

THE HARDEST PART

Written by

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Log Line: Through the love of a woman, a man learns to reconcile with his family after the death of his older brother.

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Copy Right Registration Number: PAu 3-906-711

JULIA (V.O.)
Oh, oh. Yes, yes David, yes.
(Enjoying sex).

FADE IN:

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM (EARLY AFTERNOON)

DAVID ROBIN, 27, white with brown eyes and hair, is on top of his friends with benefits, JULIA, 27, white with brown eyes and wavy hair, having sex missionary style in his bed. They breath heavy and are naked under the sheets.

JULIA
Did you cum yet?
(Fatigued from sex.)

DAVID
About to.
(Fatigued from sex.)

DAVID goes into power drive mode, grinding faster and harder. This results in more moans from JULIA. DAVID then comes to an abrupt stop, the noises that he makes suggests that he does in fact, orgasm. He continues to lay on top of her, allowing his breathing to regulate. With her eyes, it can be seen that she is ready for him to get off of her.

JULIA
You done?

DAVID breathes deeply.

DAVID
Yeah.
(Quiet and relaxed.)

He gets off of her and lays on his side of the bed, looking as if he is deep into thought. She waits for him to say something, to break the silence but he doesn't, so she gets out of bed.

DAVID grabs a bag of joints out from his night stand drawer.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You wanna smoke?

JULIA now has her bra and underpants on.

JULIA
I can't be showing up to work stoned. I'll get fired.
(A bit annoyed.)

DAVID lights a joint and takes a puff.

DAVID
You ever hear of eye drops?
(Sarcastic.)

JULIA is now half dressed, having her shirt on but not her pants.

JULIA
What's bothering you? You've been
mopey this whole time.

DAVID
It's nothing.
(Says with hesitance.)

He takes another hit.

JULIA, who is now fully dressed in her dress pants and blouse, gives DAVID a look, like she knows he's full of shit.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Why you looking at me like that?
(Annoyed.)

JULIA
Because I know when something's
bothering you. Just tell me.

DAVID sighs because he does not want to talk about what's bothering him. He takes another puff from his joint.

JULIA rolls her eyes.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Fine, I have to go to work anyway.
(Aggravated her friend
won't confide in her.)

She begins to walk out of the room.

DAVID sighs.

DAVID
It's my brother.
(Hesitates.)

She turns around, giving him the floor to speak.

He scratches the back of his head and continues on with what he is saying.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm supposed to meet him in a
little bit.

JULIA begins to walk back towards him.

JULIA
He's at Met Life tonight, right?

DAVID nods, taking another hit. He then looks to her.

DAVID
It's been a long time since I've
seen him.

JULIA
You'll have a lot to catch up on
then.

DAVID
It's just...
(Pauses, he is at a loss
for words.)

DAVID rubs his eyes.

JULIA
It's what?
(Intrigued.)

DAVID
Why'd he call me, ya know?

JULIA looks at him with confusion.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's literally been since the
funeral. There's just so much
there, you know what I mean?

JULIA just looks at him, understanding the anxiety that DAVID
feels.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I think I might just cancel.

JULIA
He's your brother, David. Give him
a chance, go see what he has to
say.

DAVID takes another hit, truly conflicted with what he wants
to do.

DAVID
I don't know, maybe.

JULIA begins to walk out slowly.

JULIA
Well I have to go back to work now.
Let me know how it goes.

JULIA leaves the bedroom off screen. DAVID looks up suddenly, as if a thought just bursted into his head.

DAVID
Hey, wait!

DAVID runs after her naked.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM

JULIA, who is about to open his door to leave, turns around to a naked DAVID.

DAVID
Didn't you want to tell me
something?

JULIA simply looks at him for a moment.

JULIA
I did.
(Hesitant and nervous.)

DAVID
Then what is it?
(Finds it weird that she
didn't tell him.)

DAVID takes another hit.

JULIA
I don't know if you're in the mood
to hear it right now.
(Nervous.)

DAVID rolls his eyes, with the joint in his mouth. He takes it out and sighs.

DAVID
Julia, just tell me.
(Annoyed, doesn't like
playing these games.)

JULIA sighs with hesitance.

JULIA
I don't think we can do this
anymore.

DAVID has a puzzled look on his face, almost as if he is disappointed.

JULIA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
The time has come, David.

JULIA (CONT'D)
We both knew it would.

DAVID takes another small hit from his joint, clearly bothered by the news.

JULIA eagerly awaits a response from him.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Aren't you gonna say something?
(Concerned.)

DAVID nods his head slowly.

DAVID
I just hope the steak's good.
(Joking tone.)

DAVID then storms off into his bedroom.

JULIA smiles because she is relieved.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And that it's an open bar!

JULIA continues to smile, relieved that he's being humorous.

JULIA
What are you doing?

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM (EARLY AFTERNOON)

DAVID is sitting on his bed, putting a pair of black Nike sweatpants on.

DAVID
Putting pants on. I just realized
you were endings thing with me with
my cock hanging out!

JULIA is now standing by the door, smiling again.

JULIA
Are you sure you're not mad?

DAVID stands up, joint in place on the top of his ear. He still has no shirt on.

DAVID
Of course not, like you said, we both knew this was coming.

JULIA smiles again.

JULIA
I'm happy you understand.

DAVID smiles and points at her.

DAVID
But I still expect you to come by to slouch around with me.

She smiles again.

JULIA
Of course.

DAVID takes his joint out from his ear.

DAVID
You sure you don't want to get high?

She continues to smiles.

JULIA
Goodbye, David.

JULIA leaves. DAVID sits back down and takes another puff, his smile disappearing when he hears her shut the door on her way out. He rubs his forehead, looking stressed and defeated.

DAVID
Fuck.
(Stressed.)

The undiegetic sound of a bong rip can be heard.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S DRESSING ROOM, MET LIFE STADIUM (AFTERNOON)

JAMES ROBIN, age 33, white with brown curly hair that is slicked back, is sitting on his dressing room leather couch, ripping into a bong. He then coughs as he exhales.

DAVID stands across the room, his back against the door, looking as if he has something on his mind.

JAMES

What's her name? Julia?
(Still regaining his
composure.)

DAVID

Yeah.
(Still bothered from what
she said.)

JAMES

Wait...

JAMES rubs his eyes, trying to understand his brother's problem.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So how do you know her?

DAVID

I've known her for years. We tried
dating once, but things are better
like this.

JAMES grabs his acoustic guitar, which is next to him and starts strumming it on the couch.

JAMES

Maybe you're the one destined to
marry her.
(Joking.)

JAMES smiles as he says this.

DAVID chuckles lightly.

DAVID

I'm not that type of guy.

JAMES stops strumming and looks up at his brother with fascination.

JAMES

And what type of guy is that?

DAVID takes a moment before responding, as if this topic is an uncomfortable one for him.

DAVID
The marriage type.

JAMES laughs and stands up, resting his guitar against the couch.

JAMES
You're funny.

DAVID stands up straight, on the defense.

DAVID
And why is that?

JAMES
Because you're young, you think you have the entire world figured out.
(Says with a smile, isn't looking for a fight.)

DAVID shakes his head and sighs.

DAVID
You're only a few years older than me, James. Don't start acting like Dad or something.
(Offended.)

JAMES puts his hands up, meaning he only wants peace.

JAMES
I'm not. I envy you. That's all that I'm saying.

DAVID chuckles.

DAVID
Like I'm much to envy.
(Sarcastic.)

There is an awkward silence between both men. JAMES rubs the back of his neck and DAVID looks down to the floor. They both have frozen, not knowing how to carry on their conversation.

JAMES
Have you talked to Allison?
(Hesitant and uncomfortable.)

DAVID takes a moment before responding, reflecting on the question.

DAVID
Not in a long time.

JAMES
How about, Mom?

DAVID
No.
(A sense of sternness in
his voice.)

JAMES nods his head uncomfortably.

DAVID looks at his G-Shock watch.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I should get going.

JAMES
Already?
(Disappointed.)

DAVID
Yeah, I got a gig tonight.

JAMES walks up to his brother awkwardly.

JAMES
Well I really wish you could stay
and see the show.
(Says with a sense of
friendliness.)

DAVID
Yeah, well I got bills to pay, ya
know?
(A tad jerky.)

JAMES
Do you need money? Can I help you
out?

DAVID smiles and puts his hand out to his brother.

DAVID
Bye, James.

JAMES looks at his brother's hand but then pulls him in for a hug.

JAMES
It's good seeing you again.
(Real sense of sincerity
in his voice.)

DAVID embraces this hug, although he is surprised by it.

DAVID
Yeah, you too.
(Uncomfortable.)

They then stop hugging and look at each other awkwardly. JAMES is awkward because he doesn't know how to convey his love fully to his brother but DAVID is simply focused on JULIA.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm gonna stop by her work.

JAMES has a look on his face, like he is not sure what his brother is talking about.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Julia, the girl?

JAMES
Oh, good.

JAMES smiles.

DAVID
I'm gonna try and convince her to
keep this going.

DAVID smiles.

JAMES chuckles.

DAVID opens the door.

JAMES
Well good luck with that.

CUT TO:

HALL WAY, MET LIFE STADIUM

JAMES stands in the door way and DAVID is in the hall.

DAVID
Yeah, well we'll see.

JAMES smiles towards his brother but his face turns serious when he sees who is coming off screen.

DAVID notices this and is then surprised to see who is coming.

We are introduced to RAY CARUSSO, age 46 and an Italian American with dark skin and hair. RAY stares at DAVID.

DAVID stares back.

JAMES looks uncomfortable with the stare down between the two of them.

RAY awkwardly puts his hand out to DAVID.

RAY
It's good to see you again.

DAVID stares at him for another second and then puts his hand out, they awkwardly shake hands.

DAVID
Yeah.
(Cold.)

DAVID then turns to JAMES.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'll see you around.
(Cold.)

JAMES nods, sort of in shame.

DAVID walks right past RAY, out of the scene.

JAMES glares at RAY and then goes back into the dresser room, talking to RAY with his back turned. RAY follows.

JAMES
I told you to stay out of the way
until he left.
(Pissed.)

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S DRESSING ROOM, MET LIFE STADIUM

Both men are in the dressing room.

RAY sighs.

RAY
Yeah well they want you out there
for sound check.
(Aggravated.)

JAMES grabs his guitar and sits back down.

JAMES
I'm not ready for sound check.
(Pissed.)

RAY
What are you talking about? You're
playing your guitar right now, just
take it out to the stage.
(Annoyed.)

JAMES sighs with annoyance.

JAMES
Fuck off, Ray.

JAMES continues to strum.

RAY, who is annoyed, starts sniffing with his nose.

RAY
How much dope have you been doing
in here? It reeks.

JAMES
Listen, I don't want to fucking
hear it.

The two glare at each other for a moment.

RAY
You got some attitude, you know
that kid?

JAMES grabs his bong from the table, glaring at RAY. He then
takes a huge rip.

He coughs off screen as RAY rubs his head, getting more
frustrated by the second with his complicated super star.

RAY (CONT'D)
So just to be clear, you're not
coming out for sound check?

JAMES'S eyes are filled with anger.

JAMES
Jesus Christ!

He slams his bong back on the table.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'll be out in five minutes, five
fucking minutes!

RAY is offended by JAMES'S tone, putting his head down.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Can you just back off? Give me some
fucking space?

RAY glares at JAMES.

JAMES glares back.

RAY leaves the room, not saying anything.

JAMES starts to rub his face, which becomes worrisome.

CUT TO:

INT. JULIA'S OFFICE (AFTERNOON)

JULIA is seen at her small cubicle of an office, deeply focused on her work. She is on the phone.

JULIA
Yes, Mr. Peterson. We can have the
delivery there by next Tuesday.

JULIA'S attention is drawn off screen.

DAVID is standing in front of her cubicle, looking as if he wants to talk to her.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Um, Mr. Peterson, I'm going have to
call you back.
(Confused by DAVID.)

DAVID is eager for her to get off the phone.

JULIA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Okay, thank you. Bye.

JULIA hangs up the phone and stands up, surprised to see DAVID.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Hey, what are you doing here?

DAVID moves in a step.

DAVID
Can I talk to you?
(Eager.)

JULIA sighs because she is overwhelmed.

JULIA
Can it wait? I have a ton of calls
to make.

DAVID
I take back what I said earlier.

JULIA is shocked over what she heard and for a moment, is at
a loss for words.

JULIA
What?
(Quietly shocked.)

DAVID
I take it all back, I'm not okay
with it.

JULIA looks around the office, then grabs his arm and then
walks out of the office.

CUT TO:

EXT. JULIA'S OFFICE, WALK WAY(AFTERNOON)

They walk outside.

JULIA
David...

They stop in the middle of the walk way.

JULIA (CONT'D)
What's going on with you?
(Still stressed by her
friend's sudden change of
mind.)

DAVID breathes deeply, trying to figure out what he wants to
say.

DAVID
I don't think we should stop
fucking.

JULIA makes a noise, gesturing that she is insulted.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I didn't mean it like that. I mean
I don't think we should end what we
have.

JULIA
And what is that, David?
(On the defense, but
intrigued for what he
will say.)

DAVID thinks before he responds.

DAVID
Fun, we have a lot of fun together.

JULIA sighs, annoyed that DAVID can't see the big picture for her.

JULIA
Did you ever think that maybe I'm
ready for more than just, "fun" in
my life?

DAVID rolls his eyes.

JULIA (CONT'D)
And then you roll your eyes at me.
(Annoyed.)

JULIA begins to walk away.

DAVID sighs.

DAVID
Julia?

JULIA responds without turning around.

JULIA
I'm going back to work, David.

DAVID
Julia, he's a douche bag lawyer
that you have nothing in common
with.

JULIA stops and turns around, shocked that her friend is saying this.

