

AIMLESS

Written by

Brett Gaffney
&
Ishan Parikh

FINAL DRAFT
1/22/17

GP PRODUCTIONS
2017

AIMLESS

OVER BLACK:

We hear a voice -- unknown to us -- and as HE speaks:

VOICE (V.O.)

Love. It's a nice thing to have in our lives. Two people. Same feelings. Same interests. And then they either break up... or end up staying together forever.

INSERT CUT:

We see TWO HANDS. One hands the other a key-chain...

VOICE (V.O.)

Except it's not always like that. Sometimes... it's not between two people. And it doesn't have to be. Right?

INSERT CUT:

We see TWO PEOPLE walking down a trail. We're not sure who they are (yet), but they SEEM happy.

VOICE (V.O.)

But love's a weird thing. It's strange. We never see it coming. And when we do...
(a beat; Then,)
It's never ours.

And then we're back to BLACK as one word FLOATS out of our black frame...

A I M L E S S

(That's our title, by the way)

The "LESS" from the title fades away and all we're left with now is...

A I M

FADE IN:

One-two-THREE QUICK SHOTS of A BOY. Lying on a bed. We CUT from A BED to a COUCH back to A BED, and then to --

-- DYLAN MOORE. Passed out on a bed. This is our main guy.

He awakes. We WIDEN to see he is in...

1 INT. ZOE'S BEDROOM - EVENING 1

The room is a casual teenage girl's room. Posters of bands... soccer medals... all the typical stuff you would expect.

And now A GIRL walks in. This is ZOE. And by the looks of it, these two most likely have A THING with each other.

Dylan gets up. Sleepy. Tired. Looks at ZOE.

ZOE
Oh. Sorry, didn't mean to wake you.

DYLAN
What time is it?

ZOE
It's almost seven. I think -- you probably should leave now.

DYLAN
Seven? Shoot -- I better get home.

Dylan gets up. Scans the room --

ZOE
Here.

Zoe tosses Dylan his keys. He catches them. Goes for the door. And before he can touch the door handle --

ZOE (CONT'D)
Wait.

Dylan stops. Turns.

DYLAN
What?

Zoe shoots Dylan a look. A bit concerned.

ZOE
I think -- we need to talk first.
Before you go.

Off Dylan, who's in NO mood to talk right now...

JUMP CUT TO:

ZOE'S BED. Dylan and Zoe are face to face.

DYLAN
Break up? What --

ZOE
I've been thinking about this for
a... while now. And --

DYLAN
And..?

ZOE
I just --

A beat. She wants to say it, but she's looking for the right words...

ZOE (CONT'D)
I just feel that you're different
now. You... ever since --

As Zoe talks, Dylan is a bit FLUMMOXED.

ZOE (CONT'D)
You're not the same as you used to
be. I just think it's time to...
like... you know.

Dylan gets up.

ZOE (CONT'D)
Um -- so -- are you going to say
anything or -- like we can talk
about this another time if you
really have to go.

And Dylan INTERRUPTS HER right off.

DYLAN
I get it.

ZOE
Get it..?

DYLAN
It's fine... I get it. We're not
together anymore.

Dylan turns to leave and we JUMP CUT TO:

2

INT. DYLAN'S CAR - LATER

2

-- DYLAN. Staring off. Looking absent. As we MOVE IN on
him... and SUDDENLY --

He PUNCHES the passenger's seat. We STAY ON him. He's mad. But he doesn't show it off too much. And as he gives off A HEAVY SIGH, we CUT OUTSIDE --

-- DYLAN drops his forehead as the car horn BLOWS and we CUT TO:

MONTAGE:

DYLAN comes into his room. We CUT CLOSE to see:

He opens the door.

He walks in.

He throws his jacket onto his desk chair.

He drops his backpack under his piano.

He lays on his bed.

And we see the same thing again.

He opens the door.

He walks in.

He throws his jacket onto his desk chair.

He drops his backpack under his piano.

He lays on his bed.

And we see it again.

He opens the door.

He walks in.

And again.

He opens the door.

He walks in.

He throws his jacket onto his desk chair.

He drops his backpack under his piano.

He lays on his bed.

And again.

He opens the door.

He walks in.

And again.

He opens the door.

He walks in.

He throws his jacket onto his desk chair.

He drops his backpack under his piano.

He lays on his bed.

Again.

He opens the door.

He walks in.

And again.

He opens the door.

He walks in.

He throws his jacket onto his desk chair.

He drops his backpack under his piano.

He lays on his bed.

And that's how this montage works. It's the same fucking thing over and over and over and over and over and over again. This is Dylan in his post break-up life. Doing -- living -- the same thing meticulous routine over and over.

As the shots play on a loop, we're almost sick of seeing them repeat until --

3

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

3

It's a normal class. Minor background chatter. The KIDS are working on a worksheet of some sort.

ON DYLAN. Impassive. He's just doing his work. Plain-faced. Living that same day over again. WIDEN to find...

A GIRL. Sitting next to Dylan. She looks up at Dylan from doing her work. It looks like she's been sitting by him for a while now.

This, by the way is JENNIFER HARPER, but we're going to call her JEN.

JEN
(smirks,)
Are you ever gonna talk or what?

Dylan looks at Jen. Again, that same confused look.

DYLAN
What did you say?

JEN
Dude. We're four weeks into the semester and you -- haven't said a word to me.

DYLAN
Well... neither have you...

And now Jen smiles. It was just her way of getting his attention, which finally now happened.

JEN
You're right.
(then,)
Should I like -- formally introduce myself -- like hi I'm Jen...

DYLAN
No you don't have to...

JEN
Well that's my name.

DYLAN
Jen. I'm... Dylan.

JEN
Dylan... Dylan...

DYLAN
Moore.

JEN
Dylan Moore. Nice... mine's Harper.

And we can't even believe it. THIS is their first meeting?

Dylan looks off for a beat. Jen tries to read him.

JEN (CONT'D)
So that's it... no conversation?

DYLAN

Um...

JEN

Did you get number four yet?

Dylan looks at his paper. Our guess is he's not even passed number one yet.

DYLAN

Nope. Not yet.

Jen glances him a look. *Okay...*

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Look I'm just trying to get through this hour. I don't really wanna be here... and --

JEN

Well neither do I, but you know. It's nice to have a conversation every now and then...

DYLAN

Yeah okay.
(then,)
I'm... I'm gonna go to the bathroom.

Dylan gets up. As he leaves, he points to the door. Gets a yes from the teacher, and he goes.

4

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

4

DYLAN walks out of the bathroom. As he comes out, he catches JEN filling up her water bottle at the water fountain. She looks at him...

DYLAN

Wha -- are you -- following me?

JEN

Following? No.

DYLAN

You left after me.

JEN

(waves her water bottle,)
Not everyone leaves to go to the bathroom.

5

INT. COUNSELING ROOM - DAY

5

PAN DOWN a row of FOUR EMPTY CHAIRS. As FOUR GUYS walk in, filling those seats.

The third guy comes in. Takes a seat. This is GRAHAM WRIGHT.

And now comes DYLAN. A newcomer to this group. He stands in the middle of the three other guys. He looks at one of them who is JOE.

DYLAN

Is this... the counseling hour?

JOE

Yeah man. You gonna sit down?

Dylan looks at his chair. As he goes over to get it...

GRAHAM

Here man. I got you.

Graham takes a chair. Pulls it up for Dylan right beside him. Dylan sits down.

The COUNSELOR walks in the door.

COUNSELOR

Alright guys.

(to Dylan)

This is Dylan here. He's new. Let's be nice to him. Okay? Same drill, same routine. You can sit quietly... I don't care if you talk, just don't yell. If you wanna work on any homework or anything that's fine. Just please don't leave the room. Alright?

(then,)

We good?

BOYS

Yeah, we're good.

The Counselor goes into his office. And now we're left with the boys. They sit in silence. Dylan looks around. JOE and the OTHER GUY are sitting quite far apart.

DYLAN

So... How does this work? Do we actually talk or...

JOE

Nah, dude. It's mostly just a free hour.

And now the other guy, JOSH, speaks --

JOSH

Let him speak if he wants to man.

JOE

Why don't you shut up dumbass. We never do anything in here anyway, I'm just filling him in --

GRAHAM

Guys. Seriously.

(then,)

Most of the time it's just kinda whatever around here. Unless you've got something to say. You know, about your issues. We'll listen.

JOE

Yeah, man. We'll listen. But -- you don't have to force it out of you or anything, we --

GRAHAM

No pressure.

DYLAN

Oh. Okay. Well -- I think I'm good. Just gonna sit for the hour.

Josh and Joe nod. They retreat to their phones. Still sitting far apart.

Dylan looks to Graham who's got his headphones plugged in.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Why do they sit so far apart?

And as Graham notices that Dylan is trying to say something to him, he pulls out his headphones.

GRAHAM

Huh?

DYLAN

Those two. They sit so far apart.

GRAHAM

Oh. Yeah -- they're just... they're in for bullying each other.

(MORE)

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Well -- not really each other.

(then,)

The bigger one beat up the smaller one. Get it?

Dylan looks to Joe and Josh. Joe is the BIGGER one of the two. Josh is most likely the victim.

DYLAN

Huh. Okay. So they put them in the same counseling session?

GRAHAM

There's only one hour of this. School doesn't want more than that.

DYLAN

Right. It's a waste of time anyway.

GRAHAM

Parents making you do it?

DYLAN

Yup.

GRAHAM

You okay with that?

DYLAN

Not really. Just keeping them happy. We -- just had a death in my family. So...

GRAHAM

Oh. Sorry.

A BEAT. Then...

DYLAN

What are you in here for?

GRAHAM

Drinking.

(chuckles,)

I -- I don't do it anymore, I used to.

DYLAN

Parents make you stop?

GRAHAM

(shakes his head,)

I made myself stop. Volunteered to come here.

DYLAN

What made you do that?

GRAHAM

It just... all got out of hand. I got in an accident. Woke me up.

DYLAN

Yikes. Were you hurt?

GRAHAM

Hurt my back a little bit. Not too bad.

(then,)

How about you? Were you -- the person that died -- were you close with them?

A BEAT. And now we PUSH IN on Dylan before he says it...

DYLAN

Uh, yeah... it was... my sister. She was a senior here. Almost -- it was over the summer. Her car got hit.

GRAHAM

Like full on or..? Did she get hurt after and then...

DYLAN

Yeah. She -- yeah it was a wreck.

GRAHAM

I'm sorry man. That sucks.

Dylan nods. Looks away for a second. Then --

DYLAN

I didn't catch your name.

GRAHAM

Graham.

DYLAN

I'm Dylan.

GRAHAM

Yeah. I know. I -- I sit behind you in fourth hour. History?

DYLAN

Oh yeah... sorry, I -- haven't noticed you. I don't really pay attention that much in that class --

GRAHAM

-- Don't sweat it man. It's only history class.

DYLAN

(chuckles,)

Yeah.

CUT TO:

6 INT. DYLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY 6

We HOVER OVER DYLAN. He lays on his bed. It's probably the end of another repeat day.

His phone buzzes. He goes to check it.

7 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 7

We're back in the same classroom we were in earlier, and we FOLLOW UP with JEN. Sitting on her own. And now -- Dylan enters frame and sits beside her.

DYLAN

Hey.

JEN

Hey. Finally talked to me.

DYLAN

What can I say I'm a pretty loud guy.

Jen laughs at that. *Funny!*

JEN

You, you seemed pretty off-beat last time. Then again, you don't really talk so it's good to hear your voice.

A beat. Dylan waits. Then says it...

DYLAN

Then again. I kinda just broke up with my girlfriend.

JEN

More like ex-girlfriend now. Right?

DYLAN

Yeah. Right.

JEN

I didn't mean it like that, I was just... being playful.

DYLAN

It's okay. It's just -- weird to talk about her... especially this early in the morning.

JEN

So did you end with her, or she you?

DYLAN

...The latter.

JEN

Okay. Yeah, sorry. I'll stop.

DYLAN

It doesn't bother me too much. She was a bitch anyway.

JEN

Woah there buddy -- you can't get too worked up before business class.

Dylan smiles. *Right, I can't.*

JEN (CONT'D)

Hey, this might a bit straightforward but would you --

And she's interrupted by MR. CONLEY, the teacher, addressing the class.

MR. CONLEY

Okay kiddos -- you have your worksheets. You'll find it all in chapter nine. Accounting. Put the books back when you're done on the back counter. Trust me -- you'll find better things to steal than a business essentials book. Not kidding.

(then,)

(MORE)

MR. CONLEY (CONT'D)

Let's get the worksheets done by the end of class. You get done early, I want it in the tray.

He then heads back to his desk. Dylan looks back to Jen, curious.

DYLAN

Wait -- what were you about to say?

JEN

Huh?

DYLAN

You said something about being straightforward...

JEN

Oh yeah. It was... nothing. Actually well...

She checks herself before she says, and then she goes for it --

JEN (CONT'D)

Would you wanna hang out some time?

DYLAN

Um yeah, I'd be down for that.

JEN

Like just us...

Dylan looks at her. *I got it the first time...*

DYLAN

Well yeah -- I'd be cool with that.

JEN

Okay. Sweet. That should happen soon. 'Cause like I don't work or anything so --

DYLAN

Yeah me neither.

JEN

Nice. Yeah -- sounds good.

Dylan nods. Jen goes to her worksheet. After a moment, so does Dylan.

A BEAT. As Jen works, Dylan looks at Jen. His glance gives us something new. Something we HAVE NOT seen before. He notices something different about HER.

FLOYD (PRE-LAP)

All the governments are going
"We're not paying for your mess,
this all you guys."

8

INT. FLOYD'S CLASSROOM - DAY

8

This is HISTORY CLASS. MR. FLOYD, the teacher, lectures the class. He's a slim guy, well-dressed, and pacing from side to side as he talks...

FLOYD

So the League of Nations is going to make this thing called the Treaty of Versailles, and that basically settles everything after the war and it has one specific thing... Germany has to pay for ALL the damage they caused in World War I. And that's like a whole bomb for Germany because what's going to happen is their economy is going to completely FLOP and everything's going to be so expensive and that's what's going to create this VOID for Germany that will lead to World War II and all, but this is crushing for Germany because they basically LOSE it all. And what's important is that the United States DOESN'T take part in the League of Nations. They say no -- we're out. They didn't want any other country dictating their foreign policy so...

The kids all sit in silence as he talks. Some bored, some really INTERESTED. We come across Dylan, who is, of course, uninterested. And then, GRAHAM taps him from behind. He turns --

DYLAN

Oh, hey dude.

GRAHAM

Told you. I sit behind you.

DYLAN

Yeah I made sure I saw you before class. You excited for counseling?

GRAHAM

Always.

Dylan turns around as the lecture continues --

FLOYD

Alright. So then, we've got our new nations that the League establishes. Some of them are -- Yugoslavia -- uh -- I'm trying to think -- there was Poland, there was Czechoslovakia -- there were nine total.

CUT TO:

LATER

The class is over, and as the students file out, we find Dylan the last guy to get up. He passes Mr. Floyd putting his notes away. And as he heads out --

FLOYD (CONT'D)

Hey, Dylan!

Dylan turns. *Huh? Me?* He stops. Floyd comes up to him.

DYLAN

Yeah?

FLOYD

Hey, how are you man? Seemed a little talkative today in class...

DYLAN

Uh, yeah sorry about that...

FLOYD

Nah -- it's okay. I don't care, you know that.

DYLAN

Yeah.

FLOYD

So -- you doing okay? How's your family doing?

DYLAN

Uh -- yeah. They're good. It's been a little weird since... Summer. But it's fine. It'll take time, I guess.

FLOYD

Oh, no yeah -- I get it. It doesn't happen overnight.

DYLAN

Sure. Yeah.

FLOYD

But you're okay, right?

DYLAN

Oh, yeah. Definitely. I'm good.

FLOYD

That's good, that's great. No, I was just gonna say -- if you ever need anything -- if you ever need to talk to someone, don't be afraid to stick around after school anytime. I'm usually here.

DYLAN

Oh. Yeah... thanks Mr. Floyd.

FLOYD

No, anytime man. Have a good day, I'll see ya later.

Dylan leaves. Floyd goes back into the class and we CUT TO:

9

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

9

GRAHAM is walking in the hallway as Dylan catches up to him.

