# Breaking Silence

Book and Lyrics By, Elissa Rosenthal

Music By, Jeff Goldford, Stefan Lit & Alex Hayes LITTLE MADISON (10) an angelic picture of joyful innocence, blissfully rides her bike through the neighborhood, the wind blowing in her hair.

She pulls up to her middle class home. Her mother RENEE (30s) gardens in the front yard while her father, MILTON (40s) rummages through the garage. They look at her adoringly and smile.

The simplicity of a normal, mundane, Saturday morning.

SUPER SPEED MONTAGE

- Little Madison grows up to be current MADISON (25) beautiful, tortured, robotic, lost.

END MONTAGE

INT. SWEET AND VICIOUS BAR - NEW YORK CITY

MUSIC pumps loudly at this trendy drinking establishment full of PATRONS having fun. Madison is one of the seemingly dead inside BARTENDERS, and is overtly drunk, dancing.

MADISON

LAST CALL FOR ALCOHOL
THREE FIFTY A.M.
NEW YORK CITY MAYHEM
IT'S MAYHEM
FOR ME THE PARTIES JUST BEGUN
GET OFF WORK I'M HAVE REAL FUN
SO LINE UP THE COCAINE
I'M GONNA MAKE THE JAMESON RAIN

RANDOM GIRL

Madison let's go! I met this guy on Bumble that works at Morgan Stanley. He's so rich! He's having a loft party. Oh my God, girl, slow down!

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Madison stumbles onto the street with various PEOPLE from the bar.

MADISON

DON'T TELL ME WHAT I DID OR SAID THE MORNING COMES WITH A SENSE OF DREAD I'M THE LIFE OF THE PARTY I'M THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

INT. SOHO LOFT - CONTINUOUS

The after party, painfully cool looking people doing drugs.

ENSEMBLE

SHE'S FINE

MADISON THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

I'M THE LIFE OF THE PARTY THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

RENEE (V.O.)

I'M THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Madison what's going on with you? You didn't show up for

dinner!

MADISON

HOW COME I'M NOT SUCCESSFUL YET I'M DROWNING IN MY STUDENT DEBT I DON'T WANT TO PAY SO MANY TAXES WHY EVEN FINISH ALL MY CLASSES I'M YOUNG, I DESERVE TO LET LOOSE THAT'S THE TRUTH, IT'S NOT AN EXCUSE

MADISON (CONT'D)

I'M THE LIFE OF THE PARTY Your nipple is out on your THE LIFE OF THE PARTY I'M THE LIFE OF THE PARTY THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

FRIEND 1

Instagram.

FLASHBACK INTERCUTS

Many mornings, waking up hungover as if it's Groundhogs day.

INT. BROOKLYN APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Various FRIENDS are horrified.

FRIEND 2

Babe, you peed yourself.

FRIEND 3

Did you fuck my boyfriend?

MADISON

IT'S ALL TOO MUCH, I CAN'T THINK I'LL HAVE ANOTHER DRINK EVERYONE MY AGE IS A LITTLE LOST IT'LL WORK OUT FINGERS CROSSED DON'T GET TOO CLOSE OR I'LL BECOME A GHOST DON'T GET TOO CLOSE OR I'LL BECOME A GHOST LEAVE ME ALONE I'M FINE ON MY OWN

INT. SOHO LOFT - CONTINUOUS

ENSEMBLE

MADISON

SHE'S THE LIFE OF THE PARTY I'M THE LIFE OF THE PARTY SHE'S THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

FUCKIN LIFE OF THE PARTY

ENSEMBLE

SHE'S THE LIFE OF THE PARTY SHE'S THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

MADISON

I'M THE LIFE OF THE PARTY FUCKIN LIFE OF THE PARTY

RANDOM GIRL

You're turning purple. Madison are you okay? Oh my God! Someone call 911. I think she's... dead.

Madison lays unconscious on a gurney. Two PARAMEDICS work to revive her. They use a defibrillator. They use Narcan on her.

PARAMEDIC 1

Clear!

Nothing yet. Then. Again.

PARAMEDIC 2

Clear!

Until... BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.

A video plays for "Prevail Malibu" Treatment Center. It has painfully cheesy music and almost presents as if it's a parody of itself.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

# Treatment for Drugs & Alcohol, Eating Disorders, Grief and Complex Trauma

# Most Insurance Accepted

We see a gorgeous mansion on the cliffs of Malibu. The view is breathtaking. Waves crash and the sun rises.

CHRISTINE (60) a female Ram Dass, appears on screen wearing a white professional looking suit. She walks through the treatment center and speaks with a calming voice.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

# Christine Edwards LMFT, Clinical Director

CHRISTINE

Prevail Malibu is a world renowned Treatment Center with a state of the art facility that overlooks the Pacific Ocean.

ACTORS hysterically laugh and smile in a yoga class and get dramatically emotional in Equine Therapy.

CHRISTINE (V.O.)

We use many innovative modalities to help awaken the spirit.

ACTORS let loose in a drum circle, breakdown in a therapy room, throw rocks off a mountain, feed wolves, and paint their inner demons in Art Therapy.

CHRISTINE

Here at Prevail Malibu we recover the truth of who you really are, together.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

#### Prevail Malibu (800) 555-1104

MAN V.O.

Helping your inner hero, conquer their story.

SFX: New Age MUSIC as the video ends.

INT. PREVAIL TREATMENT LOBBY - MORNING

A clean, organized space with motivational sayings such as "Just Breathe" and "Say Yes" plastered on the walls.

The reception area which is also used as a medical station is blocked off with glass.

Madison, looking like the Unabomber, sits in the corner eating chips. Little Madison, dressed in a beautiful pink dress sits in the middle of the room drawing. Renee, wearing an over the top outfit with mega high heels, puts on lipstick in a compact mirror. Milton looking frumpy trying his best in a suit, sits next to a suitcase.

A cellphone RINGS.

MTTITON

Hi Bob. I can't talk now, I'm in California putting my daughter in rehab... She's fine! I'm excited, I'm gonna get one of them star maps and go to Mick Jaggers house.

RENEE

What are you gonna announce to the world our daughters in rehab?

MILTON

It's just Bob! He used to do blow with Donna Summer.

RENEE

Does that make him an expert?

MILTON

No, but it's freakin' cool.

RENEE

This is why our daughter is an addict.

MILTON

Do you believe her? She's the one with no job that spends her days drunk on Skinny Girl margaritas! She-

Renee grabs the phone, places it on the floor and smashes it with her heel.

RENEE

This is your fault. You're a rageaholic!

Little Madison starts crying. Milton casually unfolds his newspaper and starts reading it.

Renee picks up the phone and puts it in the waste basket. Madison finishes the bag of chips to the last crumb.

RENEE (CONT'D)

A lot of people gain weight in rehab... You can't afford to.

MADISON

I need a cigarette.

RENEE

Well, thank God this facility is smoke free. They don't even allow those printer cartridges that blow strawberry shortcake poison!

MADISON

What?! I never agreed to go to a place that doesn't allow smoking.

MILTON

They do! You gotta start with her now?

RENEE

Do you really want her to be a cigarette smoker? It's disgusting. Between this and all the tattoos she keeps getting, she's ruined her body. I'm her mother, I tell her the truth.

Madison gets up and beelines to the door. Little Madison goes back to drawing.

MILTON

Maddy, don't listen to her. It'll be fine.

RENEE

You're acting like we're putting you in a concentration camp.

Madison opens the door.

MILTON

You're gonna kill me with all the stress you've caused. You're gonna stay in this fucking rehab or I'm done.

MADISON

I'm just going to have a cigarette!

RENEE

I should have never let you go to NYU. If you had went to Brown like Suzanne's daughter, you could be in Med school right now.

Madison previously frozen, bursts.

MADISON

Mom, please! I get it, I'm a disappointment! I screw everything up-

There's approaching FOOTSTEPS.

RENEE

Someone's coming. Act normal!

Madison goes outside as Renee snaps into a presentable smile.

DEION (46) a flamboyant man enters while rummaging through papers.