DAVID continues to speak now.

DAVID (CONT'D)
He walks around like his shit
doesn't stink, but he's nothing
more than a spineless worm.
(Anger in his voice.)

JULIA, who is insulted, thinks of what to say.

JULIA

Wow, well it's real nice to know
that my best friend hates my
fiance.

(Sarcastic.)

DAVID

It's how I feel.

(Stern.)

She sighs and rubs her face.

JULIA

So what am I supposed to do? Call
off my wedding?

(Frustrated.)

DAVID puts his head down, not exactly sure he even knows what
he wants.

JULIA takes a step closer.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Leave him for you?

(Frustrated.)

DAVID's head pops up, caught off guard.

DAVID

No, I'm not asking that.

(A bit of hesitance, not
as confident as before.)

JULIA

Then what then?

JULIA begins to walk closer to DAVID again.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Do you want me to keep having sex
with you? Is that all this is
about?

DAVID puts his head down, not knowing what to say.

JULIA is offended by DAVID.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Do you know how selfish that is of
you? To come here...

DAVID'S head pops up, becoming both confident and angry now
with his words.

DAVID

Don't act so innocent here, Julia.
You've been fucking me for as long
as you been with him. What does
that say about you? About your
relationship?

Now JULIA stands there, not knowing what to say.

DAVID (CONT'D)

For whatever reason, you feel a
need to marry this guy...

JULIA

I love him.
(Stern.)

DAVID

No you don't. That's not love,
that's not even close to love.
(Still angry.)

DAVID starts to walk away, leaving the scene. JULIA thinks of
what to say.

JULIA

And what? What we have is love?

DAVID turns around, glaring at her.

DAVID

There's no such thing as love.

He pauses, walking in a step.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's a bullshit thing surrounded
upon false perceptions and false
loyalty, despite the crummy paper
and the cock sucking friends and
family who say it is.

Tears are now in her eyes.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)

And like I said...

He continues to glare at her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What we have is fun.

DAVID storms off.

She stands there alone, soaking in what he just said.

Undigetically, rock music can be heard.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE, MET LIFE (AFTERNOON)

RAY stands on the corner of the stage, enjoying JAMES perform off screen. There is no singing, just musical chords of all sorts being played by guitars, drums and bases.

JAMES (O.S.)
Stop, stop.
(Annoyed.)

RAY is confused.

The music stops abruptly, the band is confused

JAMES stands there, grabbing his head.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Guys, just cool it.
(Overwhelmed.)

RAY
James, you alright?
(Concerned.)

JAMES puts his guitar on the ground and then storms past RAY, talking as he does.

JAMES
Yeah, fuck it, I'm not going on
tonight.

JAMES storms past RAY, leaving him shocked and stressed.

The rest of the band is looking off stage towards RAY. RAY sighs because he is overwhelmed.

RAY
I'll take care of this.
(Aggravated.)

RAY walks after JAMES.

The band continues to look shocked.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S DRESSING ROOM, MET LIFE STADIUM

JAMES is seen pacing, holding his cell phone in his hand. RAY comes storming in. JAMES stops pacing.

RAY
What the fuck is going on with you?
(Angry.)

JAMES points his finger at RAY.

JAMES
Get out, Ray!

RAY
Get your finger out of my face.

RAY pushes JAMES'S hand out of his face as he says this, JAMES continues to glare at him.

RAY (CONT'D)
Now what the hell is going on here?

JAMES
Nothing, I'm just not going on
tonight.
(Nasty.)

RAY
We have a contract! You can't just
not go on!

JAMES
Bullshit! I call the shots and you
know it!

Both men are now standing face to face, glaring at each other.

RAY
Your fame's gotten to you, you know
that?

JAMES takes a moment before he responds, glaring at RAY dead in the eyes.

JAMES
Yeah well it's my fame that made
your ass.

JAMES then walks right past RAY, leaving the scene. RAY sighs because he is stressed, rubbing his face.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL WAY, MET LIFE STADIUM

JAMES storms down the hall way, RAY can be seen in a long distance shot. Everyone who is working stops what they are doing, watching as their star storms on through.

CUT TO:

EXT. MET LIFE STADIUM

JAMES comes out of the stadium, looking at his phone, as if he is waiting for someone to text him. A few seconds after JAMES comes out, RAY follows.

RAY

James!

JAMES does not turn around, he does roll his eyes though when he hears RAY.

RAY (CONT'D)

James!

(Louder and angrier.)

JAMES turns around abruptly.

JAMES

What, Ray?

(Annoyed.)

RAY stops walking, standing at a decent distance from JAMES. He takes a moment to think of what to say.

RAY

Can we stop this now? Please?

JAMES

There's nothing to stop.

(Still mad.)

RAY

Don't bullshit me, James.

JAMES puts his head down, knowing that RAY is onto him.

RAY starts to stroll closer, looking who's around him.

RAY (CONT'D)

I thought you had this under control?

(Speaks quieter and more personal)

JAMES'S keeps his head down, both annoyed and ashamed.

RAY is now up close again with JAMES.

RAY (CONT'D)
I thought you were good?

JAMES
I am.
(Not convincing.)

RAY
Then what the hell is all this?

JAMES looks around him, trying to actually work up courage to give RAY an honest answer.

JAMES
I just...

JAMES can't complete his sentence.

RAY
You just what?

JAMES sighs.

JAMES
You know New Jersey is a bad place
for me.
(More sad now than angry.)

RAY puts his head down, as if he understands where JAMES is coming from.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I just need to get away for a
little bit.

RAY breathes deeply again, trying to think of what to do and what to say.

RAY
Where are you even going?

JAMES
The hotel.

RAY
With who?

JAMES pauses for a moment, ashamed of who he is going to associate himself with.

JAMES
No one you would know.

RAY breathes again and looks around him. JAMES waits for a response.

RAY
You need to be back here by 7:30,
you hear me?

JAMES rolls his eyes.

RAY points his finger at him.

RAY (CONT'D)
Hey...

JAMES looks at him with a bit of attitude.

RAY (CONT'D)
Don't try me, James. You may have
made my career, but you certainly
aren't gonna end too.

RAY pauses, looking him dead in the eye.

RAY (CONT'D)
Do you understand me?

A brief stare down between the two, JAMES tries to act tough.

JAMES looks at RAY with anger.

RAY (CONT'D)
We clear?

JAMES glares at RAY for a moment.

JAMES
Crystal.
(Attitude.)

A red mini van pulls up to pick up JAMES. It is a few feet away from the two men. JAMES goes to leave.

RAY
James.
(Hesitant and worried.)

JAMES turns around, waiting to hear what RAY has to say.

RAY pauses a moment, trying to figure out what he wants to say.

RAY (CONT'D)

This is the last time with this
shit.

(Stern.)

JAMES glares at RAY for another second and then heads to the van.

RAY continues to watch him with fear.

JAMES gets in and the van takes off.

RAY watches as they go, having a bad feeling about what's to come.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S HOTEL ROOM (AFTERNOON)

JAMES and his friends are partying in his fancy hotel room. They have music playing and they are drinking champagne.

JAMES and the two girls, one white and 26, the other one black and 26, are laying in his bed drinking.

WHITE DUDE, 33 with a buzz cut, prepares the heroin at JAMES'S hotel desk.

BLACK WOMAN

I never drank such fancy shit
before.

She takes a sip.

JAMES

It all tastes the same.
(Depressed.)

WHITE WOMAN

You've had both?

JAMES rubs his face.

JAMES

I've had much worse.

BLACK WOMAN

Sometimes it's hard to remember
that you rich folks haven't always
been rich.

JAMES sighs.

JAMES

Wealth doesn't make you rich.

JAMES takes a sip, finishing his glass.

WHITE WOMAN

You excited to play tonight?

JAMES takes a moment to respond.

JAMES

No.

WHITE WOMAN looks confused.

BLACK WOMAN

Aren't you from Jersey?

JAMES takes a moment before responding.

JAMES

It's a bad place for me.
(Looks bothered.)

JAMES takes WHITE WOMAN'S glass and finishes.

WHITE WOMAN

Hey.
(Offended.)

JAMES

Go pour yourself some more.

BLACK WOMAN grabs the bottle from the night stand next to the bed.

BLACK WOMAN

We're out.

JAMES sighs.

JAMES

Then order more.
(Annoyed.)

He looks at WHITE DUDE.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Yo, what's taking so long?
(Aggravated.)

WHITE DUDE (O.S.)

I'm coming, I'm coming.
(Rushed.)

WHITE DUDE walks over to the bed with a big smile on his face. He lays the four needles and bands onto the bed.

WHITE DUDE (CONT'D)
You guys ready for this shit?
(Excited.)

WHITE WOMAN claps.

The girls grab their stuff, WHITE DUDE follows. JAMES takes off his shoe and sock.

BLACK WOMAN
What the hell are you doing?

JAMES aligns his foot, which is covered with marks from needles.

JAMES
The arm is to easy for them to catch.

He grabs the needle.

Close up on his foot.

JAMES (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It's in between the toes though,
that they can't see.

The needle goes against the toe.

JAMES (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It's in between the toes that give
me comfort.

He injects the needle in between his toes.

JAMES suddenly becomes very high, leaning back in the bed.

JAMES (CONT'D)
It's in between the toes, where I
can just fade away.
(High.)

He breathes deeply and passes out in the bed.

The other three continue to shoot up, looking like they were not even listening to JAMES.

FADE TO BLACK.

A brief moment of silence is taken. The sound of a door opening can then be heard. Another brief moment of silence.

RAY (V.O.)
What the hell is going on in here?
(Both angry and confused.)

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S HOTEL ROOM (NIGHT)

RAY stands in shock.

JAMES and the two girls can be seen laying in bed, needles laying with them.

WHITE DUDE is seen passed out in the chair he was sitting in before.

RAY sighs, he is of course aggravated with all this.

RAY
Hello?
(Annoyed.)

He claps his hands.

WHITE WOMAN wakes up slowly.

WHITE WOMAN
Who are you?
(Groggy.)

RAY looks at his Rolex watch as he walks over to the bed.

RAY
I'm the guy who has to get James to
his show.
(Stressed.)

RAY sits on the corner of the bed. Eye line match with one of the needles.

RAY looks disturbed.

WHITE WOMAN
Are you James's boss?

RAY looks at her but doesn't respond. He is too focused on JAMES.

RAY
James, wake up.

JAMES does not move at all.

WHITE WOMAN

Are you a part of his family?

RAY looks at her again, he is deeply concerned. He begins to shake JAMES.

RAY

James, you got a show to do!

Close up on JAMES being shook.

The WHITE DUDE wakes up slowly. He rubs his face.

RAY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

James!

WHITE DUDE

Yo who are you?

(Groggy.)

RAY feels JAMES'S pulse but does not feel anything.

Tears fill his eyes and he sighs.

RAY

Jesus Christ.

(Quiet and scared.)

WHITE DUDE (O.S.)

Yo, is he good?

RAY suddenly becomes enraged. He storms over to WHITE DUDE.

WHITE DUDE (CONT'D)

Hey, what are you doing?

(Panicked.)

RAY grabs him from his seat and holds him by his shirt aggressively. Off screen, WHITE WOMAN screams.

RAY

What have you done with him, huh!

WHITE DUDE

I, I...

RAY

What have you done? What the fuck have you done?

(Yelling with intense anger and emotion.)

WHITE DUDE

We were just looking to get high,
shoot a little H. I, I'm sorry man.
(Scared.)

RAY lets go of him and stands there in a panic.

WHITE DUDE (CONT'D)

We didn't mean for anything bad to
happen to him. I swear.
(Panicked.)

RAY looks around the room.

WHITE WOMAN is hiding under the sheets.

BLACK WOMAN is passed out.

JAMES is laying there dead.

RAY is now breathing heavy. He starts to search for his
phone, which is in his back pocket. He then walks outside the
hotel room.

A final close up on JAMES.

WHITE DUDE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hey, who ya calling?
(Panicked.)

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL (NIGHT)

The police and the EMT'S are all there, with the area of the
hotel roped off with police tape. There is a large crowd
watching from behind the yellow tape.

RAY stands against the building, with a look of shock on his
face.

The EMT's come out of the hotel with a dead, zipped up JAMES
on a stretcher.

RAY looks at the body bag, full of sadness.

CUT TO:

INT. RAY'S CAR

RAY opens the door to his AUDI A6 and gets in. He sits there in silence and then rubs his face. He then starts his car.

CUT TO:

EXT. RAY'S CAR

RAY takes off in his car.

CUT TO:

INT. RAY'S CAR

RAY continues to sit and drive in silence, looking like he has the weight of the world on his shoulders. After a few seconds, a tear begins to drip down his eye.

The undiegetic sound of a bar filled with people can be heard.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE MUG (NIGHT) (FLASHBACK)

As the scene dissolves into the setting of a crowded bar, the following words appear on screen: "The Mug, 2007".

A younger RAY walks into this bar with a woman named ANGELINA, age 30 and an Italian American with curly brown hair and brown eyes. RAY does not look like he wants to be here.

RAY

What are we doing here, Ang?
(Annoyed.)

ANGELINA

You said you needed a break. You'll dig this place, I promise.

RAY continues to look around the bar with disgust.

The women wear whorish outfits and the men look trashy with their tatoos and raggedy clothes.

RAY

These people look like their fresh off the trash express.

(MORE)

RAY (CONT'D)
(Says quietly to
ANGELINA.)

ANGELINA sighs because she is getting annoyed.

ANGELINA
Do you want to just leave?

RAY looks around for another second.

RAY
Fuck it, lets just eat something.

CUT TO:

THE MUG, BAR (NIGHT) (FLASHBACK)

RAY and ANGELINA are sitting at the bar, drinking beers. She is eating a house salad and he is eating a cheese burger.