GRAHAM

What did Floyd want?

DYLAN

Oh -- it was nothing.

GRAHAM

Was he mad?

DYLAN

No he was fine. It -- I'm not in trouble or anything.

Graham nods. They keep walking. Then --

GRAHAM

Hey so you know that ex-girlfriend you were telling me about?

DYLAN

Yeah. We don't talk anymore. She --

GRAHAM

She's actually in my first hour. I just noticed this morning.

DYLAN

Oh. What do you think about her.

GRAHAM

She's cute.

DYLAN

Um. Yeah. I thought that too.

GRAHAM

So you guys broke up..?

DYLAN

She dumped me like... three weeks ago?

GRAHAM

Oh. Sorry dude...

DYLAN

Oh -- no worries. It wasn't much of a relationship.

GRAHAM

Yeah I understand that. It happens sometimes.

DYLAN

I mean I don't think I was like super heartbroken about it. She just kinda threw it in my face and then I was like --

(impassive,)

Okay...

GRAHAM

Did you see it coming? She like another guy?

DYLAN

I don't think so. It was -- pretty sudden.

As they walk, we CUT TO:

10 INT. COUNSELING ROOM - DAY

10

JOE and JOSH are arguing. Joe is sitting down, trying to ignore the kid, while JOSH is pleading --

JOSH

Come on man. Where the hell's my phone--!

JOSH

Told you. I don't have it!

JOE

Yes you do! You always take it, and anytime I ask for it you're always like "Oh I don't have it!"

JOE (CONT'D)

Yeah and then you always have to be a pussy and announce it to the class so the teacher comes and gets it -- surprised you didn't do that today!

JOSH

So -- SO YOU DO HAVE IT! Give it back!

JOSH

No I didn't say I have it, I just --

And now Dylan and Graham are at the door. As they enter, they hear --

JOSH (CONT'D)

C'mon dude just give it back!

Joe glances at Graham. Tosses THE PHONE to him which Graham then catches.

JOE

Don't let him get to it!

Joe looks at Josh. ON JOSH -- *Fuck you.* Then, Josh goes to Graham --

JOE (CONT'D)

That's mine!

Graham knows what's up. He passively hands the phone over to Joe. Looks at JOSH --

JOSH

Wow -- nice going Graham!

Graham scoffs. He sits down. Dylan follows. They both now sit down. Dylan looks to Graham -- curious about something.

DYLAN

Do you like anyone? Have -- or were you ever in a serious relationship?

GRAHAM

Um -- yeah -- I used to be, but... we -- hit a bump.

DYLAN

A bump...

GRAHAM

Well -- I got in a car accident.

DYLAN

Oh, yeah. Right.

GRAHAM

Yeah. She always wanted me to stop drinking. And then after the accident... we... started to drift. And then we both kind of knew it was over.

And Dylan gets it. He should probably stops. He gives one nod.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

It -- It's okay. We're supposed to be talking in here anyway.

DYLAN

So... are you guys still close or... do you guys still talk?

GRAHAM

Yeah we still talk every now and then... I don't know about close. She definitely knows me better than anyone else...

DYLAN

Do you still like her?

Graham takes a beat. Then...

GRAHAM

Yeah.

DYLAN

Well then you should go back to her. 'Cause you know... if you like her...

GRAHAM

Does she like me..?

DYLAN

I mean -- I don't know her so I can't --

GRAHAM

Yeah... don't -- don't worry about it.

A BEAT. Then --

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Do you like anyone?

DYLAN

I mean -- not really. Like -- I'm not talking to anybody.

JOSH

I'm talking to someone!

JOE

(laughs,)

Who? You mean Jamie?

(then,)

Yeah. EVERYONE in this room is talking to her!

JOSH

No dude. Shut up dude -- I like her!

JOE

You're not getting anything bud!

Joe keeps laughing. Josh looks off, frustrated.

Dylan goes back to talking to Graham.

DYLAN

So you gonna talk to her?

GRAHAM

Um... I don't know. I might.

Dylan nods. He really should stop. He leans back. Plugs his headphones in. As we MOVE IN on him, and his music starts... we GO TO:

11 INT. DYLAN'S CAR - MOVING 11

DYLAN in his car.

He stops at a stoplight. Taps his fingers on the wheel. Checks his mirror.

A few quick shots of him driving around. And then we get to...

12 EXT. JEN'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY 12

Dylan's car PARKS into frame. He waits for a beat. JEN comes out of her house and goes to the car. As she gets in...

JEN

Hey!

DYLAN

Hey -- you ready to go?

JEN

Yeah. I know this coffee shop downtown if you're cool with that --

DYLAN

Yeah, sure thing, let's go!

The car DRIVES out of frame and we CUT TO:

13 EXT. DOWNTOWN KANSAS CITY - DAY 13

Lovely downtown KC. Every day normal people. Coffee shops, BIG BUILDINGS, small shops, it's the straight HEART of the city.

DYLAN and JEN walk down the streets with their coffee. Chit-Chatting, laughing, talking -- having a good time. And then we catch up with them as they are talking --

DYLAN

So does Mr. Conley seem like a nice guy to you?

JEN

Honestly, he looks like he's stuck up. That guy is never happy.

DYLAN

Yeah I can see that. He's always in a bad mood.

JEN

And like seriously -- teachers need to understand that half the time -- they're just like us. They don't want to be there either.

DYLAN

Yeah -- and if you have a bad grade in their class then that means they hate you.

JEN

Yeah. My physic's teacher. Did you -- what did you get on the test --

DYLAN

Yeah I'm not in physics. I don't --

JEN

Yeah -- you know what -- it's the weekend. Let's not talk about school.

DYLAN

Yeah. School sucks. I mean -- we all just do it to get to college.

JEN

But then again -- we need it.

DYLAN

Yeah true. And then we all have to grow up, and get jobs, be adults --

JEN

Yeah -- so what do you want to be?

DYLAN

Yeah -- you know I haven't put a lot of thought into it. Probably should start that now but as a kid I always wanted to be an architect. I'll probably end up in business... maybe in accounting or something. I'm -- I'm pretty good at math.

JEN

Oh cool. I -- wouldn't have thought of that.

DYLAN

Thanks.
(laughs it off,)
What about you?

JEN

I want to go into fashion. You know -- I've always been into designs and clothes and that kind of stuff. After high school, I'll probably look for an internship, but I still have to figure college and other stuff out.

DYLAN

Woah. I wouldn't have guessed that.

JEN

Yeah, right? Pretty cool.

Jen takes a glance at her phone. Dylan notices --

DYLAN

Dang. How many streaks do you have?

JEN

Uh... twenty... twenty four, I think.

DYLAN

Woah.

JEN

Why? How many do you have.

DYLAN

Uh... I have one with you -- and one of my other friends.

JEN

Okay, so that's two... that's it only two people?

DYLAN

Yeah -- I guess I don't find social media that important. Like -- it's just a bunch of people sending a picture of their faces. There's no real conversation. This is. Right?

JEN

Right... I see...

DYLAN

So what's the point in doing it every day?

JEN

To keep the streak going.

DYLAN

Just to show your face? I mean you could just go talk to the person.

Jen shrugs. Has nothing to say. Takes a beat. Then --

JEN

Hey you mind if we go somewhere else... I know this place... It's really nice around this time of the year.

DYLAN

What is it?

Off Jen --

CUT TO:

14 EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

14

JEN and DYLAN stand on a bridge. Looking out. Dylan finds this REALLY odd.

DYLAN

A bridge?

JEN

Yeah, it's cool right? The water and... sometimes if you come at the right time you can see the sun go down.

DYLAN

Yeah. But it's like -- so you do you hang out here a lot?

JEN

Yeah. By myself, sometimes.

DYLAN

Why?

JEN

To think. Especially when I'm stressed out...

DYLAN

With -- school and stuff?

JEN

No. I mean I came here a lot --
like A LOT over summer.

DYLAN

Why by yourself though?

A BEAT. Jen is cautious. She's holding something back. But she says it...

JEN

I had this... breakup.

DYLAN

Breakup? Wait so you too--?

JEN

Yeah. But mine was a while ago.
Like the beginning of the summer.

DYLAN

Oh... sorry --
(then,)
I mean, it's a nice place.

JEN

Yeah?

DYLAN

So were you dating him a long time?

JEN

For a while. It just -- after a
while, we both decided that we
shouldn't... stay together.

DYLAN

Why? Did he become a jerk?

JEN

No. It's... It's complicated.

DYLAN

It's fine if you don't want talk
about it. I'm not --

JEN

No it's fine. I'll -- I'm sure I'll
tell you some other time.

DYLAN

Don't worry about it. You don't have to.

They both look out to just a bunch of open land.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Nice view though.... kinda.

JEN

Dude, you don't have to... I get it, it's more of a me thing. I thought you would like it because you're quiet.

DYLAN

Am I really that quiet?

JEN

Well -- like -- that's just the vibe I got from you the whole time I was sitting by you... you never said anything, never worked so I figured you were shy.

DYLAN

Hm. Okay...

JEN

What vibe did you get from me?

DYLAN

Well -- I never really paid too much attention in the beginning until we started talking...

JEN

See? That's the thing... I never knew all this about you until we started talking. You have a really cool personality but you just have to... show it more. Be more vocal. Let it out more.

DYLAN

Yeah... I get what your saying...

And for a second Dylan gets a bit serious. He's thinking about something. And WE know what it is. And then --

JEN

Is everything okay?

DYLAN
Yeah, definitely...

A BEAT. They linger for a second. Then --

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Hey, I told my parents I'd be home soon, so we should probably head out.

JEN
Oh, okay. Well thanks for taking me to *the bridge*.

DYLAN
(laughs,)
Yeah, anytime.

Jen walks out of Dylan's way and heads off the bridge. Dylan looks at the view ahead. It's just desolate land. He smirks at it.

ON DYLAN as he looks back at Jen moving away. He sees EVEN MORE to her (we're not quite sure what it is). But whatever it is... He APPRECIATES IT. Off his look...

MONTAGE:

Dylan gets out of his car. We glimpse A SLIGHT SMILE on his face. He's a bit more upbeat.

Dylan and Jen are in BUSINESS CLASS... talking away.

Dylan and Jen are walking the school's empty hallways, most likely killing time while class is going.

Dylan is in COUNSELING SESSION. He shows GRAHAM, JOSH, and JOE a funny video. They huddle around Dylan watching it as they crack up at it.

We see Dylan and Jen in the CAR. Jen turns the music up. Dylan, after a beat, turns it back down. Jen turns it back up. Dylan, back down. The two then go back and forth at it for a second until Jen turns it back up. Dylan knocks her hand out of the way. Jen strikes back. It's a pretty playful fight. And suddenly Dylan almost loses his grip on the wheel. Jen instinctively goes to put a hand it as Dylan gets both hands back on. They both laugh at how stupid that just was.

We find Dylan in his BATHROOM. We're CLOSE ON HIM as he double checks himself. Off him...

INSERT CUT:

From earlier, on the bridge, Jen tells Dylan:

JEN
I figured you were shy.

Back on Dylan as he's stuck on that word: shy.

DYLAN
Shy... am I?

We now go to Dylan sitting on his bed. He gets a text from JEN that reads: "Hey how was your day?!?" Dylan gives the text a genuine smile. (Yes, ladies and gents, our main character just smiled. Like ACTUALLY SMILED. Yay!)

We're in the COUNSELING ROOM, seeing Dylan and Graham talking. They seem to get along REALLY well as they chat.

Dylan and Jen are walking the trails. They look like they're talking about something deep. It's a conversation between two CLOSE friends.

And now we're with Dylan in his bedroom. But wait... he DOESN'T throw his jacket on his desk chair. He folds it up and lays it on his bed. Aha! There's SOME change.

As our montage ends, we watch Dylan as PLOPS onto his bed, and we're off to --

15 INT. HALLWAY - SCHOOL - DAY

15

JEN and DYLAN are walking down the hall, probably skipping class again.

DYLAN
Hey you think we should head back in?

JEN
Ah...
(checks her phone,)
No we still have ten minutes. He won't care.
(then,)
Oh hey I forgot to tell you something!

DYLAN
What's up?

JEN

So my friend -- I play soccer with her -- she's having a bonfire at her house Friday night -- so tomorrow...

DYLAN

Yeah...

JEN

And you should come.

And the thought of that confuses Dylan...

DYLAN

Me?

JEN

(Obviously you...)

Yeah.

DYLAN

I'm -- I'm not in your friend group, I don't know any of your --

JEN

Oh my god. Dude -- you did not...

(mocks him,)

"I'm not in your friend group!"

(then,)

It doesn't matter stupid! You can still come!

DYLAN

Yeah but I wouldn't know anyone there.

JEN

So? Talk to people. I'm telling her you're coming.

DYLAN

Woah -- I don't know if --

JEN

You're coming.

DYLAN

Jen --

JEN

Hey. I want you to go. Okay?

DYLAN

Okay but --

JEN

I don't wanna hear it. You're coming.

Jen walks ahead of Dylan. Dylan laughs it off as he follows behind.

16 INT. DYLAN'S BEDROOM 16

ON DYLAN'S FACE. He gets a text from JEN. We don't know what it says, but it makes him smile. He tosses his phone aside, CONTENT with where he's at right now.

17 INT. ART CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON 17

CLOSE ON --

Coloring pencils. Shading from dark to light. WIDEN TO find...

JEN. She's working on her project. By the looks of it, she's into it, and she sure is GOOD at it. And now the TEACHER comes by as he GLIMPSES the project.

JEN

This look fine to you?

TEACHER

That looks awesome! Wow --

JEN

I tried putting different layers of blue, so with layering it goes well with the value.

TEACHER

No yeah that looks great. That looks cool. Now are you happy with it?

JEN

Ah -- yeah...

TEACHER

How do you feel about it?

JEN

I mean -- I kinda want to do something more with the background.

(MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

It kinda looks messy and I want it more clean and smooth so --

TEACHER

Well -- now what I would do is wait until you're completely done, and just kinda add more pastel so you can blend it, and I have something that'll -- ah -- it's kinda like a blending stump but with oil pastel so I can show you how to do that. We can get that done. No problem.

JEN

Okay, cool. Yeah, I'll wait.

TEACHER

Alright. Well -- stay here as long as you like, and just kinda make sure you clean up once you're outta here. Yeah?

JEN

Okay. Yeah.

The Teacher walks away. DYLAN now comes into the room. Jen EYES him.

JEN (CONT'D)

What's up?

DYLAN

You needed me?

JEN

Yeah -- uh -- I need a ride home. You think you could help me out?

DYLAN

Didn't drive today?

JEN

No, I was low on gas

DYLAN

It's fine. I got you.

JEN

Sorry, I'm almost done here, we can leave in like five minutes.

Dylan looks at the picture. Safe to say he's IMPRESSED.

DYLAN

Woah... that's really good.

JEN

Yeah, I've been working on it for like, three weeks now I think.

DYLAN

Wait, so you actually have to try in this class?

JEN

I mean... it's an easy A. But I like drawing -- I like art -- so, I put in work.

DYLAN

Oh...

JEN

Why, are you not a fan?

DYLAN

It's cool, but... I just don't think I'd be that good at it. Like...

(to her project,)

This good.

JEN

Well, no one's really good at it. It takes a lot of time.

DYLAN

Yeah but I'm terrible. Like -- when I draw a circle, it looks like a rock.

JEN

Well...

(a beat,)

Here. Wait a sec.

Jen gets up. She goes over to the counter and grabs a sheet of blank sketch paper and a sharpie. She comes back. Sets it down before Dylan who eyes it like it's not worth his time.

JEN (CONT'D)

Draw something.

DYLAN

But I suck...

JEN

Just draw anything. Anything you want. I won't judge, I promise.

Dylan grabs the sharpie. Thinks for a beat. Then goes:

DYLAN

Okay well this is all I got...

(then,)

There was this guy with no arms, and he got chased by a bunch of bees. Then he jumped into a pond...

(then,)

Then he climbed mountains. Got shot twice... and went to heaven... and he grew two wings...

We CUT TO the paper to see Dylan just drew a dog's face out of that story he just told.

JEN

(chuckles,)

Ah... okay... that story got dark real quick.

DYLAN

Yeah, I know -- some teacher taught me it...

JEN

He got shot twice... *a teacher* taught you that?

