

A Whiter Shade Than Pale

written by

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WHITE TEXT OVER A BLACK SCREEN:

"To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead." - Bertrand Russell.

FADE IN:

INT. HEADMASTER'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: September 2nd, 1988

It's dusk, and the orange of the setting sun shines through the windows of a small wooden office. In front of the window displaying the beautiful sunset, Headmaster GRAINGER, 62, an old, yet youthful looking man in a brown suit sits in front of a young, handsome jock with a thick head of curly hair. This is FELIX. His leg lifts up and down rapidly, impatient.

The clock's ticking is audible.

GRAINGER

Anything you find interesting about yourself? Any hobbies or accomplishments?

Felix SMIRKS.

FELIX

There isn't much that's interesting about me, Mr. Grainger.

GRAINGER

It says here that you're from New York city, but you came here to Canada. I think that's pretty interesting, Felix. How's New York?

FELIX

Terrible. It's why we left.

GRAINGER

I see. And why's that?

FELIX

You see bums everywhere you go. People screaming constantly. People say I'm a loud kid, but these cabbies, geez, you should see 'em. It's really the noise. Here, it's much quieter.

GRAINGER

You're very right about that.

He swirls his chair to face the window behind him. There are vast fields of green, with smoothly cut grass, seemingly unending, accompanied by the warm sunset that shines against their faces.

Some highschool students, still in their uniform, throw a frisbee outside. They look tiny from this view.

GRAINGER (CONT'D)

We have quite the school.

FELIX

You do. Y'think I'll eva' get used to this?

Grainger turns back around and smiles.

GRAINGER

Let's hope you don't.

EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS - MOMENTS LATER

Felix walks out of the large, multi-storied brick building, covered in vines. We see the full extent of this campus' beauty. Felix walks onto the field where he sees the teens playing frisbee.

He smiles.

The field is surrounded by a concrete pathway and the large, brick buildings. Felix takes a deep inhale. He exhales. Fresh air.

A couple of the teens playing frisbee spot him.

Felix walks towards them.

FELIX

What's going on here?

The kids look at each other. A ginger boy with a bright red cap answers:

GINGER

Some frisbee.

FELIX

Cool.

An awkward pause. A girl asks:

GIRL

You wanna join?

FELIX
Yeah. Yeah, of course.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Felix sits in one of the pews. A small pathway in the middle leads to the end of the chapel, where the chaplain speaks, and on its two sides, the pews. Crowded. Chatty.

Ginger, now known as ANDREW, groans.

ANDREW
When will the school learn that
kids don't wanna sit in these
crammed seats listening to a sermon
they don't care about for an hour?

A group of goth guys enter the chapel and seat themselves in the pews across from them.

FELIX
(points at some goth guys)
I bet those satanists hate it.

Andrew CACKLES.

ANDREW
Fucking faggots.

FELIX
You betcha'. Jesus Christ, what do
you think they do when they get
home?

ANDREW
Cut their wrists.

FELIX
(chuckles)
You betcha'. Aw, you betcha'.

ANDREW
I wish I could kick their asses.
Beat them to a pulp.

FELIX
You betcha'.

ANDREW
Hey, you could probably take on all
of 'em at once.

FELIX

I don't even wanna touch 'em.

ANDREW

I'm serious. You're fit. You should join the football team. Y'know, when the season comes around.

Felix turns to Andrew.

FELIX

Y'think so?

ANDREW

Fuck yeah.

Felix nods. He looks back at the people entering the chapel. A beautiful, strawberry blond girl enters the chapel. This is EMERALD, 18. She looks uninterested and judgemental. Felix is smitten.

FELIX

Who is that chick?

ANDREW

Huh? Oh, that's Emerald.

Andrew elbows Felix and LAUGHS.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

You're not getting with that, believe me.

FELIX

Fuck off.

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY

Felix enters and sees EMERALD, 16, sitting at her desk. He GRINS and approaches her with a warm smile. He sits in the seat beside her.

FELIX

Hi.

She doesn't respond. Not even bothering to glance at him.

FELIX (CONT'D)

What's with the silence?

She finally looks back at him.

EMERALD
I haven't seen you before.

FELIX
Yeah. Well, I'm new.

EMERALD
What's your name?

FELIX
What's your name?

Emerald SMIRKS.

EMERALD
I'm Emerald.

FELIX
(chuckles)
That's a beautiful name.

EMERALD
Is it?

A beat.

FELIX
Well. No.

Emerald LAUGHS.

EMERALD
And what's your name?

FELIX
Felix. I guess we both got some
weird fucking names, huh?

Emerald shrugs.

EMERALD
Felix isn't a terrible name.

FELIX
Neither's Emerald.

Emerald smiles.

FELIX (CONT'D)
You any good at this stuff?

EMERALD
What stuff?

Felix points at the board. The teacher is writing down math equations.

EMERALD (CONT'D)

Oh. Yeah.

FELIX

Yeah...?

EMERALD

Yes. I mean 'yes.' I'm good at math.

FELIX

So I guess your tests are the ones I'm gonna cheat off of this year.

EMERALD

Lots of boys like to sit next to me. Your spot might get taken.

FELIX

I guess I gotta get here extra early then.

Emerald CHUCKLES.

EMERALD

Guess so.

The teacher calls on the two.

TEACHER

Quiet in the back, please.

The two straighten themselves and face the front of the class. They glance at each other and repress their smiles.

Suddenly, a student bursts through the door, out of breath, hair still wet from his shower, and his tie much too loose. He's young and has a boyish face. He looks innocent and vulnerable. This is THOMAS, 18.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

You're late Thomas. Care to elaborate why?

THOMAS

(quiet)
Alarm.

TEACHER

Sorry?

THOMAS
(louder)
My alarm. It didn't go off.

TEACHER
This is your first ever class and
you're late. Not a great start to
the year, no?

Thomas doesn't know how to reply.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Kidding. I knew your brother, he
was just like you. But please, sit
down.

Thomas gives nervous smile and sits down, one seat in front
of Felix.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

A crowd of teenagers walk out of the math classroom.

FELIX
I'll see you around, I guess.

EMERALD
Yeah, I'll see you.

Emerald walks the other direction. Thomas taps on Felix's
shoulder.

THOMAS
You in kahoots with that girl
Emerald?

FELIX
Are you- are you talking to me?

THOMAS
Yeah. You're tight with her?

FELIX
(chuckles)
Nah, I wish. But I think I'm
getting there.

THOMAS
You are. You are.

Awkward silence.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Hey, ya smoke weed?

A beat.

FELIX
I mean...yeah. On and off.

THOMAS
Wanna hit some?

FELIX
I mean, I got classes to attend
(looks up at clock)
and it's gonna be tight.

THOMAS
Tight? C'mon it's just one hit man.
Couple at most.

Felix sucks his teeth. A beat.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
It's free weed! I got it off of
some jinx at the town. Said he
couldn't get caught with it and
gave it to me. You know these
fuckers, they're a nice bunch.

A beat.

FELIX
Fuck it, y'know.

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Felix and Thomas smoke weed, sitting on a log. They're
already very high.

FELIX
You ever wonder how many people are
born a day? That's a whole person.
And there's like- like a million of
them.

THOMAS
Think about how many die.
(chuckles)
So many dead people.

FELIX
Could be me. Could be you.

THOMAS
Dying doesn't feel real.

A beat.

FELIX
It doesn't.

THOMAS
Like, I don't I've fully processed
that thought yet.

FELIX
Me neither.

A beat.

THOMAS
We're going to die. Eventually.

A beat.

FELIX
Why's our math teacher such a piece
of shit?

THOMAS
Heh.

FELIX
What a retard.

THOMAS
You want another hit?

A beat.

FELIX
(croaks)
Nah.

THOMAS
Your loss.

Thomas lights up another joint and inhales. Exhale.

FELIX
Hey, when's class start?

A beat.

THOMAS
Eleven.

FELIX
And what time is it now?

A beat.

THOMAS
One.

EXT. CAMPUS - EVENING

Felix waits outside with a crowded bunch waiting for the school bus to arrive. A long winding road leads out of the property. As he waits, a tussle begins behind him:

A skinny, but tall boy, AJ, pushes another boy, JUNIOR to the ground.

AJ
Don't fucking say that shit again.

Junior scrambles to stand up, but Aj stomps right onto his face. The onlookers wince. Some cheer.

AJ (CONT'D)
Fucking piece of shit.

Aj bends down and grabs Junior by his shirt and begins to repeatedly punch him. Felix observes. An onlooker, COOPER, cackles.

COOPER
FUCK HIM UP!

Felix taps on Cooper.

FELIX
What'd he do?

COOPER
Fuck would I know.

Aj stops punching. Junior lays on the ground, whimpering, blood covered face.

FELIX
(mutter)
The fuck?

Aj stands over Junior. He points at him.

AJ
You're fucking lucky I stopped! You piece of shit.

Aj walks away and towards Felix. They bump shoulders.

AJ (CONT'D)

Move.

INT. SCHOOL COMMONS - CONTINUOUS

Thomas sits on a sofa with a binder in front of him. His concentration is abruptly cut short as he eyes Emerald walking by. She walks with a couple of her friends.

Thomas' eyes follow her slowly, but attentively. His phone RINGS. He picks up, still keeping his gaze.

THOMAS

(on phone)

Yeah?

OLDER PERSON (O.S.)

I'm outside.

Thomas SIGHS. He hangs up.

EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS - MOMENTS LATER

Thomas opens the exit doors. A slick, black car is parked outside. Thomas looks over and sees a crowd of teenagers, surrounding a fight. Felix beats on AJ.

The driver of the black car waiting for Thomas opens the door and steps out. This is CURTIS, 21.

CURTIS

What's going on over there?

Thomas walks towards the car.

THOMAS

Dunno.

They both step into the car.

CURTIS

Your parents are sending you here because they thought it was better for ya'. You're telling me this is what fifty grand a year has to offer?

THOMAS

Can we just go home?

Curtis looks back. He sees Felix pinning AJ against the wall.

CURTIS
Jesus Christ. You know that guy?

THOMAS
Yeah, I actually do.