ANGELINA
You know, it's not the end of the
world.

She takes a bite.

RAY
They were hot, they could really be
something. And we're never gonna
get to see it now.

ANGELINA takes a sip of her beer, thinking of what she wants to say.

ANGELINA
Well maybe they won't pan out,
maybe this was a blessing in
disguise.

She smiles.

RAY
Yeah well...

RAY takes a sip of his beer.

RAY (CONT'D)
Something needs to pan out for us,
especially if I'm gonna be paying
for an engagement ring.

They smile at each other. He then touches her cheek intimately.

MANAGER (O.S.)
Alright you mother fuckers!
(Drunk.)

RAY and ANGELINA look over to the man speaking on the microphone.

This man is the MANAGER, age 58, fat, bald and white. He is standing on the stage holding a microphone, he is also intoxicated.

MANAGER (CONT'D)
Next up, we got James "The Kid"
Robin!

The crowd goes wild, clapping, cheering and whistling.

MANAGER (CONT'D)
Come on up here, kid!

A young, quite and clean shaven JAMES ROBIN comes up the stage with his acoustic guitar. MANAGER gives him a bear hug with his free arm, although JAMES is uncomfortable with the hug, he lets it happen.

MANAGER (CONT'D)
I fucking love this kid!

MANAGER starts coughing but quickly regains his composure.

MANAGER (CONT'D)
What are you gonna play for us
tonight, kid?

MANAGER holds the microphone in JAMES'S face. JAMES'S looks uncomfortable with this man's drunkenness.

JAMES
Uh, a few things I guess.

RAY and ANGELINA continue to sit at the bar, intrigued by what's happening on the stage.

MANAGER (O.S.)
Alright, kid...

MANAGER (CONT'D)
Take it away.

MANAGER pats JAMES on the back and hands him the microphone. He walks off the stage.

RAY and ANGELINA look at each other, still intrigued.

JAMES sets the microphone up properly for himself.

JAMES
Okay everyone.

The crowd starts to cheer. JAMES smiles.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'm gonna start with a cover.

RAY and ANGELINA continue to watch.

JAMES (CONT'D)
A cover by a band that's very
important to me.

JAMES has a sincere look on his face, like he wears his heart on his sleeve.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Especially during this time in my
life.
(Sincere.)

JAMES takes a deep breath, some people clap and whistle, waiting for him to begin playing. He begins to play, "The Hardest Part" by Coldplay.

As JAMES continues to play, RAY becomes more and more blown away by him.

RAY stands up and starts to walk closer to the audience slowly. ANGELINA grabs his arm.

ANGELINA
Where you going?

RAY turns around and points at JAMES. He then continues to walk towards the stage.

JAMES plays with passion, his eyes shut, giving his crowd everything he's got.

As RAY walks through the crowd, he sees their smiles and their enjoyment for this young, undiscovered artist. He then finds himself standing in front of the stage.

Eye line match to JAMES playing. JAMES opens his eyes and notices RAY standing right below him.

RAY continues to look at him with amazement.

CUT TO:

INT. THE MUG (NIGHT) (2007)

It's later on in the night, the bar isn't nearly as crowded as before. JAMES packs up his stuff quietly, not talking or looking at anyone.

RAY and ANGELINA stand by the bar area, watching him from a distance.

ANGELINA

What are you gonna say to him?

RAY thinks a moment, keeping his eyes on JAMES.

RAY

No clue.

He sighs lightly and then turns to her.

RAY (CONT'D)

Wish me luck though.

She smiles and then kisses him. They then look at each other again for a moment, smiling. RAY then begins to walk over to JAMES.

RAY approaches JAMES, hesitant and nervous.

RAY (CONT'D)

You played good tonight, kid.
(Trying to sound
confident.)

JAMES, who is bent over, putting his guitar away, pauses and looks up at RAY.

JAMES

Thanks.
(Not super friendly and
also shy.)

JAMES goes back to his guitar.

RAY is still trying to work up more confidence.

RAY

What's your name again?

JAMES pauses again. He does not look up this time.

JAMES

James.

JAMES goes back to what he was doing.

RAY nods his head, working up the courage to talk business with JAMES.

RAY
You have any representation, James?

JAMES picks up his guitar case and straps it around his chest. Talking to RAY as he walks past him.

JAMES
Nope.

RAY is a bit stunned and he turns to look at ANGELINA.

She looks back curiously, drinking a sip of her beer.

RAY stands there, not sure what to do next.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE MUG (NIGHT) (2007), PARKING LOT

JAMES walks to his car. Behind him, in a long distance shot, RAY can be seen.

RAY
James! James wait!

JAMES sighs and rolls his eyes. He turns around as RAY catches up to him. RAY is a little out of breath.

RAY (CONT'D)
I want to talk to you.

JAMES
Look, what do you want, man?
(Annoyed.)

RAY
My name's Raymond Carusso and I
want to represent you.

JAMES sighs again, he is clearly not into RAY.

JAMES
Look, I know how this works and I
don't have the money or the time
for this shit.

RAY is confused.

JAMES (CONT'D)
So please, just get off my back and
let me get on with my night.
(Annoyed still.)

JAMES starts to walk away, glaring at RAY as he turns away.

RAY (O.S.)
You know how what works?

JAMES stops walking and then turns around annoyed.

RAY awaits an answer.

JAMES walks up to RAY.

JAMES
You tell me that my shit's the real
deal and if I pay you, you'll make
me a star or something. Then, once
I begin to trust you, you run off
with my money, fucking me straight
in the ass.

RAY puts his head down, trying to think of what to say.

JAMES looks at RAY, thinking he is right about him.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Yeah, I guess you can't deny it.

JAMES turns back around to walk away again. As he begins to
walk away, RAY responds.

RAY (O.S.)
You're right.

JAMES turns back around, chip on his shoulder still.

RAY (CONT'D)
Some of these guys are real
monsters, monsters who like to take
advantage of kids like you.

JAMES
And what does that mean, "kids like
me"?
(Offended.)

RAY
Kids with real talent.

JAMES puts his head down because he doesn't know how to
accept a compliment.

RAY (CONT'D)
 Look I'm not like them, James. I'm
 not like any of them.

RAY sighs, trying to keep himself composed.

RAY (CONT'D)
 I don't know, maybe I'm in over my
 head with this shit. Maybe this
 business isn't suited for me. But
 it's people like you.

RAY pauses.

JAMES is listening closely now.

RAY (CONT'D)
 It's people like you, who still
 give me hope.

JAMES shakes his head, acknowledging what RAY just said. He
 is intrigued by him.

JAMES
 Who are you?

RAY
 Like I said, my name is Raymond
 Carusso...

JAMES (O.S.)
 No.
 (Stern.)

JAMES (CONT'D)
 You said that already. I mean what
 do you stand for, Raymond?

RAY takes a moment to think about his answer. He then begins
 to point to the bar.

RAY
 The way you made those people smile
 while they listened to you play,
 that's what I stand for.

JAMES shakes his head again, thinking about what RAY just
 said.

RAY (CONT'D)
 All I want is a cup of coffee,
 James.

JAMES pauses a moment.

JAMES
Well I don't drink coffee.
(Still a bit cold.)

RAY puts his head down, feeling discouraged.

JAMES takes a deep breath.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Are you free in like an hour
though?
(Not friendly but not cold
either. He is warming up
to RAY.)

RAY
Yeah, where do you want to meet?
(Relieved and happy.)

As JAMES opens his mouth to speak, the flash back ends.

CUT TO:

INT. RAY'S CAR (NIGHT)

Close up on RAY, who was in deep thought.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLUB (NIGHT)

RAY pulls up to the club that DAVID is working at. He then gets out of the car. He looks up at the club, anxious to go in and share the bad news.

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB, BACK STAGE ROOM (NIGHT)

RAY finds himself wandering to a room back stage with a bouncer, 26, black and over weight. Club music can be heard lightly in the background.

BOUNCER
Here he is.

BOUNCER points to an off screen DAVID. RAY nods his head, as he looks off screen.

RAY
Thanks.

RAY then hands the BOUNCER a \$50 and the BOUNCER nods and then leaves. RAY continues to look as DAVID is passed out on a black, leather couch.

RAY (CONT'D)
David wake up.

DAVID continues to sleep.

RAY unhappily goes over to wake DAVID up. He pats DAVID on the shoulder.

RAY (CONT'D)
Hey, wake up.

DAVID begins to squirm as he wakes up, he then realizes that it is RAY waking him up.

DAVID
Ray?

He sits up fast.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What are you doing here?
(Confused and groggy.)

RAY
We have to talk.
(Hesitant and still sad.)

DAVID looks at his watch.

DAVID
I'm going on soon.

RAY
It's about your brother.

DAVID
What about him?
(Confused.)

RAY can't bring himself to say anything.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Is he here or something?

RAY shakes his head quietly, showing he can't say what happened.

DAVID stands up slowly with caution.

Both men are standing face to face now.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What's going on, Ray?

RAY starts to rub his forehead.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Is James okay?
(Becoming nervous.)

RAY
It got to him.
(Can barely say this and
is hesitant.)

DAVID
What got to him?
(Confused and nervous.)

RAY can't talk, he's filled with to much emotion.

DAVID grabs RAY by his shirt.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Ray, what's wrong with James?
(Yells with worry.)

RAY
He overdosed on Heroin.
(Uncomfortable saying it.)

DAVID lets go of RAY, filled with shock. A knock on the door can be heard.

CLUB MANAGER, 33, gay, lanky and white with red hair is standing by the door, holding a clip board and has a head set on.

CLUB MANAGER
Robin, you're on.

RAY and DAVID stare at him.

CLUB MANAGER doesn't know how to react to the silence.

CLUB MANAGER (CONT'D)
You hear me? You're on.
(Attitude.)

DAVID puts his head down.

RAY
Give him five minutes.

CLUB MANAGER

He doesn't have five minutes. D-Jay
Slay is done.
(Annoyed.)

RAY takes \$50 out of his wallet and hands it to the CLUB
MANAGER. RAY awaits for him to take the money and after a bit
of hesitation, he does.

CLUB MANAGER (CONT'D)

Five minutes.

CLUB MANAGER leaves, knowing that something is wrong.

DAVID and RAY are alone again. RAY sighs and walks back over
to DAVID, who stands there with his head down.

RAY

I'm sorry, David.

DAVID takes a moment to respond, still not able to look at
RAY when he does talk.

DAVID

Did you know?
(Stern.)

RAY takes a moment to respond, acting as if he is confused to
his question.

RAY

Know what?

DAVID looks at him dead in the eyes this time.

DAVID

Don't fuck with me, Ray. Did you
know my brother was using heroin?

RAY puts his head down in shame, not knowing what to say.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Answer me!

RAY

I knew.
(Ashamed.)

DAVID punches RAY in the face with a right hook.

RAY falls to the floor, to his knee. He holds his face in
pain.

DAVID

Get up!

RAY

I thought he had it under control,
that's what he told me.

(In pain but still talks
stern.)

DAVID

I said get the fuck up!

RAY gets up slowly holding his face, which is now bruised by the corner of his eye. He looks at DAVID directly still.

RAY

I'm not gonna fight you, David.

DAVID grabs RAY as tears begin to stream down his cheeks. This makes RAY uncomfortable, as he now has his hands up, uncomfortable with the touching.

DAVID

Why didn't you do anything?
(Hysterical.)

RAY

What is it that you wanted me to
do?

(Uncomfortable.)

DAVID

Why didn't you cancel the tour? Get
him help?

RAY

He didn't want any of that!

DAVID lets go of RAY aggressively.

DAVID

Bullshit!

DAVID walks to the other side of the room, wiping away his tears.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You didn't want any of that! You
wouldn't dare give up the money!

RAY

You really think that low of me,
David?

(Offended.)

DAVID looks at the wall in front of him, rolling his eyes.

RAY (CONT'D)
You really think I'm that shitty of
a person?

DAVID
Go fuck yourself, Ray.

RAY
No fuck you, David! I was the one
that was there for your brother!

DAVID turns around.

DAVID
There? You...

RAY
Where were any of you guys all this
time? Never a phone call, never a
visit...

DAVID
I visited today!

RAY
Besides today!

RAY points his finger at DAVID.

RAY (CONT'D)
You know exactly what I mean. You,
your sister, your mother...

DAVID
Leave them out of this!

RAY
You's never supported him. If
anything, you all fucking punished
him for making something of
himself. You're father would be
ashamed...

DAVID
Hey!

DAVID begins to power walk over to RAY, pointing his finger
and glaring at him. Talking as he does. RAY becomes a bit
intimidated, realizing he said something terribly wrong.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Don't you ever talk about my father
again, do you hear me?

There is a silence between both men. RAY closes his eyes, knowing he shouldn't of said what he said and DAVID continues to glare at him. RAY then reopens his eyes.

RAY
Look, I didn't come here to fight
with you.

DAVID
Then what did you come here for?
(Still mad.)

RAY sighs.

RAY
You need to tell the rest of your
family.

DAVID
Why don't you do it if you were so
close with him?
(Angry.)

RAY
David, you know this needs to come
from you. Please don't make this
more difficult than it needs to be.

DAVID looks down to the floor, trying to comprehend it all.

RAY (CONT'D)
I'll handle the funeral
arrangements and all of that, you
don't have to worry.

DAVID looks at RAY with a look of insult.

DAVID
Fuck you, Ray.

DAVID storms out, as he does so, the CLUB MANAGER comes back in.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I quit.
(To the CLUB MANAGER as he
walks out.)

CLUB MANAGER stands there in shock, he looks at a depressed RAY.

CUT TO:

CLUB (NIGHT), DANCE FLOOR

RAY looks foreign in this group of young, happy dancers. Everyone is partying and having fun, listening to the loud EDM music. He walks up to the bar and takes a seat.