DYLAN

I -- I don't know -- it's

(then,)

But do you see the dog? The ears, the nose..?

JEN

Yeah, yeah there's like seven different ways to draw that.

DYLAN

It's bad.

JEN

I mean -- it's still art. Kinda...

DYLAN

I did tell you it was gonna be crappy.

JEN

No, it's still something that came from your head. You had an idea, and you made it. It doesn't have to be good, but as long as it comes from a place where you wanted to created it... it allows for accomplishment.

DYLAN

So you *like* it?

JEN

It's... different... especially the story.

(laughs; then,)

But that's good, though. If everything were perfect, the world would be the same and boring. You understand what I'm saying?

And as those words TOUCH Dylan...

DYLAN

Yeah.... That's really smart. I mean, it's a good way to think of it.

JEN

Okay. Give me five minutes, then I'll be ready.

Dylan nods. Smiles. Then, she goes back to working on her project. Dylan keeps his gaze ON HER. Clearly, there's something pulling him towards her.

18

EXT. GRAHAM'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

18

Quick CUTS of A BASKETBALL being PASSED. It BOUNCES back and forth in our frame as we now JUMP-CUT TO:

DYLAN and GRAHAM. Shooting hoops. So these guys DO hang out outside school.

Graham goes for the board. Makes it in.

DYLAN

Dang, did you play basketball last year?

GRAHAM

No. I did in middle school. Then I was on a rec team.

Graham makes another shot. It goes in AGAIN.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Doctor told me to stop after I hurt
my back in the accident.

More SHOTS of the ball being bounced toward the board. Then --

DYLAN

Still haven't talked to that girl?

GRAHAM

Nope.

DYLAN

Do you plan to?

GRAHAM

Um -- I don't know.

DYLAN

Sorry dude, if you don't wanna talk
about it...

(then,)

But just saying... talking to her
is not gonna hurt.

GRAHAM

Yeah... but -- I don't know if she
would take me back. I thought we
talked about this before man.

(then,)

Your shot.

Graham passes to Dylan. Dylan holds onto the ball.

DYLAN

You gotta talk to her before you
know for sure.

Dylan aims for a shot -- SHOOTs -- and he misses. Graham
takes the rebound.

GRAHAM

I'm not the same guy for her
anymore. I'm -- different. I think
that's why we split in the first
place.

DYLAN

You're not drinking anymore. That's
good, right?

Graham double-checks Dylan. Almost as if he DIDN'T want that brought up.

GRAHAM
Yeah. You have a point.

DYLAN
So go for it, then. Patch things up with her.

A LONG BEAT. Graham stares at Dylan, trying to figure out why the kid's being such a preacher right now.

GRAHAM
Why are you so peachy right now?

DYLAN
Well -- life's pretty good right now.

GRAHAM
Glad to hear that. Did you find a girl?

Dylan thinks for a second. Then looks at Graham. FULL CONVICTION.

DYLAN
Yeah. I think I did.

GRAHAM
You like her?

DYLAN
She's nice. She's realistic. I like her.

Off Dylan, having admitted it now, we CUT TO:

19 EXT. TRAILS - DAY

19

Dylan and Jen walk the trails.

JEN
Wait -- so you used to be in acting?

DYLAN
Yeah. I wasn't too bad. At least -- I don't think so.

JEN
So why'd you stop?

DYLAN

Ah...
(then,)
I just did.

JEN

It's fine if you don't wanna tell me.

DYLAN

No really, I just don't know why I stopped. There was a play that I missed auditions for... and then after that -- I just never went back.

JEN

Really? You missed the auditions?

DYLAN

Yeah -- I'm serious. I -- I also dropped the acting classes, so maybe that might have been it.

JEN

Whatever you say...

DYLAN

No seriously, I would tell you if I knew.

JEN

Really?

DYLAN

Yeah, of course I'd tell you. You're... one of the few people that I would tell. Like -- I... I appreciate you.

Off Jen's look -- she finds this PROFOUND --

DYLAN (CONT'D)

(clarifying himself,)
Like -- not you as in you YOU, but like -- you know --
(then,)
I like this. Spending time with you. If you know what --

JEN

Yeah, I like you too. I mean, I appreciate you too.

DYLAN

Yeah. So this good.

JEN

Yeah. It's pleasant.

As they keep walking, we FADE TO:

20

EXT. POND AREA - DAY

20

DYLAN and JEN are now hiking down into a POND AREA. Streaming water runs ahead with patches of rocks leading a trail across.

DYLAN

So you haven't talked to your ex in months?

JEN

Talk as in... sometimes we may end up in the same area because of our friends... but it's not... it's not what it used to be. Before, I was --

DYLAN

So you guys are still friends.

JEN

Of course. I'm still friends with another ex of mine.

DYLAN

Another ex?

JEN

We dated for a while... and then he and I -- we just couldn't keep it going. But he's really nice. He gives good advice...

DYLAN

It's really just freeing when you're not with someone. Like -- I kind of felt like crap after I ended with Zoe, or that bitch, you know --

JEN

Okay. We're done now, dude.

DYLAN

Done with what? You have to leave?

JEN

No -- the whole Zoe is a bitch thing. Let's dial it down -- in fact -- let's just erase her. Make her go away, okay?

DYLAN

Ah -- okay...

JEN

Here, follow me.

She leads Dylan to the bank of the pond. She hands him a rock.

JEN (CONT'D)

Here. Toss it.

DYLAN

What?

JEN

Whisper her name, and toss it in the pond. Like you wanna get rid of her.

Dylan takes the rock, still perplexed at what she wants him to do.

DYLAN

Whisper Zoe's name?

JEN

I did it with my ex. It -- It'll work, just do it, trust me.

DYLAN

Okay...

ON DYLAN -- he clutches the rock.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

(whispers,)

Zoe.

He tosses the rock in the water. Then looks back to Jen --

JEN

Good. Now do it again.

DYLAN

What -- again?

JEN

Say her name, and toss it again.

Dylan grabs another rock and does it again. And back to Jen --

JEN (CONT'D)

Again.

Dylan does it again. Then again. Then again. Then again.

And now he looks back at Jen.

JEN (CONT'D)

Mm... one more time.

Dylan bends down Grabs something. Picks it up. Shows it to Jen. It's a KEY-CHAIN.

DYLAN

Found a rock.

JEN

(laughs,)

That's not a rock.

DYLAN

I know -- just saw it.

Dylan goes to THROW it. Jen steps forward --

JEN

Wait no don't throw it--!

Dylan looks back.

DYLAN

It's just a key-chain.

JEN

Yeah, I know but it's cool.

(then,)

So... how do you feel?

DYLAN

Better, I think.

JEN

Ever gonna bring her up again?

DYLAN

It's -- weird -- I don't even want to know. But she might still come up, I --

JEN

So you need to throw another rock?

DYLAN

No. We're good.

JEN

Okay. Let's go then.

21 EXT. TRAILS - DAY 21

Dylan and Jen continue to walk through the trails and talk.

22 EXT. FIELD - DAY 22

Dylan and Jen cut across a WIDE field. Still talking. Enjoying each other's company.

23 EXT. POND CIRCLE - DAY 23

Dylan and Jen walk around A LARGE CIRCULAR POND.

24 INT. DYLAN'S CAR - EVENING 24

Dylan and Jen are now in the car. She's leaning on his shoulder, on her phone while he sits quietly.

DYLAN

So... Jen...

JEN

Yeah...

DYLAN

You wanna get off your phone...

JEN

Yeah once sec...

(then,)

Okay... yeah?

DYLAN

What... what do you look for in a guy?

JEN

What do you mean? Like to date him?

A BEAT takes over Jen's question as Dylan struggles how to phrase this.

DYLAN

Like... you like me right?

JEN

Yeah. You're -- you're my best friend, of course I do.

DYLAN

Why do you like me as a friend?

JEN

Um -- you're not like other guys, you're... you're really laid-back. And when I started talking to you in class that day, and then the day after, and then for a few more weeks... I don't know I just felt that you're a really good friend. I really love spending time with you, and I'm glad you do too -- right?

DYLAN

Yeah, no totally. I think you're genuine. Nice. You definitely care. And...

JEN

And I'm glad we've gotten to know each other well. I -- I feel like we should've already been friends for a long time. Which... we can be now right?

DYLAN

For life?

JEN

Yeah. Why not?

DYLAN

(smirks,)
Like a BFFL?

JEN

(laughs,)
Yes. Like a BFFL.

Jen gets the joke, but it looks to us as if Dylan was thinking of something else.

DYLAN

We should. Definitely.

JEN

And like, I absolutely do not care what other people think. "Oh Dylan and Jen are a thing, they like each other, they're dating..." But I don't give a shit. A guy and a girl can be friends without them liking each other. Just because they talk a lot and they hang out doesn't mean they have a thing.

(then,)

I mean -- yeah, sometimes if they both have feelings then they date, but that doesn't mean that *has* to happen. It's okay if they're just friends. Right? You don't -- you don't ALWAYS have to be a thing.

And Dylan's face starts to go uneasy, but he covers it.

DYLAN

Yeah. I agree, people get the wrong meaning sometimes.

JEN

And you know Dylan... like, with relationships and things... when people date and then they break up, it all just goes away. Your friendship, your communication -- you never talk to that person. Like, I'm lucky that I'm still on decent terms with one of my exes, but still -- when people break up, it's like "Oh, I dumped him he was too clingy, or oh she was a bitch I ended it with her."

(off Dylan,)

And like, that's fine but if that's how you feel then why do you even talk about them? You lose friendships that way. If we dated... and then something happens and we break up -- what if we're the same way? What if we stop talking?

(then, to Dylan,)

And you, Dylan -- I never want to lose your company. You're an amazing guy... and I love you.

And as Dylan SOAKS all that in, he sees her words are GENUINE.

DYLAN

I love you too. And we won't ever
lose each other.

Dylan pulls the key-chain, from earlier, out of his pocket.
He hands it to Jen.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

You keep this, and you'll always
remember me.

Jen takes the key-chain in her hand. We GRAB A SHOT of their
hands touching as Dylan hands it off to her.

JEN

I'm so keeping this now.

DYLAN

You should.

JEN

Hey... I'm glad we talked about
this. It -- I feel good now.

DYLAN

Me too.

Jen nods. *Cool*. Then she rests her head back on her shoulder.
Dylan now puts his arm around her as we CUT OUTSIDE the car,
and PULL AWAY...

25 INT. JARED'S BASEMENT - DAY

25

-- DYLAN. He's resting his head on the couch. He lets out a
big EXHALE. WIDEN to find he's with:

JARED. His best friend. And though we've never met this kid
before, we just instantly get a feeling he's been Dylan's
friend for AGES.

JARED

What's eating at ya man?

DYLAN

(glances at him,)
Um... just thinking.

JARED

Really?

A long beat. Then --

DYLAN
(another exhale,)
She's not up for it.

JARED
What did you ask her to hook up?

DYLAN
No-no. She -- just wants to be
friends. She said she hates
relationships.

JARED
You told her you liked her?

DYLAN
Not exactly. I -- almost brought it
up. She kinda went on a rant... and
I got a message.

JARED
Well then you didn't tell her.

DYLAN
Well I just have a hunch.

JARED
Dude. You're a good looking kid --
and you've had some rough times...
but I still think you're a solid
guy.

DYLAN
Yeah but -- I -- don't have a
chance.
(then,)
Hey can I have something to drink?

JARED
Yeah. Go ahead. Fridge is there.

Dylan gets up, travels to the fridge and grabs a pop from
inside.

CLOSE-UP -- soda can is POPPED open.

ON DYLAN -- he takes a sip.

JARED (CONT'D)
So does she like someone?

DYLAN

I don't think so. Ah -- definitely not me. But -- she didn't say anything about a guy or...

JARED

Okay then you definitely have to tell her.

Dylan takes another sip. A BEAT. Then looks to Jared --

DYLAN

How old is this soda?

JARED

Dylan -- You're going to tell her.

DYLAN

It tastes really -- flat. And a little sour..?

JARED

Okay that's a couple months old.

DYLAN

Seriously?

JARED

But my point is -- if you don't tell the person, you're just bottling it up. So what if she doesn't like you? At least she'll know how you feel. Right?

Dylan sits down. Thinks. Then --

DYLAN

The whole friends stuff ruins it.

JARED

What?

DYLAN

Being friends... why do people always just want friendship? Like -- I feel more than that. And I understand that they want someone in their life... but -- isn't it okay to want more than that? Like -- I'm not asking for --

JARED

I know what you're saying.

DYLAN

I can be her friend -- I'll be her best friend -- and we'd be good in a relationship! We think the same things, we both appreciate each other...

JARED

See? You're telling me all this, but does she know that?

DYLAN

HOLD ON DYLAN as he lets that sink in.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

So... I should go for it shouldn't I?

JARED

Yeah man. Take the chance.

Off Dylan, now seriously considering it...

DYLAN

Is there anything else on?

Jared and him both look towards the TV. Jared grabs the remote to flip the channel as --

CUT TO:

26 INT. JEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

26

-- JEN. She's on the phone. It's dialing.

And then someone picks up... a smile appears on her face.

JEN

Hey! Do you have a second... I don't want to interrupt you or anything but I wanted to ask to you something... so Saturday, I was going to have a few people over, and I wanted you to come! You didn't answer my text... uh yeah, so Saturday... yeah, seven o'clock is when people are coming over, no you don't have to bring anything, but it's going to be chill. I want you to meet a few of my friends...

A quick second, then --

JEN (CONT'D)

And -- actually -- I really do need you to come. Because... he's kind of coming too. So...

(a beat,)

You know -- my ex. The guy I was talking about.

(then,)

Yeah I know -- but -- I'm just trying to be nice. Like -- I didn't want to at first but I was just like screw it, he's still friends with a lot of my other friends too.

(then,)

Yeah so... I kind of want you to meet him. So... would you be cool with like... I don't wanna force but... you know, I don't know I just -- am I over thinking this?

A beat. Then --

And now we CUT TO:

27 INT. DYLAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

27

ON DYLAN. He's the one on the other end.

DYLAN

No you're fine It's no problem. Saturday should be good.

(a beat,)

Yeah. Okay. Bye.

Dylan hangs up. Smiles to himself. Looks around. He drops his phone on the bed and walks in the b.g.

A BEAT. Dylan stops. Still smiling. Then --

He heads back over to his bed and grabs the phone again. Dials a number. And waits. It rings. And then --

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Jen.

(then,)

Okay so... I have to... I have to tell you something.

(then,)

No -- no I can still come Saturday.

A BEAT. Dylan thinks for a second... then --

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Actually -- I'll just -- I'll tell you on Saturday. How's that? No no -- totally, it can wait.

(then,)

Yeah I'm sure. I'm still coming Saturday. You'll -- you'll see me there. Alright cool, yeah. See you then. Bye.

Dylan hangs up. Smiles. He's got a GOOD FEELING about what's to come.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. DRIVEWAY - NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 28

-- DYLAN gets out of his car. Walks towards the door. Still holding that faint smile on him.

29 INT. JEN'S BASEMENT - NIGHT 29

It's a HANGOUT session with a bunch of teens. Nothing too big or flashy. The lights are dim, people on the couch, talking.

Amidst all the fun, we find DYLAN. He walks in. Scans the room -- doesn't know a lot of people. And then Jen approaches him --

JEN

Hey -- Dylan!

DYLAN

(turns; sees her,)

Jen! What's up?

JEN

You like the basement?

DYLAN

Oh yeah -- It's pretty cool. I didn't know you had those games.

JEN

Yeah my dad likes them.

A BEAT.

JEN (CONT'D)

Hey listen I'm really glad you're here.

DYLAN

Told you I'd come.

JEN

Yes, thank you. I know you don't know a lot of people.

DYLAN

Its okay! You're super welcome I --

JEN

Oh yeah you had something to tell me right?

DYLAN

Um... yeah... maybe if I could stick around once everyone's gone?
(then,)
What time's this going till?

JEN

Um, I think they'll just leave whenever but -- just tell me now.

DYLAN

Oh no, it's fine, I can wait.

JEN

Okay... um...

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey Dylan!

And we ARM AROUND to find that voice belongs to....

GRAHAM.

Dylan sees Graham. His face lights up --

DYLAN

Graham! Dude, what's up?

GRAHAM

Hey man, what's going on?