DEION

Hi, I'm Deion. I'm a counselor here. You must be Madison's parents.

RENEE

Hi, I'm Renee, this is my EX husband Milton. I'm nervous about her living here with degenerates. I saw on Fox news, you can learn how to use needles and cook crank at places like this.

DETON

Prevail is the best treatment center in the world. I should know, I got sober here, myself.

RENEE

(whispers)

Oh, so you're an alcoholic.

DEION

A recovering Crystal Meth addict.

RENEE

That's horrible!

MILTON

Big in the gay community.

RENEE

Milton! He didn't tell us he was gay.

MILTON

It's ninety degrees outside, he's wearing a scarf.

Deion nods.

DEION

I'm extremely gay.

Madison comes back in.

DEION (CONT'D)

Hi Madison, I'm Deion. I know you must be anxious. I promise you, this place will change your life.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

I'm not leaving cause I want to get high, I have a family. I need to get back to the real world.

VINNY (29) who exudes New Jersey and HENDRIX (23) a gorgeous rocker bursts in the room.

VINNY

Deion, give me my shit. I'm leaving.

DEION

I'm with a new client-

VINNY

Fuck this, I'll get it later.

Vinny bolts for the door. Just as he touches the handle, Christine enters.

CHRISTINE

Vinny, please pause.

VINNY

Oh my God. "Pause when agitated. Keep it simple!" Another recovery bumper sticker! Real life can't be condensed down into cute sayings. You're fucking annoying Christine! HENDRIX

From my experience leaving treatment before you're supposed to is never a good idea.

VINNY

Hendrix, I love you but you don't have a wife and daughter.

HENDRIX

You won't be much use to them if you're on Heroin.

VINNY

Do you hear to yourself? You're like Christine's little pet robot. Lisa forgives me and wants me back!

HENDRIX

You need more time. You're a chronic relapser.

VINNY

And you're a 23 year old junkie that killed his brother. Maybe you have a hard time staying sober, but I'm good now.

HENDRIX

Wow. Throwing that in my face?

VINNY

Prevail isn't the end all be all man!

CHRISTINE

You're right. Treatment doesn't guarantee anything, it's simply a vessel to help you if you want it to be.

VINNY

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

One day at a time. One day at a time.

VINNY

I can't be in this bubble anymore.

CHRISTINE

Deion, help Vinny discharge.

Deion gets his belongings. Vinny takes out a cigarette and goes outside.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Hi, you must be Madison, I'm Chris-

RENEE

What kind of fakakta place is this Christine?! This isn't anything like the video! Where's the horse yoga and finger paints?

(to Madison)

Listen honey, you were right. This place is a total con job. You can live with me and I'll get you sober. And if you stay sober, I'll also pay for laser tattoo removal.

MTT<sub>1</sub>TON

You're the reason she drinks!

RENEE

She would've died from Cancer if it weren't for me!

They all turn to look at Renee in confusion.

RENEE (CONT'D)

She had a tumor. I caught it, he didn't even wanna take her to the doctor!

CHRISTINE

Madison, your recovery, your choice.

MADISON

I'd rather stay here.

MILTON

Let's go Renee.

RENEE

But-

MILTON

I pay for insurance so we can be covered for things like this, let's go!

Renee wraps herself around Madison and weeps.

RENEE

Please get fixed!

MADISON

I'm not a dog.

Milton peels Renee off of her and they exit.

CHRISTINE

Never a dull day! Hendrix can you show Madison around and introduce her to everyone?

Hendrix and Madison walk toward the cafeteria.

HENDRIX

I'm glad you're here.

MADISON

You don't know me.

HENDRIX

I do. We're all the same.

Little Madison watches them leave.

LITTLE MADISON

I need a fucking cigarette.

INT. PREVAIL'S DINING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Madison and Hendrix enter to all the other patients eating breakfast. DANI (23) anorexically thin and perfectly primped, SATORI (33) bi-racial Ivy League, CLAY (18) trans man, JUAN (32) an Iraq vet, MICHAELA (82) angry and jaded, BRUCE (40) the entitled trust fund baby, KODA (21) skinhead who's really a mush, BELL (40) obese bright star, and DUSTIN (26) genuine.

HENDRIX

There's a lot of people to meet, try not to get overwhelmed.

MADISON

Ok.

HENDRIX

I don't know about you, but when someone tells me their name, I forget immediately. I think everyone's like that, or maybe it's all the drugs I did.

Everyone looks at her, the treatment fresh meat.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

WAKING UP, HEARING THE MORNING TIDE BEAUTIFUL MANSION ON THE CLIFFSIDE

DANT

ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT LIVING IN L.A. WE GOT A TRAINER, MASSEUSE, AND A CHEF GOURMET

They drive on PCH in a sprinter van.

BRUCE AND CLAY
NEXT DOOR TO EVERY MOVIE STAR
DRIVING DOWN PCH IN A CHAUFFEURED
CAR

MICHAELA AND DUSTIN EVERY STORY AND SAYING IS A COMPLETE CLICHÉ ONLY IF WE'RE WILLING, CAN WE STAY

ENSEMBLE

IN TREATMENT
NEVER THOUGHT WE'D END UP HERE
TREATMENT
GETTING PASSED ALL OUR FEARS
TREATMENT
SO SICK TRYING TO GET WELL
TREATMENT
SO TIRED OF LIVING IN HELL

Madison is shown the group room.

KODA

WE DO ONE ON ONE THERAPY BUT GROUP IS PRIMARILY THE POWERS IN US RELATING CONNECTIONS WE'RE GENERATING

BELL AND DANI SELF CARE IS ESSENTIAL, MIND BODY AND SPIRIT

JUAN

IF YOU WANT IT, IF YOU REALLY WANT IT, THERES NO LIMIT

Juan in his wheelchair shows her how he makes the bed.

JUAN (CONT'D)

MAKE YOUR BED, FOLLOW THE RULES LEARN RECOVERY SKILLS AND TOOLS GET OUT OF SELF, BE OF SERVICE YES YOU DESERVE THIS

ENSEMBLE

HELPING EACH OTHER IS OUR PURPOSE IN TREATMENT

(MORE)

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

NEVER THOUGHT WE'D END UP HERE TREATMENT
GETTING PASSED ALL OUR FEARS TREATMENT
SO SICK TRYING TO GET WELL TREATMENT
SO TIRED OF LIVING IN HELL

As each client states their name, their unfortunate treatment center photo pops up along with their birthday, date of admission, and diagnosis.

DANI

I'M DANI, I'M GONNA BE YOUR ROOMMATE I'M HERE FOR EXHAUSTION AKA METH I'M AN INSTAGRAM MODEL LOSING MY TEETH WAS DEATH

BELL

I'M BELL, A BINGE EATER SINCE I WAS YOUNG ALL THE BULLYING REALLY STUNG THOUGHT FOOD WAS A SAFE SMOKE SCREEN TILL I COULDN'T FIT IN THE MRI MACHINE

KODA

I'M KODA, WAS IN THE NAZI LOW RIDERS WAS TAUGHT TO HATE ANY OUTSIDERS HAVE A LARGE SWASTIKA ON MY CHEST LEARNING MY POP DIDN'T KNOW BEST

CLAY

HI I'M CLAY, MY FATHER THINKS I'M AN ABOMINATION CAUSE I'M TRANS HES A PASTOR IN TENNESSEE HE WILL NOT ACCEPT ME HAD A SUICIDE ATTEMPT CAME HERE CAUSE I NEED HELP

DUSTIN

I'M DUSTIN, WAS BORN ADDICTED TO CRACK
I'VE BEEN INCARCERATED JUST CAUSE
I'M BLACK
GENERATIONS OF TRAUMA, NEVER HAD A MOTHER
A GO FUND ME GOT ME HERE TO RECOVER

MICHAELA

I'M MICHAELA, EIGHTY TWO YEARS OLD SEVERE ALCOHOLIC (MORE)

MICHAELA (CONT'D)