Curtis looks back at Thomas.

CURTIS
The one getting beat or the one
beating?

THOMAS
Beating.

CURTIS
Nice. Nice. Good choice of friend.
No way you'll get picked on if he's
around.

THOMAS
We're not friends. I just know him.

CURTIS
Yeah. You don't really have
friends, no?

No reply.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
You can stay lonely, Thomas. You
can stay weird. And hopefully you
never look at yourself in the
fucking mirror and realize who you
really are. That would be a
heartbreaker.

Thomas looks out the window. Curtis starts the car.

THOMAS
(mutters)
I know what I am.

EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS

Felix fights AJ. The fight is finally broken up by a group of staff members. The crowd soon leaves to go on the bus. One teacher pulls on AJ's blazer, sending him flying backwards into the teacher's grasp.

STAFF 1
Stop fighting it Davidson!

AJ squirms in the staff member's hold. Felix successfully shake off the staff that try to subdue him and signals that he has no intention of fighting anymore. The staff stop, also freeing AJ.

STAFF 1 (CONT'D)
You two boys get on the damn bus.
Expect a meeting with Mr. Hurley.

AJ
Fuck off.

The two sulk back to the bus.

AJ (CONT'D)
You're a pussy, you know that?

FELIX
And you're a sociopath.

AJ
(chuckles)
You got a black eye.

FELIX
I fucking deformed your face.

AJ
No you fucking didn't.

FELIX
Oh. Well then I'm even more sorry.

EXT. THOMAS' HOME - LATER

Beautiful home. Large, but not large enough to be called a mansion. Thomas steps onto his porch as Curtis opens the door for him.

INT. THOMAS' HOME - CONTINUOUS

Curtis walks up the stairs. Thomas stands at the door for an uncomfortable amount of time. Finally, he walks to the living room.

His father, MR. KIRBY, sits on the sofa, watching the TV. He looks back.

KIRBY
Back already?

No reply. Kirby looks back to the TV.

KIRBY (CONT'D)
Where's your brother?

No reply.

KIRBY (CONT'D)
You need to talk to us, Thomas.

Thomas leaves the room. Kirby SIGHS.

INT. THOMAS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Thomas enters his room. It is a plain, uninteresting, typical teenage boy bedroom, however there are no posters on the wall, no theme to his bed's mattress, and a small white desk with a lamp in the corner.

Thomas sits on the bed. He lifts his pillow, and there's a letter. He reads it. He SMILES.

INT. FELIX'S HOME (ENTRANCE) - CONTINUOUS

Felix opens his front door, slowly. It's a smaller, humbler home. Wood floor bungalow. He drops his backpack at the door.

FELIX
Mom?

No reply.

Felix walks up the stairs.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Felix enters Mandy's room. A small girl lays in bed, sickly. This is MANDY, 10. She heavily breathes, struggling.

FELIX
Hey.

MANDY
Hey Felix.

Felix sits in the chair next to the bed.

MANDY (CONT'D)
How was school?

Felix points at his black eye.

FELIX
Guess.

MANDY
(pained chuckles)
Pretty shitty.

FELIX
Wrong. It was *very* shitty.

MANDY
D'you get beat up or something?
God, look at your face.

FELIX
I beat him up, alright? Don't
listen to anybody who tells you
anything other than that. Fucking
wise guys.

Felix reaches for a cigar in his inner blazer pocket, but
stops himself.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Sorry. Force of habit.

MANDY
It's okay. If you wanna get me
killed.

FELIX
Yeah, yeah. What matters is I
didn't.

MANDY
Do you do that to impress girls or
something?

FELIX
What, smoking?

MANDY
Duh.

FELIX
Fuck no!

MANDY
Sure buddy.

A beat.

FELIX
I mean, you think it works?

MANDY
(giggles)
No.

FELIX
Why am I asking a ten year old? You
know nothing. Stupid fucking kid.

A beat.

MANDY
Dad's still at the cemetery.

FELIX
(uninterested)
Yeah, well he's a weak guy.

MANDY
I'm worried about him.

FELIX
He's fine. You have worse things to
worry about.

MANDY
I don't know, Felix.

FELIX
It's been a year, Mandy, Jesus. He
should be working by now. Not
sulking.

MANDY
Do you even miss her?

A beat. Felix eyes water, but it is barely noticeable.

FELIX
(under breath)
'Course.

Mandy SIGHS.

MANDY
Well Dad misses her too. And I miss
her.

A beat.

MANDY (CONT'D)
Remember when I used to play the
piano for her?

Felix nods.

FELIX
It was pretty fucking beautiful.
'Member she cried?

Mandy CHUCKLES.

MANDY
Crybaby.

Felix LAUGHS.

A beat.

MANDY (CONT'D)
I should be grateful she never got
to see me like this.

Felix's smile drops.

FELIX
Don't say that.

MANDY
You disagree?

FELIX
Don't say that, Mandy. Just don't
say that please.

A beat.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Listen, um, I need to leave now.
Well, technically, I shoulda' left
ten minutes ago.

MANDY
Where are you going on a Monday
evening?

FELIX
That is *none of your business*.

MANDY
Don't be secretive! Just say it!

FELIX
 (jokingly)
 I'm leaving now. I'm leaving you
 here, and I might just never come
 back, dealing with your childish
 ass.

MANDY
 Good riddance.

Felix walks backwards to the door. As he closes it-

FELIX
 I'm gone, I'm leaving...

Mandy flips him off.

INT. EMERALD'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Emerald and her mother, MS. BERRY, 51, open the front door.
 The biggest house of the three. It's a beautiful home,
 decorated with fine antiques and stunning paintings that hang
 on the walls.

MS. BERRY
 I'm leaving in a bit. Angel's still
 on vacation, so I'm gonna need to
 drop off the vases.

Berry walks to the kitchen and begins organizing cutlery and
 dishes. Emerald watches.

MS. BERRY (CONT'D)
 So, don't be naughty.

EMERALD
 Naughty..?

MS. BERRY
 You know what I mean. I'm gone
 until the morning.

EMERALD
 It's a four hour drive.

MS. BERRY
 Driving past twelve A.M.? Hell. No.

EMERALD
 Is there food?

MS. BERRY

Lasagna in the fridge. Don't finish it, though, save some for your brother.

EMERALD

He won't be here.

MS. BERRY

In case.

EMERALD

Mom, he's never here. And tonight's gonna be no different. He's probably sleeping at "Brandon's" house or something.

MS. BERRY

You may be right, but if he comes home and there's no food, he may never come back.

EMERALD

You're joking but that's something he'd do.

MS. BERRY

AJ's a good kid.

EMERALD

Pfft. Only time I see him is at school.

MS. BERRY

And he's my son. And he's your brother. We love him.

A beat. Emerald looks at the ground.

MS. BERRY (CONT'D)

Anyways, I'm leaving now. Leave some lasagna. Don't be naughty. And sleep early. It's a school night.

Ms. Berry kisses Emerald on the cheek and leaves.

Emerald walks to her landline and dials urgently.

INT. THOMAS' CAR - CONTINUOUS

Thomas drives and Felix sits in the passenger seat. A quiet radio station plays.

FELIX
Hey, man, you don't have to do
this.

THOMAS
It's not a problem.

A long moment of silence from both of them. Just the radio
plays.

FELIX
Can't believe it.

THOMAS
What?

FELIX
My life. Why's it turning out like
this?

THOMAS
(snickers)
Want me to turn around?

FELIX
Fuck no.

A beat.

FELIX (CONT'D)
You know, I thought I could be
someone. Like, a guy that people
would point at and say to their
kids 'Son, that's who you want be
when you grow up'. That would be
good. I'd like that a lot. Instead,
I'm the guy they point at and say
to their kid, 'Don't grow up to be
like him'. Or, 'Don't do drugs'.

He wipes his face.

FELIX (CONT'D)
My fucking sister doesn't even know
I'm still on it. She'll be dead in
less than a year and that still
won't stop me. If that doesn't
fucking stop me, what the fuck can?

Thomas SHRUGS and looks to Felix.

THOMAS
Just don't be a baby.

Felix CHUCKLES, wiping his eyes.

FELIX
Fuck you man.

A pleasant 80's song begins to play on the radio. As the intro plays, Felix's eyes water. He looks out the window and shuts his eyes. A tear strolls down his face.

THOMAS
Oh shit. I love this song man.

Thomas turns up the volume. He begins to sing along with the song, tapping his wheel rhythmically. Felix rests his head against the window. He mouths the lyrics, holding back tears.

EXT. FRONT YARD OF GHETTO HOUSE - LATER

Thomas parks beside the house. There's a fence around the front lawn. Thomas and Felix step out. A black man, KIRK, 23, walks out. He wears a baseball cap and baggy, ripped clothing.

KIRK
Yo! You here for the za?

THOMAS
Yeah. Got you a new customer.

KIRK
Oh word?

Kirk opens the fence gate and walks out.

KIRK (CONT'D)
What's with white people and weed?

FELIX
I brought some cash.

Felix shows Kirk a wad of cash.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Now can I get my shit and go?

KIRK
I see. 'Nuff small talk, you right.

Kirk pulls a baggy of weed out of his pocket.

KIRK (CONT'D)
I knew you bitches were comin'.

Two men step outside of the house. One is mexican and one is black. This is RANDY and JIM respectively.

RANDY
Get back inside man! We barely even started it!

KIRK
Holon' a second.

Felix hands Kirk the wad of cash. He receives the weed. Kirk begins walking away.

FELIX
What. That's it?

Kirk looks back.

KIRK
Yeah. That's it.

THOMAS
Kirk, don't jerk us man. Give him the fucking right amount.

KIRK
New customer policy. Maybe if you come back a couple mo' times, I'll give you sum mo'.

Felix is completely silent, staring at the small baggy of weed in his hands. Fuming rage.

KIRK (CONT'D)
(laughs)
Oh this whitey's mad.

JIM
What are you waiting for!?

KIRK
(calls back to Jim)
Check this out! This little bitch is gonna crash.

Kirk walks up to Felix, barely an inch apart. Felix remains staring at the weed in his hands, refusing to make eye contact.