ON JEN -- dazed.

JEN

Wait -- you guys know each other?

GRAHAM

Hm? Dylan? Yeah he's... ah...

DYLAN

We're friends yeah! We have classes.

GRAHAM
Yeah. Fourth hour.

DYLAN
Yeah.

JEN
(to Graham,)
And you didn't know I knew Dylan?

GRAHAM
I do now.
(to Dylan,)
And you know Jen too?

DYLAN
Yeah dude.
(pats Jen on the head,)
Best friends over here.

GRAHAM
Huh. That's cool.

JEN
(to Graham,)
Are you having fun?

And now A GIRL passes them by --

GIRL
You guys should get a picture, that
would be so cute!

JEN
(sarcastically,)
I think we're good, thanks!
(to Graham,)
Did you wanna a picture?

GRAHAM
We can wait.
(to the girl,)
Thanks!

Jen and Graham both laugh at that. Dylan smirks, but still is trying to figure something out in his head.

JEN
(to Graham,)
Are you staying after?

GRAHAM

Yeah I think I might be able to --
I'm about to pop five more of
these.

JEN

Okay you do that.

GRAHAM

Actually I'm gonna go see what the
boys are up to.
(to Dylan,)
Come on Dylan.

Graham and Dylan high five as Graham walks away.

DYLAN

Yeah I'll be there in a sec.

Graham leaves Dylan and Jen alone.

JEN

That is so funny I had no idea you
and him were friends.

DYLAN

Yeah he's cool, we hang out
sometimes.

JEN

Really? And he -- he's never said
anything about me?

DYLAN

No...

And as something starts to FORM here...

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Why?

Jen becomes really shy now, but still goes on...

JEN

Well because... we dated. And --
we're... kind of back together
now... So...

Holy shit.

Did we hear that right?

We GO CLOSE on Dylan as his FACE FALLS FLAT inside after
hearing THAT.

DYLAN

Ah... Wait you and him --

JEN

He's the guy I wanted you to meet.
My ex? On the phone when I --

DYLAN

Oh right... Yeah...

Oh fuck. Dylan looks off as it HITS HIM. He's now THE OTHER GUY.

And we're straight on him as he tries to PROCESS all this.

JEN

But I'm just so glad you two know each other because I'm -- I honestly was so nervous to introduce you to him because I didn't know if you would like him and I --

DYLAN

Wait so you guys dated... or you're dating now...

JEN

Well yeah not like dating, "dating" exactly but we're -- we're figuring things out. I -- I really wanted him to come tonight and he did -- and --

As Jen is talking, the wheels are SPINNING HARD in Dylan's head -- *Oh shit shit shit shit! What do I do now?*

DYLAN

Right. Yeah. Um...

And as he's about to say something else --

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Hey, I -- I think I have to go now.

And as Jen is THROWN OFF by that --

JEN

What?

DYLAN

I have to go.

JEN

Now? You just got here.

DYLAN

Yeah -- I just remembered I had something...

JEN

Really?

DYLAN

Yeah. I'm sorry.

JEN

(surprised,)

Okay... ah... okay...

(then,)

I'll walk you out, I guess.

30 INT. ENTRANCE - JEN'S HOME - NIGHT

30

JEN follows DYLAN out as he's about to leave.

JEN

Are you sure you can't come back for a little bit?

DYLAN

Um -- yeah, I don't know if I can --

JEN

It's fine -- we can hang out some other time.

(then,)

Are you sure everything's okay?

DYLAN

Yeah I'm good. Thanks for inviting me, though.

Jen can't believe he's leaving like this.

JEN

Wait -- so what were you gonna tell me earlier?

DYLAN

What?

JEN

You said you were going to tell me something.

And inside, Dylan is being CRUSHED as he can't say anything.

DYLAN

Oh... um...

(then,)

I really have to go. It -- it wasn't really that important.

JEN

Really?

DYLAN

Yeah.

Dylan turns to leave, but he stops himself. He can't go just yet. He turns and faces Jen --

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Jen...

JEN

Yeah?

DYLAN

I thought -- you were saying you didn't want a relationship -- like you said you liked being friends.

And Jen KNOWS what he's referring to and she's ready to explain herself...

JEN

Yeah I know but... Okay this is going to sound really dumb but... I just...

(a beat; she gathers her words,)

When you're with someone and you really like them... it just sticks with you. And he came back and apologized and he was really genuine. Like, last night he and I met up and talked for hours. I just... I think we can work things out. I wanted to talk to you about this, because I know I can trust you. But... yeah. I'll see how it goes. I think -- I'm good with another shot at it.

A BEAT as Dylan takes that in, utterly BIT by it.

DYLAN

Right... yeah.

JEN

You get what I'm saying right?

Dylan remains quiet for a beat. Then, as he gathers his words...

DYLAN

...Yeah.
(then,)
I'm gonna go now.

JEN

(opens her arms,)
Okay. Here, give me a hug.

He looks at her. His eyes show us how much HE cares for her, but perhaps she doesn't notice it just yet. And as he HUGS her back, we HOLD ON him -- very let down.

JEN (CONT'D)

Bye. Love you.

ON DYLAN. His eyes fighting back the IMPACT of the moment --

DYLAN

Love you.
(holds look; then,)
Bye.

He then lets off. He TURNS AROUND and walks towards the driveway as OUR MUSIC STARTS UP AND SWELLS...

Jen watches Dylan go, and as he leaves, she too now TURNS around and heads back inside.

31 INT. JEN'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

31

JEN comes downstairs. Everyone is having a GREAT time as she enters back into the atmosphere. Still confused as to why Dylan had to leave. GRAHAM approaches her, putting his arm around her.

GRAHAM

What's wrong?

JEN

Nothing. What's up?

GRAHAM

Where's Dylan?

JEN

He -- said he had to go.

GRAHAM

Go where?

And Jen doesn't know how to answer that because SHE herself doesn't know...

32 EXT. DRIVEWAY - NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 32

-- DYLAN. He walks to his car. We FOLLOW ALONG with him as he approaches it. He stands by it. STOPS. He EXHALES. And that one breath tells us:

It's a big loss for him.

He gets in his car.

33 INT. JEN'S BASEMENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 33

Jen and Graham are talking to their friends. We find JEN a bit lost in the conversation. She turns her head over her shoulder. Notices the STAIRCASE of her basement she just came down from walking Dylan out...

34 INT. DYLAN'S CAR - NIGHT 34

DYLAN sits in his car. DEFEATED. COMPLETELY and UTTERLY HEARTBROKEN. Watery eyes fighting back TEARS.

We PUSH IN on his face... his eyes... they're fucking screaming the pain of one-sided love.

Dylan now puts the car on drive and DRIVES out of frame as we...

CUT TO BLACK

....And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the END of the FIRST HALF of our story.

We're still on BLACK as a word FADES UP:

L E S S

And then it's gone. Still black... and then we --

FADE IN:

35 INT. DYLAN'S BEDROOM - DAY 35

One-two-THREE quick SHOTS of DYLAN. Laying his head on one side of his bed, laying on top of his bed, and laying his head against the other side of his bed.

While he's sitting by his bed, he's on his phone. We go CLOSER to see the screen says --

JEN

It's her message thread. Dylan contemplates typing on it. He doesn't. He ends up putting his phone aside.

36 INT. COUNSELING ROOM - SCHOOL - DAY 36

GRAHAM enters the counseling room. SEES DYLAN sitting far from their usual spot. He goes over to his spot. Keeps looking at Dylan --

Dylan sits. Nonchalant. Headphones plugged in.

Graham goes over to Dylan. Taps him. Taps him again. Dylan notices him. Graham asks if he's okay. Dylan gives him the thumbs up. *Yeah I'm good.* And then he puts his headphones back in.

ON GRAHAM -- puzzled. He then manages to nod and walk back over to his seat. He sits down. Gets out his homework.

ON DYLAN -- From the corner of his eye, he can spot Graham. He looks at him secretly as his ANGST kicks in...

37 INT. DYLAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 37

In another instance, we find DYLAN walking around his room.

DYLAN
(to himself,)
I know you're with someone else...
but they're my feelings... I
just... I really like you, and I
know you --

Dylan stops himself. Breathes. *This is so stupid, what the fuck am I doing?*

He drops out of frame, falling onto his bed.

We're on DYLAN as he stares up at his bedroom ceiling. This is the aftermath of his heartbreak. He's succumb to his own feelings... which is painful for him.

As Dylan closes his eyes, we CUT TO:

38

INT. FLOYD'S CLASSROOM - DAY

38

We find MR. FLOYD alone at his desk. On the computer.

DYLAN walks into frame in the b.g.

DYLAN

Mr. Floyd...

Floyd looks up from his computer. SURPRISED to see Dylan.

FLOYD

Dylan! Hey, how's it going?

DYLAN

Not much.

FLOYD

Here to complain about a grade?
'Cause I'll kick ya out, I swear.

DYLAN

(makes his way closer to
the desk,)
Oh-no, I have an A.

FLOYD

Oh good lemme lower it!
(laughs,)
Nah I'm just kidding--! What's up
man?

DYLAN

Nothing. You said come after school
anytime -- so I'm here.

FLOYD

Oh yeah absolutely -- pull up a
chair. Make yourself at home!

Dylan pulls up a chair by Floyd's desk. Sits for a beat while
Floyd continues something on his computer.

DYLAN

So do you just normally hang around
here after school all the time
or...

FLOYD

Oh yeah. I hate doing all this
grading work at home.

(MORE)

FLOYD (CONT'D)

Plus, my wife and daughter hate me
-- they're like "yeah stay at work,
we don't want a history time-line
in our home!"

(laughs,)

No -- I'm kidding. I just like to
keep work at work... home at home.

DYLAN

Nice.

And as something starts to strike at Dylan...

DYLAN (CONT'D)

So how long have you been
married..?

FLOYD

Eight years. Doesn't sound like a
long time but -- trust me -- when
you think about how long that
ring's been on your finger, you'll
know what I mean.

DYLAN

(chuckles,)

Yeah...

FLOYD

I'm sure you're not even thinking
about marriage right now though...
I hope. I wasn't when I was your
age.

DYLAN

I -- yeah, I don't think that far.
I try not too.

FLOYD

Your girlfriend doesn't either, I'm
guessing.

DYLAN

I -- don't have a girlfriend.

FLOYD

Oh -- then definitely not!

The two laugh it off. Then --

FLOYD (CONT'D)

Yeah I -- was probably just like
you when I was in high school.

(MORE)

FLOYD (CONT'D)

All the cliques, girlfriends,
liking people -- I went through all
of that.

DYLAN

Were you in a clique?

FLOYD

Ah -- yeah I mean I had a friend
group. We weren't -- we didn't
label ourselves or anything but we
hung out a lot...

DYLAN

Did you date a lot of girls?

FLOYD

Mmm... not really. Maybe one. I
only actually ever liked one.

Dylan is taken ABACK by that.

DYLAN

Really? Just one?

FLOYD

Yep. Just one. I --

DYLAN

It's not -- she's not your wife now
is she?

FLOYD

Oh no -- I met my wife in college
later on. But the one in high
school --

DYLAN

How long were you together?

FLOYD

Oh no I was never with her.

And that gets Dylan confused. But Floyd is serious.

DYLAN

You guys never were in a
relationship?

FLOYD

Nope. It was... she never liked me
back, but I liked her a lot. And --
that was the thing for -- a long,
long time.

DYLAN

Did she know?

FLOYD

She knew. She still wanted to be my friend, but she said she never looked at me that way -- said she wanted to be there as a friend for me.

And as Floyd talks, our minds are remembering something VERY familiar. Even Dylan feels it.

DYLAN

But you still liked her.

FLOYD

Oh yeah. Even after we stopped talking for a while I... I never stopped caring about her. I wasn't like obsessed with her like "Oh, you're the love of my life" but I --

(then,)

See man, that's the thing about feelings. They just hit us, and especially the ones that we can't shake. We just...

(a beat,)

Sometimes we don't see them coming. But when they come... we just stick to them.

A BEAT. Dylan thinks about that and how Floyd is SO RIGHT. And then he looks at him, with GENUINE CURIOSITY about HIS OWN feelings...

DYLAN

Is it easy?

FLOYD

What?

DYLAN

To love someone like that? And not get anything in return?

Floyd looks off. He smirks. Then --

FLOYD

...It sucks. But I never let it hurt me. Even though I don't like her anymore...

(then,)

(MORE)

FLOYD (CONT'D)

I still don't regret having
feelings for her. I --

(then,)

That's thing about love, Dylan.
It's one-sided sometimes. It's only
you and your feelings. And even
though you hate it and you wish and
wish that the other person would
just feel that same... and they
don't... you just have to learn to
be okay with that. Because that's
what makes it gratifying. That's
what'll give you peace.

DYLAN

So you're saying it's okay... to
feel that way about someone...

FLOYD

Do you?

DYLAN

I don't know...

(then,)

It's...

FLOYD

If you actually care about the
person... if you have feelings for
them... and you can't shake them
easily... then you'll know if it's
okay.

DYLAN

Why?

FLOYD

Because of how you feel.

Boom. Dylan is MOVED, IMPRESSED, and SLIGHTLY AWAKENED by
Floyd's words. As we PUSH IN on him, CUT TO:

39

INT. HALLWAY - SCHOOL - DAY

39

DYLAN is walking down the hall. He then STOPS. Hears
something. A VOICE. He listens more, nearing closer to it.

Dylan now comes to a door with A CRACK in it. The PEEPS
through to see that voice is... A GIRL'S.

40

EXT. THEATER AUDITORIUM - SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

40

This GIRL is standing on the STAGE of the THEATER AUDITORIUM. Dylan is watching her from afar as she SPEAKS LOUDLY --

GIRL

Your tatoo. It says Tina... Who's Tina?

(whispers to herself,)

Tina, I thought your name was Tina.

(then,)

That's not my name.

(a beat,)

No -- I think I would know my own name.

(whispers something;

then,)

Yes I'm sure that is not my name.

It's a nice tatoo, I suppose. Not exactly the type I would...

(then,)

It's a nice tatoo, I suppose. Not exactly the type I would...

We now CUT TO the stage to TAKE A PEEK at this GIRL. She's pretty, and actually VERY beautiful. She's reading from a script pamphlet for a play, and we get it. She's a theater girl.

As she reads from it, rehearsing, Dylan is still watching from far away...

GIRL (CONT'D)

What is my name?

(then,)

My name. What is it? You don't know do you?

(a beat,)

You don't know. I knew you didn't know.

(then,)

It's not. It's Jane.

And as the GIRL talks, Dylan now ENTERS into the auditorium, still listening. As she practices her lines, he nears closer, like an eavesdropper.

We CLOSE ON the GIRL. Practicing hard, and very dedicated.

ON DYLAN -- curious and slightly DRAWN IN by her voice. And suddenly...

GIRL (CONT'D)

Have you been there the whole time?

And Dylan pops out of it --

DYLAN

Um...

GIRL

Um?

DYLAN

Ah, yeah, I heard most of it.

Dylan now STEPS OUT from the doorway and starts making his way toward the stage.

GIRL

Nice. You were spying on me.

DYLAN

Oh -- no, I was just passing by and I heard you, so --

GIRL

Oh.

DYLAN

I -- I can leave, if you --

The GIRL now cracks up. She WALKS to the edge of the stage, standing over Dylan with the lights shining behind her -- PRISTINE, almost like AN ANGEL blessing Dylan.

GIRL

No, you're fine. I don't care, I was just practicing.

DYLAN

I saw. You do this a lot?

GIRL

Only sometimes. No one comes in here this hour.

(then,)

Why? Was it not good?

DYLAN

No it wasn't bad, actually. You just didn't... pause enough.

The GIRL shoots Dylan a look. Slightly hit by that. She KNEELS down to Dylan's level.

GIRL

What's your name?

DYLAN

I'm Dylan.

GIRL

Dylan.

(then,)

I'm Riley.

Aha. There's her name! Riley. And it suits her very well as she keeps her EYES on Dylan, challenging his opinion.

DYLAN

Nice to meet you.

RILEY

Pleasure.

(then,)

So Dylan... you're saying I didn't pause enough?

DYLAN

Uh, yeah. I'm pretty sure you didn't.

RILEY

Really? Where?

DYLAN

What?

RILEY

Where did I forget to pause?