A woman BAR TENDER comes up to him, 28 and Asian. They talk loud to each other because of the music.

BAR TENDER
Can I get you something?

RAY
I'll take whatever's strongest.
(Depressed.)

She shakes her head in agreement.

RAY sits there in silence, all alone. He takes out his cellphone and looks at it in an indecisive way.

Close up on his contact's list, he taps on ANGELINA'S contact.

He looks at her contact reminiscently.

BAR TENDER (O.S.)
Here's your drink.

She puts the drink down.

RAY takes out his wallet and gives her a \$50. She looks at it surprisingly.

RAY
Keep it.

She smiles.

BAR TENDER
Thanks, dude.

She leaves the scene.

RAY takes a sip, cringing at how strong it is and continues to sit and look at his phone with intense indecisiveness.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAMES'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM (FLASHBACK)

Open window view of the outside, which is city like with small buildings and convenient stores.

ALLISON (O.S.)
Did you even see what she was wearing?

DAVID is sitting on the couch of his brother's crummy apartment, playing, "Call of Duty" on his Xbox. He is only 17.

ALLISON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I mean, fuck her right?
(Pause.) (Laughing tone)

Standing next to the open window in the corner talking on her flip phone, smoking a cigarette is ALLISON, 19, blonde hair with blue eyes.

She takes a puff from her smoke.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
Am I prettier than her though?
(Insecure.)

DAVID is trying to play his game in peace, but his sister's constant talking is getting on his nerves. This can be seen through his body language.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
I just needed to hear you say it.
(Sounds sort of depressed.)

She takes another puff.

JAMES comes through the door, his guitar case in his hand. He looks at DAVID first, giving him a nod, putting the case down as well.

DAVID gives him a nod back.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
We'll get together tomorrow night.
I get off at 8.

JAMES looks at ALLISON, wondering who she is talking to. He snaps his finger at DAVID.

DAVID turns to look at him.

JAMES

Who is that?
(Talks low because his
sister is on the phone.)

DAVID shrugs, going back to his game.

ALLISON

Okay, well I'll talk to you later.
(Pauses and is smiling.)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Okay, bye.

She hangs up the phone, she also flings her cigarette out the window.

JAMES sighs because he is annoyed that she did that.

JAMES

Allison, I asked you not do that.
It's rude.

ALLISON sighs and looks at her phone, responding as she does this.

ALLISON

It's not my fault if it hits
someone. They shouldn't be standing
under our window.
(Annoyed.)

ALLISON walks past the TV while looking at her phone, DAVID shows he is frustrated through his body language.

JAMES smiles and shakes his head in disbelief as she walks past him into the kitchen.

JAMES

You're unbelievable, you know that?

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN

She grabs the carton of orange juice from the fridge and shrugs her shoulders, embracing the image that JAMES has just given her.

ALLISON

I am what I am.

She then takes a sip.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM

JAMES chuckles lightly.

JAMES
Who was that on the phone anyway?

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN

ALLISON blushes.

ALLISON
No one.
(Embarrassed.)

She puts the juice back.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM

JAMES continues to smile.

JAMES
New boyfriend?

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN

She takes a moment before responding, she has a smile on her face though.

ALLISON
We'll see.
(Embarrassed.)

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM

JAMES
What does, "we'll see" mean?
(Playful.)

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN

She begins to walk out of the kitchen.

ALLISON
It means, we'll see, James.
(Smiling a little.)

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM

JAMES smiles at his sister, finding her funny.

She walks back over to the living room area, talking as she walks over to the couch.

ALLISON
I'm hungry, what do you guys want
to do for dinner?

She walks right in front of DAVID.

DAVID
Come on, Allison!
(Annoyed.)

She laughs lightly as she sits down.

ALLISON
You're such a nerd with this shit.

DAVID
Fuck off.

JAMES (O.S.)
Hey.
(Stern.)

They turn to JAMES.

JAMES has a serious look on his face and points his finger at his brother.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Watch it, David.

DAVID
She started it!

JAMES
You don't talk to her that way.

DAVID and JAMES glare at each other a moment.

ALLISON (O.S.)
I can take it, James.

She laughs lightly.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
You don't have to go all Dad on
him.

JAMES takes a deep breath, becoming serious when ALLISON
brings up their father.

JAMES
Did you guys go today?
(Sad.)

DAVID continues to play his game, not taking his eyes off it.

DAVID
I'm going Thursday.

JAMES
What about you, Allison?

ALLISON pauses, discussing her sick father is tough for her.

ALLISON
I'll go.

JAMES
When was the last time you went?

She again takes a moment, becoming ashamed of herself.

ALLISON
Last week.

JAMES gets annoyed and sucks his teeth.

JAMES
Last week?

ALLISON
I've been working like crazy, when
have I had the time?
(Defensive.)

JAMES
What about today?
(Annoyed.)

She pauses, trying to think of a lie.

ALLISON
I was busy today.

JAMES
Doing what?

She is at a loss for words.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Allison...
(Sounds as if he is going
to lecture her.)

She closes her eyes for a second due to stress.

ALLISON
I'll go, James. Please, not
tonight. I don't need a lecture. I
know I need to go.

ALLISON pauses because this is hard for her to talk about.
She rubs her face.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
It's just hard seeing him like
this.

JAMES sighs, knowing she is right.

JAMES
Fine.

JAMES looks down in sadness.

ALLISON (O.S.)
What do you want to do for dinner?
(Still a little bit of
sadness in her voice.)

JAMES is hesitant, rubbing his eyes.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
You gonna answer me or what?

JAMES

I have to tell you guys something.

ALLISON looks confused and DAVID pauses his game, his attention is immediately turned to his brother.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It's important actually. Like really important.

ALLISON stands up cautiously.

ALLISON

Are you okay?

JAMES takes a seat at his crappy, wooden table that's right next to him. He takes a moment to think about what he is going to say.

JAMES

Come sit with me.

ALLISON (O.S.)

James, you're scaring me.

JAMES

Just come sit down.

ALLISON cautiously walks over and sits down.

JAMES looks over at DAVID.

DAVID looks back.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You too, David.

DAVID stands up and walks over to the table. He looks nervous as well. He sits down.

ALLISON

What's going on?

JAMES breathes again before talking.

JAMES

I've met this man named Ray Carusso. He's this talent agent of some sorts.

ALLISON is excited.

ALLISON
Really? Is he going to sign you or something?

JAMES smiles a little.

JAMES
Actually yeah, we're gonna try it out.

ALLISON
Oh my God!

ALLISON stands up and hugs her brother.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
That's fucking awesome!

DAVID and his brother look at each other, DAVID knowing there is more to the story.

ALLISON stops hugging her brother and is now standing next to him.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
So how does it work? Will you take a train into New York everyday?

JAMES
Well that's the thing.

JAMES pauses and ALLISON just looks at him, not sure how to react.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'm gonna do some travelling for a while. Try and get my name around.

DAVID puts his head down.

ALLISON
So what does that mean for me and David?
(A little defensive.)

JAMES puts his head down and doesn't respond.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
Will you send us money to help with rent?

JAMES keeps his head down.

JAMES

I don't know how I can do that and pay for the travelling costs as well.

(Uncomfortable.)

ALLISON

You know we can't afford this place without you! What are we gonna do?

(Angry.)

JAMES just sits there in shame.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

You're fucking leaving us!

(Disgusted.)

JAMES

I'm not leaving anyone, Allison.

JAMES continues to not make eye contact.

ALLISON

Did you not just say you were gonna go do some travelling?

JAMES sighs because he is uncomfortable.

JAMES

This is a chance here.

(Says quietly.)

ALLISON looks at JAMES with disgust.

ALLISON

How could you leave us? In the middle of everything? How heartless and selfish are you?

JAMES

This is a chance, Allison!

JAMES stands up as he says this and stands face to face with his sister.

JAMES (CONT'D)

An important opportunity. I may never get a chance to excel with my music again. I mean, here's some guy who's willing to risk it all for me.

JAMES pauses.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I need to do this.

ALLISON and JAMES stare at each other for a second.

ALLISON
At what cost?

JAMES puts his head down because ALLISON is making him feel bad.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
You're really willing to push your family aside for this?

JAMES looks back up.

JAMES
I'm not pushing anyone aside.

ALLISON looks at JAMES with anger and panic.

ALLISON
What are we supposed to do?

JAMES looks as DAVID sits there, watching all this nervously.

ALLISON looks at DAVID.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
I'm just saying it now, I am not moving back in with her.
(Nasty.)

JAMES sighs.

She looks at JAMES.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
And you...
(Pauses.)

ALLISON shakes her head with disgust, looking at JAMES.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
I don't even know what else there is to say to you right now.

JAMES puts his head down again.

ALLISON shakes her head in disappointment.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
I'm gonna go smoke a cigarette
outside.
(Aggravated.)

She storms off, slamming the door behind her.

JAMES takes a deep breath and then rubs his face.

DAVID continues to sit uncomfortably.

JAMES looks at his brother and then sits down. He rubs his eyes, that are becoming misty with tears.

JAMES
I know how hard all of this has
been for you.

JAMES sighs.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I already talked with Dad. He
supports me on this. I would never
leave without his blessing.

DAVID sits there, not knowing what to say.

DAVID
Am I gonna have to move back in
with Mom?

JAMES looks at his brother blankly, he sits back in his chair, not knowing the truth or fate for any of them.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S CAR (NIGHT)

DAVID has just come out of his day dream.

Windshield view of his sister ALLISON'S cheap old house. He is in her drive way.

He takes a moment and then breathes deeply, preparing for their encounter. He opens the car door.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLISON'S HOUSE (NIGHT)

DAVID walks up to her front door slowly.

He looks at all the little children toys that are on the lawn.

DAVID rings the door bell twice. He stands there, with an anxious look on his face.

ALLISON, age 29, opens the door aggressively in her pajamas, a baggy Yankees shirt and shorts. She looks as if she is surprised to see her brother. She takes a moment to soak him in, breathing lightly.

ALLISON
She dead?
(Bitter.)

DAVID
What?
(Confused.)

ALLISON
Is our Mother dead?
(Annoyed.)

DAVID
No, she's not dead.

ALLISON
She sick? Cancer? Stroke?

DAVID
No, Allison...

ALLISON
What is it, you? HIV?

DAVID
No, I don't have HIV. It's James.
(A bit annoyed himself, he
just wants to talk.)

ALLISON makes a face, like thinking about JAMES makes her disturbed with a ton of emotions.

ALLISON
What about him?
(Bitter.)

DAVID takes a moment, trying to prepare himself to share the news.

DAVID
He over dosed on heroin tonight.

ALLISON does not say anything, she looks bothered by the news but she stays silence, trying to look strong.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It happened in his hotel room, he was supposed to play a show at Met Life.

ALLISON

Hmm.

DAVID is confused by that sound.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Well I always knew this would happen.

She leaves the door open but leaves the scene, going back inside the house.

DAVID is both confused and shocked. He then enters the house.

CUT TO:

INT. ALLISON'S HOUSE (NIGHT)

He looks uncomfortable inside the house.

DAVID

Allison?
(Hesitant.)

ALLISON (O.S.)

I'm in the kitchen, putting coffee on.
(Light shout.)

DAVID walks to the kitchen, seeing her husband TODD, 33, white and chubby, asleep on the couch in the living room, with a bag of chips by his side.

CUT TO:

INT. ALLISON'S HOUSE, KITCHEN (NIGHT)

ALLISON is smoking a cigarette, making coffee in her tiny kitchen.

DAVID notices the wooden table from their old apartment is present in the kitchen.

ALLISON (O.S.)
You're gonna have to have it black.

DAVID looks up at her, regaining his focus.

DAVID
What?

She looks at him, taking the cigarette out of her mouth.

ALLISON
The coffee, you'll have to have it
black.
(Annoyed.)

She puts it behind her ear and focuses on the coffee again.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
Todd didn't go the store today to
get milk. He's too busy sleeping
like the lazy, degenerate fuck that
he is!
(Yells as if she is
talking to him through
the walls.)

CUT TO:

INT. ALLISON'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM (NIGHT)

TODD wakes up in a startle.

CUT TO:

INT. ALLISON'S HOUSE, KITCHEN (NIGHT)

DAVID
Allison, I don't want any coffee.
(Overwhelmed.)

She is annoyed, giving him a glare as she stops.

ALLISON
Then why the hell am I making it?

She goes to dump the coffee.

DAVID
Did you know James had a drug
problem?

ALLISON starts washing the coffee pot in the sink, she responds with her smoke in her mouth.

ALLISON
No, but it doesn't surprise me.

DAVID takes a seat at the table.

ALLISON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
That's what happens to those
people, they all get hooked on bull
shit.

ALLISON now puts the pot back aggressively.

Her constant moving makes DAVID uncomfortable.

DAVID
Can't you just sit so we can talk?

She stops to look at her brother. She blows a puff from her smoke, intrigued by his request.

ALLISON
And what is there to talk about,
David?

DAVID thinks a moment.

TODD (O.S.)
I'm going to bed.

TODD is seen, standing by the entrance of the kitchen.

ALLISON
Yup.
(Annoyed.)

She takes a puff of her cigarette and then takes a seat at the table.

TODD
You're smoking in the house now?
(Annoyed.)

She glares at him.

ALLISON
Yup.
(Wise Ass.)

She takes another puff, just to spite him.

DAVID looks uncomfortable.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
You say hello to my brother?

She looks at her finger nails.

TODD puts his hand out to DAVID and they shake hands.

TODD
Hey, good to see you again.
(Bland.)

DAVID
Hey.
(Uncomfortable, a bit
shy.)

ALLISON
James is dead.
(Stern.)

She takes another puff, looking at her finger nails.

TODD (O.S.)
What?
(Surprised.)