KIRK (CONT'D)
Where's your manners, son?

Kirk lightly slaps Felix in the face, as if to wake him up.

KIRK (CONT'D)

Come on.

THOMAS

Dude, stop.

KIRK

You white boys come down here,
tryna' take our fucking drugs and
shit. Go back home scot free, while
we get arrested?

(cackles)

Look at this pussy. I'll fuck your
mama and your sister, and you'll do
jack shit. You have no fucking
clue. Do you? Do you, lil' white
boy? Do you? Do you?

A SHARP RINGING NOISE slowly rises. Split second FLASHES of
his sister and her beautiful piano playing.

WE HEAR a beautiful classical piano piece, slowly increasing
in volume. Kirk is still talking, but the music and the
ringing muffle it.

Thomas PUNCHES Kirk across the face.

The music stops.

The ringing stops.

JIM AND RANDY

OH SHIT!

Felix finally looks up, seeing a hurt Kirk on the floor,
covering his bleeding nose.

Thomas slaps Felix in the chest.

THOMAS

LET'S MOVE!

Randy and Jim start running towards them.

The two run into the car and quickly drive off.

INT. THOMAS' CAR - CONTINUOUS

FELIX

(looking back)

What the fuck!?

THOMAS
Are you good?

Felix doesn't reply.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Man, I didn't know.

FELIX
(quiet)
Where will they be?

THOMAS
What?

FELIX
Never mind. Stupid question. Do you
still have his number?

THOMAS
I mean...yeah.

FELIX
We're going to your house. I'm
calling that son of a bitch.

EXT. THOMAS' HOME - LATER

Felix exits the car in a hurry. He walks up the steps. Thomas
opens the door and the two enter.

INT. THOMAS' HOME - CONTINUOUS

Felix runs to the living room. He dials Kirk's number in the
phone.

FELIX
(mutter)
Pick up. Pick up.

KIRK (O.S.)
Hello?

FELIX
It's me.

A beat.

KIRK (O.S.)
(distorted rage)
YOU FUCKING LITTLE BITCH! I'LL
FUCKING KILL YOU. WHEN I--

FELIX
Where can I find you? Let's settle
this like real men.

Felix leans away from the phone once Kirk begins SCREAMING.

KIRK (O.S.)
I'LL FUCKING RAPE YOUR WHOLE
FAMILY. I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU, YOUR
MOTHER, YOUR FATHER, AND ALL OF
YOUR SIBLINGS. AND YOUR FUCKING
DOG.

FELIX
I repeat. Where are you?

KIRK (O.S.)
I'm at the fucking Zoo. Come, find
me, and meet your fucking maker.

Kirk hangs up. Felix puts down the phone and begins to walk
back to the front door. Thomas walks with him.

THOMAS
Dude, you can't fight the guy!
They'll be like fifty of 'em!

FELIX
Then I fight fifty of 'em.

THOMAS
Don't be a retard. I'm not driving
you.

Felix stops at the door.

FELIX
Then I'll walk.

He exits the house.

EXT. POOR APARTMENT (GHETTO) - CONTINUOUS

Emerald KNOCKS on the door. MICHAEL KING, nicknamed KINGER,
19, opens the door.

KINGER
You're late.

EMERALD
Can I come in?

KINGER

Listen, I've got some pretty whacked out friends over here. Mind if you wait a bit? Let 'em leave?

EMERALD

I'll give you extra if you let me in now.

A beat.

KINGER

How much extra?

EMERALD

Double.

KINGER

You can come in.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Felix walks along the sidewalk. Hood up. Hands in the pockets. He holds a walkman, earbuds in.

His mind races. A dark 70s classic rock song plays. The SONG continues over...

MONTAGE - OVER VARIOUS LOCATIONS

- Kinger inserts a syringe of heroin into Emerald's arm. She lets her head fall back, and closes her eyes. Their voices play throughout the rest of the montage:

- Thomas starts his car and skirts against the concrete, speeding away.

KINGER (V.O.)

You don't have to do this Emerald.

EMERALD (V.O.)

(breathless)

It's not that easy.

- Kirk plays with his knife, sitting on top of a car. A large crowd of men are with him. He smiles, excited.

KINGER (V.O.)

I can't refuse your money. This is in high demand. But you're falling right into the trap, man.

- Felix walks down a spiralling set of stairs to an underground parking garage quickly.

KINGER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And you love it. You're thirsty and
that thirst will never be quenched.

-Emeralds eyes open wide and dilate.

EMERALD (V.O.)
(whispers)
It will.

CUT TO BLACK.

KINGER (V.O.)
And when's that?

END MONTAGE

INT. PARKING GARAGE - LATER

Felix walks aggressively towards a rowdy crowd of youngsters, mostly black, in a dirty, grey parking garage. This crowd includes Kirk. Thomas's car skirts through the entrance. Thomas pops his head out.

THOMAS
FELIX!

Felix doesn't respond. Thomas slows down and matches Felix's pace.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
(panicked)
They'll kill you. Man, I'm not
lying.

No response. Thomas looks at the rowdy crowd of gangsters. They finally have noticed Felix.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
(mutters)
Jesus Christ.

KIRK
Ay white boy!

THOMAS
Get the fuck outta here.

KIRK
I'll break your fucking neck.

Kirk approaches Felix. He flicks his knife out. Felix, with no expression, pulls out a pistol-

KIRK (CONT'D)
What the--

-and FIRES it into the ceiling three times. Kirk and his crew run, SCREAMING. Thomas crouches down in his car and covers his ears.

As the gunshot fades out, silence fills the air. Thomas slowly lifts up his head and looks at Felix, mesmerized. Felix still looks forward.

THOMAS
(under breath)
Holy shit.

FELIX
You're okay?

A beat. Thomas processes the situation.

THOMAS
How the fuck did you get that thing?

FELIX
I know a guy. Name's Turf.

THOMAS
You're a goddamn lunatic.

Felix finally turns his head towards Thomas. He walks up to Thomas and leans forward.

FELIX
(quieter)
Am I a fucking lunatic for protecting myself. My family?

THOMAS
They weren't gonna hurt anyone.

FELIX
They're lucky I aimed at the fucking roof.

Felix starts to walk away. Thomas debates with himself for a moment, then steps out of the car.

THOMAS

Hey!

Felix looks back.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Get in the car, man! We're going
somewhere!

Felix smiles and SCOFFS.

FELIX

You wanna hang with a lunatic?

THOMAS

Like you said. You're not a fucking
lunatic.

FELIX

You really think so?

THOMAS

No! But we can agree to disagree,
now fucking hop in man!

Felix LAUGHS.

INT. THOMAS' CAR - LATER

Thomas drives and turns to enter the highway. Felix smokes
out of the window.

THOMAS

So...the gun.

FELIX

What about it?

THOMAS

Well. How'd you get it?

FELIX

Some guy called Turf. I told you
this.

THOMAS

Yup. Yup, you did. I'm just...so
confused. How did you get that
shit? Do you have hunting's
licence, I mean, we're in Canada!

FELIX

It's imported from god-knows-where

THOMAS
Why do you have it?

FELIX
In case I wanna kill someone.

Thomas nods.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Where the fuck are we going?

THOMAS
I already told you. We're gonna
have a good time.

FELIX
Yeah, I know. I'm asking 'where'.

THOMAS
(smiles)
You lived in New York, right?

FELIX
Yeah.

THOMAS
Well this is our version of it.

Thomas points at a sign. It reads: TORONTO, 107km.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
See that?

FELIX
Toronto?

THOMAS
Yeah. You heard of it?

FELIX
Nothing good.

Thomas looks at Felix for a moment. Then looks back at the road.

THOMAS
They say London and Paris are the
best cities. Who the fuck's gonna
have a good time there?

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Thomas' car accelerates and swerves to pass another car.

EXT. DOWNTOWN TORONTO - NIGHT (LATER)

Busy streets. Neon lights. Thomas' car slowly cruises through traffic.

FELIX

This looks all too familiar.

The two stare at a wild group of young people in costumes and ridiculous clothing.

THOMAS

Hey, man, lighten up. We're getting alc'.

FELIX

The fuck? You brought a fake I.D.?!

THOMAS

What, did your mommy tell you to wait a year?

Felix doesn't answer.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Listen, some people here don't give a shit.

Thomas pulls over and parks. He exits and Felix follows. The two walk along the sidewalk, navigating through pedestrians.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You still talking to that Emerald chick?

FELIX

Tryna.

THOMAS

Hey, I think that's great man.

FELIX

I'm just tryna' hit.

THOMAS

(laughs)

You lose your V-card yet?

FELIX

Fuck no. I'm Christian!

THOMAS

But you're willing to forget about that for her?

Felix spits onto the ground and wipes his mouth.

FELIX
Yeah. She's hot.

A beat.

THOMAS
Y'know. I knew her in middle school. She used to come over to my house, actually. My older brother, he'd babysit her.

FELIX
That's cool.

THOMAS
Yeah.

A long awkward pause. Thomas reminisces. Suddenly, he perks back up.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
To be that age again! No fucking homework.

He pulls out a blunt.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
And none of this bullshit!

Felix nods.

The two reach a dirty convenient store. Thomas stops and looks through the store front window. He nods in confirmation.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Yeah, this is the spot.

FELIX
In NY, we needed a fake I.D. You guys got it easy.

INT. CONVENIENT STORE - CONTINUOUS

The two walk in. They go to the end and open a fridge, full of beverages. Felix grabs a box of beer cans. They head to the counter, but there is no cashier. Thomas taps the bell.

THOMAS
Is he here?

Felix BANGS his arm against the counter.

FELIX
(yells)
HEY!

It startles the other customers. A middle aged mexican man jogs to the counter.

STORE OWNER
Yes, yes. Is that all?

FELIX
Yeah. That's all.

STORE OWNER
You look a little young.

Thomas hands him an extra 20\$ bill. The store owner scans the beer and then hands it to them.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)
Now, get the fuck outta here.

FELIX
Yeah. Have a good one.
(mutters)
Ya' faggot.