DYLAN

Can I see your script?

Riley smirks. She then HOPS off the stage and comes ground level. She hands Dylan her script. Dylan scans through the script --

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Okay, so...

RILEY

Do we wanna sit first?

Dylan CLOCKS Riley. Okay...

They both sit in the first row. Dylan reads the script. Then --

DYLAN

Right there. Where you say -- "You don't know, I knew you didn't know."

(then,)

Maybe say it like, "You didn't know... I knew you didn't know." Like with more of a beat in between the two lines... split them up. Not like say it all in one sentence.

RILEY

So like -- "You didn't know... I knew you didn't know."

DYLAN

Yeah. Perfect. It -- adds emotion to the moment, and it --

RILEY

Have you been in theater? I don't think I've ever seen you --

DYLAN

Um -- I did in middle school.

RILEY

Huh. Not my middle school.

DYLAN

(laughs,)

Yeah, yeah.

(then,)

But then I did end up quitting.

RILEY

Why?

DYLAN

I just... had some stuff happen, and then... yeah.

Riley pauses. Dylan looks off, but she keeps her gaze on him. Dylan looks back at her, and sees she's STILL looking at him. Riley then wipes out of her stare.

RILEY

Sorry.

DYLAN

You okay?

RILEY

Yeah, ah...

She trails off, but then she looks at him again and just SAYS what she was about to --

RILEY (CONT'D)
You know, you seem really down.

DYLAN
(thrown off,)
Oh... okay.

RILEY
Like sometimes you know when you can usually tell someone's sad by looking at their eyes..?

DYLAN
I've never done that before --

RILEY
I can see that in you. I'm seeing it now.

Dylan blinks at Riley. Then looks at her. Yep. She can TOTALLY TELL he's been moping. And then he exhales, EMBARRASSED at his own emotions and how they're leaking through his expressions.

DYLAN
You're good...

RILEY
I didn't mean to shine the light at you or anything, I just --

DYLAN
No -- it's okay.
(then,)
I've had a rough few weeks.

Riley nods. Understanding. A LONG BEAT.

RILEY
You wanna talk about it?

DYLAN
Well... I don't really know if I should because it's not all my business --

RILEY

Dude. You just walked in on me.
We're probably not going to talk
ever again, so if you want to get
something off your chest -- which
you look like you need to -- then
it's okay.

DYLAN

You caught me. I'm actually really
sad...

And as his EYES meet her's, she SYMPATHIZES with them as he
looks down and starts talking... at which point, MUSIC FADES
UP and we FADE TO...

SOME TIME AFTER...

Dylan and Riley are STILL TALKING. Dylan, explaining in
detail, LETTING IT ALL OUT. Riley CRACKS UP at parts, and
comments on some parts. It's a super amiable conversation
between two people who literally JUST met.

We GO ON Riley -- both FASCINATED and ENTHRALLED by Dylan's
words as he keeps TALKING and TALKING. And man, we have not
seen him talk THIS much. She gives him a genuine smile as we
CUT TO:

41 EXT. FOYER - HALLWAY - LATER

41

DYLAN and RILEY come walking out of the auditorium into a
FOYER separating two hallways.

DYLAN

Hey I'm sorry for eavesdropping
earlier, I probably interrupted
your rehearsal --

RILEY

Oh no you're fine. I'll try and
make those "pauses" work.
(laughs,)
No really, thank you.

DYLAN

No thank you. For listening to
all... of that.

RILEY

Oh sure. I actually kind of enjoyed
it. Though some parts were...

DYLAN

Boring?

RILEY

Mm... passionate -- for lack of a better word.

They both laugh at that. Then, as a moment now ARISES between them...

RILEY (CONT'D)

Ah... Dylan -- I know -- I know it's not easy talking -- like talking to strangers about this kind of stuff... but I mean -- if you ever need to talk more -- I mean like -- if anything else happens and you need to talk -- if -- if... the girl you like...

DYLAN

Like talk as in meet up somewhere..? Or meet back here tomorrow... sixth hour, same time?

RILEY

Are you asking for my number or..?

DYLAN

Is it working?
(off Riley's grin,)
Here, you can just type it in my phone.

Dylan pulls out his phone and hands it to Riley who takes it and taps in her number. She then hands it back to Dylan --

RILEY

(with a grin,)
Might wanna text that to make sure it's not fake.

DYLAN

Right. Yeah.

RILEY

I'm gonna head back now. Nice meeting you. Bye.

DYLAN

You too. Bye.

Some MUSIC kicks in as they divide, going their separate ways. Riley walks away. She TURNS.

Dylan is STILL looking at her. She waves bye with a smile. He too waves back and TURNS to go his way.

42 INT. DYLAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

42

Dylan is SITTING in his chair. A slight GLUM look on his face. He's toying around with a game controller.

A TEXT now pops up on his phone. It's from...

JEN: Hey, what's going on?! Haven't heard from you in a while!

Dylan immediately reads the text, ready to respond. But then that STRONG DAMAGING look comes upon him, almost as if it's hurting him. He puts his phone down.

And then Dylan remembers something. He picks his phone up. Taps a few times and we GO CLOSE on it to see he's typing in RILEY'S NUMBER from earlier and as he types her name: R, I, L, E, Y...

ON DYLAN -- smiling... and it makes him FEEL BETTER.

FADE TO:

LATER...

Dylan is up TALKING to RILEY on the phone. We INTERCUT The phone call:

Dylan and Riley are walking further on THE TRAILS...

RILEY

So many people break up with each other, it's frickin' crazy. My mom -- she's been divorced twice.

DYLAN

Woah. Ah -- She's not re-marrying is she?

RILEY

God no. She better not. I'm so glad I stay with my dad, though.

DYLAN

So you kinda hate the whole dating thing?

RILEY

Me?

(then,)

(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

No... I wouldn't say I hate it. I'm definitely not against it. I just don't think I have... room for a relationship in my life.

DYLAN

You've dated right?

RILEY

(a beat,)

Yeah. Once. That was it, though.

(then,)

You?

DYLAN

Few times.

RILEY

Man, you must have a handle on it.

DYLAN

(embarrassed,)

All of them dumped me.

RILEY

(sarcastically,)

Aw, poor thing. I'm so sorry.

DYLAN

Oh, whatever.

And Riley now LAUGHS it off, making Dylan feel the humor she's bringing on.

RILEY

(chuckling,)

No, that really sucks.

And as we get a FEW MORE SHOTS back and forth of them talking, we hear MUSIC again fading in...

MONTAGE:

A brief CUT of DYLAN and RILEY out on a lunch date. Dylan still is the one doing the talking and Riley listens, nodding.

In another instance they're at RILEY'S HOME, playing a board game. Dylan reads from the instruction manual while Riley rolls the die.

In RILEY'S KITCHEN, they stand at the counter, mixing cookie batter, and we see a CLOSE UP as they both PLACE the cookie dough on the foiled pan...

We get a shot of them two in the car, talking. Riley, seeming to be explaining something DEEP as Dylan listens.

They both STUDY together.

43 INT. DYLAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

43

DYLAN and RILEY are on his bed. They are both on their phones. Riley's laying down. And now as Dylan puts his phone aside and looks at Riley. READY to have some sort of conversation.

DYLAN

Riley...

RILEY

What's up?

DYLAN

I have a question.

RILEY

Shoot.

DYLAN

Well I mean it depends if you wanna talk about it too.

RILEY

(sits up,)

What are we talking about?

DYLAN

Um... I think we should... probably talk about where we are.

(then,)

Or... like what we are.

A beat. And Riley takes a moment. She slyly TURNS her phone over on the bed.

RILEY

Oh. Well --

(then,)

Are... you're not asking me out are you?

DYLAN

Well -- I know you said you haven't dated much so... like I don't want you to be uncomfortable with talking about it...

(MORE)

DYLAN (CONT'D)

but I mean, I don't think going on a date -- like an actual date would hurt us...

Riley thinks about how to start this. And then --

RILEY

Okay I know we just met a few weeks ago and you were going through your little... you know...

DYLAN

Yeah.

RILEY

And I know we've spent a lot of time together.

DYLAN

Good times, I hope.

RILEY

Oh yeah no. Like I'm being serious. You're a really, really nice guy. You're really sweet, and believe me, I like you a lot.

DYLAN

More than a friend?

Of course we saw THAT question coming. But the look in Dylan's eyes IS GENUINE. Maybe his feelings are REAL.

RILEY

But I'm... I just don't think I'm ready for a relationship in my life. I -- at least until now, I didn't think I was.

DYLAN

Did the last guy really hurt your feelings?

RILEY

No. He... hurt himself so to speak.

DYLAN

What do you mean?

RILEY

He passed away eight months ago.

BOOM. Shit. We did NOT see that one coming. And so didn't Dylan. And as Riley goes a bit SOMBER, Dylan tries to take a hold of the conversation here...

DYLAN

Oh. Riley, I didn't -- I'm really sorry.

RILEY

Sorry -- I should have mentioned it. I don't exactly talk about it that much --

DYLAN

No of course, I get it. Trust me... I feel the same away about my sister. I'm just like you -- When people ask, I just kind of try to push the topic away so that I --

RILEY

No It's not that I can't talk about it, I just...
(then,)
I've moved on, you know? Even though I still think about it...

And Dylan is STRUCK by something here. He's CURIOUS now.

DYLAN

How did you move on?

Hm. And we're GRASPED by his question. Is just trying to talk to her about it? Or -- is HE himself looking for advice her?

And we PUSH IN on Riley...

RILEY

I took some time for myself...

INSERT CUT:

CRASHING SURF... RILEY standing before WAVES. FEET SUNK in sand with WAVES slithering up and down the shore. She looks off to the HORIZON...

RILEY (V.O.)

*...Time away from other people.
People call it isolation, but I
call it peace of mind.*

Riley walks along A PATH, somewhere in a tropical place. On her own. Introspectively.

RILEY (V.O.)
It was good for me...

Riley walks along the beach, alone...

BACK ON RILEY...

RILEY
I learned a lot. And when I think about... Brad... that was his name... I get sad... but you know, I learned to be okay with being sad about it. Now, I feel like getting a C on a test would make me more mad than losing him did. But it's okay now. I still have him... That's why I feel... after him, I couldn't have anyone else. Because it wouldn't be the same.

(then,)
You know, Dylan, that's why I liked listening to you in the theater. You remind me of what I had. I really felt what you were going through. Still having feelings for someone... but you're the only one with those feelings. I've felt that way before...

A BEAT...

DYLAN
Everything happens for a reason, I guess.

And as THOSE words warm the hell out of Riley...

RILEY
You know what?

DYLAN
What's up?

RILEY
Maybe we should try a date.

DYLAN
But you said you're not ready to --

RILEY
I never completely shut it down. We only move forwards in life... right?

DYLAN
Definitely.

RILEY
(a glint in her eye,)
So... Maybe that's what I need.

The two of them HOLD A LOOK on each other. A STRONG MOMENT here as if there's some sort of underlying CONNECTION between them. We can surely FEEL it.

DYLAN
Date would be good. Yeah.

RILEY
Good.

And then...

RILEY (CONT'D)
But I have to ask you...

DYLAN
Ask me..?

RILEY
About your sister.

And Dylan doesn't seem bothered by it at all. He nods -- *go ahead, ask.*

DYLAN
Yeah...

RILEY
You're... You're okay right? I know you said it was recent and... like, you know. It takes time, right?

A beat. Dylan thinks. Then he looks back up. CONFIDENT --

DYLAN
I have depression.
(then,)
That's what the doctors said.

RILEY
Aw.

DYLAN
I don't talk about it. In fact, a lot of people don't even know. My fifth hour is this counseling session I go to...

(MORE)

DYLAN (CONT'D)

it's -- because of my parents, but
it's really a joke, so...

RILEY

So it doesn't help?

DYLAN

Not really. But I -- I'm not good
with really talking about it in
general, so I don't mind just going
to it --

RILEY

Well it's meant to help you, so if
it's not then you probably should
find something that does.

DYLAN

Well I -- I feel fine. I'm not like
super depressed -- I don't look
like I need help.

RILEY

(shoots him a look,)
Okay but when I first met you --
you totally looked like it. I'm not
kidding. You were moping like a
little kid.

DYLAN

Okay but I'm over that now.

RILEY

Are you?

DYLAN

Yeah.

And as he says THAT, we're still not assured by that one word
answer. Riley may even notice this too, but she lets off --
fine.

RILEY

Okay. All I'm saying is you should
probably not bottle it up and maybe
like -- talk about it sometimes.
Start helping yourself because
until you don't --

DYLAN

Riley, my parents don't even say a
word about it --

RILEY

Okay, but I'm saying you should do it for yourself first, and then second. I've been down your road. I know what it feels like, and you -- aren't making it any better for yourself.

(then,)

Believe me, you're not.

Dylan looks off. Troubled. And then he looks back at her, we PUSH IN on him as we CUT TO:

44 INT. CLASSROOM - SCHOOL - DAY

44

-- DYLAN. Sitting in class. Everyone is HEADING OUT of class. And as he, UNIMPRESSED, UNINTERESTED as ever, gets up...

MR. CONLEY (O.S.)

Hey, Moore -- wait up a second will you?

Dylan stops. Turns to see MR. CONLEY.

DYLAN

You want me to stay?

MR. CONLEY

Yeah. Sit for a second. I'll write you a pass.

Dylan stays standing there, confused. TIMECUT TO:

LATER...

Dylan sits at his desk as Mr. Conley pulls up a chair across from him. He then sets a sheet of paper down in front of Dylan.

MR. CONLEY (CONT'D)

That's your midterm grade in this class.

Dylan stares at it. Not proud, but still not very caring towards it.

DYLAN

Mr. Conley... I --

MR. CONLEY

Funny when the other twenty-eight kids in the room are all rocking and rolling with A's and then there's the slacker like you who just sits there like a roadblock. Not turning in anything. Not doing any of the work. Not even saying anything.

(then,)

My class really kicking your ass that bad?

And Dylan is still just STARING carelessly. He's really got nothing to say.

DYLAN

I guess I just haven't been focused.

Mr. Conley READS Dylan. Looks for some sort of jumping off point to start talking again. Then --

MR. CONLEY

Look your other teachers might let this kinda stuff slide because of your condition...

Dylan looks up at him, about to say something --

MR. CONLEY (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's right, kiddo. Everyone knows about your issues. It's not your biggest secret that you go home and write about your in little diary.

(then,)

We're all in the know. There's e-mails always being tossed back and forth -- how's he holding up? How has he been doing in class? Does he seem distant? Is he okay?

DYLAN

My parents e-mailed you?

MR. CONLEY

More about what am I going to have to e-mail them...

(then,)

Your son's just being a stupid rock, failing an easy A class because he doesn't try?

(a beat,)

(MORE)

MR. CONLEY (CONT'D)

I mean seriously, clean yourself up a little, pal. Most days when I look over, you look like my nine year old nephew when he found out Santa Clause wasn't real.

DYLAN

Okay. I don't really appreciate you throwing all this crap at me. Especially when you say that you're in the know about everything, so then why are you --

MR. CONLEY

I'm trying to get you to realize something, kiddo.
(then,)
You need to brighten up.

DYLAN

Maybe your class doesn't do that for me.

MR. CONLEY

My class doesn't do anything except for give you credit on that graduation audit... So I say it's time you start involving yourself in life a little bit more and trying.

A BEAT. Dylan processes it. He's been told this before, but this time it may have put a CRACK on that wall of his.

MR. CONLEY (CONT'D)

Now what you've been going through is a tough deal. It's bad, I know. And time's really the only thing that heals this kind of stuff, but you know what? If WE didn't do anything with our lives, we'd be stuck, not having learned anything, not having done anything.

(then,)

I don't mean to throw more at your way, but that's what you seem like your bringing onto yourself right now.

(to the paper,)

And that makes it show all the more. That's how I know.

DYLAN

You know, honestly, you have no idea what I'm going through inside my mind. Just because you know what happened, or what the situation is... doesn't mean you know what I feel, or what I think.

Conley laughs that one off.

MR. CONLEY

Wow, you still don't get it do you?
(then,)
I don't need to know what you're thinking or feeling. What are you going to scream it out to me?

Dylan is CAUGHT OFF GUARD listening to that. He furrows his eyebrows, a little offended.