TODD stands there in shock.

TODD (CONT'D)
How?
(Surprised.)

She continues to look at her nails, refusing to make eye contact with him.

ALLISON
He overdosed on heroin.
(Stern.)

TODD
Jesus Christ.

He rubs the back of his head and then takes a deep breath.

TODD (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry guys.
(Sincere.)

ALLISON
David and I have a lot to discuss.
(Rude.)

She blows a puff from her smoke, sitting back in her chair, not looking at him still, implying that TODD is not welcomed.

TODD
Yeah, do you guys need anything?
You hungry, David?

ALLISON rolls her eyes, annoyed with her husband.

ALLISON
You were supposed to go get milk
today and you never did.
(Nasty.)

TODD doesn't know what to say.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
And now, my brother can't have any
coffee.

DAVID
I don't want any coffee, it's fine.
(Uncomfortable.)

ALLISON points at DAVID.

ALLISON
You would've had coffee if there
was fucking milk.
(Stern.)

TODD looks like he is trying to hold back his anger and frustration.

TODD
I'm sorry I didn't get the milk. It
was inconsiderate of me.
(Annoyed and a bit
sarcastic.)

ALLISON waves her hand in a dismissing way at TODD, speaking as she does.

ALLISON
Go to bed, Todd. Nobody wants to
hear it.
(Dismissive.)

TODD glares at her, he then turns to DAVID.

TODD
Good night.

DAVID
Night.

DAVID gives him a slight nod.

TODD (O.S.)
Sorry for your loss.

ALLISON rolls her eyes again.

TODD leaves the kitchen.

ALLISON
He can be so condescending.
(Under her breath.)

ALLISON takes another puff and then puts it out on the ash tray on the corner of the table.

DAVID has a look on his face, like he is still uncomfortable.

ALLISON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
So...

ALLISON (CONT'D)
What is it that we have to discuss?
(A tad sarcastic.)

DAVID thinks a moment.

DAVID
Well, we have to tell Mom.

ALLISON
I don't talk to her anymore, David.
Not after everything.

DAVID
I haven't either, but she still
deserves to know.

ALLISON
Why doesn't Ray tell her?
(Annoyed.)

DAVID sighs because he is getting frustrated.

DAVID
Ray's not her family, we are.

ALLISON reflects a moment on what DAVID just said.

ALLISON
Families don't do what she did,
David.

DAVID sighs again.

DAVID

Fine.

DAVID stands up.

ALLISON

Where are you going?
(A bit annoyed but more
confused.)

DAVID

I'm going to go tell her.

ALLISON

She's not gonna care.
(Mad.)

DAVID

I guess we'll see.

ALLISON

You know she's not.

DAVID

What am I supposed to do, Allison?
Fucking pout around? She needs to
know.
(Annoyed.)

ALLISON glares at him and shakes her head with disapproval.

ALLISON

All this time. All these years.
Never one phone call or anything
from you.
(Trying to act like a
victim.)

DAVID is getting more annoyed by the second.

DAVID

Yeah, well it's a two way street.

DAVID leaves on that note. ALLISON stays seated, thinking about what her brother had just said.

Undigetically, the beeping of a hospital bed can be heard.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM (DAY) (FLASHBACK)

The beeping of hospital machines can be heard.

Seventeen year old DAVID is standing by the door of his father's hospital room. He has this worried look on his face, like he can't bare the fact that his father is dying.

His father lays in his bed, he is 55, frail, white and terminally ill. He has wires attached to his chest and his arms, he is also solving a cross word puzzle from a book.

DAVID (O.S.)

Hey, Dad.
(False sense of
enthusiasm.)

DAD looks over to the door.

DAD

David, what a pleasant surprise.
(Humoristic tone, but
still a sense of sickness
in his voice.)

DAD says this with a smile but begins to cough.

DAVID proceeds by walking into the room.

DAVID

Another puzzle?

DAVID smiles and sits down next to his father.

His father clears his throat.

DAD

This dang book you got me is to
easy. This is the best one you
could find?
(Friendly.)

DAVID smirks lightly. He then takes a moment, preparing to ask a question that he is afraid of.

DAVID

How did the test go today?
(Quietly worried.)

DAD raises his eye brows, like the answer is simple.

DAD

How they always go.
(Bitter.)

DAVID looks down because he is depressed.

DAD looks at his son with sincerity and sighs. He talks to his son without making eye contact.

DAD (CONT'D)
Has your brother talked to you yet?

DAVID takes a moment before responding, thinking back to what JAMES said to him.

DAVID
A few days ago.
(Not enthused.)

DAD
And what do you think about what he had to say?
(No eye contact, works on his book.)

DAVID pauses again.

DAVID
I think he should be here with you.

DAD puts down his puzzle book, a tad annoyed.

DAD
And blow an opportunity like this?

DAVID
Dad...

DAD
Your brother is a talented boy, David. Who are we to deprive him of his journey?

DAVID
We're his family.
(Stern but respectful.)

DAD
And that's why we need to support him.

DAD goes back to his book.

DAVID raises his eye brows and looks down at the floor, not knowing what to say.

DAVID
Has Allison been coming at least?
(A tad annoyed.)

DAD puts down the book again.

DAD
Whenever she comes around, all she
does is blubber like a baby. I
don't need that.

DAD is about to go back to his book but he puts it down,
wanting to say more.

DAD (CONT'D)
And besides, the last time she
brought this weird guy with her.
What's his name, Todd?

DAVID smirks.

DAVID
You don't like him?

DAD takes a moment, trying to find the right words.

DAD
He's just another guy, David.

DAVID nods.

DAD starts to breathe deeply but he begins to cough
aggressively.

DAVID looks down in sadness. He then looks at his father.

DAVID
You need some water?

DAD shakes his head no, puts his hand up and then regains his
composure after a few seconds, clearing his throat.

DAD
Have you seen your mother?
(Struggles a bit to say
because of the coughing.)

DAVID sighs.

DAVID
I'm gonna have to move in with her
again, at least until I could
afford my own place.
(Not enthusiastic.)

DAD sighs because of what DAVID just said.

DAD
Go easy on her, David.

DAVID puts his head down and sits in silence, annoyed at that comment.

DAD (CONT'D)
She's unmedicated, you know that.

DAVID
Who files for a divorce against a
man who's terminally ill?
(Angry.)

DAD puts his head down, knowing he's right.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Who fakes a fire to see how long it
takes the fire department to come?

DAVID chuckles lightly in disgust at his mother's ridiculousness.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Who runs off to Texas for days on
end, without telling anyone?

DAVID pauses.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's fucked up.
(Angry.)

There is a moment of silence between both men, they are both lost in their own thoughts. DAD is sad and DAVID is purely angry.

DAD
David...

DAVID
She split us all apart, Dad.
(Still angry.)

DAD
And that's why it's up to you.
(Sincere.)

DAVID pauses for a second.

DAVID
What's up to me?
(Angry and confused.)

DAD pauses, trying to think of the best way to phrase what he needs to say.

DAD
Keeping our family together.

DAVID rolls his eyes.

DAD (CONT'D)
Don't roll your eyes, David...

DAVID
It's not fair, none of it.

DAD puts his head down again, understanding his son's perspective.

DAVID (CONT'D)
James has his music. Allison is to wrapped up within herself. Mom's Mom, but what about me? What do I have?

DAD sighs, feeling his son's pain.

DAVID (CONT'D)
And now you're in here...

DAVID'S eyes are filled with tears, he rubs his eyes.

DAD continues to look sad, he can't look at his son.

DAVID looks at his father, with the tears still in his eyes.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What do I have?
(A little choked up.)

DAD is at a loss for words.

DAD
I'm sorry, son.
(Pause.)

He looks at DAVID now.

DAD (CONT'D)
I'm sorry for it all.

DAD breathes lightly, trying to keep his composure.

DAD (CONT'D)

But I want you to promise me that you'll be better, that you'll do better.

DAD puts out his hand.

DAVID looks at the hand.

DAD looks DAVID dead in the eyes.

DAD (CONT'D)

This family needs you, David. They need you more than you'll ever know. So please, take my hand and promise me you'll try.

DAVID looks a bit stand offish.

DAD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Promise me you won't give up on them.

There is a silence between both men, tears stream lightly down DAVID'S face and DAD keeps his hand out, awaiting a response.

DAVID

I just, I'm too hurt.
(Almost ashamed.)

DAD continues to listen to his son, the look of devastation sinking in him.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I just don't think I have it in me.

DAD is now fully devastated and takes a moment to respond.

DAD

I see.

DAVID wipes his eyes with his sleeve and breathes deeply.

DAD continues to do his crossword puzzle, clearly bothered.

DAVID watches his father, still sad himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVID'S MOM'S HOUSE (NIGHT)

A clear shot of this old, beaten down house. The roof is covered with mold and the paint on the house is chipped.

DAVID looks shocked because his mother let the house get to this point. He walks up slowly to the door.

He at first pauses, preparing himself for a reunion with his mother. But then he rings the doorbell. He awaits patiently, rubbing his face, but no one comes to the door. DAVID becomes suspicious. He begins to knock on the door and he rings the bell a few more times.

The door opens suddenly and we are introduced to MOM, age 65, white, brown hair and brown eyes, holding a shot gun in her pajamas.

DAVID puts his hands up, freaked out.

DAVID
Jesus Christ! Mom, what are you
doing?
(Scared.)

MOM
Why are you here?
(Stern.)

DAVID
It's me, it's David.

MOM
I never asked who it is, I asked
what you are doing here?

DAVID breathes heavily.

DAVID
I need to talk to you.

MOM
About what?
(Nasty.)

DAVID pauses, not wanting to do it this way.

DAVID
About James.

DAVID pauses again.

DAVID (CONT'D)
He overdosed on drugs. He died
earlier tonight.

MOM stands there, still pointing the gun at him. She continues to glare at her son, but is silent, trying to process what she was just told.

DAVID looks back, awaiting a response.

MOM puts down the gun and looks at her son.

MOM
I have to get back to work.
(Stern.)

She goes back in the house, but leaves the door opened.

DAVID walks in with a bit of hesitation.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S MOM'S HOUSE (NIGHT)

DAVID looks around with shock.

The house is darkly lit.

The mirror and TV in the living room are boarded up with cardboard and there are stacks of books on the floor.

His mother appears from the kitchen.

MOM
If you're coming in, shut the door.
(Not very welcoming, kind
of rude.)

She goes over to the books on the living room floor and starts to reorganize them.

DAVID shuts the door and walks over to his mother.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S MOM'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM (NIGHT)

She continues to look into the books, putting them in unique piles on the floor. DAVID appears behind her.

DAVID
What are you doing?

She responds without looking up.

MOM
The books need to be reordered.
(Still not friendly.)

DAVID
How come?

MOM
Because they do.
(Stern.)

DAVID eye line matches with the boarded up TV, and then the boarded mirror.

DAVID
Why is everything boarded up?
(Annoyed.)

MOM looks up at him.

MOM
Why are you here, David?
(Snappy.)

DAVID sighs.

DAVID
I told you why I was here.

MOM stands up.

MOM
You told me he was dead. So why do
you still feel a need to be here?

DAVID
"He"? James was your fucking son,
Mom.
(Offended.)

MOM slaps DAVID. DAVID glares at her, rubbing his cheek.

She glares back.

MOM
You haven't visited me in years. So
don't you dare stand there and
curse at me. I won't tolerate it.
(Stern.)

DAVID takes a moment to respond, still shocked over everything.

DAVID
 Why you doing all this?
 (Serious.)

MOM
 It doesn't concern you!

She takes a step forward, a book on the floor can be heard closing.

MOM (CONT'D)
 It's my life and I can do what I
 want with it!

DAVID looks at her with disappointment.

She looks down at the floor.

Close up of her foot on the book.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Oh no.
 (Scared.)

DAVID
 What?
 (Confused.)

She storms past him and into the kitchen. DAVID stands there, rubbing his face because he is frustrated with his mother. He sighs again.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S MOM'S HOUSE, KITCHEN (NIGHT)

MOM lights a pan on the stove.

DAVID is now standing by the entrance of the kitchen.

DAVID
 Do you ever think about going back
 to the doctors again?

MOM
 I haven't gone back to those
 dreaded people since he was alive.

Close up on her hand that hovers over the pan, testing its heat.

DAVID
Again with the, "he".
(Annoyed.)

DAVID walks in a little bit.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Don't you have any respect at all
for my father?
(Annoyed and offended.)

Close up on the hand over the pan.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Any respect for James? For
yourself?
(Annoyed and offended.)

Close up on the hand over the pan.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Just look at how your living,
doesn't it bother you?

MOM takes a deep breath and then taps the pan with her
finger.

MOM
One.
(In pain.)

DAVID runs over to her.

DAVID
What the hell are you doing?

She does it again.

MOM
Two.
(In pain.)

DAVID
Mom, why are you doing this?

MOM
Have to do it seven times.
(Sounds like she is in
pain.)

She does it again.

MOM (CONT'D)

Three.
(In pain.)

She shakes out her hand, trying to get rid of the burn.

DAVID

Stop, you're torturing yourself!

She does it again. Waving her hand. DAVID grabs her arm in a state of panic, she is shocked.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna let you burn yourself.

She tries to pull away.

MOM

Let me go!
(Aggressive.)

DAVID holds on.

DAVID

No, you need help!
(Emphasis on, "need".)

She tries to pull away again. She starts smacking him in his shoulders and arms.

MOM

Let me go! Let me go!

He tries restraining her all together.

DAVID

Mom, stop!

With her free hand, she grabs the hot pan and hits him in the head with it. He falls to the floor, screaming in pain, grabbing his head.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Mother fucker!
(In Pain.)

She looks at him with fear.