EXT. LAKESIDE - LATER

Late night. Distant lights coming from the lake, afar. Felix and Thomas walk, holding a bottle of alcohol, sharing gulps. Thomas CACKLES hysterically. Felix laughs while continuing to tell his story.

FELIX
And then...and then. He tried to clean that shit up with his fucking clothes! Not only did he ruin his fucking mattress, he ruined his fuck-ass uniform!

Thomas laughs even harder.

FELIX (CONT'D)
What an idiot.

THOMAS
That's fucking...that's gold.

FELIX
You betcha'.

A group of high school girls walk towards the two boys.
Thomas observes them as they walk closer and closer to them.

THOMAS
Is that..is that Betty?

FELIX
Betty?

THOMAS
Yeah. She's in my English. What a
fucking coincidence.

BETTY, 18, and her crew finally reach the two.

BETTY
Is that you Thomas?

THOMAS
Hey.

They stop walking.

BETTY
What are you doing here?

THOMAS
Just hanging out. Me and Felix.

BETTY
Cool. Cool. I'm with the girlies
here too.

THOMAS
(deadpan)
I can tell.

Some of the girls GIGGLE, including Betty.

BETTY
You two wanna come with us?

FELIX
(uninterested)
Like where?

One of Betty's friends, SHEILA, chimes in.

SHEILA
There's a festival happening at
Kensington Market.

THOMAS
That sounds fun.

BETTY
Yeah, we're heading there right now.

FELIX
I dunno. Sounds a bit wild, no? I'm drunk as shit and feel like sleeping.

BETTY
C'mon! Thomas, what do you say?

Thomas ponders.

THOMAS
I mean, if it's chill.

GIRL GROUP
Suuuuuper chill.

EXT. FESTIVAL - MOMENTS LATER

Loud music. Tons of people screaming at the top of their lungs. Hundreds of exotic, eye-catching costumes. Tents placed all around with overpriced items being sold to drunk parade-goers. The group of teens navigate through the crowd. Felix charms all of the girls up ahead, except for Betty and Thomas who are a little bit behind.

BETTY
(screaming)
Isn't this fun!?

THOMAS
What!?

BETTY
I said 'isn't this fun!?'

THOMAS
What!?

Betty doesn't respond and kisses Thomas on the cheek. He smiles.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Thanks!

BETTY
What!?

THOMAS

I said--

Betty suddenly points up ahead.

BETTY

LOOK!

A man blows into a torch, igniting an enormous flame that rips through the air. Betty SHRIEKS in excitement and Thomas LAUGHS.

THOMAS

Won't find this in Port Hope!

Betty LAUGHS and hits Thomas in the arm.

EXT. OUTDOOR PARKING LOT - LATER

Felix waits beside Thomas' car, disgruntled.

FELIX

Where the fuck is he?

There are but a few other cars parked in the vast space.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Fuck.

Felix walks away.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Felix, completely drained of energy with heavy bags under his eyes, stands among other students in the pews of the chapel as an organ plays menacing chords. Thomas walks into the chapel, and Felix carefully watches him as he sits down. The two make eye-contact.

EXT. CHAPEL - LATER

The students all exit the chapel and walk onto the field. Felix finds Thomas through the crowd and viciously pulls him backward from his collar. He leans into Thomas's ear.

FELIX

What the fuck was that?

Thomas pulls away.

THOMAS

What?

FELIX

I couldn't fucking find you! I had to fucking take the bus and that took three hours!

Thomas pats the air with his hands, trying to ease Felix.

THOMAS

Okay. Okay. Hear me out, man--Felix Give me ONE! ONE GOOD FUCKING REASON!

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I lost my V-card.

A beat.

FELIX

Wha--...what?

THOMAS

I fucked Betty.

Another beat. Felix is completely dumfounded.

FELIX

Ho. Ly. Shit.

THOMAS

(laughs)

I know! I FUCKING KNOW!

Felix wheezes in excitement.

FELIX

YOU DIRTY DOG!

THOMAS

I'M A FUCKING DIRTY, DIRTY DOG!

FELIX

Betty...? Oh my god. BETTY!?

THOMAS

I KNOW! BETTY!

FELIX

BETTY!? BETTY!? FUCKING BETTY!?

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Felix walks down the hallway with Andrew.

ANDREW

And the bitch would not shut up. I say stop, and they just don't.

FELIX

(uninterested)
Yeah, yeah, that's great.

ANDREW

Are you even listening? The bitch would not--

FELIX

Yeah. I heard. Listen, I gotta go to the washroom, I'll see you in chem.

Felix parts ways and turns left. Down the empty hallway, Emerald leans against the window, looking out. Felix stops. He takes a DEEP BREATH.

He walks towards her, slowly, and taps her on the shoulder.

She looks at him. A long moment of silence, neither party willing to withhold eye-contact.

Finally, out of the blue:

FELIX (CONT'D)

Can I have your number?

Emerald CHUCKLES.

EMERALD

What happened to 'Hello'?

FELIX

I figured, I've charmed you enough. Thought I should've gotten straight to the point.

EMERALD

You want my number?

FELIX

Yeah.

She LAUGHS and turns her head back to the window. Felix is troubled. A long silence.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Is that a no?

Silence. She looks back at him for a moment, then back to the window.

EMERALD

You got a pen?

Felix grins.

EXT. FIELD - LATER

Felix walks out of the school and is met with the offputting sight of a small carnival. Countless tents set up for games and chances to win prizes. Small children, teenagers, and even staff members having fun.

FELIX

(mutters)

What the fuck?

Thomas pops up beside Felix.

THOMAS

You didn't know about Ruckus?

FELIX

What's Ruckus?

THOMAS

It's a festival. A carnival for the community. It's hosted every year.

FELIX

You like this?

THOMAS

Fuck no. I'm going home.

Thomas walks back inside. Felix sees Emerald talking with a friend, observing the kids running around, screaming. Felix walks up to the two.

Emerald's friend, upon looking at Felix approaching, smiles at Emerald and walks away.

FELIX

What's all this about?

EMERALD

Some stupid shit. I can't be bothered.

FELIX

I dunno. Looks kinda fun.

Emerald leans her head backwards, offput.

EMERALD

This is your definition of 'fun'?

FELIX

Yeah. It's great.

EMERALD

Look at all of the annoying brats
and the scams they're running on
their parents.

FELIX

And look at their smiles, Em.

EMERALD

Yeah. So stupid to know they're
getting played.

FELIX

Who cares?

EMERALD

I would care.

A beat.

FELIX

I bet I could win you a prize.

Emerald rolls her eyes.

EMERALD

You know these games are rigged,
right?

FELIX

They're not! People just don't know
how to fucking play.

EMERALD

Jesus, you're delusion.

FELIX

Here, lemme show you.

The two walk to a tent where, on a small table, three metal
bottles are stacked. A middle-aged balding carny smiles at
the two. Felix hands him a loonie.

CARNY
All you gotta do is knock 'em down
to win a stuffy!

FELIX
Yeah, I think I know how to play
this game, pops.

CARNY
Here ya' go!

The carny hands felix three baseballs.

CARNY (CONT'D)
Now stand at that line over there.

Felix backs up to a red line and chucks a ball at the
bottles. It doesn't budge. Twice more. Nothing. The carny
LAUGHS.

CARNY (CONT'D)
Tough luck!

Emerald CACKLES and points at Felix.

FELIX
You think you can do better?

Felix walks back up to the carny and passes him another
loonie. He turns back to Emerald and passes her 3 baseballs.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Let's see you try.

Emerald smiles and walks to the red line. She winds up and
throws. BLAM! One of the bottom bottles falls. The other two
follow suit. The carny YELLS:

CARNY
You win!

Emerald SHRIEKS.

FELIX
What on--

The carny hands Felix a giant crocodile stuffy.

CARNY
Your girl over there has a real
arm, there.

Emerald walks up to Felix with a grin on her face.

EMERALD
I'll be taking that.

Felix hands her the stuffy.

FELIX
How on earth did ya' do that? I'm-
I'm lost!

The two LAUGH.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - EVENING

Felix walks into Mandy's room to find her sleeping. He smiles. He walks up to her and kisses her on the forehead.

FELIX
(whispers)
The smoking thing worked, Mandy.

She smiles.

FELIX (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Keep resting. I love you.

Felix exits.

EXT. FIELD - EVENING

Emerald sits against a tree. Felix is walking in the distance in her direction. She watches him, and, when he spots her, gives a timid smile, picking up his pace. He stands over her.

FELIX
You sit here often?

EMERALD
It's a nice view of the trees.

FELIX
(laughs)
You do your homework here? Like in
the movies?

EMERALD
Fuck no.

FELIX
Is this 'the spot'?

EMERALD
I mean. Kinda.

FELIX
Well, it's nice.

Emerald looks at Felix, surprised at his sincerity.

FELIX (CONT'D)
You've been here for longer than I
have. Have you gotten used to it?

EMERALD
Used to it? To what?

FELIX
The beauty of it all. Feels like
those amazing British castle, that
kinda shit.

Emerald CHUCKLES.

EMERALD
Yeah, you do get used to it. So you
need to savour it while it lasts.

FELIX
You betcha'.

A beat. A sudden gust of wind.

EMERALD
I'm sorry, did you want to leave
this place? I know you--

FELIX
Nah. I like it here.

Felix sits next to Emerald. She smiles.

FELIX (CONT'D)
You know, it's weird. I've known
you for less than a week, but I
feel like I've known you for years.

EMERALD
I get that.

A beat.

FELIX
You smoke?

EMERALD
I'm not a fucking loser.

An awkward pause.

EMERALD (CONT'D)
So of course I fucking smoke.

Felix GRINS and hands her a cigar. He lights his match and she leans in, lighting her cigar. Inhale. Exhale.

EMERALD (CONT'D)
That's nice.

FELIX
It's nice. It is.

Emerald rests her head against Felix's shoulder. She quickly retreats and lifts it back up.

EMERALD
I'm sorry, is it okay--

FELIX
No, it's okay. I like it.

She smiles, at ease. She rests her head back onto his shoulder, as they look into the distance.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Can I kiss you?

A beat.

EMERALD
Sure.

The two lean in and kiss.

INT. THOMAS' ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas sits at his desk. He's on the phone with Felix.