DYLAN

Seriously. You're saying that to a person with depression.

MR. CONLEY

You know you and I are more alike than you know.

DYLAN

What does that mean?

MR. CONLEY

I had depression too.

Dylan is SURPRISED and TAKEN ABACK. Conley goes on...

MR. CONLEY (CONT'D)

(a beat,)

I've been through the same stuff as you. I was you at one point in my life. And I know it's not fun walking around wearing a dull face, but I dealt with that. And I'm saying you should too.

And there it is. Dylan realizes he's being told THE SAME EXACT THING again. Another LONG BEAT takes over. As Dylan considers something...

DYLAN

You were depressed?

MR. CONLEY

Your friends not make jokes about me? I'm sure they say all kinds of stuff about me...

DYLAN

Not that kind of stuff.

Conley shrugs. Looks off.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Alright, Mr. Conley you're making me feel like a real dick now. So...

MR. CONLEY

I'm not looking for sympathy from you.

Now Dylan's the one that looks off. *Not what I meant...*

DYLAN

So what's your story? Obviously you know mine already.

MR. CONLEY

All of a sudden you're interested in my story?

DYLAN

I mean -- you clearly got over it... your... disorder... didn't you?

Conley thinks. Eyes wandering, slowly nodding... as if feelings of the past come rushing back to him.

MR. CONLEY

I finished a year of internship for an advertising company. I ended up liking the company so much I applied for one of the top positions. I was so lucky I got the job... and then even luckier when I got this idea.

(then,)

Two years later I left that position. Took a loan and opened a start-up in KC. It was a... software advertising and installation business.

DYLAN

Entrepreneurship?

MR. CONLEY

You bet. Best startup of two-thousand-nine. Seven months in, I had a whole office-space of employees... more kept coming... I felt like I had the best job, the best life -- everything.

DYLAN

What did you quit?

MR. CONLEY

No. Apparently, I was doing too good. Was catching up to my success too fast. So I got talked into bringing in a CEO.

(a beat; looks at Dylan,)

Three days... and then I got a call. They didn't need me anymore.

And the weight of that hits Dylan, now starting to feel for this guy.

MR. CONLEY (CONT'D)

My own idea... my own company... I built it from the ground up... and I was the first one let go.

(then,)

So of course that put me at a low. Spent the next year unemployed. Did nothing. My doctor said I should see a psychiatrist. When I did that... First appointment, and boom. Persistent Depressive Disorder. All of a sudden I had a condition.

DYLAN

They give you pills?

MR. CONLEY

Alright, I know you're looking for some connection to your case here... so connect to this.

(then,)

It took me a few months to get out of my couch and go back to school for my teacher's degree... but you wanna know how that happened? It came from me. I told myself it was time to stop moping and do something about myself. So I went, and I kept going.

(MORE)

MR. CONLEY (CONT'D)

It may look like I sit here and hate what I do, and sometimes I feel like where I *used* to be was better, but I sure as hell am glad I made *myself* get better.

DYLAN

(struck by that,)
Yeah... you're right, I guess.

MR. CONLEY

So go do something, go find something, hell -- go find *someone* but just make sure it means better for you. Make sure it's YOU who wants to do it -- make sure it's YOU who takes that first step.

Off Dylan, having just taken in a MAJOR LESSON, we CUT TO:

45 INT. RILEY'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

45

RILEY comes down to her basement. Finds DYLAN anxiously waiting on the couch.

RILEY

Sorry my mom needed me for a second.

DYLAN

It's fine just sit --

Dylan gets up, grabs her, and sits her down.

RILEY

Uh, Dylan --

DYLAN

Okay I really really wanted to come over tonight because -- I need to tell you something. Or -- talk to you about something --

RILEY

Okay, we can talk, just -- maybe let go first?

DYLAN

Oh, yeah -- sorry.

He lets off her. Then --

RILEY

Okay, what are we talking about?

DYLAN

Well obviously it's about us.

RILEY

Is this what we talked about the other night --

DYLAN

Yes. And I've thought about it. A lot. Like, a lot, a lot. And -- you're right. I do have to. But I'm gonna do it in my own way. Like -- you're probably not gonna like this, but it makes sense to me.

RILEY

Okay -- what are you --

DYLAN

Riley. I really like you. I like being around you. You make me feel better about myself. I l like being with you, because when I'm with you, I don't feel like I have to constantly force myself to be happy. I'm -- I'm myself.

(then,)

And about my depression. You're right that I have to deal with it. And -- right now, I'm just gonna forget it about it.

RILEY

You want to *forget* about it?

DYLAN

I know that's what you weren't telling me but... If I can not think about it, then... I wouldn't have to bottle it up right? Like... I wouldn't be thinking about it anyway.

RILEY

Right... but it still exists.

DYLAN

Well maybe this will help it go away. You know?

RILEY

Okay.

DYLAN

So, I think we should do it. Like,
we should just go for it.

Riley takes a second to figure out what he means... And as it
HITS her --

RILEY

Date?

Dylan gets up. Excited --

DYLAN

I don't care what anyone thinks. I
know it's only been a few weeks but
we can do it, right? And I -- want
this. We'd be good together... we
are so far.

And Riley is PULLED INTO his words immediately. Her face says
it all -- SHE CONCURS. She too now RISES from the couch.

RILEY

(nears toward him,)
So -- you mean us together...
boyfriend, girlfriend...

And they are now INCHES APART --

DYLAN

Are you down for it?

RILEY

(twinkle in her eye,)
Yeah.

Dylan SMILES. Breathes.

DYLAN

Okay. Cool. So now if anyone asks,
I'll just say yeah she's --

Riley pulls him into a hug. Dylan HUGS BACK blithely.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

-- She's my girlfriend!

Riley smiles big and WARM. Off her, we GO ON DYLAN who's even
HAPPIER as we go into...

Aaaaaannndddd.... It's time for another MONTAGE.

MONTAGE:

This one belongs ALL to Dylan and Riley. Talking with one another, spending time with one another -- basically just BEING WITH EACH OTHER. This is THEM DATING.

DYLAN and RILEY are at a MOVIE THEATER. He puts his hand over hers. Keeps his eyes at the screen. She turns, noticing him. Her hand then slowly WRAPS AROUND his.

DYLAN and RILEY in the HALLWAYS, talking...

RILEY and DYLAN are cuddling on a bed together. Riley then SMACKS him, scolding him for saying something. And as they both start cracking up...

LATER ON, we're seeing DYLAN help RILEY with her lines. She listens closely, and then practices what he tells her...

They are in DYLAN'S BATHROOM. He lets her GEL his hair. A beat later, we see Riley has SPIKED UP his hair into a Mohawk. Dylan scoffs, embarrassed. As that cracks both he and Riley up...

They BOTH are DANCING (salsa, slow dance, etc.) in RILEY'S BASEMENT. We PAN AROUND THEM as they dance joyfully as Riley teaches Dylan how to dance.

Dylan is back in his room. He sets his phone down on the desk and walks into the background. A TEXT from JEN comes up. It reads:

Hey

You Never responded last week...

Do you want to meet up for coffee this weekend?

Dylan and Riley are CUDDLING under a blanket together, watching a movie and talking at the same time.

ON THE TRAILS...

And these are the SAME EXACT trails that Dylan and Jen were on earlier, except this time it's Dylan and Riley. And if we remember correctly, this is the SAME couple we saw walking down the trails way back in the opening). They walk and walk, and as Riley goes ahead of Dylan we CLOSE ON Dylan to see...

He's remembering something. Something familiar. We FLASH TO:

The scene from earlier where Jen and Dylan were on the trails.

BACK ON DYLAN... he shakes the feeling off. Walks on.

AT NIGHT, Dylan drops Riley off at her home. She HUGS him goodbye. It's a cute moment. As she gets out of the car, her face gives off a happy look. She's CONFIDENT about this boy.

ON DYLAN -- perhaps he's not AS happy as she is, but he sure as hell looks like he's changed for the better. He's better.

FADE TO:

46 INT. DYLAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 46

DYLAN lays on his bed, smiling.

INSERT CUT:

From earlier, when Dylan and Riley were at the park. They are on A TOWER of some sort.

DYLAN

What's your goal in life?

RILEY

...Always try to happy. Even if it's just for the moment.

BACK ON DYLAN: Still smiling.

47 EXT. DRIVEWAY - SAM'S HOME - NIGHT 47

Dylan and Riley get out of the car. They WALK toward A HOUSE.

DYLAN

Have you ever been to Sam's house?

RILEY

Yeah. Couple times.

DYLAN

So this isn't his first party?

RILEY

No. It's weird, he doesn't seem like the party guy, but everyone shows up.

DYLAN

Is his basement big?

RILEY

Not really. It's average.

JEN (V.O.)
Dylan!

GRAHAM (V.O.)
Dylan!

Dylan's face goes OBSOLETE. We can't really examine what he is feeling when he sees both JEN and GRAHAM coming their way.

DYLAN
Oh hey!

RILEY
Graham, what's up?

GRAHAM
Hey Riley.

JEN
Hey bud, what's up?

Jen goes for a hug. Dylan moves away from the hug. Jen is off set by that. She then looks to Riley --

JEN (CONT'D)
Hi -- Riley, right?

RILEY
Hey, yeah, hi Jen.

They both exchange smiles. Then, THE DOOR OPENS. A GUY opens the door. THIS is SAM. He greets them --

SAM
Hey guys.

In unison, everyone says "Hey" back.

SAM (CONT'D)
Glad you guys are here. Dylan, didn't think you'd come.

Dylan walks in, wondering what that means. Riley comes next -- hugs Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)
Riley--!

RILEY
Hey, thanks for the invite --

SAM
Of course.

And then comes Graham --

GRAHAM

What's up bro?

SAM

Hey man -- how's it going?

And here comes Jen...

JEN

Hey Sam.

SAM

Look who made it.

JEN

Told you I would.

SAM

(turns to all of them,)
Hey if you guys brought anything,
just sneak it through the back,
otherwise everyone's downstairs.

48 INT. SAM'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

48

A big SPLASHY PARTY SETTING.

OUR CHARACTERS walk in. Flashed by party lights, taken in by the dim lighting, and LOUD MUSIC as WE realize...

Yeah. We're amidst a big HIGH SCHOOL PARTY.

PANNING SHOT -- we pass A GROUP OF GIRLS CHATTING, and then make our way to A GUY and A GIRL secretly talking, and then to A TABLE where water pong is being played. We MOVE ACROSS the table, following the ping pong ball as we go to...

A GUY getting a drink out of the cooler, which then brings us to TWO GIRLS getting pictures, followed A GIRL getting pictures with SIX OTHER GUYS. We then SEE TWO OTHER GIRLS on their phones. We PAN BY the TV, seeing TWO DUDES trying to watch the basketball game, then come around to see TWO GUYS, sipping a can of pop, talking to TWO GIRLS. And suddenly, A GUY IN A ONESIE passes us. We FOLLOW HIM as he walks across the room, and then we TURN OUR WAY back to...

DYLAN. He's struck by all this. Clearly, he hasn't been to many of these.

DYLAN

This is some party.

GRAHAM

I think I've been to better.

JEN

(Graham,)

Hey let's go say hi to them...

Graham follows Jen, and Dylan glimpses them as they leave.
Riley turns to Dylan...

RILEY

I'll be back in a second, I'm gonna
go to the bathroom.

DYLAN

Yeah okay.

Riley exits frame. Dylan is on his own now.

And now we get A FEW SHOTS of Dylan walking around, taking in
the atmosphere of the party. He takes a drink out of the
cooler. And as he turns, he BUMPS INTO...

ZOE. She's surprised to see him. Dylan immediately REACTS and
tries to get out of her way.

ZOE

Are you seriously not going to say
anything?

DYLAN

What did you want me to say?

ZOE

Anything. It's better than saying
nothing.

DYLAN

Well... hi.

ZOE

It's good to see you too.

DYLAN

I didn't know you were friends with
Sam.

ZOE

I am. Didn't expect to see you here
though.

(then,)

That too, with Riley.

DYLAN

Ah, yeah. We're dating now. So --

ZOE

I heard.

(A pause; then,)

That's good for you Dylan. I'm glad you're happier now.

And we can tell she's being genuine, however Dylan doesn't really care.

DYLAN

Yeah, I actually was looking for her so --

And Zoe can TOTALLY TELL he's trying to get away from this conversation.

ZOE

You know this is why we never worked.

DYLAN

What do you mean?

A beat. As Zoe tries to find the best way to put this...

ZOE

If you lost me at a party, you wouldn't look for me. You would've probably just left.

(then,)

Have fun.

Zoe walks off, leaving Dylan hit by that.

We CUT TO the SNACK TABLE. JEN takes food onto her plate. And now RILEY comes by.

RILEY

Sorry, can I get through?

JEN

Oh of course yeah, sorry.

Jen moves out of the way. Riley grabs some chips. And they both stand there. Riley checks Jen out for a beat. And then --

RILEY

So can I ask you a question...

JEN

Sure, yeah...

RILEY

You and Dylan, you guys were...
never a thing right?

JEN

Me and Dylan? Ah, no...
(then,)
Why?

RILEY

Oh -- well, I heard you guys were --
like super close, so I didn't know
if...

JEN

No. We never were. I -- he's a
really good friend of mine but...
yeah, no.

RILEY

Okay. Just wondering...

Riley grabs some more chips in her hands. Goes to leave...

JEN

He found a nice girl though.

RILEY

(flattered; laughs)
Aha! Thanks.

Riley then walks off. Jen is a little confused, but she
remains standing by the table.

We now find GRAHAM at the cooler. He opens it. Sees A CAN of
BEER. He picks it up, and then double checks it. It's
ALCOHOL. Graham keeps it held. He glances at JEN who's across
the room, talking to someone. Something DAWNS in him. It's
probably hesitation. He puts the can back in the cooler, and
as he shuts it, we CUT TO:

DYLAN. We go a full 360 on him. All of a sudden LOST in his
thoughts. Lights flashing off his face, all sorts of colors.
He's looking across the room to...

JEN. She catches his look. Waves. SMILES. Then turns around.
Dylan puts a hand up. Keeps staring solidly. Riley then
ENTERS frame. She KISSES him on the cheek, and then gives him
a look -- *What's up?*

Dylan glances at Riley, not giving any response. And as she
LEAVES FRAME...

We're STILL ON DYLAN. He looks at Jen, who's turned to him.
Off him, we CUT TO:

49 EXT. BACKYARD - SAM'S HOME - NIGHT

49

PAN DOWN under THE DECK of the backyard to THE PATIO. Below,
we find our MAIN GUYS -- Dylan, Riley, Jen, and Graham.
Sitting in a QUAD, talking.

RILEY

No Dylan and I saw this movie the
other night -- what was it called?

DYLAN

Split.

RILEY

Yeah. It was creepy. I wouldn't --
I don't know, I'm not a huge fan of
like horror and stuff so...

(then,)

He liked it though.

JEN

Yeah no we don't watch horror
movies.

(laughs)

They're not fun for me.

RILEY

So you do you guys hang out a lot
outside of school?

GRAHAM

I mean, we try. It's...

(looks to Jen,)

Someone's too busy nowadays...

JEN

I started a job, and so... like
they told me when I'm training I'll
be getting random hours, so --

(then,)

But we do like -- we try to every
week, right?

GRAHAM

Yeah. We actually went to target
the other night to go get
something... and this girl...

JEN

Oh god...

GRAHAM
She walks out of the boys'
restroom and I'm like --

JEN (CONT'D)
Okay, no I was just randomly
walking --

DYLAN
Boys restroom? Did you not read the
sign?

JEN
(shrugs,)
I mean... it happens, okay?

GRAHAM
Riley, you ready for that quiz
Monday?

RILEY
Oh of course. Love English first
hour.

JEN
You guys are in the same hour?

RILEY
Yes oh my god, it sucks. I swear,
if I get Jacobs next year -- I'll --

GRAHAM
No you probably wouldn't. I don't --
cause doesn't he only teach one
hour of college prep --

RILEY
Well then I ain't taking College
Prep, I'll take regular English--!

They all chuckle up at that.

JEN
Gosh I didn't think there would be
so many people here tonight. It's
kinda packed in there.

GRAHAM
It's your ex's party. Got a lot of
friends.

JEN
(makes eyes,)
Oh shut up.