DAVID rubs his head, while glaring at his mother.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What the hell is wrong with you?
(Pissed and in pain.)

She stands there, continuing to hold the pan. She looks scared.

MOM
I told you to stop, I told you to
let go!
(Shook.)

DAVID lays on the floor, holding his now bruised head, looking at his mother with both anger and horror.

MOM puts the pan back down on the stove and grabs her face, overwhelmed with everything, then grabbing her head.

MOM (CONT'D)
I don't even remember what number I
was at. I, I have to start over.
(Panicked.)

Rapidly now, she begins again, counting out loud as she does it.

DAVID stands up slowly, still frazzled from the hit, a bruise and a small burn mark is present on his head now.

DAVID
Is this what you have become?
(Anger due to sadness.)

She finishes and turns off the stove, shaking out her hand.

MOM
I didn't want to hit you. But you
made me do it.

DAVID
I was trying to protect you!

She shakes her head in disagreement.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Why do you feel a need to burn
yourself?

MOM
It's none of your God damn
business, David.
(Still stern and closed
off.)

DAVID looks around the kitchen. He sees the shot gun in the corner and tears hit his eyes.

DAVID
What happened here, Mom?

She looks down, sort of in shame.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What happened to all of it?

She keeps her head down.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)
To all of us?

She looks up at him, as if that triggered her.

MOM
I'd like you to go.

DAVID
What?
(Even more offended now.)

MOM
I want you to leave and to never
come back.
(A much ruder tone.)

DAVID shakes his head and chuckles with anger.

DAVID
You want me to go?

MOM continues to look at him sternly.

DAVID (CONT'D)
To leave like you left us?
(Pissed.)

She points at the kitchen entrance.

MOM
Leave, David!

DAVID points at her, tears run down his face.

DAVID
You ruined us! You ruined our
entire family!

DAVID moves closer to her, crying hysterically.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Do you know how fucked up it is?
How fucked up you are?

She looks uncomfortable.

DAVID grabs her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Do you?

She knees him in his groin and he falls to the floor in pain again.

She runs and grabs the shot gun in the corner and points it at him.

MOM

Get up.
(Stern.)

He looks up from the floor with great fear and puts his hands up slowly, trembling lightly.

DAVID

Mom...
(Scared.)

MOM

Get up!

DAVID gets up from the floor slowly, his hands are up.

MOM (CONT'D)

Leave and never come back!

They glare at each other for a moment. DAVID then leaves the kitchen.

Close up on MOM. She looks anxious and disturbed, the door can be heard being closed, DAVID leaving the house. She continues to stand still, trembling herself.

Undigetically, the noise of the club from earlier can be heard.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLUB (NIGHT)

RAY stumbles out of the club, he is drunk. He is looking for his Uber driver. He hears a horn honk off screen. He waves to it and then walks up to what is a black SUV.

The SUV rolls down his window, the driver is a man, Spanish, 33, with a trimmed beard.

DRIVER
You, Ray?

RAY
Yeah.
(Intoxicated tone.)

DRIVER waves him in. RAY gets in on the passenger side.

CUT TO:

INT. UBER CAR (NIGHT)

RAY gets settled in his seat and pulls out his phone.

DRIVER
Violet hill?

RAY sighs and rubs his face.

RAY
Yup.
(Tired.)

DRIVER nods and starts to drive.

CUT TO:

EXT. UBER CAR (NIGHT)

The SUV takes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL (NIGHT)

JULIA pulls up in her red Honda, on top of this hill.

CUT TO:

INT. JULIA'S CAR (NIGHT)

A windshield view of DAVID sitting in the grass, disturbed by the headlights is seen.

JULIA takes a deep breath before getting out of the car. She then gets out.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL (NIGHT)

DAVID sits on the grass, smoking a joint, with a 40 oz. next to him.

JULIA
David?
(Concerned.)

He turns around.

DAVID
I got booze and weed if you want
some.
(Drunk and high.)

He turns back around to a view of New York City.

JULIA now walks closer to him, shining her phone flash light in his face.

JULIA (O.S.)
What happened to your head?
(Concerned.)

DAVID is bothered by the light.

DAVID
Come on, turn that off.
(Annoyed.)

She turns off the light, clearly concerned.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I don't need any more light on me
tonight. (Reminiscent pause) I've
seen enough.

He takes a hit of his joint.

JULIA sits next to him.

JULIA
Talk to me, tell me what's going on
with you.

DAVID laughs a little.

DAVID
You wouldn't want to know.

DAVID just looks off in the distance.

JULIA
Talk to me, David.
(Persistent.)

DAVID
Look what do you want me to say?
(Annoyed)

JULIA looks down, sad that she asked.

DAVID (CONT'D)
There's nothing to talk about.

JULIA
You're brother just died due to a
heroin overdose, there's plenty to
talk about.
(Says kind of quietly, she
wants him to hear her but
she doesn't want to come
off as unsympathetic.)

DAVID shakes his head, disagreeing.

JULIA (CONT'D)
So you just want to sit here then?
(Becoming a bit annoyed.)

DAVID
You think of something to say.

DAVID gulps his booze.

JULIA looks hesitant but brings up what is bothering her.

JULIA
How about what you said to me this
afternoon?

DAVID rubs his eyes and sighs.

JULIA (CONT'D)
That my relationship with him isn't
real.
(She is still offended.)

DAVID continues to look off into the distance.

JULIA (CONT'D)
That marriage itself is surrounded
upon false perceptions and cock
sucking friends and family.
(She is still offended.)

He takes a hit of his joint.

JULIA makes a noise like she is annoyed.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Aren't you gonna say anything?
(Annoyed.)

DAVID blows a big cloud of smoke with his joint.

JULIA makes that noise again and shakes her head, angry at DAVID.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Fuck it.

JULIA stands up.

DAVID notices this.

DAVID
Where're you going?

JULIA talks down to him.

JULIA
You have no love, no sympathy, no
understanding for people. Do you
know that?
(Pissed.) (She Pauses.)

DAVID continues to look at the view, becoming bothered by what she says.

JULIA (CONT'D)
I came here for you, David. In the
middle of the night, I came here
for you. And you treat me...

She pauses again, truly reflecting on how he treats her.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Like I don't even matter.

There is a moment of silence between them. She sighs with annoyance.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Goodbye, David.

She begins to walk away.

DAVID has a look of hesitation on his face, like during the opening scene in his bedroom.

DAVID
 It's my fault.
 (Angry at himself.)

JULIA turns around, intrigued by what he said.

DAVID continues to look off into the distance, but takes a deep breath.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 James's death, my mother, it's all
 my fault.

DAVID takes a final puff of his joint, he then puts it out in the grass.

JULIA hesitates for a moment but then walks back towards him and sits down, ready to listen to him.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 My father wanted me to keep the
 family together, it was his dying
 wish.(Pause) And I refused to do
 it.

DAVID pauses, bothered by what he is going to say.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 And my brother's dead cause of it.

At first, JULIA thinks for a second about what DAVID said. She then rubs his face with her hand. He closes his eyes when she does this, putting his hand over hers.

JULIA
 It's not your fault, David. You
 were just a teenager.
 (Sympathetic.)

DAVID
 It is.
 (Deep sadness.)

They touch foreheads. Both of their eyes are closed now.

JULIA
 You were just a teenager with the
 weight of the world on your
 shoulders.

He rubs her cheek with his hand now and they make eye contact with each other. He then kisses her. She resists after a moment.

JULIA (CONT'D)

David, no.
(Whispers.)

He kisses her again. She resists again after a moment.

JULIA (CONT'D)

I can't. You know that...

DAVID

I love you.

He kisses her again. This time the kiss goes a bit longer. Then she pulls away.

JULIA

You don't love me.

He looks at her intimately.

DAVID

You're all that I have.

He kisses her again and she doesn't resist. He then gets on top of her gradually, they lay down in the grass. They stop kissing once they are in the grass and they look at each other. DAVID then goes in for another kiss.

He pulls her pants down, undoes his own and then inserts himself in her.

There isn't any kissing and there isn't any talking. They just hump each other, living in the moment, breathing heavy. As the breathing gets heavier, DAVID orgasms and then they stop. He just lays on top of her.

She rubs his back.

JULIA

This was the last time, David.

DAVID lifts his head up and looks at her.

DAVID

But it can't be.
(Disappointed.)

She begins to move, indicating that she wants to get up from the ground. DAVID gets off of her.

She puts her pants on.

DAVID puts his pants on, looking at JULIA though, clearly bothered she keeps refusing him.

She sits back down on the grass and takes a deep breath.

JULIA
Can you pass the 40?

DAVID gives it to her and sits back down.

She takes a big sip.

DAVID
I want to be with you, Julia.

She sighs and shakes her head.

JULIA
You're just in an emotional place
right now.

DAVID touches her face again. She looks away.

DAVID
I never loved anyone more than I
love you. All that stuff I said
this afternoon, I was just jealous.

She now looks at him.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm sorry that I hurt you.

JULIA sighs and removes his hand from her cheek, getting choked up with tears, she shakes her head, rubbing her eyes.

DAVID looks at her with confusion.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Why are you crying?
(Confused but
sympathetic.)

JULIA is hesitant, wiping away her tears with her hands.

JULIA
Because I loved you for years.

DAVID continues to look at her, tears in his eyes now.

JULIA (CONT'D)
But you've let me down and broken
my heart to many times before.

DAVID pauses, disappointed in himself.

DAVID
It'll never happen again.

JULIA
I just can't.

More tears stream down her face and he rubs her cheek again.

DAVID
You can't what?

She looks at him, with a brief pause.

JULIA
I just can't trust you.

He puts his head against hers and they cry together.

DAVID
What do I have to do?
(Whispers.)

After a moment, she pulls away and shakes her head.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Tell me. I'll do whatever it takes.

She wipes away her tears and sighs.

JULIA
I'm gonna go, David.

He looks at her with sadness.

JULIA (CONT'D)
I'm gonna go.
(Says as if she is
reassuring herself.)

She stands up and looks at him.

He looks up at her.

DAVID
Don't.
(Sad.)

She breathes again.

JULIA
Goodbye, David.

DAVID just looks at her for a moment, at a true loss for words.

DAVID
Goodbye, Julia.

DAVID continues to look at her.

She looks for a second too and then walks to her car.

DAVID watches as she goes. He then lays down and looks up to the stars. Tears are still in his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

ALLISON can be heard crying.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY (MORNING) (FLASHBACK)

17 year old DAVID is staring at his father's grave with a look of disappointment on his face.

Close up on the grave.

JAMES and RAY are standing together.

ALLISON and TODD are standing together.

MOM is standing alone, she has a blank expression on her face. Not as if she isn't aware of what is going on or that she doesn't feel the sadness of it, it is more that she doesn't fully feel the significance of the funeral.

DAVID looks at them, as if he is observing how they act.

ALLISON continues to cry. TODD holds her up and rubs her back. ALLISON then looks at her mother with hatred.

ALLISON
Why are you still here?

TODD
Allison...
(Says quietly.)

ALLISON
No! Why the fuck are you still
here?
(Anger.)

Her mother just looks at her sternly.

RAY leaves JAMES'S side and walks up to JAMES'S mother, glaring at ALLISON as he walks over. He pulls MOM to the side and talks to her.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
 And why is he still here?
 (Loud and rude.) (Meaning
 RAY.)

DAVID watches as his mother and RAY talk, he is intrigued by this.

Eye line match to them talking.

ALLISON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Both of you, just leave!

RAY turns his head towards ALLISON for a second but then refocuses on MOM.

JAMES puts his head down, not wanting to deal with his sister.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
 That's what you want to do, right
 James? So why don't you just go
 too!

JAMES shakes his head, refusing to respond. He looks at DAVID as he turns in the other direction, turning his back to his sister.

DAVID just stands there, powerless.

RAY (O.S.)
 Come on.

RAY puts his arm around JAMES.

RAY (CONT'D)
 You ready?
 (Says quietly.)

JAMES nods. RAY and JAMES begin walking up the small hill to their limo.

ALLISON breaks away from TODD, standing by herself. As angry as she is, she is shocked that JAMES is actually leaving, but she encourages it.

ALLISON
 Just go, James! Leave as you always
 do!

ALLISON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Just go!
 (Even louder and angrier.)

DAVID watches as his sister screams, disturbed as she screams louder.

RAY and JAMES are now on the top of the hill. RAY gets in the limo first. JAMES turns around and looks at DAVID.

TODD (O.S.)
 It's gonna be okay.
 (Quiet and to ALLISON.)

DAVID stares back from below.

ALLISON (O.S.)
 No it's not.
 (To TODD, she is stern and sad.)

JAMES looks at him for another second, he then gets into the limo himself.

DAVID puts his head down in sadness. The cry's of ALLISON could be heard off screen again.

DAVID turns and looks up.

Eye line match to the grave.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILL (NIGHT)

Bright headlights invade the scene, DAVID stands up, reappearing.

The Black SUV from before has driven up the hill.

DAVID looks confused, shielding his eyes from the light.

RAY gets out of the car in a stumble.

DAVID
 Ray?
 (Confused.)

RAY looks at DAVID.

RAY
 Oh shit.
 (Concerned.) (To himself.)

DAVID
How do you know about this place?

RAY sighs.

RAY
The first night that I met your
brother, he took me here.

RAY starts to walk towards DAVID and the SUV drives off
behind him.

DAVID watches as he walks up to him.

RAY is now standing next to DAVID, looking at the view.

RAY (CONT'D)
It's been 10 years since I've seen
this view.

DAVID keeps his eyes on view as well.

DAVID
I would bet James hadn't seen it in
10 years either.

RAY sighs lightly and turns to DAVID,

RAY
Look, if you want me to go, if you
want your alone time...

DAVID
Do you remember my father's
funeral, Ray?

RAY takes a moment before responding, surprised by the
question.