JUST GOT A LIVER TRANSPLANT

I NEVER DIE, I'M LIKE A SNAKE PLANT

BRUCE

I'M BRUCE, GREW UP DOWN THE STREET
I HAD EVERY LUXURY AT MY FEET
DADDY'S A BILLIONAIRE WHO'S FED UP
WITH ME
I'M GONNA LOSE MY TRUST FUND, IF I
CAN'T KEEP SOBRIETY

JUAN

I'M JUAN, I SERVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST MOST OF MY FRIENDS ARE DECEASED. I'M HERE FOR MY PTSD AND I GOT HOOKED ON OPIATES AFTER I BECAME AN AMPUTEE

SATORI

I'M SATORI, PERFECTIONIST TO THE EXTREME, AT HARVARD I HAD THE STRICTEST REGIME LIKE A BALLOON I POPPED MY INNER CRITIC NEEDS TO BE STOPPED ALWAYS STRUGGLED WITH MY IDENTITY DESPERATE FOR SERENITY

HENDRIX

I'M HENDRIX, I DID ANYTHING TO GET MY FIX FOUR TIMES I'VE OVERDOSED AND DIED I HATED MYSELF AND FEEL DEAD INSIDE I PLAY MUSIC, ONLY FEEL GOOD WHEN I CREATE I FELT SO EMPTY THAT I HAD TO SELF MEDICATE

MADISON

I'M MADISON, I WANNA RUN THIS OVERSHARING IS OVERBEARING

Little Madison appears curiously observing.

LITTLE MADISON
IF YOU LEAVE NOW, YOU WON'T SEE THE HEALING HAS BEGUN

**ENSEMBLE** 

IN TREATMENT
NEVER THOUGHT WE'D END UP HERE
TREATMENT
GETTING PASSED ALL OUR FEARS
TREATMENT
SO SICK TRYING TO GET WELL
(MORE)

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

TREATMENT

SO TIRED OF LIVING IN HELL

Deion walks in and hands her a cup to pee in.

DEION

Let's finish getting you admitted. First things first, I need you to tinkle.

INT. PREVAIL TREATMENT LOBBY - LATER

Deion sits behind the med station desk.

MADISON

I can't do this. It's too much.

DEION

When I got here I was homeless, had scabies, and my partner had died from AIDS. Now 8 years later I work here!

MADISON

Here's my urine sample.

DEION

Dreams do come true.

Christine walks out of her office.

CHRISTINE

Glad you're here, where you from?

MADISON

Long Island.

CHRISTINE

I love New York!

(hardcore NY accent)

I love coffee, going to walk my dog, pizza, bagels.

Madison does not look amused.

DEION

I searched her belongings, no drugs, razor blades or butt plugs. (off look)

I've seen it all sweetie.

Deion goes back into the med station.

CHRISTINE

Madison, can you tell me why you're here?

MADISON

My dads secretary found this place online-

CHRISTINE

No, why are you here?

MADISON

Um... I don't know.

CHRISTINE

Do you want to recover? I'm not talking about abstinence. I'm talking about finding a real peace within yourself and shifting your perspective.

MADISON

You seem like a cult leader from a Netflix documentary.

CHRISTINE

Ha, I've actually heard that one. I'm also your therapist and the Clinical Director here.

MADISON

I saw the video.

CHRISTINE

I went to treatment 15 times before I stayed. Now I'm 30 years sober.

MADISON

I can't imagine a life where I never drink again.

CHRISTINE

What if recovery is your invitation to a higher level of consciousness?

MADISON

And what if you're a delusional cheerleader?

CHRISTINE

Now, I've not heard that one before.

Deion walks back in.

DEION

Madison, let's get you settled in.

MADISON

Where's my phone?

DEION

No phones or computer for 90 days.

MADISON

You're kidding.

DEION

Sweetie. You're in treatment. "Rehab", "A meditation retreat in Ibiza", I don't care where you end up telling people you are, but for the next two months you won't be triggered by the outside world. This is you time.

MADISON

I didn't get a chance to say goodbye to anyone! Can I make one post on insta. Can I-

DEION

Fine!

Deion gives Madison her phone back. Madison looks like a zombie, hunched over, in a trance.

INTERCUT

INT. PRISON CELL - CONTINUOUS

Deion now appears in a sexy prison outfit with DANCERS.

DEION

YOU CAN HAVE FIVE MORE MINUTES WITH YOUR PHONE
SAY GOODBYE BEFORE GOING IN THE UNKNOWN
IT'S HARD TO LET GO OF THAT MOBILE DEVICE
IT'S EVERYONES VICE
I'M ATTACHED TO MY PHONE
ATTACHED TO MY PHONE
ATTACHED TO MY PHONE

Deion appears as a judge.

# DEION (CONT'D)

(To camera)
You're all addicted! Social Media,
silly games, the internet, texting!
Our phones are our appendage! My
hands are turning into claws! My
phone is the first thing I look at
when I wake up and the last thing
before I go to bed. I know you do
it too! Maybe there's some of you
who don't care and maybe four of
you have flip phones. Freaks! You
are freaks!

Deion is back to his sexy dance moment.

DEION (CONT'D) KIDDING, I ADMIRE YOU I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO NOT BE STUCK LIKE GLUE TO MY ONE TRUE LOVE- I MEAN PHONE CAN'T STOP SCROLLING, SCROLLING WHAT ARTICLE CAN I READ I'M A ZOMBIE STARING INTO MY FEED I'M ATTACHED TO MY PHONE ATTACHED TO MY PHONE ATTACHED TO MY PHONE I CAN'T HELP BUT COMPARE SEEING EVERYONES HIGHLIGHT REEL ALWAYS GOT ME IN DESPAIR HOW MANY FILTERS CAN I USE I need them! HOW MANY CAT VIDEOS WILL AMUSE HOW MANY APPS CAN I PARUSE I'M ATTACHED TO MY PHONE ATTACHED TO MY PHONE ATTACHED TO MY PHONE A TEXT IS AN ADRENALINE HIT WRITE ME BACK SOON OR I'LL HAVE A FIT MORE ADDICTED THEN I'D LIKE TO ADMIT TAKE IT TO THE BATHROOM WHEN I SHIT OR PEE, I TAKE IT EVERYWHERE WITH NOT TO PROJECT THIS RULE IS MEANT TO PROTECT TIME FOR NO DISTRACTIONS HAVE MORE PRESENT INTERACTIONS DETACH FROM YOUR PHONE DETACH FROM YOUR PHONE DETACH FROM YOUR PHONE

#### INT. PREVAIL TREATMENT LOBBY- CONTINUOUS

DEION

(demonic voice)

This is a digital free zone. No sugar and no sex either.

Deion uncomfortably smiles.

Madison looks at the large door she came in through and hands Deion her phone.

MADISON

Sugar? C'mon.

DEION

The worst drug of them all!

Madison is surprised.

DEION (CONT'D)

Not really, just something I'm personally working on right now.

Madison and Little Madison share a moment pondering if this is what's right for them.

INT. DANI AND MADISON'S ROOM - LATER

The perfectly neat room has two beds and two desks and the Pacific Ocean peaks through the window. Dani's side looks lived in, as her's has cards on the wall and is full of make-up and hair tools.

Madison unpacks.

DANT

So excited to finally have a roommate! A lot of people like having a single but like, my dark voices take over and I actually enjoy the company... You're quiet, is this your first time?

MADISON

Yeah.

DANI

It's super obvious. Lighten up.

MADISON

How long have you been here?

DANT

Eleven days but I've been in and out of treatment since I was 13. I struggle with bulimia and anorexia. I love Meth! I'm also bi-polar and have suicidal ideation. That all sounded very clinical, but when you've been seeing doctors your whole life it's just kind of how you define yourself. Here they teach you to create a new narrative and not get lost in a diagnosis.

MADISON

That all seemed so easy for you to admit.

DANI

You're my roommate so I wanna get close. Ya gotta be real with me. Otherwise, we're wasting each other's time. Like, I need to know it all. Your D.O.C, type of guy you like, unless you're a lesbian and that's cool too! If you snore, if you're gonna count my eyelashes while I sleep?

MADISON

I'm definitely not going to do that. D.O.C?

Satori walks in.

DANI

Drug of choice. There's a lot of lingo here that you'll pick up.