FELIX (O.S.)
And she's amazing, man. I feel like
we connected past just lust,
y'know?

THOMAS
Yeah.

FELIX (O.S.)

Last night, we sat at the bleachers
and there's this view of the town
from afar and the lights are just
beautiful, man. It's fucking
amazing.

THOMAS

Sounds romantic.

FELIX (O.S.)

Listen, I have to go, but I'll see
you tomorrow.

THOMAS

Bye, man.

FELIX (O.S.)

Bye.

He hangs up. He walks to his bed and lifts his pillow. The
piece of paper lies there, with a paragraph on it. We can't
see what it says. Thomas reads it. A few tears drop onto the
paper from Thomas' eyes. He covers it up again with the
pillow.

EXT. POOR HOME (GHETTO) - NIGHT

Emerald knocks on the door. Kinger opens it.

KINGER

Em, I got--

EMERALD

Double.

A beat.

KINGER

Come in.

INT. POOR HOME - CONTINUOUS

Emerald walks into the living room. Some people sit on the
floor and the couches, completely high.

KINGER

You can sit on the sofa.

She sits. Kinger walks over, syringe in hand.

KINGER (CONT'D)
It's getting busy.

EMERALD
Let's not talk.

Kinger nods. He inserts the needle. Emerald GROANS.

EMERALD (CONT'D)
(whisper)
God.

INT. CHEMISTRY CLASS - DAY

SUPER: January 19th 1987.

Felix sits in Chemistry class, bored.

TEACHER
Now our midterms are...?

THE CLASS
Next Monday.

TEACHER
Correct! So, make sure you've reviewed the topic accordingly and don't forget that this is fifteen percent of your mark. You may be dismissed.

The students leave.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Felix finds Emerald waiting for him.

EMERALD
Hey.

FELIX
Hey, where are we going tonight?

EMERALD
Betty agreed to go on that double date. We're going to that italian place at town.

FELIX
And Thomas agreed?

EMERALD
Betty said 'reluctantly'.

Felix CHUCKLES.

FELIX
Good enough for me.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Felix and Emerald wait at their table. The setting is romantic, with warm candles at every table, and red leather booths. Thomas and Betty walk into the restaurant and find the two. They sit down.

BETTY
Hey guys.

EMERALD
(smiles)
Hi.

FELIX
How are you two?

Betty looks to Thomas, who is straight-faced.

BETTY
We're- we're fine. We're good.

Thomas solemnly nods. Felix smiles and reads the menu.

FELIX
Now, what are we getting here, huh?

Emerald kisses Felix on the cheek and leans beside his ear.

EMERALD
(whisper)
All I really want is you.

Thomas silently takes a deep breath, desperately trying to suppress his envy and his inner rage. He closes his eyes for a long moment, then opens them, smiling.

THOMAS
I heard their carbonara is amazing.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LATER

Betty LAUGHS at Felix's joke. Emerald CHUCKLES silently.

BETTY
 (laughing)
 Oh my fucking god! How did that
 even happen?

FELIX
 Not a clue. Not a fucking clue.

BETTY
 That's just...that's just great.

A beat. Felix looks at Thomas, who silently eats his food.

FELIX
 Thomas. What's wrong?

THOMAS
 Hm? Nothing. Nothing's wrong.

FELIX
 Oh. You just seem a bit...I dunno,
 off.

THOMAS
 I'm fine. Just tired.

Betty fixes Thomas' hair.

BETTY
 Oh, you're always tired. I swear to
 god, this guy is never not tired.

THOMAS
 Not now.

BETTY
 What!? I'm just saying.

EMERALD
 You know, Felix is exactly the same
 way.

BETTY
 Ya sure? He seems pretty fine.

THOMAS
 Can you shut the fuck up, Betty?

FELIX AND EMERALD
 Woah!

Betty moves her head back, repulsed.

BETTY
What did you just say?

FELIX
(quietly)
Yo, Tommy, what the fuck?

THOMAS
I'm fucking leaving. I'm fucking
leaving.

Thomas stands up and leaves the table.

FELIX
I'll go talk to him.

BETTY
Ridiculous!

EXT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Felix spots Thomas, waiting to cross the street.

FELIX
Tommy!

Thomas turns around quickly and points at Felix's chest.

THOMAS
Stop calling me that.

FELIX
What?

THOMAS
You never fucking call me Tommy,
why now? Is it- is it for your-
your girlfriend?

FELIX
The fuck!? Thomas, what is going
on, man? What's botherin' ya'? You
can fucking tell me, man.

Thomas begins to SOB.

THOMAS
(heavy breathing)
I-...I can't.

Felix rests his arm on his shoulder.

FELIX

You can.

THOMAS

I CAN'T! FUCK!!!

The walking signal turns on. Thomas begins to walk away, drying his tears. Felix follows him.

FELIX

Thomas, wait!

Thomas turns around.

THOMAS

Please don't follow me, Felix. If you are a true friend, do not follow me.

A beat.

He walks away. Felix watches him go, defeated.

INT. THOMAS' HOME - LATER

Thomas SLAMS the door and walks into the living room. He finds his father watching the ball game, again. Kirby doesn't turning his head.

KIRBY

Hey kiddo.

Thomas breathes heavily, tears running down his red face.

KIRBY (CONT'D)

Hey, take out the trash, will ya'?

No response. Thomas abruptly leaves.

EXT. KINGER'S NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

Emerald drives slowly through a snow-covered ghetto neighbourhood. A few kids play street ball on one of the driveways. She continues to drive and finds Kinger's home, slowly coming to a stop.

INT. POOR HOME - CONTINUOUS

Emerald follows Kinger into his home.

KINGER
You're so stupid, Em.

EMERALD
Oh c'mon!

KINGER
You can't act like you're not an addict. You're just like the rest of 'em!

EMERALD
I can't keep on coming here. You know that.

KINGER
I know that for sure.

Kinger starts to set up some plates and dishes.

EMERALD
So. Why don't you? I'm willing to give you everything I have for this luxury.

KINGER
I'm. Not. Doing it.

EMERALD
Please. How much would persuade you? How much does it take?

Kinger pauses his work and turns to Emerald.

KINGER
A grand. That would change my tune. But I know--

EMERALD
Done.

A beat.

KINGER
Emerald. That's like ten times what you're paying now.

EMERALD
My mom keeps on wondering where I'm going these nights. I can't have that.

A beat.

KINGER
I'm an evil man.

EMERALD
Is that a yes?

Kinger SLAMS a pile of the plates into his sink.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Thomas smokes weed in a dirty alleyway. A small boy, around 13, 14, GUMMY, smokes with him.

THOMAS
Thanks for this.

GUMMY
Yeh. Least I could do.

Thomas smiles.

THOMAS
You know, I like you, kid.

Gummy SHRUGS.

GUMMY
You sound like the girls.

Thomas LAUGHS.

INT. MATH CLASSROOM - DAY

Felix sits in the math classroom, looking back at Thomas' empty seat. His mind wanders off, wondering where he could be. Worried.

TEACHER
And Felix...you're wandering.

Felix turns back to the board.

FELIX
Huh?

TEACHER
I said you're wandering.

FELIX
Yeah.

The class chuckles. Emerald does not.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Felix and Emerald exit the classroom and walk down the hall.

EMERALD
What's with you?

FELIX
Where's Thomas? The guy's skipped
the past three days of school.

EMERALD
He could be sick for all you know.

FELIX
I dunno. He would've answered my
calls.

EMERALD
I say, stop worrying.

FELIX
And where were you yesterday? Huh!?

EMERALD
I was out!

FELIX
(mutters)
Jesus Christ.

EMERALD
Stop. Worrying.

FELIX
It's my best fucking friend, Em.

EMERALD
Am I not also your best friend?

A beat.

FELIX
I love you. But I also love Thomas,
y'know, as a friend. I can't
abandon him just like that.

EMERALD
But you're not.

FELIX
But I am.

Emerald SIGHS. The two stop.

EMERALD
I'm going home.

She turns left and parts ways with him.

FELIX
(whisper)
Fuck.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - DAY

Felix sits by Mandy's bed. She sleeps.

FELIX
I don't know where Thomas is. I
don't even know how Em's feeling
right now. The fuck is going on?

She continues to sleep. Felix bows his head down in despair.

FELIX (CONT'D)
I can't. I wish I could fucking
please my friend, my girlfriend,
and you, Mandy, you. I wish I could
please you, Mandy. How could you
ever be happy?

His voice begins to break.

FELIX (CONT'D)
How could you ever be happy, Mandy?

Tears form.

FELIX (CONT'D)
And if you're not happy, if Thomas
ain't happy, if Emerald, if she's
not happy, then I can't be happy.
No? Mandy?

She continues to sleep.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Mandy? Wake up and say that I'm
wrong.

Felix watches her breathe. Up and down. He soothes him.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Mom would be great right now, huh?
Yeah. She would. You betcha'. You
betcha'.

A beat.

FELIX (CONT'D)
I need to find Emerald.

He stands up.

EXT. EMERALD'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Felix walks onto her doorsteps and knocks on the door. No reply.

He looks at the driveway. Ms and Mr. Berry's cars are both gone. However, Emerald's is still there.

Felix knocks again. No reply.

He tries the doorknob and it's unlocked. Tentative, but determined, he slowly creaks the door open, ever so slightly.

INT. EMERALD'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

The door slowly opens. Felix hesitantly steps into the home. He slowly and silently walks through the corridor and steps into the kitchen.

Emerald sits at the table, biting tape, about to insert a syringe of heroin into her arm. A metal spoon is half-filled of the brown liquid.

FELIX
Emerald.

She YELPS and drops the syringe.

FELIX (CONT'D)
What the fuck?

EMERALD
Felix. Felix, I'm just--

FELIX
EMERALD, WHAT THE FUCK!?

His voice shakes the room. He steps towards her, aggressively.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Is that heroin, yes or no.

EMERALD
It's--

FELIX
AND DON'T LIE.

Emerald can barely breathe. The shock and the fear is clouding her mind.

EMERALD
(breathless)
It's heroin.