RILEY
That's kinda funny though. You and
Sam used to date?

JEN

Yep.

DYLAN

So that's the guy you were telling me about. The one you still go to advice for?

And it's as if Dylan's calling her out on something. But Jen, being NICE, shrugs it off.

JEN

Yeah. So? He's still one of my good friends...

DYLAN

Right.

RILEY

No yeah, that's actually good though. It's better than... you know...

GRAHAM

Not talking.

DYLAN

A lot of people do just stop talking to each other, though.

JEN

See that's what I don't like.

RILEY

I feel like... just in general, if you're going to date someone -- like commit to them -- you should be friends first. 'Cause that's how it starts.

(then,)

I mean -- I think I can proudly say my first love was my best friend.

JEN

(echoing her words,)
My first love...

DYLAN

(interrupting,)
-- My best friend.

ON DYLAN -- he shoots Jen a look. Low-key, but still noticeable to us -- as if he's throwing some shade at her.

ON JEN -- she stops, still interrupted by Dylan. Not knowing what to say. Was he correcting her or trying to say something? She doesn't know.

ON RILEY -- She looks at Dylan. Noticing something's up as he keeps his eyes on Jen.

And now Graham takes a beat, and then RISES from his seat.

GRAHAM

Alright...
(to Jen,)
I'm heading back inside.

JEN

Yeah okay.

Dylan and Riley get up from their seats.

RILEY

(to Dylan,)
I'm gonna go see what's going on
inside too.

DYLAN

Yeah I'll be in too.

Graham and Riley both go back into the party. And all we're left with is Dylan and Jen. And it's been A WHILE since we've seen these two together.

JEN

Hey.

DYLAN

Hey.

A BEAT.

JEN

Finally talked to me.

DYLAN

(smirks,)
I've heard that somewhere before.

JEN

Dude. I haven't seen you in
literally forever. Where did you
go?

DYLAN

We're not in the same class
anymore --

JEN

Yeah but... all my texts. Like --
I'm pretty sure I texted you so
many times. You never --

DYLAN

I know -- I just... I probably
forgot.
(a beat,)
Plus -- my texts delete every day
automatically so...

Bullshit. We can so TELL that was a lie. In fact, we KNOW it
is.

JEN

Can I at least get a hug?

She opens her arms out. Dylan looks off for a quick second.
Then he HUGS HER. And as he does, we HOLD ON him. A feeling
returning to him...

JEN (CONT'D)

I really missed you Dylan.

And Dylan fucking MELTS on the inside, hearing that. But all
he can manage to say is:

DYLAN

You too Jen.

She lets off him.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

I actually need to give Riley her
phone. She left it with me. So I'm
gonna go inside...

JEN

Yeah I'll come in a bit. You go.

Dylan TURNS. We glimpse his face. We take our one look at him
and WE KNOW there's so much MORE he COULD HAVE said. Clearly
her "I miss you" got to him. But he holds back and HEADS
INSIDE, back to the party.

We're NOW ON JEN. She watches Dylan go. Noticing something
that was A BIT OFF about that one on one. She looks off,
thinking about something, on her own. And then --

SAM (O.S.)

Boo!

Jen shudders, quickly looks behind her to see it's...

SAM. This is her ex-ex -- the dude she was telling us about earlier.

JEN
(*Oh it's you,*)
Oh my god...

SAM
Happy to see you to.

JEN
Mhm. So funny... how come you're not at your party?

SAM
I was... but it looked like you had a better party going out here, so...

Jen rolls her eyes. She gets his humor. She then opens her arms out...

JEN
Here. Bring it in...

SAM
Aw, how sweet. Look at you.

They hug. It's a warm, friendly embrace. And as they make their way to the stairs of the deck...

JEN
Were you spying on me?

They sit on the bottom steps of the deck.

SAM
Ah, no. I just happened to run by, and I saw you and... Dylan...

JEN
Me... and Dylan..?

SAM
Oh sorry, you're with Graham now, right. My bad... See you're just with so many guys these days, I can't keep track and I...

Jen smacks his shoulder, scolding him. Friendly humor. And that gives us the sign that these two are still GOOD FRIENDS, and that they're COMFORTABLE with each other.

JEN

You have not changed one bit.

SAM

(shrugs,)

Yep. See, our looks change... but our humor... our attitude stays the same.

JEN

Our *looks* change?

SAM

Yeah. I've gotten so much more handsome, right?

JEN

Of course you would say that.

SAM

I like this new look by the way... straight hair?

JEN

I've had it for a while now, thank you very much for noticing.

SAM

Okay well, I never see you around that much anymore.

JEN

Yeah you're too busy, I can never reach you.

SAM

Mhm, you know me... so busy.

JEN

How are you though?

SAM

I'm good. I'm me. How about you?

JEN

Yeah I'm alright. Same old life.

SAM

Miss me?

JEN

Oh of course. Every day.

Sam laughs at that.

SAM
Sorry. Can't help myself.

JEN
I can tell you miss me.

SAM
(a beat;)
Yep. You got that one right.

JEN
You know actually... I think
about... us... sometimes, you know?

SAM
Yeah?

JEN
I just feel like it was good while
it lasted... like the time we
were...
(then,)
But I mean freshman year, though.
We had no cars, no plans -- it
was... pretty bad.

SAM
Doesn't matter. Irrelevant.

JEN
Really?

Sam thinks for a second.

SAM
You know I still feel the same for
you now... just like I did then.

And to our surprise, Jen doesn't react to that. She takes it
in, as if she's KNOWN this forever. And she's cool with it.

JEN
We just lost something between
us...

SAM
You could tried looking for it...

Jen nods. She COULD HAVE. And she KNOWS this too.

JEN
I didn't. And you didn't either.
But you know what I did find
though...

(MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

was that we can still be friends...
and not have it be weird or
anything.

SAM

Well yeah. That's not going away
between us, I'm sure.

JEN

(taps his head,)
Yep. And we shouldn't ever let it.

And as these two keep their conversation going -- two people,
with a past, who are just RECONNECTING in the moment -- we
CUT TO:

50 INT. SAM'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

50

DYLAN is maneuvering his way through PEOPLE. And yeah, by his
look we can tell he's fucking DONE with this party.

JARED (O.S.)

Hey Dylan!

Dylan turns. SEES JARED coming his way.

DYLAN

Jared? You've been here?

JARED

Yeah I just came, I was late. I saw
Riley on my way in.

DYLAN

Yeah?

JARED

So you and her...
(then,)
You never told me dude.

DYLAN

It's been a few weeks now.

JARED

Wait so she was the one you were
telling me about?

HOLD ON DYLAN -- an irritated look. He just can't be here
anymore.

DYLAN

No. Wasn't her.

51 EXT. DRIVEWAY - SAM'S HOME - DAY

51

JEN and GRAHAM are walking along the driveway to the car. The party's over now.

JEN

What do you think of Riley?

GRAHAM

She's... she's kinda bubbly. I mean -- she's nice.

JEN

Oh yeah. I think she is. I just didn't know Dylan and her...

(then,)

He never said anything. Like... I just think he would've talked to me about it. Right? Or you?

GRAHAM

He's been distant lately. I'm sure he'll come around though.

JEN

Hey. Keys.

GRAHAM

Nope. I'm driving.

JEN

You can't.

GRAHAM

It's literally the next neighborhood over. Nothing's going to --

JEN

Graham. Revoked license means you can't drive.

(then,)

What's wrong if I drive?

ON GRAHAM -- defeated.

GRAHAM

But what if I want to drive you. For once?

JEN

Hey. You will. I promise. But for now... let me.

(MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

(then,)
Please?

Off Graham's look...

52

INT. SAM'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

52

DYLAN comes up to RILEY, who's talking to one of her friends.

DYLAN

Riley.

RILEY

Hey.

DYLAN

Are you ready?

RILEY

What?

(then,)
To leave?

DYLAN

Yeah. I'm... I'm leaving.

RILEY

Now? We still have another hour.

DYLAN

I'm going now.

Riley studies Dylan. Can't seem to make out what's wrong with him, but she can notice he's disturbed.

RILEY

Okay. You go. I'll... find a ride
back.

ON DYLAN -- he feels bad for doing this, but he can't stay.
Especially feeling LIKE THIS.

DYLAN

Alright, I'll see you.

Dylan turns. Riley watches him go. A little worried.

We TRACK Dylan as he makes his way passed people and to the door. He's not feeling good. Emotions are PACKED UP. A shitty feeling is lurking in him. He chugs along as we CUT TO:

53

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY - AFTER SCHOOL

53

We find JEN washing a beaker in the sink. She's done working on some after school project. And behind her, comes...

ZOE. She's got a beaker in her hand as well.

ZOE

Hey, ah, can I use that after you?

JEN

(turns,)

Oh yeah, sure. I'm done, sorry.
I'll move.

ZOE

Oh you're fine.

Jen moves around to the other side of the lab station. Zoe goes to the sink and starts washing her beaker.

A BEAT. Jen eyes Zoe while she watches her wash her beaker. And then it hits her... *I've seen this chick somewhere before.*

And when it hits her, Jen goes still. Zoe shuts the sink nozzle. Goes on to DRYING the beaker with a paper towel.

JEN

You're... you're Zoe right?

Zoe looks up, baffled.

ZOE

Yeah.

JEN

Okay, I'm so sorry. I just -- I know I've seen you somewhere, so, I was trying to guess...

(awkwardly,)

I'm Jen...

(laughs,)

Sorry, that was really awkward.

ZOE

No you're good. I know you -- you're -- you're Dylan's friend right?

JEN

Mhm, yeah. You're -- you and him used to date right?

(then,)

(MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

Sorry, that... I think that's just how I know you.

ZOE

(chuckles,)

Yeah, you probably haven't heard good things about me, then.

JEN

Oh no, it's fine. I -- I don't judge unless I know the person...

ZOE

Yeah, he hates me, I know.

JEN

I couldn't tell you. I -- haven't talked with him in a while myself so...

Zoe goes a bit confused. Then --

ZOE

Wait so you guys aren't dating?

Jen puts the beaker down. Looks at Zoe --

JEN

Dating?

(then,)

Like... You mean me and Dylan?

ZOE

Yeah. You guys dated though... or you were a thing, I thought.

JEN

Oh no. No -- I just became really close with him -- and we were really good friends.

(then,)

And he's with someone else, and so am I so...

ZOE

Oh I'm sorry -- I guess I had that wrong, then.

(then,)

So you and him don't talk anymore...

JEN

Ah... yeah, we lost our class together, and then... yeah, I don't even know what happened.

ZOE

You were at Sam's party though, right?

JEN

Yeah. That was like -- I saw him after a long time at that.

Zoe nods. A BEAT. She sets her beaker aside. But something's still eating away at Jen...

JEN (CONT'D)

How did you think we were dating?

ZOE

Well... he liked you. And I heard you and him were close so... I assumed...

JEN

Wait what?

ZOE

What?

JEN

Dylan liked me?

Zoe's eyes glance off Jen's. *Obviously...*

ZOE

You didn't know?

JEN

How do you know?

ZOE

Dylan can't lie to me easily. And plus... a lot of other people could tell, I'm sure.

A BEAT. Jen doesn't buy it...

JEN

Well... I'm sure he would tell me. He... he's close to me.

And as Jen says that, she says with a little bit of doubt in her voice. She said it, but that last part... she lingers on it, wondering if what she just said is true.

Zoe, meanwhile is treating Jen like she's been oblivious to the fact this whole time...

ZOE

He probably didn't. His depression -- I'm guessing that had something to do with it.

JEN

His *depression*?

ZOE

Yeah.

JEN

What?

ZOE

You don't know about that either? With his sister dying... and his counseling...

JEN

No, I didn't know. He never... said anything about his sister, or --

ZOE

Wait so he never talked to you about any of that?

And Jen's pretty fucking sure. She never knew about ANY of this.

JEN

No. He didn't and...
(trails off; then,)
So he's depressed?

ZOE

Yeah. He -- he has clinical depression.

And Jen can't even make sense of that. Off her, ready to inquire more about this... but first, she looks off, COMPLETELY BEFUDDLED by it as we CUT TO:

54 EXT. RILEY'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

54

DYLAN walks RILEY to her house. They make it to the door. And Riley STOPS.

DYLAN
Do you have your keys?

RILEY
Yeah... I do.
(then,)
How long were you going to stay?

DYLAN
Ah -- like an hour. I --
(then,)
Is that okay?

A BEAT. Riley is CONFLICTED. Not over him asking to stay, but over something else. And then she takes a breath --

RILEY
Okay, I think I just need to say
it. I have the chance, so I might
as well.

DYLAN
Say what?

A BEAT. Riley goes to say it. She takes another breath --

RILEY
I think we need to stop this.
(then,)
This. Us. It's... it's not working.

And Dylan is TAKEN ABACK --

DYLAN
What do you mean?

RILEY
Dylan. Come one.

DYLAN
Riley...

RILEY
I went back on my word for you. I --
told you I didn't think I had space
for a relationship in my life,
and... and then I took a chance
with you...
(a beat;)
(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

Because I liked you. I genuinely
liked you. I fell in love with you.

Riley's eyes are swelling with tears. She's not sobbing, but
THIS IS HARD ON HER --

DYLAN

Riley...

RILEY

I know you're going to say you like
me, and you love me, and that I
was --

DYLAN

I do like you. You know that.

RILEY

I know you do.
(then,)
But not as much as you like Jen.

And THAT gets to Dylan. Before he can go to deny it, Riley
goes on.

RILEY (CONT'D)

At the party, I could see how you
reacted to her. You -- you miss
her.

DYLAN

How does that affect us, though?
She and I --

RILEY

You remember when we first met, you
told me about your friend... and
how you fell for her... and she was
with someone...

(then,)

You still like Jen. You -- you love
her.

Dylan looks off. He can't deny it. Not now.

DYLAN

She'll never feel that way for me.
(then,)
Not like you do.

Riley sits Dylan down on the front step. She takes his
hand...

RILEY

I know how you feel. I'm feeling like that right now. But... we can't do this anymore. You have to be real about this --

DYLAN

Riley, we did have something real.

RILEY

I know we did. And, I've gained a really, really good friend in you, and I even like you -- but --
(then,)
It's one sided. And we *both* know that.

DYLAN

(tear-eyed,)
I don't want you to feel like I used you. You were there for me, and I appreciated that.

RILEY

I will always be here for you. I promise, and I want you to know that. But... I can't feel like this anymore.
(a beat,)
If I stay with you... then I'll just be weak.

Dylan remains. Realizing that Riley is RIGHT about everything.

DYLAN

You're just walking away?

RILEY

(with conviction,)
Sometimes we can't help what we want... but to let go of what we want... that's what we *can* do.

Wow. That was deep. As that gets to both Dylan and US...

Riley puts her arms around Dylan. Dylan hugs back. This one lasts LONG. We CUT ON BOTH of their FACES. Both deeply SAD and DEVASTATED about this.

RILEY (CONT'D)

(emotional)
You ever need anything, come to me... okay?

(MORE)

RILEY (CONT'D)

(then,)
Okay?

DYLAN

Okay...
(then,)
I love you.

And that fucking CRUSHES Riley. She does love him -- even MORE than he does her. But she's not turning back. She lets off of Dylan.

RILEY

Go, Dylan. Go tell her.

Off Dylan, we CUT TO:

55 INT. DYLAN'S CAR - DAY 55

-- DYLAN. In his car. ANGER BUILDING UP. He doesn't know what to do. It's like we're in one of those moments before a dam floods.

And finally... Dylan TURNS his car on. HE DRIVES as we SMASHCUT TO:

56 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 56

Dylan's car SPEEDS ALONG the highway. We follow along as --

57 INT. DYLAN'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS 57

DYLAN accelerates. BREATHING HEAVILY. Emotions are RUNNING HIGH (And trust us, they look like they're about to run EVEN higher).

58 EXT. BRIDGE - DAY 58

We're back at the bridge, people.

DYLAN comes running along and comes around to the arch way of the bridge. And lo and behold...

He sees JEN. We CUT TO HER, who's going through some DEEP THOUGHTS and as soon as she sees him, she's SURPRISED.

A LONG BEAT. They both stand there. Far, far apart. Looking at each other. It feels like they both JUST KNEW that the other was going to be HERE (Of all the places). CUT TO:

Dylan comes onto the bridge. Jen nears toward him. And here we are. It's confrontation time.