MADISON

I'd say Xanax. Xanax takes away my anxiety-

DANI

I love Xanax! It just makes me eat too much.

SATORI

Downers, no thanks.

MADISON

Yeah, I mean I did a lot of Cocaine, Adderall, Molly... I blackout when I drink.

(MORE)

MADISON (CONT'D)

Tried pain pills but they make me nauseous so that never stuck. Oh weed, yeah I smoke a lot of weed but, weed's not bad.

SATORI

Oh... Are you not ready to surrender?

MADISON

I'm not sure, I mean, I'm here...
It's just so weird. Five days ago I
was at work and the next thing you
know I'm in the hospital being
brought back to life.

DANI

Yeah, that's not weird to me. You'll see, so many people overdose. You're just lucky you get another chance.

MADISON

I can't believe you've done this so many times.

DANI

I really want this to be my last time. In fact, I know it's my last time. I finally accept that I just can't do drugs and drink like a normal person.

MADISON

Ugh.

DANI

I know girl. It's a rude awakening. One day you're just having fun and the next you owe 20K to a pimp named Archimedes.

SATORI

Dani's the one with all the stories, I barely left my dorm room.

INT. GROUP ROOM - LATER

The clients sit in a circle. The room is bare.

CHRISTINE

Everyone please stand up. Shake out your body. Use your voice. Yell out your tension. Walk around the space and when I say, please stand in front of a partner to practice eye gazing.

Everyone shakes out their body, letting out noises and most seem really into it.

ENSEMBLE

Ahhh. Ohhh.

Madison stands frozen. Everyone walks around the room and partners up.

CHRISTINE

Without speaking, look into their eyes. Who is this person? Doesn't this person deserve love and compassion?

MADISON

I'm definitely not doing this.

CHRISTINE

It's meant to be uncomfortable. We're creating safe intimacy.

Madison shakes her head and goes to sit down.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Now switch partners and notice what's coming up for you.

Little Madison appears.

LITTLE MADISON

I wish I was dead.

CHRISTINE

Switch partners one last time and then find a seat to start meditation.

Everyone sits. Madison looks like a deer in headlights.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

**ENSEMBLE** 

Ohm...

Close your eyes. Sit up

straight, feet on Mother Earth, hands on your heart. I want you to imagine, you are sitting in a beautiful meadow. The water is crystal clear and the sound of the gentle stream has a calming effect. You are surrounded by a luminous ball of light. You float up into the clouds. Bright light seeps out of your skin.

MADISON

Oh my God.

Everyone is meditating.

INT. MADISON'S MIND - SAME TIME

Chaotic FLASHBACKS of embarrassing drunk moments.

MADISON

MY MIND IS RACING, HOW CAN I MEDITATE REGRETS OVERWHELMING MY MENTAL I CAN'T FUCKING CONCENTRATE

She peaks open her eyes.

MADISON (CONT'D)

THEY MAKE IT LOOK EASY I THINK IT'S CHEESY

**ENSEMBLE** 

MONKEY MIND ALL OVER THE PLACE SHOOTING INTO OUTER SPACE

CHRISTINE

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

Focus on your breath. Take Ohm.... your deepest breath yet, in through your nose, out through your mouth.

Madison tries to breathe and get into it.

Little Madison is jumping around all over the place.

MADISON

BREATHE, YOU CAN JUST BREATHE
ALL THIS KUMBAYA LOVE AND LIGHT
IT MAKES ME WANT TO HEAVE
I WISH I COULD BELIEVE
I CAN'T SIT STILL
MY HEAD HURTS, I NEED ADVIL

**ENSEMBLE** 

MONKEY MIND ALL OVER THE PLACE SHOOTING INTO OUTER SPACE

CHRISTINE

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

Your spirit guide appears and Ohm... has a kind message for you.

MADISON

MY SPIRIT GUIDE, THIS WOMAN IS CRAZY
I WANNA FUCKING KILL THIS LADY SHUT UP, GO WITH IT
MY SPIRIT GUIDE SAYS THAT 'IM FEELING PRETTY LOOPY
MY EYES ARE GETTING DROOPY
WHAT IF I CANT FALL ASLEEP LATER DANI IS SO SKINNY, UGH MADISON DON'T BE SUCH A HATER

ENSEMBLE

MONKEY MIND ALL OVER THE PLACE SHOOTING INTO OUTER SPACE

CHRISTINE

ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

Mantras help bring you back to a present state of mind.
Recite to yourself. I am love. I am light.

MADISON

I AM LOVE, IS SHE KIDDING
THIS NEW AGE TRIP HAS GOT MY BRAIN
SKIDDING ALL OVER THE PLACE
I CANT TURN OFF
FEELING ITCHY AND I HAVE TO COUGH
THEY LOOK SO CALM, THEY'RE DOING IT
RIGHT
I CAN'T EVEN REPEAT WHAT SHE'S
ASKING ME TO RECITE

INT. GROUP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ENSEMBLE

I AM LOVE I AM LIGHT

MADISON

RIGHT

ENSEMBLE

LISTEN, HOW IT MAKES YOU FEEL THE CONTINUUM IS ALL THATS REAL MONKEY MIND ALL OVER THE PLACE SHOOTING INTO OUTER SPACE

INT. MIND FANTASY

One by one we see each clients vision.

DANI ENSEMBLE

I am in a meadow of light. My Ohm... spirit guide is a naughty
Japanese man that knows
karate. He says Dani you're
beautiful, take off your
clothes-

BELL ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

I am thin and happy. Ohm...

Madison's so pretty... You're disgusting Bell.

BRUCE ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

Madison and Dani are Ohm...

roommates. Hot, lesbian

roommates.

DUSTIN ENSEMBLE (CONT'D)

Under my umbrella, ella, ella Ohm... eh. I should go to law

school.

KODA EMSEMBLE

I am beautiful ball of light. Ohm...

Light illuminates out of my

fingertips.

MICHAELA **ENSEMBLE** 

I think we're having sloppy Ohm... joe's for dinner. My hip hurts.

Ohm...

SATORI **EMSEMBLE** 

I'm the smartest one here. Ah, stop it. I'm so bad at this. What if I murdered everyone here. In cold blood. Ah Intrusive thoughts leave me alone.

> JUAN ENSEMBLE

We should watch E.T. later! Ohm... E.T. phone home!

#### MADISON

I'M FOCUSING AND HONING IN ON EVERYTHING I DO IM TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF EVERY MESSAGE COMING THROUGH IF LOVE IS LIGHT AND LIGHT NEEDS DARK TOO THEN THAT MEANS I THINK DANI WAS A PROSTITUTE, WHAT MADISON!

#### CHRISTINE

In order for a seed to grow it must completely explode. To someone that doesn't understand growth, it may seem as though the seed is destroyed. You are this seed transforming. Envision yourself five years from now-

MADISON

FIVE YEARS FROM NOW I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE PRESENT THIS IS TORTURE I'M TOO FAST I'M A NEW YORKER

### **ENSEMBLE**

LISTEN, HOW IT MAKES YOU FEEL THE CONTINUUM IS ALL THATS REAL MONKEY MIND ALL OVER THE PLACE SHOOTING INTO OUTER SPACE

CHRISTINE

Open your eyes.

Hendrix is crying.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Hendrix, what's coming up for you?

HENDRIX

Everyone I get close to dies.

CHRISTINE

Where in your body do you feel the pain?

HENDRIX

Everywhere. I can't breathe.

CHRISTINE

Are you ready to do some work?

HENDRIX

I'm scared.

CHRISTINE

What are you afraid of?

HENDRIX

I'm scared Vinny will die. I'm scared I'll never be happy. That I'll never be financially stable. That I'm sick. That I won't make it as a musician. I'm scared my mom will never forgive me-

CHRISTINE

Do you want to be run by those fears or do you want to make room for them? We must choose if we want to be run by fear or love. Whatever moves our feet is our higher power.

HENDRIX

God? What is God? An entity in the sky that punishes and separates? The world is crazy. Everyday a new tragedy. I'm at a nice treatment center in Malibu and my brother is dead. It's not fair.