Felix leans in close to her, menacingly. Endless rage and pain behind his eyes.

FELIX
(quiet, slow)
Who is selling you this.

A beat.

EMERALD
I don't know their name.

FELIX
WHAT DID I SAY?! HUH!? DON'T
FUCKING LIE TO ME, EM. DON'T LIE.

A beat. Emerald begins to cry.

EMERALD
I don't know their name. I don't
know their name.

Felix grabs her wrist, tightly.

FELIX
You will tell me. And you will not
lie. Am I clear?

She slowly nods.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Who is selling you this?

EMERALD
Michael. Michael King.

FELIX
Where does this man live?

EMERALD
55th Wilson Ave. But please--

Emerald breaks down and hugs Felix. He pushes her away and angrily leaves, SLAMMING the door behind him.

INT. THOMAS' ROOM - LATER

Thomas sits in his room. The phone rings. Thomas lets it ring and it finally stops. Curtis opens his door.

CURTIS
You feeling any better?

No response.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
Can you answer the damn phone?

Thomas looks at Curtis.

THOMAS
Who is it?

CURTIS
You think I know? Whoever it is,
they keep on fucking calling.
Answer that shit now and at least
tell 'em off.

He closes the door.

Thomas looks at the phone. He stands up and picks it up, dialling Felix's number.

It rings. He picks up.

INT. FELIX'S HOME (LIVING ROOM) - CONTINUOUS

Felix stands next to the landline phone. He twists the cord with fingers, anxiously.

FELIX
Hello!? Thomas, is that you?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

THOMAS
I'm sick.

FELIX
Thomas, I need you.

THOMAS
You need to stop calling me.

FELIX
It's about Emerald.

A beat.

THOMAS
What about her?

FELIX
We're saving her fucking life,
y'understnd?

A beat.

FELIX (CONT'D)
She's been--she's been doing smack.
I don't know for how long, or
fucking why, but I caught her. I
caught her. And I know who's been
handin' it out to her. We need to
fucking tell this guy off and make
sure that he never touches her
again, and I need a fucking ride, I
need one. Can you get me there?
Help me rough him up?

A beat. Thomas breathes into the phone, thinking.

THOMAS
I'm coming to your house right now.

He hangs up.

INT. THOMAS' CAR - NIGHT

Felix enters the car.

FELIX
Hey. Long time no see.

Thomas starts the car and begins the drive.

THOMAS
Yeah.

FELIX
Are you really sick?

THOMAS
Nah. I just needed a break from
reality.

Felix CHUCKLES.

FELIX
You're still with Betty?

THOMAS

She called. Cursed at me. Guess I
deserved it.

Felix takes a good look at Thomas. He then pulls out, from
his bag, a baseball bat.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ.

FELIX

I'm not letting some street fuck
let Emerald go down that road.

THOMAS

Listen, man, take it easy.

FELIX

Calm down. This is just another one
of our adventures. Like Toronto.

Thomas takes a deep breath.

EXT. KINGER'S NEIGHBOURHOOD - LATER

Thomas cruises down the neighbourhood. Felix looks out the
window, eyeing the street numbers.

FELIX

Fifty eight...fifty six...

INT/EXT. THOMAS' CAR - CONTINUOUS

He turns around to Thomas' side and points at a home.

FELIX

There. That's the spot.

Thomas pulls over. The two exit the car.

INT. KINGER'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Felix knocks on the door. Kinger opens the door and before he
can even say a word, Felix grabs him by the shirt and pulls
him out onto the concrete street. Felix and Thomas corner him
into an alleyway outside of his home.

Felix throws a few punches. Thomas holds Kinger down.

FELIX
Stop fucking selling that shit to
Emerald. DO YOU UNDERSTAND!?

Kinger SCREAMS.

KINGER
Stop!

FELIX
I'll stop when you say you'll stop
selling heroin to my fucking
girlfriend!

KINGER
I'll stop! I'll stop!

Felix kicks him across the face, knocking some teeth out.

THOMAS
Oh shit.

FELIX
This fucking cocksucker.

Kinger, slumped against the wall, doesn't move.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Now lemme hear you say it one more
time.

No response.

THOMAS
I think we should go, man.

FELIX
This fucker thinks he's funny.

Felix walks up to the motionless Kinger and props him up for
another punch. He stops himself.

THOMAS
Shit is he okay?

Felix drops him.

FELIX
I dunno.

THOMAS
You roughed him up too hard!

FELIX
 Respectfully, you've never been in
 a single fucking fight in your
 life, kid. Shit happens. He's fine.

WE HEAR Kinger breathe heavily, gasping for air.

THOMAS
 FUCK MAN!

Felix starts to walk back to the car.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 FUCK!

Thomas follows, looking back at the struggling Kinger.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
 YOU FUCKED HIM UP TOO HARD!

FELIX
 Then let's go!

Thomas looks distraught.

THOMAS
 Jesus Christ.

A slow, romantic late 50s rock song plays. The SONG plays
 over the following montage:

MONTAGE - OVER VARIOUS LOCATIONS

- Emerald looks out of her window at her driveway from her room, hoping that Felix will be come back.
- Thomas walks into his home and sees Kirby watching the ball game.
- Felix prays by Mandy's bed.
- Paramedics roll Kinger into an ambulance on a stretcher.
- Thomas enters his room and lifts his pillow. He picks up the piece of paper, its contents still unknown to us, and reads it.
- Emerald turns to her phone. She stares at it and, finally, dials a number.
- Thomas looks out of his window and sees Gummy waving. He smiles back

END MONTAGE

EXT. EMERALD'S HOME - DAY

Felix knocks on Emerald's door. Emerald slowly opens the door for him.

FELIX
Hey.

EMERALD
How could you do that to me?

A beat.

FELIX
I will never touch you like that again, Em.

EMERALD
You fucking piece of shit!

Felix looks around to see if anyone on the street heard.

EMERALD (CONT'D)
Don't look around! Look at ME!

FELIX
Emerald, what can I do?

She doesn't respond, just stares. After a long beat, she walks inside. Felix waits outside, as she left the door open.

EMERALD (O.S.)
(from inside)
Well, are you coming or not!?

INT. EMERALD'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

He enters the home and looks around. No different than when he barged in yesterday. He follows her, deeper into the home. The kitchen is clean now.

EMERALD
I saw what you did to Kinger.

A long beat.

FELIX
I'm sorry.

Emerald pours a glass of water.

EMERALD

My Mom's working upstairs right now. So, be sure to keep your voice down when you're talking about this.

Felix nods.

EMERALD (CONT'D)

They say he'll live. For the most part. A lot of cuts and a concussion. He's lost a bunch of teeth too.

Felix nods.

EMERALD (CONT'D)

Did you like it?

Felix nods.

EMERALD (CONT'D)

Well, there's that.

She hands him a glass.

FELIX

Emerald. Will you ever forgive me.

EMERALD

I'm not mad, Felix.

FELIX

Then, what are you?

EMERALD

I am someone who will love you. I have no choice at this point. You've become closer to me than my own family, Felix. And I to you.

She paces around the kitchen.

EMERALD (CONT'D)

Maybe I'm deeply hurt. And maybe Kinger was someone I truly cared for. But to lose my love for you...it's out of my control.

She quietly SOBS.

EMERALD (CONT'D)

I can't unlove you Felix. Even if I tried.

Felix walks towards her and hugs her.

FELIX
Then don't.

He kisses her head.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Please don't. I need you. I need
you really bad.

She SOBS into his chest.

EMERALD
I love you.

FELIX
I love you.

INT. THOMAS' CAR - NIGHT

Thomas drives through downtown. The radio plays an 80s pop song.

THOMAS (V.O.)
I'm having homicidal thoughts.

He passes by an abandoned park where a couple of young men brutally fight. Throwing one another to the floor.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I'm well off. So, I have my own
car. I drive around these parts of
town and I see these people. And
they love it. And it's all around
them. I vie for that.

A beat. Thomas stops at a red light.

THOMAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Is there something wrong with me?

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

A calm environment. A therapist, MR BROWN, 57, sits across from Thomas, who lies in a therapist bed.

BROWN
Well, do you have any idea what's
causing these thoughts?

Thomas slowly nods his head.

BROWN (CONT'D)
And what is that?

THOMAS
Hatred.

BROWN
Interesting. Towards whom?

Thomas takes a deep breath.

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

A large banner hangs above the entrance of the school that reads: "PROM NIGHT!"

Crowds of teens walk into the school. Loud chatter.

INT. PROM DANCEFLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Felix stands idly, leaning against the wall with a red solo cup in hand. He observes the happy couples walking in. Thomas walks in holding a small, black case, and spots Felix, jogging over. The two wear expensive tuxedos, hair combed and gelled.

THOMAS
Sup'.

FELIX
Sup'.

THOMAS
Where's uh...where's Emerald?

Felix doesn't respond.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Felix, look at what I brought,
though.

Thomas unzips his case and pulls out a camcorder.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Figured I should document the
night.

Felix smiles.

FELIX
Oh shit! We can watch that shit on
the VHS.

THOMAS

That's what I'm saying!

FELIX

Fuck the prom! We can use that shit for anything we want!

THOMAS

Exactly! Shit costed me sixteen hundred. Fucking worth it, though.

Felix looks to the side to see that Emerald, in a white dress, has arrived. She is glowing. Felix, completely hypnotized at the sight, puts down his cup.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Go talk to her.

Felix nods and approaches her.

FELIX

Glad to see you came.

EMERALD

Yeah. Looks like people are having a good time.

FELIX

Emerald, I just wanted to say I'm sorry. I want to change. I do.

A beat.

EMERALD

I don't want you to change, Felix. Can see you that?

FELIX

No, don't say that--

EMERALD

You saved me. In the worst way possible, but you saved me.

Felix suppresses a smile.

A romantic, beautiful 60s song, (PROM SONG), begins to play. Countless couples move to the dance floor and begin slow dancing.

FELIX

Wanna dance?

EMERALD

I've never heard this one before.

FELIX

Hold on! I've got a great idea.

Felix jogs off the dance floor and finds Thomas sitting alone at a table, recording the dancers.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Thomas, please, you gotta film us, man.