DYLAN

Did you come here to think?

JEN

Did you?

DYLAN

(a long pause; then,)

....I just came.

And now Jen feels like SHE just has to be the one to start it...

JEN

You didn't tell me. You didn't say anything. The whole time --

(then,)

You're my best friend. Dylan. I really, really liked you, and you...

(a beat,)

You never said a thing. Nothing about your depression! You didn't even say anything about your sister! And then you stopped talking to me. You... you shut me out!

DYLAN

I had to.

JEN

What did it make you feel better? I mean... what the fuck was wrong? Why didn't you just say it, say that you liked me?!

And Dylan fucking EXPLODES --

DYLAN

Because you liked someone else! You -- you would never feel that way about me and I was scared! There! I said it! I WAS SCARED, Jen! I was scared to tell you! And when I really wanted to...

(tears coming out,)

You already were with him, and I couldn't...

Dylan looks off. He lets his tears come out. Jen starts to tear up here as well.

JEN

Dylan --

But Dylan's already sobbing it all out --

DYLAN

You know -- I just -- I just wanted him to leave you so that you could be sad -- your life could suck just like mine and then you would feel just like me!

(then,)

Do you wanna know how much I was hurting?!

JEN

You have better than me. You have Riley, you're happier, right?

DYLAN

She left me.

(then,)

She left me because she was smart. She knew I still had feelings for you.

(a beat,)

But you still don't feel the same do you?

Jen's got TEARS SWELLING in her eyes. Trying to put this the best she can --

JEN

Dylan -- I won't be able to have that with you. Not the way that --

And Dylan backs off from Jen. Agitated.

DYLAN

No... Jen...

JEN

Dylan -- I do feel for you. It's not the way you want me to, I know. But... this. This is what is better for me! I like this better between us!

(then,)

I don't want to lose you ever. I meant that when I said it!

(MORE)

JEN (CONT'D)

I love you, but I want that to stay
as friendship!

Dylan is hit by that. And he doesn't take it well.

DYLAN

Come on--!

JEN

Come on what?! What do you want?
Ask me out, I say yes, we hook up,
and then later we get enough of
each other so we break up and then
you never talk to me again? Is that
what you want?

DYLAN

So that would never happen with you
and Graham?

JEN

Dylan -- it's my relationship! I am
putting effort into it!

DYLAN

Then put in effort with me!

JEN

I AM! I'm trying! I told you I
missed you, I missed you a lot! But
you just ignored me!

(then,)

You didn't even tell me you had
depression!

DYLAN

Because you were making it
better!!! You! Being with you was
better for me, I liked it -- I
started liking you, so I didn't say
anything! I didn't want to think
about it because I was happier!!

Jen moves closer to Dylan. She puts her hands on his
shoulder, getting close to him.

JEN

I am here for you for whatever you
need. And even if your feelings
don't change, I'm still here. I
promise.

Dylan looks DEEP into her eyes (this moment is really over
the top and cheesy, we know, but we're running with it).

DYLAN
 (pleading,)
 Why can't you just feel the same
 for me?

Jen closes her eyes. Looks off. Then looks back at him --

JEN
 I can't, Dylan. You're my friend.
 More than anyone else, I trust you.
 I love you, a lot, but... this is
how I feel.

Dylan closes his eyes. Her words press like a fucking knife
 to the heart at him. His tears keep coming --

DYLAN
 No -- I can't do that. I'm sorry.

JEN
 Dylan --

Dylan backs away, trying to push Jen off. Jen tries to grab a
 hold of him but he pulls away.

DYLAN
 I don't want that. I can't feel
 like this anymore. I don't want to.

JEN
 Dylan, please --

DYLAN
 No. I can't, Jen. I --

He can't help it. He keeps crying like a little kid, but this
 what it's come to.

<p>JEN Dylan --</p>	<p>DYLAN (CONT'D) If this how you want it, then I can't do that. I can't change my feelings --</p>
----------------------------------	---

<p>JEN (CONT'D) No, Dylan, listen --</p>	<p>DYLAN (CONT'D) No.</p>
---	--

Dylan pushes Jen's hand away.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
 You be happy like this.
 (then,)
 If you're happy, then that's what
 matters. Right?

And Jen is close to breaking down. She doesn't know what more to say.

JEN

Dylan...

DYLAN

No. I'm sorry.

Jen tries to make one last plea by trying to take his hand, but Dylan walks off, passed her -- now LEAVING HER on the bridge. Our MUSIC BUILDS...

As he walks away, Jen CRIES it out.

ON DYLAN -- He wipes his tears, but his eyes are still bulging with tears.

And now our music gets DRAMATIC as Jen watches Dylan leave behind her, having FAILED to make him understand.

Dylan walks away from the bridge, leaving both it and Jen behind. We TRACK HIM as he walks and walks... having LET his pain and his feelings out.

Dylan gets in his car. And he immediately drives off.

We go back to...

THE BRIDGE. Jen is still there. She watches Dylan go in the car. Off her, filled with emotion...

59 EXT. GRAHAM'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

59

DYLAN pulls up. He gets out of the car. Walks to THE DOOR. Knocks. GRAHAM opens the door.

GRAHAM

Dylan...

And he can tell Dylan's been crying and is in a mood. His eyes are DRY but there clearly traces of tears.

DYLAN

We need to talk. Did you get my text?

GRAHAM

Yeah. Ah... yeah that's fine.
(then,)
Are you okay?

DYLAN

We just need to talk, Graham.

60

EXT. GRAHAM'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

60

GRAHAM and DYLAN are sitting face to face. We JUMP INTO the moment --

DYLAN

I don't want you... to think that I'm conning you... going after the person you like... trying to steal her...

GRAHAM

She's my girlfriend.

DYLAN

No -- I know she is. I know she is. Trust me -- I -- I know.

(then,)

But... the thing is... like when we feel... our feelings aren't just easily erasable. Do you... do you understand what I mean? Like... I can't just get over them overnight. It's...

GRAHAM

How long have you liked her?

DYLAN

Few months. Before -- I swear when we met I didn't know that you and her...

(then,)

And then when I saw you at her house. I -- I didn't say anything. I was too scared, man.

A LONG BEAT. There's pin-drop silence. And then Graham puts his head in his hands. Dylan notices how awkward and stressful this is.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

Graham. I -- I don't want to make this seem like I'm being a baby or anything. I totally understand that --

GRAHAM

(breaths,)

That's not it, Dylan.

DYLAN

What? What's not it?

A BEAT. Graham doesn't know where to start.

GRAHAM

I'm going to tell you something now. I know this is going to shock you. But...

(then,)

I've known this for a while. I just didn't say anything. I...

DYLAN

Say what?

A BEAT. Graham's eyes are filling with tears. Whatever he's about to say... it's pretty FUCKING HARD ON HIM.

GRAHAM

Your sister's accident was my fault.

Oh fuck.

Holy shit we did not see that coming.

Dylan blinks. His face goes FROZEN. Paleness. He doesn't know how to react. And even WE are fucking JOLTED by this.

DYLAN

What?

GRAHAM

My accident I told you about...

(then,)

It was earlier this summer. Your sister... she had the red Toyota... that was it right? That was her car...

And Graham is now TEARING UP. Emotional.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

I'm so so sorry Dylan. I --

DYLAN

You knew this when we met?

GRAHAM

No. No -- No I promise I didn't. I swear if I did I would have told you right then. But... when we started talking...

(MORE)

GRAHAM (CONT'D)
 and then we became friends...
 (then,)
 I -- I couldn't say it. I was
 scared you would blow up and then
 we... we wouldn't be friends
anymore.

We take ONE GLANCE at him and we know he means that.

DYLAN
 So why are you telling me now?

GRAHAM
 (a beat; then,)
 Because your feelings for Jen... is
 nothing compared to this.
 (then,)
 And... I can't do this anymore. I
 can't lie.

Another moment of silence. We CUT ON Graham. Waiting for
 Dylan's response. And now we PUSH IN on Dylan. Something's
 brewing in him, and we don't know what. He looks at Graham --
 his eyes TOO are watery. And we CUT WIDE --

Dylan TACKLES Graham to the ground. They tussle, rolling on
 the lawn back and forth. We --

CUT CLOSER -- Dylan is ON TOP of Graham, strangling him.

DYLAN	GRAHAM (CONT'D)
LIAR!! You did it to hurt me!	Dylan!! Let go! Dylan -- get
You thought I couldn't take	off -- we can talk -- Dylan --
it!	!
DYLAN (CONT'D)	GRAHAM (CONT'D)
You killed my sister!	I'm sorry! I'm sorry -- I
	know I should have told you!
	I'm sorry!

GRAHAM (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry!

Graham pulls Dylan off of him. Dylan goes to THROW A PUNCH.
 Graham catches it. Dylan lets off of him. They both stare at
 each other with INTENSITY. Both are mega-emotional and
 OVERHEATED.

DYLAN
 I'm telling my parents. I'll tell
 the cops. I --

GRAHAM
 They already know.

ON DYLAN -- the life and the desperation just gets SUCKED OUT of him.

DYLAN

What?

GRAHAM

They already know. They... you weren't supposed to know.

DYLAN

...Why?

GRAHAM

Because...

(then,)

We're friends.

And Graham says that like HE BELIEVES IT. But Dylan's streaming TEARS.

DYLAN

Are we?

Dylan now starts to back away. And he TURNS to run out of the backyard as Graham goes after him --

GRAHAM

Dylan! Hey! Dylan wait! Dylan!

61 INT. DYLAN'S CAR - NIGHT 61

DYLAN gets into his car and quickly drives away.

62 EXT. GRAHAM'S DRIVEWAY - NIGHT 62

Graham runs out of his backyard. Sees Dylan drive off. We PUSH IN on him... SCARRED for life. He breathes. STRESSED and DISCOMFORTED.

63 INT. DYLAN'S ROOM - NIGHT 63

DYLAN enters the room. SLAMS the door shut. He's FRUSTRATED. SAD. ANGRY. He's about ready to fucking GIVE UP.

He JUMPS onto his bed. GRABS his PILLOW and PUNCHES IT. WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! HARD.

DYLAN

(screams,)

WHY!

He rises from his bed.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

(rises from his bed,)

So now what? Now what have I done wrong? What have I done to deserve any of this fucking... SHIT! You took my sister from me, and put me through all of this! And when I finally get better -- It happens again! You do it again! Jen doesn't like me! But I still like her! WHY?!? Riley left me! WHY?!? Where are you?! Give me a reason!!

(then,)

Graham killed my sister! My sister's dead because of my friend! Did you plan that?!?

(then,)

I'm dying inside! I've been acting like I've been living, my parent's don't even care! Lily's gone, but Dylan's still here! I'm right here! Make every day worse and worse and worse and -- GODDMAN IT!!!! Why?!? Why is my love like this? Why is my LIFE like this?!?

(a beat,)

I can't... I can't do this! I blew everything -- I blew it with everyone! I can't let the people I care about down anymore! I -- I want to do this! I...

CUT TO:

-- DYLAN drops down, BACKED UP against his wall. SOBBING. CRYING. Letting out that UNBEARABLE PAIN within him. We GO IN ON HIM... pushing CLOSER and CLOSER as --

BOOM TO BLACK.

And we're near the end, people.

Okay. Here we go.

TWO DOUBLE DOORS fill our FRAME. And then --

MR. FLOYD walks in. He exits the doors. Comes OUTSIDE. His phone rings. He answers.

FLOYD

Hello.

(a beat,)

Yes this is he.

(another beat,)

Ah... may I know who's calling?

(a beat,)

Yes he is one of my students.

And on the other end, clearly some explanation is going on that we're not yet aware of. And as Floyd hears it, a SICK, PALE look goes across him... he is SHOCKED.

FLOYD (CONT'D)

Oh my god...

(then,)

Oh no, that's terrible.

(then,)

Ah... yes, I hear you.

(then,)

Okay. And you -- you said that's -- the sixteenth of April... and that's on Friday? One o'clock?

(then,)

Yes. Okay... oh yeah I will attend, yes.

Mr. Floyd hangs up. Still in that STAGGERED STATE as we CUT TO:

65

INT. COUNSELING ROOM

65

We're in the counseling room. JOSH, JOE, and GRAHAM are sitting in silence. AN EMPTY CHAIR is on the side.

JOSH

So... you're not sad about what happened?

GRAHAM

Of course I am. I'm... devastated. But... it's for the best right?

(then,)

I did the right thing. And that's what holds me up. Even though what happened...

Graham breathes, hinting at a sensitive subject...

66

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

66

Yep. We're in the aftermath of a funeral.

PEOPLE in the background are leaving. Coming our way is...

JEN. Dressed in formal black. She's LOST. Quiet. Behind her, GRAHAM and RILEY come along. They all stand in a trio now...

And neither of them know how to start this...

RILEY

I can't believe this...

GRAHAM

Yeah... he's... gone.

JEN

Nothing seemed to be wrong with him. Ever. I --

GRAHAM

He liked you. That's why you never saw it.

A BEAT. Jen KNOWS this. But she knows the SAD REALITY of it all.

RILEY

He was alone. I always noticed that... but... I think maybe he's somewhere better now.

They all take that in... HOPING it's true.

JEN

(to Riley,)

What are you going to do now?

RILEY

I'll be fine... It wouldn't be the first time... and... yeah... It'll just take some time.

Graham looks off.

RILEY (CONT'D)

I -- I should be going now.

(to Jen,)

I'll see you around?

Jen nods. Riley puts an arm around Jen. A comforting touch. *It's going to be okay.* Her and Graham then exchange looks as Riley walks off. Leaving.

It's now just Jen and Graham.

GRAHAM
So... what now?

JEN
Huh?

GRAHAM
...Us. I mean... we can talk about
it later. I --

JEN
Graham. I... I don't know yet.
Just... with this... it'll... it'll
be hard to adjust.

GRAHAM
(nods,)
Yeah. I get it.

Jen now goes to leave.

JEN
Bye.

GRAHAM
Bye.

She then walks off. As she walks away, Graham TURNS, hoping she will turn back around. And then he turns, looking off.

JOE (O.S.)
Are you and her back together now?

GRAHAM (O.S.)
Me and her? No. And I knew we
weren't going to. But... it's fine
now. She's still my friend.

67 INT. JEN'S CAR - DAY

67

JEN sits in her car. She stares. Cold. Thinking. And then...

She breaks down. Crying. She has to. She can't help it.

As we PAN AWAY from her car...

GRAHAM (PRE-LAP)
See... that's the thing about
love...

68 INT. COUNSELING ROOM - DAY

68

And we LOOP our story back around, recognizing that VERY SAME voice from our opening...

It was GRAHAM.

GRAHAM

Sometimes... it's not between two people. And it doesn't have to be. Right?

We SPOT the EMPTY CHAIR in the room. JOE and JOSH listen to Graham.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

But love's a weird thing. It's strange. We never see it coming. And when we do...

(a beat; Then,)

It's never ours.

Graham's words are emotional, but he seems to have made peace with we know (now) what.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

That's one thing Jen taught me. Maybe Dylan just didn't understand it. Or he didn't want to...

(a beat,)

See, we all want it... but, we also want things that we can't have.

69 INT. RILEY'S CAR - DAY

69

RILEY. In the car. Driving. She's shaken, but still in a comfortable place. Off her... moving on...

GRAHAM (V.O.)

Like I said... love's a nice thing to have in our lives... but it's not the only thing...

70 EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

70

JEN steps onto the bridge. She holds the key-chain in her hand. She looks at it...

GRAHAM (V.O.)

But so is friendship...

INSERT CUT:

*The scene from the park where Jen and Dylan are walking.
Talking. Laughing.*

Back on Jen... she looks at it.

GRAHAM (V.O.)
It gives us people we'll keep
forever...

71 INT. COUNSELING ROOM - DAY

71

GRAHAM continues to talk --

GRAHAM
But I still do care about him...
and I'll miss him...

CUT TO:

The session ends. It's time to leave. Joe and Josh grab their backpacks and head out of the room. Graham grabs his and goes for the door. He turns and sees...

The empty chair. It belonged to Dylan.

Off Graham. He smiles faintly. Calm and well-adjusted...

GRAHAM (V.O.)
...because he'll always be my
friend.

As Graham leaves, the door behind him CLOSES, and we --

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END