RAY
Of course I do.

DAVID
And do you remember pulling my
mother aside?

RAY takes a deep breath and nods, shamefully. He also
scratches the back of his head.

RAY
I do.

DAVID
What'd you say to her that day?
(Hesitant.)

RAY sighs again and sits on the grass.

RAY
It's places like this that still
amaze me, you know that?

DAVID takes a moment before answering, confused that RAY didn't answer his question.

DAVID
Why is that?

RAY continues to look out at the view.

RAY
The simplicity.

A shot of the view.

RAY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
As chaotic as shit may seem, it's
always calm here.

Close up on RAY.

RAY (CONT'D)
It's always peaceful.

DAVID looks at RAY and takes a seat next to him.

DAVID
What'd you say to my mother that
day, Ray?
(Curious.)

RAY rubs his face, upset by what he is going to say.

RAY
I told her that I would take care
of her son.

RAY pauses, reflecting on what he said.

RAY (CONT'D)
That I wouldn't let anything bad
happen to him.
(Ashamed.)

RAY continues to look at the view.

DAVID
And what she say?

RAY thinks a moment.

RAY
She just looked at me, like she was
afraid or something.

DAVID gulps and shakes his head, clearly angry at himself.

DAVID
What you said at the club was
right. My family and I, we weren't
there for him. (Pause) I wasn't
there for him.

RAY sighs, aggravated he said that earlier.

RAY
David, it's not your fault. I was
just caught up in the moment.

DAVID
You're wrong, Ray.

RAY
I'm to blame. I'm the one that
never did enough. I'm the one that
pleaded ignorant.

DAVID pauses, clearly thinking about his relationship to
JAMES.

DAVID
I wasn't there when he needed me. I
was to caught up in my own
bullshit, to pissed at the world.

RAY leans back, truly exhausted because he's drunk.

RAY
Think what you want, David. There
will always be a million reasons to
blame yourself. (Brief Pause) But I
know what part I played in this.

He then lays on the grass and looks up at the stars.

RAY (CONT'D)
I just got no fight left in me.
(Defeated.)

DAVID leans back too. They are both laying down now.

DAVID
Me neither.
(Defeated.)

RAY starts sniffing his nose.

RAY
You got anymore dope?

DAVID pulls a bag of joints out from his pant's pocket. Both men are sitting up now. DAVID then hands them and a lighter to RAY.

RAY lights the joint, taking a big puff. He then breathes deeply.

RAY (CONT'D)
I fucking needed this in the worst
way.
(Satisfied.)

DAVID chuckles lightly.

DAVID
It's the least I can do for hitting
you.

RAY laughs lightly.

RAY
Sometimes we can all use a good
punch in the face.

DAVID lays back down.

RAY does as well, continuing to smoke.

DAVID
Why was James so pissed at you
today when I was there?
(Curious.)

RAY blows a cloud, reflecting on his relationship with JAMES.

RAY
He was always pissed at me.

RAY pauses.

RAY (CONT'D)
I think it all just became too much
for him.

DAVID continues to lay there thinking. His eyes get heavy.

RAY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 He was troubled, your brother. And
 he didn't know how to tell anyone.

RAY takes a puff of his joint and he continues to lay down
 and look at the stars.

RAY (CONT'D)
 Music was his way of expressing
 himself, but even that got old.

After thinking for a second, RAY turns his head and looks at
 DAVID.

DAVID is asleep.

RAY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Night, Kid.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

DAVID is suddenly standing in the same living room that we
 saw earlier at his mother's house, but it now looks like how
 it did when he was a child. He looks confused and a bit
 scared, as he stands in the corner of the room.

His eye line matches to three young kids, watching cartoons on
 the floor. These children are himself(6), JAMES (12) and
 ALLISON(8).

Seeing these kids makes DAVID even more anxious.

DAD (O.S.)
 I just don't understand why you
 want to stop trying.
 (Sad.)

DAVID looks up anxiously to see who's talking.

CUT TO:

INT. WALKWAY, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

A younger version of MOM has her arms folded and is looking
 away from a younger version of DAD. She turns around to
 confront him.

MOM
 Because I don't want to do it
 anymore!
 (Angry.)

DAD sighs and rubs his face.

DAD
 But the doctors said that you've
 progressed so much...

MOM
 Fuck the doctors!
 (Angry.)

DAD
 Honey, the children.
 (Uncomfortable with the
 swearing.)

MOM eye line matches with the children, who are staring
 nervously at her and their father fight.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

The kids abruptly focus on the television.

MOM (O.S.)
 What? Mind you're business and let
 your father and I talk.
 (Stern, rather nasty.)

Adult DAVID appears from the corner to continue watching this
 fight, as if he remembers it.

CUT TO:

INT. WALKWAY, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

DAD sighs and rubs his wife's arm.

DAD
 Lets discuss this upstairs.
 (Stressed.)

She pulls her arm away aggressively, showing no affection for
 her husband.

MOM
 I don't want anymore fucking shock
 treatment!
 (Loud and clear.)

DAD is again uncomfortable with the yelling and that she is continuing this adult conversation in front of the kids. He puts his head down in shame.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

Adult DAVID looks at the kids, who try to focus on the TV but can't help looking at each other with fear. He walks to the side of young DAVID, who has tears in his eyes.

MOM (O.S.)
 I'm going up stairs now...

Adult DAVID looks up.

CUT TO:

INT. WALKWAY, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

MOM is pointing her finger in DAD'S face.

MOM
 And I swear, if you follow me, I'll
 call the police again!

DAD keeps his head down.

MOM (CONT'D)
 You wanna get arrested in front of
 your kids tonight?
 (Aggressive.)

DAD
 No.

DAD looks at her now.

DAD (CONT'D)
 No I don't.
 (Disappointed.)

MOM
Then stay down here!
(Stern.)

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

Adult DAVID has a look of disappointment on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. WALKWAY, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

MOM stomps upstairs and DAD rubs his face, he is overwhelmed with what just happened.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

Young ALLISON gets up from watching TV and begins to hesitantly walk over to her father.

YOUNG ALLISON
Daddy?
(Anxious.)

CUT TO:

INT. WALKWAY, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

DAD kneels down, embracing his daughter with a hug.

DAD
What's wrong, honey?
(Sad.)

DAD kisses her head.

YOUNG ALLISON
What's wrong with, Mommy?
(Anxious.)

DAD pauses, not exactly sure how to answer the question.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

Adult DAVID continues to look disappointed, knowing exactly what is wrong here.

DAD (O.S.)
Well...

CUT TO:

INT. WALKWAY, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

DAD sighs.

DAD
Mommy's sick.

DAD again pauses and looks at his daughter with sadness.

DAD (CONT'D)
And she doesn't want to see to the
doctors anymore.

YOUNG ALLISON
Will she be okay?
(Concerned.)

DAD pauses, preparing for the lie that he is going to tell.

DAD
Of course sweet heart.

DAD hugs and kisses her again and then lifts her up.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM, CHILDHOOD HOME (DAVID'S DREAM)

He walks over into the living room by his two sons. He walks right past Adult DAVID.

DAD sits on the couch, putting his daughter down right next to him.

DAD
James, turn the TV off.

JAMES does what his father asks and both boys turn around.

DAD sighs again, looking completely stressed and overwhelmed.

DAD (CONT'D)
You boys okay?

JAMES and DAVID look at each other, both hesitant and both scared. ADULT DAVID is standing behind them, watching with deep sadness.

DAD (CONT'D)
Talk to me, guys. Tell me what
you're thinking about.

YOUNG JAMES
Why is she acting this way? What'd
we ever do to her?
(Angry.)

DAD thinks about the question for a second.

DAD
You heard what I said to your
sister.

Young JAMES stands up.

YOUNG JAMES
Don't give me that crap, Dad! I'm
not some little kid!

DAD
James...
(Wants his son to calm
down.)

YOUNG JAMES
No! I hate it here! It's not fair
that she acts all wacko...

DAD stands up angrily and points his finger.

DAD
James stop!
(Talks through his teeth.)

JAMES complies with his father, intimidated by the way he expressed himself.

DAD continues to point his finger at JAMES.

DAD (CONT'D)
I don't need this.

He then looks at all his kids.

DAD (CONT'D)
We all don't need this.

Adult DAVID has tears in his eyes.

DAD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
But these are the cards we've been
dealt.

DAD (CONT'D)
Now we're a family, so we'll handle
this as a family.

DAD looks at each of his children again.

DAD (CONT'D)
Understood?

Young JAMES sighs and nods after a second.

DAD (CONT'D)
Now I want all of you to give me a
group hug.

Young JAMES looks down at Young DAVID, who looks back up at
him.

DAD (CONT'D)
Come on guys. We're in this
together, Mom needs us.

Young ALLISON stands up and gives her father a huge hug.

Young JAMES watches them for a second and then joins in.

Young DAVID stands up, watching them hug.

DAD looks at Young DAVID as he hugs his other children.

DAD (CONT'D)
Come on, DAVID.
(Gentle.)

Adult DAVID awaits to see what the younger version of himself
does.

Young DAVID then joins the hug. They all hug together now.

Adult DAVID breaks down into tears and falls to his knees.

DAD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It's gonna be okay guys, I promise.

Adult DAVID continues to cry.

DAD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Why doesn't one of you pick out a
 movie for us to watch?

Adult DAVID looks up as their hug disassembles.

YOUNG ALLISON
 Can I pick?

DAD
 Sure, just give me 5 minutes to go
 smoke outside.

Adult DAVID looks at his father who leaves the house.

Adult DAVID stands up quickly.

DAVID
 No.
 (Panicked and under his
 breath.)

He then runs outside himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVID'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE, BY THE GARAGE (DREAM) (SUN IS
 SETTING)

DAD is smoking a cigarette, deep into thought.

Adult DAVID storms out of the house, looking for his father.
 He then sees that he is by the garage.

DAVID
 Dad! Dad stop!
 (Panicked.)

DAD cannot hear him and he continues to smoke.

DAVID runs next to him.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Dad please, put it out!

Close up on DAD inhaling the cigarette.

DAVID is becoming hysterical again and grabs his father by
 the shoulders and his shaking him.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Dad! Put out the fucking cigarette!

DAD still cannot here his son, see him or feel being shook. He even takes another puff, which makes DAVID put his head on his father's shoulder.

Close up on the shoulder and the head.

DAD (O.S.)
David!
(Stern.)

Adult DAVID looks up and sees that his father is looking by the door.

Young DAVID is standing outside looking at his father.

DAD (CONT'D)
Go back inside, I don't want you
breathing this stuff in.

YOUNG DAVID
We picked a movie, Dad.

DAD breathes lightly but coughs a little, it sounds like a smoker's cough.

DAD
Alright.

DAD moves away from Adult DAVID and tosses the cigarette on the ground, putting it out with his foot.

DAD (CONT'D)
I'm coming.

Adult DAVID continues to watch.

DAD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
What are we watching?

DAD picks up YOUNG DAVID and brings him inside.

DAVID
Allison picked it.

Adult DAVID watches as the door is shut on him. He then turns and looks at the smashed cigarette on the driveway.

RAY (V.O.)
David.

DAVID looks around anxiously for the voice and then looks up to the sky with confusion.

RAY (V.O.)
David wake up.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL (MORNING)

Point of view of DAVID, close up on RAY'S face, who is staring at DAVID.

Regular view now, DAVID sits up, RAY is on his knees.

RAY
You were twitching like a mother
fucker, bad dream?

DAVID takes a deep breath, looking freaked out.

DAVID
Yeah.

RAY stands up and looks at his watch.

RAY
Come on, lets go get something to
eat.

DAVID continues to sit there, as if he is disturbed.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER (MORNING)

DAVID and RAY sit in a booth, each of them has a cup of coffee in front of them.

RAY
I'll tell ya, that joint did
wonders for me.

DAVID nods, not really interested in the conversation. He looks out the window, looking as if he is in a whole other world.

RAY takes a sip of his coffee, uncomfortable with DAVID'S silence.

RAY (CONT'D)
What happened to your head?

DAVID looks at RAY and breathes lightly.

DAVID
My Mom hit it with a hot pan.

DAVID takes a sip of his coffee.

RAY nods.

RAY
I'd take it she took the news hard?

RAY takes a sip of his coffee.

DAVID nods in disagreement.

DAVID
It didn't even faze her. Her or
Allison.
(Sad.)

RAY takes a moment before responding.

RAY
Everybody grieves differently.

DAVID takes another sip of his coffee, raising his eye brows
as he does.

A female waitress comes to the table, 25 and black, with a
tray of pancakes on a plate.

WAITRESS
Here we go.
(Enthusiastic.)

WAITRESS puts the food down in front of RAY.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)
Can I get you anything else?

RAY
No I'm good, thanks.

RAY begins to slobber his pancakes in syrup.

DAVID looks at RAY, like he's gross.

WAITRESS (O.S.)
And how about you?

DAVID looks up.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)
You sure I can't get you anything?
(Smiley, even a bit
flirty.)

DAVID
No thanks.

WAITRESS smiles and then leaves the two men.

RAY turns and watches as she goes, he then looks at DAVID.

RAY
She likes you, you know.

DAVID
What?
(Confused.)

RAY
I can tell with her eyes, the way
she looked at you.

DAVID sighs and rubs his face.

DAVID
Are you happy with your life, Ray?
(Genuinely curious.)

RAY
Am I happy with my life?
(Confused by the
question.)

RAY chuckles a little.

RAY (CONT'D)
What kind of question is that?
(Insecure.)

DAVID
You don't have to answer it if you
don't want to.

DAVID drinks a sip of his coffee.

RAY sits back in his seat now, thinking about the question.

DAVID looks like he is going back into his daze.

RAY (O.S.)
I mean, what is there to be happy
about?