CHRISTINE

No, it's not fair. I will never understand why you and I get to be here right now and some don't make it.

HENDRIX

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

Never ending. Can switch any moment. We're never stable.

CHRISTINE

Yes, it's perfectly imperfect. Take your experience and help another person. Period.

HENDRIX

I wish I wasn't so sensitive.

CHRISTINE

But darling, if you weren't, would you be as creative? Everything comes at a price.

Christine leads an experiential therapy group, where all clients participate.

INTERCUT

INT. HENDRIX CHILDHOOD HOME - SAME TIME

FTASHBACK

- Humble beginnings in Encinitas. Hendrix as an addict and struggling musician playing a coffee house.

HENDRIX

I'M THE CLICHÉ TORTURED ARTIST EVERYONE ASSUMES I'M HEARTLESS SO I HIDE BEHIND MY MUSIC IN A PLACE WHERE I STILL HAVE CONTROL BUT ITS NEVER ENOUGH TO STILL MY SOUL

I DON'T WANNA FEEL
DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL
RIGHT WHEN I OPEN UP AND WE CONNECT
VINNY LEAVES, LIKE EVERYONE, WHAT
CAN
I EXPECT

- Hendrix wakes up to his BROTHER being dead.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)
HE'S RIGHT I'LL NEVER GET OVER
KILLING MY BROTHER
It was an accident.
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME THAT DIED
I SAID I WAS SOBER, BUT I LIED
NO I DON'T WANT TO FEEL
(MORE)

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

IT ALL FEELS SURREAL
I'M ONLY TWENTY THREE
A MUSICIAN WANNABE
ALL EMPATHY NO SYMPATHY BUT THATS
THE ROLE FOR ME
THOUGHT I'D DIE WITH THE GREATS AT
TWENTY SEVEN
MAKE MY MARK ON THE WORLD AND MEET
THEM IN HEAVEN

- Hendrix as a LITTLE BOY with his MOTHER holding him as his FATHER leaves.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

I GUESS IT ALL STARTED WHEN MY FATHER LEFT I WAS NINE WITH THIS CRUSHING WEIGHT ON MY CHEST I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY A MAN WOULD LEAVE HIS FAMILY SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME NOT WHAT YOU THOUGHT I'D BE God! I FEEL LIKE AN ICEBERG, ITS ALL BENEATH THE SURFACE I AM MELTING I AM SO TIRED OF REBELLING I FEEL EVERYTHING I FEEL EVERYTHING IT'S OVERWHELMING IT'S TOO HARD TO BE ACCEPTING EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING WANTS TO GTVE-UP MY STEP DAD IN MY HEAD SAYING HENDRIX GROW UP Grow up! NOW THERE'S VINNY, A BEAUTIFUL WEIRDO MANIAC I'M AFRAID THAT HIS LIGHT WILL FADE TO BLACK IT BREAKS MY HEART TO KNOW THAT IT COULD BE THE END HE'S LIKE MY BROTHER HE'S MY BEST FRIEND HE'S HIS OWN WORST ENEMY I'M MY OWN WORST ENEMY

The psychodrama therapy ends. All clients go back to their seats. Hendrix sits on his knees on the floor in the center.

SELF SABOTAGE IS OUR SPECIALTY

SO I DON'T WANT TO FEEL

SO I DON'T WANT TO FEEL

LIFE IS TOO REAL

LIFE IS TOO REAL

Madison and Little Madison are impacted.

CHRISTINE

When you're ready, stand up, and take a deep cleansing breath.

Hendrix stands up, breathes, and sits back in his chair.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Let's show Madison how the feedback loop works. There's no judgement here. We can relate to everyone.

BELL

Hendrix when I watched you work it reminded me how I always want to check out of reality.

DANI

It reminded me how separated I feel, and abandoned by my parents.

DUSTIN

It triggered me about the police killing my brother and how I felt so helpless.

KODA

It reminded me how I lived to please my dad and how I could't handle the pressure.

SATORI

It triggered memories of feeling isolated in not knowing where I fit in, too Black to be Asian, too Asian to be Black.

CLAY

It brought up how I can't kill myself just cause my parents don't accept me. I have to understand it's hard for them to lose a daughter even if they're gaining a son.

JUAN

It brought me back to a night in Afghanistan where I killed-

Juan gets emotional and stops himself.

\*

MICHAELA

It reminded me how I wasted my whole life avoiding my feelings.

BRUCE

It made me realize how we're all fucked.

Everyone looks at Madison. She pauses. Hendrix and Madison lock eyes.

MADISON

Um... Hendrix when I watched you work it reminded how I always fantasized about dying at 27 too, and everything else you said, I guess... Did I do that right?

CHRISTINE

Yes Madison, that was great! Everyone on their feet. Surround Hendrix with love and support.

Everyone surrounds Hendrix.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Dance party!

DANCE MUSIC plays and everyone gets up to dance.

MADISON

This is unexpected.

CLAY

Yeah, I know it's kinda weird but we dance after emotional work.

CHRISTINE

Changing your physicality is one of the best ways to elevate the mood. We gotta raise our energy!

Mostly everyone is going buck wild dancing especially Dani and Bruce. Hendrix is slowly coming out of his low energy and joining in. Christine is having the most fun and being silly. She dances over to Madison who couldn't be more uncomfortable and frozen with her arms folded.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Not everything here is intense. We let loose too! Remember when you were a child and just wanted to play? We're recovering her!

Christine tries to get Madison to join in. Little Madison seems desperate to dance.

MADISON

Are you sure you're not high?

Hendrix dances over to Madison and playfully, ever so slightly, grabs her arm.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Don't touch me!

The room freezes and all stare at Madison.

HENDRIX

Do you not like to dance?

MADISON

I love dancing.

BRUCE

So you're just a bitch?

MADISON

You're pathetic! This place is absurd! Staring into each others eyes, spirit guides? What's next? Sage smudging, blessing crystals? What's wrong with you people?!

CHRISTINE

Could it be possible that your mind and judgement are getting in the way of a new experience?

MADISON

Does that matter? Most people here have been in and out of treatment forever, what's the point? Doesn't seem to work.

CHRISTINE

It comes down to willingness and honesty. It doesn't work for some but how will you know if you never try?

MADISON

I was fine until he touched me! He had no right! How am I the insane one here?

CHRISTINE

You're not insane! You're entitled to your personal space and boundaries.

HENDRIX

I'm really sorry, I didn't mean to-

BRUCE

You're acting like he tried to rape you-

Madison shuts down.

CHRISTINE

Bruce! Madison, do you want to be a prisoner of your past or a pioneer of your future?

MADISON

You're deep.

CHRISTINE

You overdosed and died.

MADISON

And?

CHRISTINE

Then why are you fucking here? This is your moment. Who are you and who do you want to be?

MADISON

I have no idea who I am. My life is worthless.

CHRISTINE

You've been playing the same tape to yourself over and over. Aren't you tired?

MADISON

They should have let me die.

Everyone freezes.

INTERCUT with FLASHBACKS

INT. LONG ISLAND HOME - SAME TIME

Little Madison is happy playing with her FRIENDS, and eating dinner with her parents.

MADISON

WHEN I WAS LITTLE GIRL
I NEVER DREAMED THIS IS WHO I'D BE
LOST, CONFUSED, EVERY EXCUSE ABUSED
I CAN'T HANDLE LIFE, I ESCAPE EVERY
CHANCE I GET
TO MY FAMILY, I'M A THREAT
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WENT WRONG
I'VE BLAMED EVERYONE FOR SO LONG
I WAS A CURIOUS, INNOCENT, CHILD
DANCED, PLAYED, AND CONSTANTLY
SMILED
THE WORLD WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE
ANY DREAM, I COULD CHASE
I DON'T KNOW THE MOMENT WHERE IT
CHANGED

LITTLE MADISON
I WAS A CURIOUS, INNOCENT, CHILD
DANCED, PLAYED, AND CONSTANTLY
SMILED
BUT I WAS MISUNDERSTOOD
FELT ALL ALONE IN MY CHILDHOOD
I WAS HURT

INT. CHILDHOOD HOME - NIGHT

Renee and Milton fight.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Madison gets bullied in school.