Thomas gives Felix a blank stare for a moment. Then:

THOMAS

Sure. I'd love to.

FELIX

Thank you, man. I love ya'.

Felix jogs back to Emerald. They move to the dance floor. The two slow dance to the beat of the PROM SONG, faces less than an inch apart. They smile.

FELIX (CONT'D)

(whispers)

I haven't felt this happy in a long time.

EMERALD

(whispers)

Me neither.

They rest each others foreheads on one another, continuing to dance. Thomas records them with a blank expression on his face.

INT. EMERALD'S CAR - NIGHT (LATER)

Emerald drives while Felix sits in the passenger seat. They each take turns puffing a cigar. They drive on the countryside, where vast fields of, what used to be wheat, now turned snow lie next to the long, thin, winding roads.

EMERALD

Look out the window. Look at the stars in the sky.

Felix looks up at the stars. Beautiful white dots, scattered across the pitch black canvas that is the sky.

FELIX

Shit.

Emerald pulls over to the side of the road.

EXT. SNOWY FIELDS - CONTINUOUS

The two exit the car and walk into the field of snow.

FELIX

Are we even allowed here?

EMERALD

Just keep walking. Don't even look back.

The two walk deeper and deeper.

Felix stops and kneels down, feeling the snow with his bare hand. He smiles and grabs a fist full of it, compacting it into a snowball. Emerald, at the sudden realization, SHRIEKS and ducks. Felix chucks the snowball and it hits her. The two LAUGH.

FELIX

Gotcha'!

EMERALD

Fuck off!

Emerald bends down to grab snow and it turns into a full fledged snowball fight. The two GIGGLE and SCREAM.

INT. FELIX'S ROOM - DAY

Felix wakes up to the sound of his alarm.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

Felix sits in his pew. Andrew sits next to him.

ANDREW

Jesus Christ, you should've seen how wasted I got last night. Holy fucking shit.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Felix walks down the hallway and peers through one of the classroom's door's window. He spots Thomas.

Felix waits as the class ends, and Thomas is the first one out the door.

THOMAS
Hey.

FELIX
Hey, you wanted to see me.

Thomas GRINS.

THOMAS
Guess what I got?

FELIX
What?

Thomas takes off his backpack and takes out a VHS tape.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Oh shit!

A teacher passes by.

TEACHER
Language.

FELIX
Sorry.

Felix looks back at the tape.

FELIX (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Holy shit!

THOMAS
I know!

FELIX
Is this the dance?

THOMAS
It's you and Emerald, man.

FELIX
Thank you so much, man. I love you,
man.

The two give each other a man-hug.

THOMAS
(whispers)
Anything man. Anything.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Felix spots Emerald sitting at a table full of her friends. He signals for her to come to his table, with Andrew, and some other friends. Emerald stands up, but leaves her tray at her spot.

She walks over.

EMERALD

What is it?

FELIX

Look at what Thomas got us.

He shows her the VHS tape.

EMERALD

What's that?

FELIX

It's our dance.

EMERALD

Oh.

FELIX

What-? You don't like it?

EMERALD

No. It's great. But, listen, I'm leaving early today, so you won't be seeing me in math today.

FELIX

Oh. Ok.

EMERALD

Yeah.

She kisses him on the cheek.

FELIX

Do you, y'know, want the tape?

She smiles.

EMERALD

Sure.

He hands her the tape.

She turns to leave.

FELIX

Wait.

She turns around.

EMERALD

Yeah?

FELIX

I love you.

EMERALD

I love you, Felix.

INT. FELIX'S HOME (ENTRANCE) - NIGHT

Felix, tired, walks upstairs, ready for bed.

INT. FELIX'S HOME (UPSTAIRS) - CONTINUOUS

Felix roams upstairs and passes by Mandy's room, with the door slightly cracked open. He intends to go to his room but is stopped in his tracks by the sound of her voice.

MANDY (O.S.)

Felix?

Felix steps back and-

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

-enters her room. He walks to the seat and sits beside her bed.

FELIX

Hiya.

MANDY

It's late. Where've you been?

FELIX

I was out. With friends.

MANDY

I've been waiting for you to come back home.

FELIX

Now why would you do that? It's late as shit, Mandy.

MANDY
I haven't spoken to you in so long.

Felix SIGHS.

FELIX
You've been sleeping.

MANDY
How's your love life, big boy?

FELIX
It's going great, actually.

MANDY
I call B.S.

FELIX
Well, you'd be wrong.

MANDY
Yada, yada, yada.

FELIX
You don't shut your mouth, do you?

MANDY
I'll shut it up when I die.

FELIX
Oh please, I should expect some
yapping coming from beneath ya'
fucking grave.

Mandy LAUGHS, but it morphs into a COUGH. This lasts a while.

Felix SIGHS.

FELIX (CONT'D)
(after coughing fit)
I don't want you to leave me,
Mandy.

A beat.

MANDY
I don't either.

Felix lowers his head.

FELIX
I'm really scared. I'm really
scared.

(MORE)

FELIX (CONT'D)
 I can't even fix that fucking fear.
 I can't do anything to stop it.

No reply from Mandy.

FELIX (CONT'D)
 You know?

Felix realizes Mandy has fallen asleep. He SIGHS and lowers his head, still in the darkness. Then, he looks up, smiles, and hugs her.

INT. FELIX'S ROOM - DAY

Felix wakes up from his BLARING ALARM. He GROANS and steps out of bed.

INT. CHAPEL - LATER

Felix sits in his pew. Andrew sits beside him.

ANDREW
 And, can you believe it, this bitch
 closes the fucking door on me!
 That's fucking rich!

Felix, ignoring Andrew, looks at the empty spot where Emerald usually sits. He wonders where she could be.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Felix waits outside of a classroom, one where Emerald usually attends. The students exit and he weaves through the crowd to find her, but to no avail.

Thomas passes by. Felix gets his attention.

FELIX
 Yo, Thomas.

THOMAS
 Yeah?

FELIX
 You seen Emerald today?

A beat.

THOMAS
 I haven't.

INT. ANDREW'S CAR - LATER

Felix sits in the passenger seat of Andrew's car.

ANDREW
Why do you hang out with that
Thomas guy anyways?

FELIX
He's a good guy.

ANDREW
He's a fucking weirdo. That's what
he is.

Andrew slows down and pulls over beside Felix's home. Andrew turns to Felix.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Is this your place?

FELIX
Yeah. Thanks a lot, man.

ANDREW
Careful out there.

Felix grabs his bag from the back and exits the car/

INT. FELIX'S HOME (ENTRANCE) - CONTINUOUS

Felix leaves his bag at the door.

INT. FELIX'S HOME (UPSTAIRS) - CONTINUOUS

Felix walks upstairs. He HEARS a man MUTTERING in Mandy's room, who's door is closed.

Felix slowly CREAKS Mandy's door open.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

There, sitting where Felix tends to sit, next to Mandy's bed, is Felix's FATHER.

FATHER
So I took the bottle, thanked the
lady, and I got in my car.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Felix bikes full speed to Emerald's home, passing rows of suburban homes.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - DAY

FATHER

And it's this beautiful bottle of wine in my hands. It's freezing outside, so the coldness, you can really feel it in your hands.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Felix bikes furiously, recklessly crossing an intersection and is almost hit by a car.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - DAY

FATHER

It was deep in the snow, so I really needed to pry my way into it, but, what would a guy like me not do to see her, right?

EXT. STREET - DAY

Felix continues to bike. He skirts and turns.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - DAY

FATHER

Anyways, I drive, oh, I dunno, three hundred kilometres minimum back, and I bang on the door. It's three p.m, so you kids, you're in school.

EXT. EMERALD'S NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

Felix turns onto an extremely wealthy road, where the homes to the side are enormous, with expensive cars parked in their driveways and beautiful exterior material.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - DAY

FATHER

I bang on the door and yell, "Lisa, I've got a gift!" To no avail. So I turn the knob and I, y'know, check the house. No one's home. At least downstairs.

EXT. EMERALD'S NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

He skids and stops at Emerald's home. He takes a good look at it.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - DAY

FATHER

So I walk upstairs and I go over to her room and I find her, lying there. I whisper, "I've got something to make you feel better, sweetie." No reply.

EXT. EMERALD'S HOME - DAY

Felix walks up her doorsteps and KNOCKS.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - DAY

FATHER

She was so still and silent, so, naturally, I walked up to her. Called to her a few more times. Shook her. I couldn't tell if she was dead or not, so I touched her face.

Felix's father looks back to Felix, who stands at the door.

FATHER (CONT'D)

And she was cold.

EXT. EMERALD'S HOME - DAY

A middle-aged Mexican woman in an apron opens the door, ANGEL, 46. A horrible WAILING noise coming from a woman can be heard from deep in the house. Angel looks deeply troubled.

ANGEL
 Sorry, now is not a good time. You
 should--

FELIX
 Is Emerald home?

A long beat.

ANGEL
 You know Emerald?

FELIX
 I'm her boyfriend. Is she home?

Angle SNIFFLES.

ANGEL
 She...she passed last night.

The words cannot be processed from Felix. All he can offer is
 a blank stare. His mouth twitches.

FELIX
 (quiet)
 What?

ANGEL
 They found her last night--

Angel SNIFFLES. The words begin to set in.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
 At the southern neighbourhood. She
 died of an overdose. Heroin.

His mind races. His face slowly morphs into one of complete
 and utter fear.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
 I'm so sorry. Did you...did you
 know anything about her usage?
 Listen, if anything, we should--

FELIX
 But we just talked.

ANGEL
 I'm so so sorry, honey. Would you
 like--

FELIX

No. Is this- is this...
 (loses voice)
 a joke?

Angel begins to CRY and covers her mouth, shaking her head 'no'. All signs of life in Felix disappears. His shoulders slowly lower.

ANGEL

She was good person. She was a good, good girl. How could we have known? How? So unexpected. It's so...it's so terrible. It's so terrible.

Angel's voice is drowned out by the sound of a LAUGH. A sweet, beautiful laugh of a girl, Emerald.