DAVID looks at RAY again.

RAY (CONT'D)
I'm single, and the one person who
I had left in my life is dead now.
And he wasn't even to fond of me.

DAVID smirks in a gentle way, thinking about his brother with RAY'S comment.

RAY breathes deeply.

RAY (CONT'D)
Yeah I'm fucked, kid.
(Defeated.)

DAVID puts his head down in sadness.

RAY (CONT'D)
Completely fucked.

RAY rubs the center of his forehead, as if he has a head ache. He is clearly stressed, depressed and now dwelling on life.

DAVID drinks another sip of his coffee, still sad himself.

RAY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And how about you?

DAVID looks at RAY.

RAY (CONT'D)
Besides your brother dying of
course, are you a happy guy?

DAVID takes a moment before responding.

DAVID
Not really.

RAY chuckles lightly.

RAY
You got the whole world in front of
ya, kid. Why wouldn't you be happy?
(Encouraging.)

DAVID
It doesn't feel like I have the
whole world in front of me.
(Sad.)

RAY
Please, with your looks, I'd be
having the time of my life.

DAVID
Is that all that you think life is
about? Just fucking around?

RAY
What? You got a girlfriend or
something?

DAVID pauses briefly, bothered by JULIA.

DAVID
No.

RAY
That sounds like girlfriend talk to
me.

RAY takes a sip of his coffee.

DAVID again pauses, reflecting on his relationship with
JULIA.

DAVID
It's complicated.

RAY
How so?

RAY takes a bite from his pancakes.

DAVID pauses briefly, hesitant to share so much of his
personal life to RAY.

DAVID
She's engaged to another man.

RAY
And?
(Confused.)

DAVID sighs, ashamed over what he is going to reveal.

DAVID
She's been sleeping with me all the
years she's been with him and now
that she's getting married, she
wants to just be friends.

RAY shrugs, taking another bite of his pancakes.

RAY

On to the next one then, right?.

DAVID takes a moment before responding, thinking about how he feels.

DAVID

I love her. But she doesn't trust me. I've let her down to many times before.

(Discouraged.)

RAY puts down his fork, focusing on DAVID completely.

RAY

I was in love with this chick once, her name was Angelina. (A quick reminiscent pause) We even talked about getting married.

DAVID

What happened?

(Intrigued and surprised by this.)

RAY sighs, talking about ANGELINA still upsets him.

RAY

I thought I could be with her and work with James at the same time. Shit ended up hitting the fan though.

DAVID drinks a sip of his coffee, thinking about RAY'S story.

RAY (CONT'D)

What's funny is that the worst part about it, wasn't even that the relationship ended between us.

DAVID

What was it then?

(Curious.)

RAY

She was my best friend (Reminiscent pause). The one and only person I could ever really talk too. And now, she hates me.

DAVID is absorbing what RAY is saying.

RAY (CONT'D)

If you care about this chick,
David, then don't let her go. Even
if friendship is all that's left.
Because that's better than having
her out of your life completely.

RAY goes to eat some more of his pancakes but the pancake
falls off his fork.

RAY (CONT'D)

Shit.
(Quietly to himself.)

Another close up on an intrigued DAVID.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY, OUT SIDE THE GATES (MORNING)

"James's Funeral", is written on the screen.

There are lines of people outside of the cemetery, wanting to
pay their respects to the great JAMES ROBIN.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY (MORNING)

The grave itself is closed off to the public, only DAVID is
there. He stands and looks at the tombstone, which is next to
his father's.

Off screen, footsteps can be heard. DAVID turns around.

ALLISON is standing there, looking at her brother awkwardly.

ALLISON

Hi.
(Uncomfortable.)

DAVID takes a moment to respond, surprised to see his sister.

DAVID

Hey.
(Surprised but calm.)

ALLISON looks at the tombstone as she moves in a few steps
closer to DAVID.

ALLISON
You did a nice job with his
tombstone.

DAVID nods.

DAVID
Thanks.

ALLISON
How much did it cost you?
(Hesitant.)

DAVID ignores her question, he instead just turns and looks at the tombstone again.

ALLISON puts her head down, a little ashamed that she asked, but she then walks over to her brother and stands next to him.

He looks at her with a bit of discomfort but he quickly embraces it and continues to look at the tombstone. ALLISON's face becomes more and more shocked though.

Close up on her face, then an eye line match to the tombstone.

Her lip quivers as tears slowly begin to stream down her face.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
Oh my God.
(Hysterical but quiet.)

ALLISON breaks down in tears. Although he is first hesitant, DAVID grabs her and holds her, he holds her tight. As she cries, DAVID'S eyes tear up.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
He's dead.
(Hysterical.)

DAVID
I know.
(Trying to keep her calm.)

ALLISON
He's really dead.
(Hysterical.)

DAVID sighs with grief.

DAVID

I know.
(Trying to keep her calm.)

Eye line match with the tombstone.

ALLISON (O.S.)

Oh, James.
(Still hysterical.)

Another close up on DAVID, a tear drop runs down his eye.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL (AFTERNOON)

DAVID and ALLISON are enjoying a bottle of booze on the hill that DAVID was at a few nights earlier. DAVID has the bottle in his hand. ALLISON is also smoking a cigarette.

ALLISON

Can you believe it's been 10 years?
(Reminiscent.)

DAVID turns to his sister.

DAVID

I've been thinking a lot about him,
with everything and all.

She puts out her cigarette and sighs.

ALLISON

So have I.

She snaps her fingers and puts out her hand.

DAVID passes her the bottle.

She takes a big sip and then breathes lightly.

DAVID

I had this dream that we were kids
again. (Pauses)
(Hesitant.)

ALLISON looks at her brother curiously.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It was a dream of that time when
Mom refused anymore help.

ALLISON puts her head down, not sure what to say.

DAVID looks as if he is in another world, lost in his thoughts.

DAVID (CONT'D)

And Dad pulled us in for a group hug, saying we had to stick together.

(A bit ashamed because he knows that is not what they have done.)

ALLISON sighs due to her discomfort with the conversation and takes out her pack of cigarettes.

ALLISON

Yeah, well dreams can really fuck you up.

(Almost insensitive but not exactly. She is just not fully comfortable with sentimentality, despite her outburst from before.)

She lites her cigarette.

DAVID looks as if he wants to say something else.

DAVID

Do you ever think about Mom, Allison?

(Hesitant.)

ALLISON sighs with annoyance.

ALLISON

What's your obsession with her all of a sudden?

ALLISON takes a puff.

DAVID

I'm not obsessed.
(Defensive.)

ALLISON

You haven't seen her since Dad died. You barely saw any of us, why does it matter so much now?

(Annoyed.)

DAVID takes a moment before responding, trying to sum up exactly what he feels.

DAVID
She keeps a shot gun in the kitchen
and likes to burn herself.
(Stern.)

ALLISON looks at DAVID with a bit of shock but she doesn't admit her worrying.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I went over there the other night,
remember?

ALLISON takes another puff of her smoke, looking at the view.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's gotten real fucked up over at
that house. That's why it matters
so much now.

ALLISON'S phone rings, signaling she got a text message. She looks at her phone and rolls her eyes.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

ALLISON
It's just Todd, checking in on me.
(Emphasis on the second
part of the sentence, she
is annoyed by this.)

She gives the finger to her phone.

DAVID
Where was he today?

ALLISON
I told him not to come. The kids
never knew their uncle and I
certainly didn't want today to be
their first encounter with him.

DAVID nods.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
So he went to his douchebag
friend's house. They're all filling
their guts with beer and wings.
Watching football while the kids
play in the yard.

She takes a puff of her smoke.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
It's a beautiful story, isn't it?
(Sarcastic)

DAVID
Why are you even married to this
guy for?
(A little bit of hesitance
in his voice.)

ALLISON
Why am I married to him?
(Surprised by the
question.)

DAVID
You seem so unhappy. Why don't you
just leave him?

ALLISON takes one more puff from her smoke and then puts it out, she is thinking of a response for her brother.

ALLISON
Despite what we grew up seeing, I
don't believe that's how a marriage
works.

She sighs.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
You don't just give up on someone
who you've known a majority of your
life. You ride out it together
miserably until you die, it's a sad
picture but it's reality.

DAVID takes a moment to truly acknowledge what his sister had just said.

DAVID
That could be the most truthful
thing you've ever said.

ALLISON
Yeah, well sometimes I know what
I'm taking about.

DAVID nods, as if he has had an epiphany of some sorts.

DAVID
And that's why we can't give up on
Mom.

DAVID stands up.

ALLISON is shocked over what her brother had just said.

ALLISON
What?
(Annoyed and confused.)

She stands up.

DAVID
You just said we can't give up on
those who we are close to.

ALLISON
But we're not close to Mom, David.
(Defensive.)

DAVID takes a deep breath.

DAVID
She's our mother, Allison.

ALLISON puts her head down, thinking about what her brother just said.

DAVID looks at her and takes a moment before responding.

DAVID (CONT'D)
We're all she's got.
(Says with true honesty.)

She keeps her head down, still thinking. Feeling a bit sympathetic.

DAVID kisses his sister on her forehead. She looks up surprised.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'll call you this weekend.

They look at each other another second, embracing each other as blood relatives again and then DAVID storms off. ALLISON watches as her brother runs.

DAVID runs to his car with an eager look on his face.

Close up on ALLISON who has the sun beaming behind her, making her glow, she then looks at the view.

Close up on the view.

Undigetically, church bells can be heard.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH (MORNING)

Medium shot of the church. Church bells can be heard.

"Julia's Wedding Day" is written on the screen.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM (MORNING)

JULIA is seen sitting down in her dressing room, in her wedding dress and make up. She stares into the mirror indecisively. A knock at the door can be heard.

JULIA

Come in.

(Enthusiastic, changing
her body language as the
person comes in.)

FRIEND, age 28 and Latino, walks in with a card. FRIEND looks at JULIA with amazement.

FRIEND

Girl, you look gorgeous.

JULIA smiles and turns around to face her friend.

JULIA

Do I really?
(Humble.)

FRIEND smiles.

FRIEND

You're stunning.

JULIA grabs her stomach.

JULIA

I'm just so nervous.

FRIEND

Marriage is some scary ass shit.

FRIEND smiles.

FRIEND (CONT'D)
But it's great.

JULIA
Is it really?

FRIEND smiles and then walks up to JULIA and hands her a card.

FRIEND
Here.

JULIA looks at the card, it has her name on it.

JULIA
What's this?

FRIEND (O.S.)
Some guy asked me to give it to you. Said he was a friend or something.

JULIA'S body language implies that she is surprised because she knows it is from DAVID.

FRIEND looks in the mirror.

FRIEND (CONT'D)
How does my hair look?

JULIA is snapped back out of her shock.

JULIA
You look beautiful.
(Smiles.)

FRIEND smiles and touches JULIA'S shoulder

FRIEND
Alright, well I'll see you out there.

FRIEND begins to walk out. JULIA smiles back but her mind is absolutely focused on the card. When the door shuts, JULIA opens the card, which is written in script.

She takes a deep breath and then begins to read it.

DAVID (V.O.)
Dear Julia.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S CAR (DAY)

DAVID is driving his car, he looks determined.

DAVID (V.O.)
These last few days have been real
crazy for me.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM

JULIA is seen laughing with her brides maids, getting ready.

DAVID (V.O.)
To be honest, these last 10 years
have been real crazy for me.

When she sees the letter on the table against the mirror, in
its envelope, she turns serious.

CUT TO:

INT. FLOWER SHOP (DAY)

DAVID is seen purchasing flowers, at the cash register.

DAVID (V.O.)
I think that when my Dad died, I
shut out reality.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLOWER SHOP (DAY)

DAVID walks out of the flower shop.

DAVID (V.O.)
And unfortunately, it took the
death of my brother for my eyes to
open again.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH

Everyone stands as the doors open, JULIA walks down the aisle
with her father.

DAVID (V.O.)
I will always love you and you will
always be that one true person who
I know I can go to in a crisis.

Close up on JULIA who is looking at everyone while she walks.

DAVID (V.O.)
But because of how much I care for
you and because I want you to be
happy...

Eye line match to an empty seat in the church.

DAVID (V.O.)
I will accept that we can be
nothing more than friends now.

Close up on JULIA, who looks a bit let down to see that empty
seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILL (NIGHT) (FLASH BACK)

DAVID and JULIA are sitting on the hill (from the other
night).

DAVID (V.O.)
You deserve much more than me,
Julia, because you are better than
me. And I can't let myself hold you
back any longer.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH

Another close up on JULIA, who continues to walk down the
aisle.

DAVID (V.O.)
I will always be there for you but
as your friend.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVID'S MOM'S HOUSE (DAY)

DAVID gets out of his car with a bouquet of flowers.

DAVID (V.O.)
And I promise I'll work on being
better, being better to people,
starting with those close to me.

He takes a deep breath and we do not see yet where exactly he
is.

A clear shot of his mom's house.

DAVID (V.O.)
Because that's the least that I can
do for you, Julia.

DAVID now begins to walk up the driveway.

DAVID (V.O.)
You've given me hope again.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH (DAY)

JULIA is at the alter with her husband to be. He is white, 33
and has brown hair. She eye line matches with that empty
seat.

DAVID (V.O.)
Hope that the world still has
something to offer me.

Then in silence, the Priest says that her husband may kiss
her. They kiss.

Everyone starts to clap as they stand.

JULIA and the husband face the crowd. This huge smile then
forms on her face.

DAVID (V.O.)
Love always of course...

CUT TO:

INT. DAVID'S MOM'S HOUSE (DAY)

MOM opens the door and sees DAVID standing there with
flowers. He has a small smile on his face.

DAVID (V.O.)
David Robin.

MOM looks at him with a bit of confusion.

FADE OUT.

THE END