MADISON

I NEED HELP

LITTLE MADISON

I AM HURT

MADISON

I NEED HELP

LITTLE MADISON

I LIVE INSIDE YOU
YOU NEVER OUTGREW ME
I'M YOUR INNER CHILD, ALIVE IN YOU
IT'S TIME TO LISTEN TO ME
I CARRY ALL YOUR PAIN
AND I CAN SET YOU FREE
I AM THE CORE
YOU CAN'T IGNORE
WE NEED TO BE IN HARMONY
(MORE)

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

I'M WITH YOU AND YOU ME ETERNALLY

I AM THE PAST YOU AVOID

I KEEP YOU STUCK AND PARANOID

MADISON

I WANT TO CHANGE

LITTLE MADISON

I'M DESPERATE FOR LOVE

# INT. MADISON'S BROOKLYN APARTMENT

Madison appears as if she's going to commit suicide. Has a bottle of pills in her hand, the bath is running.

LITTLE MADISON AND MADISON

GOD IF YOU'RE REAL
PLEASE ANSWER MY PRAYER
I'M DONE WITH MY DESPAIR
THERES NO WHERE LEFT TO BE
I NEED HELP

BACK TO SCENE

MADISON

I'm sorry I freaked out on you.

HENDRIX

I get it, my first time, a guy touched my guitar and I shit on his bed.

MADISON

Cool... I'll try Christine.

CHRISTINE

(Yoda impression)

There is no try, just do.

MADISON

Is that Yoda?

CHRISTINE

Yep! Smart little fella... Please have compassion for yourself Madison.

MADISON

Yeah.

Christine reaches out her hand. Madison grabs it and they dance.

# TIME ELAPSES

#### MONTAGE

- Madison doing art therapy.
- Laughing in the cafeteria with everyone.
- Doing DBT writing work in her room.

# EXT. TREATMENT CENTER PATIO - NIGHT

All the stars are out and we hear the ocean breeze. Hendrix is sitting at a table writing with his guitar. Madison walks out.

MADISON

Sorry, didn't realize anyone was out here.

HENDRIX

No worries. I come out here a lot. It's the best place to write.

MADISON

That's what I was gonna do.

HENDRIX

Oh yeah? Anything in particular?

MADISON

Just reflecting on the past week, I never experienced anything like this.

HENDRIX

This is my seventh time. I miss my second time, it was so hopeful. That sounds bad. It only takes one time. I didn't listen. I was on a pink cloud, then life happened.

MADISON

The pink cloud. I don't think I have that, I'm just liking everyone's raw honesty.

HENDRIX

People sharing their deepest darkest secrets and vulnerabilities.

#### MADISON

Like I said in group, you with the twenty seven club, I really relate to that. It's funny, I legit didn't realize that people thought like me.

### HENDRIX

Same, that whole terminally unique thing.

# MADISON

My plan was, I would die at twenty seven, my mom would find my journals, and publish them. Then everyone in the world would know how brilliant I was. I would be famous, but only after my death.

### HENDRIX

(laughing)

Yeah, mine is similar but I become famous while I'm alive. I write a hit album, tour, live the life, then they find me dead in a motel somewhere in middle America, alone.

MADISON

Tragic. I love it!

HENDRIX

We're sick!

MADISON

I don't know, I think it's
romantic.

HENDRIX

The good news is, we're seeing how delusional we sounded.

MADISON

Totally. Is your real name Hendrix or is that apart of the twenty seven club fantasy?

HENDRIX

Believe it or not Hendrix is my real name.

MADISON

Ah! So cool! I'm named after Daryl Hannah's character in the movie Splash.

HENDRIX

Never saw that.

MADISON

It's before our time, ironically my mom has a thing for Tom Hanks cause he's "so nice," meanwhile all day she gossips on the phone talking about how ugly and horrible people are.

HENDRIX

Oh the hypocrisy, it's a killer. My mom is rad, her problem is always putting the oxygen mask on others before herself.

MADISON

I truly think my real problem is that I was born in the wrong era.

HENDRIX

Me too! If only I was touring and making music in the 60's when drugs were cool and everything meant something.

MADISON

Our generation sucks. I'm like Sylvia Plath and I'm stuck with Tik Tok?

INT. 70'S DREAM SEQUENCE - CONTINUOUS

Hendrix in 70's attire, getting into a van with STRANGERS, performing on a stage with a large crowd of PEOPLE.

HENDRIX

BACK THEN
WE COULD HITCHHIKE CROSS COUNTRY
NEW FRIENDS, SMOKING GRASS
WITH NO MONEY
SINGING MY SONGS, LEAVING MY
SOUL ON STAGE
FOUR DAYS TRIPPING ON AN ACID IN A
FREE LOVE RAMPAGE

Madison in 70's attire joining Hendrix, with her notepad.

MADISON

BACK THEN

WE COULD BE PART OF THE HIPPIE MOVEMENT

(MORE)

MADISON (CONT'D)

PSYCHEDELICS, OUR KIND OF SELF IMPROVEMENT WRITING STORIES FOR THE ROLLING STONE FLYING AT THE SPEED OF SOUND INTO THE GREAT UNKNOWN

MADISON AND HENDRIX

BACK THEN
EVERYONE WAS LOST TOGETHER
IN THE MOMENT, BEING FREE
DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO NOBODY
BACK THEN
LIFE WAS AN EPIC SCENE
WISH WE HAD A TIME MACHINE

HENDRIX

BACK THEN
NOSTALGIA FOR A TIME I NEVER
KNEW
LIVING LIKE A ROCK GOD GURU

MADISON

LIVING THE ARTIST LIFESTYLE WHEN THINGS WERE BRAND NEW

EXT. TREATMENT CENTER PATIO - CONTINUOUS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

BACK THEN
EVERYONE WAS LOST TOGETHER
IN THE MOMENT, BEING FREE
DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO NOBODY
BACK THEN
LIFE WAS AN EPIC SCENE
WISH WE HAD A TIME MACHINE BACK
THEN WAS MORE ME
SADLY NOT OUR REALITY
BETTER BACK THEN
WE SHARE THE SAME FANTASY

Madison and Hendrix get close and it appears like they are about to kiss. Madison awkwardly backs away.

MADISON

It's cold out here!

HENDRIX

I've been freezing this whole time but I didn't want to leave.

MADISON

Oh, wow.

\*

Dani comes outside.

DANI

Hey guys!

HENDRIX

Hey Dani, I'm leaving. I have an Uno date with Michaela. Really nice talking with you Madison.

MADISON

You too.

Hendrix goes inside.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Hi!

DANI

Hi! Can you wax my mustache?

MADISON

Sure.

They walk back to their room.

DANI

Rehab romance is a rookie move.

MADISON

What? How can you tell?

DANI

Please, you're basically drooling captain obvious.

LITTLE MADISON

I love him!

INT. MADISON AND DANI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANI

THERE'S NOTHING MORE SEXY THAN A HANDSOME "FIX ME BABY" I KNOW I'VE SEEN THIS SHOW BEFORE LET ME TELL YOU HOW IT GOES YOU WANNA SAVE HIM LITTLE BABY, DRIVES YOU CRAZY AT NIGHT YOU WANNA TASTE WHAT KIND OF SWEET HIS SADNESS HONEY MUST BE LIKE "WITH HIM ITS DIFFERENT LIKE HE UNDERSTANDS THE DEEPEST DARKNESS MY HEART MAKES"

(MORE)

DANI (CONT'D)

"SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS ME"
YOU'RE WOUND MATES
DO DOO DOOT DOOT DOO DO DO
YOU'RE WOUND MATES
DO DOO DOOT DOOT DOO DO DO
YOU'RE CONNECTING IN YOUR SADNESS
BUT ITS MADNESS IF YOU THINK YOU'RE
ANYTHING BUT HORNY LITTLE PRIMATES
BOOP!

MADISON

I don't know. It's weird. I've never met anyone that I connected with so quickly.