He slowly turns around, the LAUGHTER still playing in his head, and gracefully falls onto the ground, face first into the snow. He curls up and shakily and slowly lifts the snow to his face. He SCREAMS, a blood curdling, horrifying, agonizing, and unrelenting scream that echoes throughout the neighbourhood. He pushes his face into the ground, a cushion of snow, and his MUFFLED SCREAM continues.

INT. THOMAS' HOME (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

Thomas' mother and father, Kirby, sit in the living room, TV off. The two look extremely solemn and unhappy. Thomas walks down the stairs.

THOMAS

You called for me?

Kirby SIGHS.

KIRBY

The school called. A classmate of yours, Emerald, died last night. Of a drug overdose. They're holding a memorial for her on Saturday.

Absolute silence. Thomas' face is drained of all its colour. A nasty, pale, lifeless shade.

KIRBY (CONT'D)

Christ, you look awfully pale. Are you okay.

A beat.

THOMAS
Yeah. Just surprised.

Kirby slowly nods.

KIRBY
I see. Do you remember when Curtis
used to babysit her?

Thomas shakes his head.

INT. THOMAS' HOME - FLASHBACK

A little THOMAS, 7, presses his chubby face against the window, hoping to see his father's car down the road.

THOMAS
Aw, when will they be here?

MOTHER
Soon, Thomas. Soon.

THOMAS
But I wanna see them now!

INT. THOMAS' HOME (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

MOTHER
Listen, we just wanted to let you
know that the memorial's happening
this Saturday.

Thomas nods.

THOMAS
Okay.

KIRBY
I mean, do you truly not remember
her? When Curtis babysat her?

THOMAS
Wish I did.

INT. THOMAS' HOME - FLASHBACK

Kirby's car turns the corner and becomes visible to Thomas from the window. He jumps up and down, running to door.

THOMAS
Mom! They're here! They're here!

Mother LAUGHS.

MOTHER
Don't scare them, Tommy!

THOMAS
But they're here!

INT. THOMAS' HOME - NIGHT

KIRBY
You're so cold. So distant.

Mother hits Kirby in the arm.

MOTHER
Kirby!

KIRBY
I'm right!

Kirby turns back to Thomas.

KIRBY (CONT'D)
I hope you understand what kind of a man you are. You're going to die a sad, sad person if you act like this. This person, I mean, this person was your *friend*.

All Thomas can offer is a blank face.

KIRBY (CONT'D)
God. You're unsalvageable. I remember. I would come back from picking up Curtis and that girl.

INT. THOMAS' HOME - FLASHBACK

A slightly younger Kirby opens the door, letting a young Curtis and a young Emerald into the home. Thomas lights up.

KIRBY (V.O.)
You loved to see her.

INT. THOMAS' HOME (LIVING ROOM) - NIGHT

KIRBY
I would see your face light up when she would arrive and I would see it dim when she left.
(MORE)

KIRBY (CONT'D)
How could you forget? What kind of
a kid did I raise?

Thomas SIGHS.

THOMAS
A terrible, terrible kid.

He turns around and walks back upstairs.

INT. THOMAS' ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Thomas enters his room and lifts his pillow. The paper that we've seen countless of time lies there. He picks it up and reads it. He begins to quietly and softly sob. Like a baby.

THOMAS
(whisper)
You did this.

He RIPS the paper up and opens his window, throwing the pieces away. He rests against the ledge of the window, CRYING.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
(distraught)
You did this. You did this. You did
this.

Thomas watches the pieces of paper blow away in the wind.

CUT TO BLACK.

WHITE TEXT OVER A BLACK SCREEN:

"2 Week Later".

INT. FELIX'S HOME (KITCHEN) - DAY

Felix's father sits at a small, roundtable in the kitchen. He sips a soda, playing with a pen above an untouched notepad. His neck is bent, holding the phone between his shoulder and his cheek.

FATHER
(on the phone)
He's not eating.

A beat. The man on the other end is speaking.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Yeah...yeah. I know. I know that,
but I'm telling you. He's not
fucking eating. He's not sleeping.
I can hear him weep in his fucking
room.

A beat. The father SIGHS and pinches in between his eyes.

FATHER (CONT'D)

He's not getting better. I
don't-..I don't know what do.

Out of the blue, we HEAR a door SHUT from upstairs. The
father stands up, jolted by the sound. He drops the phone.

FATHER (CONT'D)

FELIX!? Felix come down!

No reply.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Felix please! Please.

No reply.

The father sits back down. Deflated. He picks the phone back
up.

FATHER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm sorry, he doesn't
leave his room often.

INT. FELIX'S HOME (UPSTAIRS) - CONTINUOUS

Felix leans on his room's door in the hallway. He listens to
the faint conversation that his father is having on the
phone. He walks to Mandy's room. He slowly creaks open the
door.

INT. MANDY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He walks to the foot of her bed and he falls to his knees. He
presses his face against the bed and CRIES.

FELIX

(whisper)

Why do all those that love me leave
me so early? Why can't you guys
stay?

EXT. GHETTO STREET - NIGHT

Thomas drives through the Ghetto. Dirty, poverty-stricken place. He pulls over next to a filthy, small apartment.

INT. DIRTY ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Thomas stands in the elevator, smoking a cigar.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Thomas walks through the hallway. He stops and KNOCKS on one of the doors. A young black man, TURF, 27, opens the door.

TURF

Wassup'.

Thomas pulls out a thick wad of cash from his coat. Then another. Then another. Then another.

TURF (CONT'D)

What the fuck?

THOMAS

I wanna buy a gun.

INT. THOMAS' HOME - DAY

A KNOCK at the door. Thomas GROANS from his couch and walks to the door. He opens it, and finds Felix standing there. His eyes are tired and red.

EXT. THOMAS' HOME - CONTINUOUS

FELIX

Hey.

Thomas looks around Felix, left and right, then straight at him.

THOMAS

Hey.

FELIX

Can I come in?

A beat.

THOMAS

Yeah. Yeah, you can come in.

INT. THOMAS' HOME - CONTINUOUS

The two enter the home and walk into the dining room. A half-finished meal sits on the table.

THOMAS
I was eating. Mind if I finish
while we talk?

Felix shakes his head. Thomas sits down and eats. Felix sits across from him.

FELIX
How are you holdin' up?

Thomas SHRUGS.

THOMAS
She was your love. Not mine.

Felix slowly nods, staring into oblivion, lost in thought.

FELIX
I can't-

Felix swallows.

FELIX (CONT'D)
I can't understand why.

THOMAS
Why what?

FELIX
(quiet)
Why she died.

A beat.

FELIX (CONT'D)
She seemed so...normal. I beat a
man half to death. I beat a man
half to death to keep her alive.

THOMAS
You did.

FELIX
And she still-

Felix holds back tears.

FELIX (CONT'D)
And she still died.

A long moment of silence. The two sit across from one another, contemplating.

EXT. EMERALD'S HOME - DAY

Thomas and Felix stand on Emerald's porch. Felix pats his coat and pulls out a key. He inserts it into the keyhole and twists. It unlocks.

INT. EMERALD'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

The two enter the home. They stand at the entrance for a moment.

THOMAS
Nobody home.

FELIX
Nobody.

THOMAS
I'm surprised they asked me.

FELIX
Why?

THOMAS
Dunno. Never thought of myself as particularly closer to her. At least, not as close as you were to her.

Felix nods.

FELIX
You were close with her, Thomas.

THOMAS
Nonetheless, it was a nice thought they had.

Felix nods.

FELIX
It was. It was.

INT. EMERALD'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Pink wallpaper, several posters of boybands on the wall, and a small TV on a table against the wall.

It's placed so that it faces the foot of the bed. The two open the door and stand there, examining the room.

FELIX
You know, I've never been here before.

THOMAS
Really.

FELIX
Really.

The two enter. They walk around the small bedroom. Felix runs his hand against her full bookshelf.

FELIX (CONT'D)
She liked books. I didn't even know that.

THOMAS
Felix.

Felix looks back to Thomas, who holds a VHS tape. Thomas hands it to Felix.

A white label on it reads: "PLAY ME WHEN YOU R LOW".

Felix looks at Thomas, confused.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Well, put it in the player.

Felix bends down and loads the VHS tape in.

The TV glitches and suddenly shows: Emerald and Felix under romantic lighting, slow-dancing at the school prom. The two rest their foreheads against one another, smiling. The romantic, slow PROM SONG plays.

Felix is speechless. He falls to his knees in front of the TV and watches the low quality clip. Tears fall from his eyes, down his cheeks, onto the floor. Inches away from the screen, he lightly touches it with his fingers, as if the images displayed were fragile. Antique. His eyes glitter, as if he is looking at something heavenly. Something angelic.

He rests his head against the screen, closing his teary eyes.

The PROM SONG plays, louder and louder.

EXT. EMERALD'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Thomas exits the home and takes a DEEP BREATH. A beautiful sunset slowly sinks below the horizon. The PROM SONG is still audible, coming from Emerald's room inside. Gummy passes by on his bike and waves.

GUMMY
Hey Tommy!

THOMAS
Hi.

GUMMY
Did that come from you?

THOMAS
Did what?

Gummy shakes his head.

GUMMY
Never mind.

Gummy looks up at Emerald's room's window, where the music is coming from.

GUMMY (CONT'D)
I like the music. It's beautiful.

Thomas looks up at the window. His eyes water.

TOMMY
(nodding)
Yeah.

GUMMY
Anyways, I'll see ya' when I see ya'.

Gummy turns to leave.

TOMMY
Hey, Gummy.

Gummy looks back.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Love ya', kid.

Gummy smiles. He bikes away.

Thomas enters his car and SLAMS the door close. He stares at the empty passenger seat next to him.

After a moment, he looks out the window. He watches the boy bike into the horizon. As the boy bikes into the sunset, WE SEE-

SMALL WHITE TEXT APPEAR ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN:

"Mandy lived to see 78 more years, miraculously recovering from her Severe Meningitis at the age 11."

THE TEXT FADES INTO ANOTHER:

"And Thomas lived to 55 more years, working as a cameraman for a small television company."

THE TEXT FADES INTO ANOTHER:

"He died alone."

CUT TO BLACK.

END.