits beside her. She opens the photo album, and flips through the pages. Brenda stops to one photo and shows Suzie. Suzie looks at the photo. Her eyes water at the sight of her and Nicholas in the photo together.

BRENDA (CONT'D)
Are you alright?

SUZIE
Yeah. I didn't know he still had this.

BRENDA
He said you brought out the best in him. Here, take it.

Suzie looks at Brenda.

SUZIE
Thank you.

Suzie takes the photograph.

INT. SUZIE'S CAR-MORNING(DREAM SEQUENCE)

Suzie sits in the driver seat. She looks at Nicholas. He looks at her.

NICHOLAS
 Something tells me this is gonna be
 a good day. I can see it. Don't
 you?

SUZIE
 I don't know. Ask me that later.

NICHOLAS
 How much later?

SUZIE
 Tonight.

NICHOLAS
 Whatever you say.

Suzie looks at Nicholas.

NICHOLAS (MARY'S VOICE) (CONT'D)
 Mom!!

INT/EXT. SUZIE'S CAR-MORNING (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

SUZIE
 What!

Mary reaches her hand into the car.

MARY
 Lunch money?

Suzie reaches into her purse and hands Mary five dollars.

MARY (CONT'D)
 Thanks.

Mary takes the five dollars.

SUZIE
 Love you! Have a good day!

MARY
 Love you too.

Mary backs away from the car.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL-MORNING

Mary walks towards the school.

INT. SUZIE'S CAR-CONTINUOUS

Suzie looks in the rear view mirror.

SUZIE

I wish you could've met them.

Suzie starts the car. She puts the automatic in DRIVE, and drives away.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-MORNING

MOTHER, early 20s. Brown hair, brown eyes.

LITTLE BOY, 5-Years-Old. Curly brown hair and brown eyes.

The car comes to a cross walk.

INT. SUZIE'S CAR-CONTINUOUS

Suzie's head jerks. She looks out the window.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-CONTINUOUS

The Little Boy waves at Suzie.

INT. SUZIE'S CAR-CONTINUOUS

Suzie waves back.

SUZIE

Hi, sweetie!

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-CONTINUOUS

The Mother waves her hand at Suzie.

INT. SUZIE'S CAR-CONTINUOUS

Suzie waves back.

SUZIE
(breath)
Another beautiful day.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET-CONTINUOUS

The car turns right and drives straight.

FADE OUT:

THE END