DANI

HONEY BABY BOO LISTEN LISTEN UP I KNOW YOU DON'T WANNA HEAR IT BUT THE RULES ARE THERE TO SERVE US TRUST ME I KNOW I'M A RULE BREAKER AND I HAD TO LEARN THE HARD WAY I WAS ATTRACTED TO THE DANGER OF A QUIET SWEET STRANGER

MADISON

Who, what happened?

Dani shows Madison a photo album from under her bed.

DANI

FERNANDO WHEN HE LOST HIS SHIT AND QUIT I FOLLOWED HIM OUT THE DOOR. He was such a hot felon!

MADISON

I get it but Hendrix really wants recovery-

DANI

HE KILLED HIS BROTHER LITTLE BABY
BUT OH MY GOD HES SO HOT
YOU'RE READY TO GO STEADY OH BABY
GIRL YOUR'RE REALLY NOT
WE ALWAYS WANT WHAT WE CAN'T HAVE
SO YOU SHOULD TOTALLY DO IT
MY APOLOGIES THAT'S REVERSE
PSYCHOLOGY
YOU'RE WOUND MATES
DO DOO DOOT DOOT DOO DO

MADISON

MAYBE SOULMATES
WE COULD BE SOULMATES

DANT

YOU THINK YOU'RE FAR TOO CLEVER THAT THIS LOVE WILL LAST FOREVER BUT WE'RE AS SICK AS OUR SECRETS AND OUR WEAKEST PARTS ARE THE DEEPEST YOU'RE JUST FALLING FOR THE SEOUENCE THAT DERAILS FROM THE WORK YOU CAME TO DO SO DO DOO DOOT DOOT DOO DO DO YOU'RE WOUND MATES DO DOO DOOT DOOT DOO DO YOU'RE WOUND MATES DO DOO DOOT DOOT DOO DO DO Boop, now wax my mustache. B-T-W my mustache is the only secret you can have.

INT. RENEE'S HOME - LONG ISLAND - MORNING

There are tchotchke's and pictures of Madison everywhere. Renee sits on a hot pink couch in a panic.

RENEE

Representative! Help! I pressed Three! I hate robots! Yes, hello! Thank God, a human! I don't know if I have the right number? I dropped my daughter off at your rehab over a week ago. I haven't heard anything, and now I need rehab!

REPRESENTATIVE

Hi, you've reached the intake line. Patients aren't allowed to make calls for 30 days-

RENEE

I thought that was a joke! Are you trying to kill me?

INT. CHRISTINE'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Christine sits with Madison in her office. Little Madison is sitting there quietly as well.

CHRISTINE

What do you want? What's your dream?

MADISON

I've always wanted to be a writer, but my mom always said that wasn't a realistic goal. So after college, I've just been wasting my time working at bars.

CHRISTINE

Of course you can be a writer! Anything's possible, Madison.

MADISON

I guess.

LITTLE MADISON

You can be on the New York Times best seller list... No that's never gonna happen.

CHRISTINE

Why don't you tell me just a little bit about how you grew up? I don't need the full details, that only retraumatizes us.

MADISON

Well, my parents were always fighting and put me in the middle. My mom blames my dad for everything. She's also obsessed with what I weigh, what I do... My dads alright, just unemotional and scary at times.

LITTLE MADISON

Why do they hate each other so much?

CHRISTINE

I often think the addict is the healthiest person in the family system. We sense something's wrong and want to fix it.

Deion frantically knocks on the door and enters.

DEION

I'm sorry but intake just called. Madison's mom is worried and states if she doesn't hear from her today she will die of an Oreo overdose.

CHRISTINE

Thank you Deion. Is this the longest you've ever gone without talking to her?

MADISON

In high school, I caught her with my journal and I didn't speak to her for a week. It would've been longer, but she conveniently got kidney stones.

CHRISTINE

I see. Typically, I do the first call without you here. Do you want to continue our conversation or should we call her?

MADISON

You can call.

Christine dials Renee's number.

PHONE CONVERSATION INTERCUT

RENEE

Madison you've aged me!

CHRISTINE

Hi. This is Christine, Madison's therapist. We're sitting together.

RENEE

You mean prison quard?

CHRISTINE

That's not helpful Renee. It's important that you do your own work while Madison is in our care.

RENEE

My own work! I'm perfect!

EXT. MADISON'S BROOKLYN APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Renee is hiding in a black hoodie with binoculars.

RENEE (CONT'D)

SO I LIKE TO KNOW WHERE MY DAUGHTER IS AT ALL TIMES
I NEVER KNEW THAT WAS SUCH A CRIME I WAS IN LABOR FOR FIFTY SEVEN HOURS

(MORE)

RENEE (CONT'D)

I DESERVE TO CALL MULTIPLE TIMES A DAY BUT SHE SCOWLS TURN AROUND, I'M THERE BREATHING DOWN YOUR NECK I'M YA MOTHER, I SMOTHER IT'S MY JOB AND DUTY FOR GOD SAKES YOU LIVED OFF MY BOOBY I'M YA MOTHER, I SMOTHER MY RIGHT OF PASSAGE IS TO GUILT YOU AFTER ALL IT WAS MY VAGINA YOU TORE THROUGH YOU RUINED MY BODY, THAT MEANS SOMETHING YOU EXIST SO I CAN BE JUDGING I'M YA MOTHER, I SMOTHER I KNOW HOW YOU COULD BE BETTER AND TO TELL YOU THAT GIVES ME SUCH PLEASURE YOU WANT ME TO CUT THE CORD WELL, IT'S AN UNREALISTIC GOAL WE COULD WORK TOWARDS

#### INT. PICTURE PERFECT LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Renee's fantasy of Madison has no tattoos, with a DOCTOR and BABY.

### RENEE

I ONLY WANT THE ABSOLUTE BEST FOR YOU AND YES THAT MEANS MARRIED TO A DOCTOR WHOSE A JEW FINE, I'LL ONLY CALL ONCE A DAY IF YOU DON'T ANSWER, NO BIG DEAL I'M JUST A SAD LONELY DIVORCEE YOU'RE ALL I HAVE SO I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO GIVE ME A GRANDCHILD WITH A MAN THAT I HAVE PREVIOUSLY PROFILED BUT YA KNOW, ALRIGHT, CURE YOURSELF FIRST I LOVE YOU SO MUCH IT HURTS YOU MAY THINK THAT ITS SMOTHERING BUT REALLY I'M JUST MOTHERING So every single day let me know you're okay and we're good!

CHRISTINE

She's not broken.

RENEE

My derm is calling. She screwed my botox and my left eye is droopier than my tits!

Renee quickly hangs up.

MADISON

It's bad, right?

CHRISTINE

She's anxious. It's common for Jews. Generational trauma...

LITTLE MADISON

My family is fucked. I'll never get better.

INT. GROUP ROOM - MORNING

All the clients are playing charades and are split up in teams. It's getting very heated and competitive.

Dustin is moving around his body trying to act out a movie. He makes a movement for three words and gets really small.

CLAY/BELL/JUAN/MADISON/SATORI

Tiny! Short! Small! Honey I Shrunk The Kids! Stuart Little!

Dustin points to Juan, and motions not the first word but second for little. Dustin precedes to pretend as if he's swimming on the ground.

CTAY

The Little Mermaid!

DUSTIN

Yes!

BRUCE

Ariel's so hot. My turn!

Bruce goes to the bucket and picks out a movie. Motions two words. Waves his hand bye and leaves.

MICHAELA/DANI

Bye, Bye, Birdie! Leaving Las Vegas! Hope Floats! The Girl Next Door!

Bruce does a Jack Nicholson impression.

DANI

The Departed!

**BRUCE** 

Yes!

DANI

Leo's my number one. He's sexy and cares about the environment.

BELL

You might be young enough to get him.

MICHAELA

I'd bang him.

MADISON

Okay guys, my turn!

Madison goes to the bucket and picks out a movie. She gets excited and just looks at Hendrix then does a weird backbend as if she's dodging bullets.

HENDRIX

The Matrix!

MADISON

Yes!

HENDRIX

Yesterday, we literally had a three hour conversation about The Matrix, so it was just perfect timing.

DANI

Right.

HENDRIX

We are in the matrix if you know what I mean.

MADISON

Exactly!

DANI

Wow, you guys should go on a newly wed game.

Hendrix shoots a look to Dani.

Koda comes into the group room with his suitcase. The board has "Goodbye Koda, always remember to reach out" written on it. Everyone greets him enthusiastically. Christine rushes in.

CHRISTINE

Settle down everyone. It's time for Koda's coin out!

DANI

Koda, when I met you I thought you were so hot, but then you opened your mouth and you were a Nazi. I'm so glad you're over that.

MICHAELA

I'm eighty two years old and I get to die saying I saw the impossible. Thank you.

DUSTIN

Don't forget you are the break in the chain. You are where the cycle stops.

CLAY

I got beat up by guys like you. Now you're a man I will strive to be.

SATORI

You still scare me.

JUAN

My conflict with you only showed me what I didn't like in myself.

MADISON

I really didn't think I would want to be sober, you're a reason I started believing I could be.

Deion walks in with Vinny who appears to be broken down.

ENSEMBLE

Vinny!

Hendrix rushes over to him and gives him a hug.

DANI

What happened?

VTNNY

The first week I was fine, then I went to a friends birthday and I had a drink. A couple of days later I was taking Sara to Disney and instead I ended up taking her to skid row.

HENDRIX

Aw man, all that matters is that you're back.

VINNY

I always come back.

Vinny nods to Koda.

VINNY (CONT'D)

It's rough out there bro.

KODA

My fam won't understand this but now I know truth and I'm not gonna put up with their racist bullshit.

DEION

You're a miracle! Group huggies!

Everyone rushes to Koda for a big group hug. Koda walks out the door with his suitcase.

INT. DRUGSTORE - MORNING

All the clients are walking through the aisles. Deion waits by the register to check what they'll purchase. Clay and Bell are in the beauty aisle.

BELL

I love Malibu Pharmacy! They have organic coconut oil.

CLAY

Gluten-Free Shampoo!

BELL

Anal bleach.

Michaela and Juan are by the door.

MICHAELA

When we get back let's color Mandalas!

JUAN

Yes! This place is making me gay.

DEION

I heard that!

BRUCE

Deion! It would be nice if I was allowed to buy mouthwash.

DEION

Do we have to fight every time we're on a store run? You can get alcohol free mouthwash Bruce!

BRUCE

You don't actually think I'll drink mouthwash do you?

DEION

I've seen people drink hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol... eat an entire tray of chopped liver.

BRUCE

Why, does eating liver get you high?

DEION

No, it was just disturbing.

BRUCE

That's insane.

DEION

Insane? Didn't you walk off a four story building to get pain meds after your daddy cut you off?

**BRUCE** 

Seemed logical at the time.

Vinny, Dani, Madison and Satori are in the toy aisle.

VINNY

You guys are girls, what would my daughter like?

DANI

We are women. Not much of a selection here but I would go with a stuffed animal, coloring book-

MADISON

Stickers!

SATORI

Rosetta Stone.

VINNY

I want to be a good dad.

MADISON

Write her a nice card, tell her how much you love her and that you'll see her soon. Oh and slime! There's something about that slimy hand you can throw at people that makes a kid feel real powerful.

VINNY

This is all good. I'm gonna get all of it.

Hendrix and Dustin are in the beverage aisle.

DUSTIN

It's annoying we can't get energy drinks. At least the sugar free kind.

HENDRIX

The sugar free kind is so bad for you! Fake sugar is the worst thing you could put into your body.

DUSTIN

Says the Heroin addict.

Hendrix spots Madison from across the room.

HENDRIX

WHEN I'M AROUND YOU, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE THERE'S A MAGNETIC FORCE THATS PULLING ME ELECTRICITY MOVING THROUGH MY BODY

ELECTRICITY MOVING THROUGH MY BODY FAST

MY SYSTEM HAS CRASHED

MADISON

WHEN I'M AROUND YOU AND THE AIR GET'S SO HOT I CAN BARELY BREATHE AND THE WORLD SEEMS TO STOP LIKE A MAGNET I'M DRAWN Oh my God, I'm so turned on!

MADISON AND HENDRIX

WE'RE LIKE ANIMALS
WE CAN'T CONTROL IT, NO
IT'S SUBLIMINAL
WE CAN'T SHOW IT, NO
WHEN GRAVITY MAKES THE STARS
COLLIDE OUR HEARTS BEAT THE RYTHM
IT'S A THRILL TO RIDE
YOUR HEAT DRAWS BE CLOSER

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

PULL ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

HOLD ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

CONTROL ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

HENDRIX

IT'S GETTING HARDER SO MUCH HARDER TO LET GO
I WANT YOUR BODY ,YOUR MIND AND YOUR SOUL
YOU ARE THE REASON WHY
THIS OXYTOCIN'S GOT ME SO HIGH

MADISON

YOU SEXY POETS ARE MY KRYPTONITE YOUR WORDS SPILL OVER ME LIKE SWEET MOONLIGHT I'M FLOATING IN THE CLOUDS CAN'T EVER COME DOWN MADISON AND HENDRIX

WE'RE LIKE ANIMALS
WE CAN'T CONTROL IT, NO
IT'S SUBLIMINAL
WE CAN'T SHOW IT, NO
WHEN GRAVITY MAKES THE STARS
COLLIDE OUR HEARTS BEAT THE RYTHM
IT'S A THRILL TO RIDE
YOUR HEAT DRAWS ME CLOSER

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

PULL ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

HOLD ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

CONTROL ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

**ENSEMBLE** 

THEIR LIKE ANIMALS
THEY CAN'T CONTROL IT, NO
IT'S SO CRIMINAL WE CAN'T CONDONE
IT, NO

MADISON AND HENDRIX
WHEN GRAVITY MAKES THE STARS
COLLIDE
OUR HEARTS BEAT THE RYTHM
IT'S A THRILL TO RIDE
YOUR HEAT DRAWS ME CLOSER

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

PULL ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

HOLD ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

MADISON AND HENDRIX

CONTROL ME

MADISON

MAGNETS, MAGNETS, MAGNETS

Madison gets out of her daze and is back to standing with Vinny, Satori and Dani. JOSH (24) A shady looking guy approaches.

JOSH

Madison?

Madison turns pale and seems as if she just saw a ghost. Little Madison appears.

MADISON

Josh... What are you doing here? This is so random.

JOSH

My Uncle's hella rich, I'm watching his ugly cats and he gives me his Fentanyl patches. Why you here?

MADISON

I'm at a health and wellness retreat.

JOSH

Rehab-

MADISON

Yeah. I gotta-

JOSH

I never knew why you left. Andy got all weird when I asked him. Was it cause you took those wine bottles?

LITTLE MADISON

That's him! He ruined me.

MADISON

No. I. He...

DANI

So you guys used to work together?

JOSH

Yeah, a couple a years ago-

MADISON

Bye Josh!

Madison grabs Dani and Satori's arm.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Good luck with everything.

They walk away, Vinny hangs back and talks to Josh.

DANT

Are you okay?

MADISON

I can't believe I ran into him here.

SATORI

Are you sure, you're like shaking?

MADISON

I'm fine.

DEION

Hurry up guys! I have to go to the bathroom!

BRUCE

There's a bathroom here.

DEION

Gross!

BRUCE

Didn't you used to live under a bridge?

DEION

Lets go!

Deion skips out. Vinny talks to Josh.

EXT. TREATMENT CENTER PATIO - LATER

HENDRIX

Did you have a white light experience?

### MADISON

Kind of, it all happened so fast. I didn't know how to process it. I always associated religion with spirituality. Now I believe we're a spiritual being having a human experience. That we come to earth to grow and connect. Plus, I don't know if you ever saw the show Long Island Medium but I know that's real, my friends mom died and she was able to reach her. So we have to go somewhere.

#### HENDRIX

Your friend got to see Teresa Caputo!?

### MADISON

Haha yeah! It was before she was famous.

#### HENDRIX

That's so cool! I talk to my brother a lot and ask him for signs if he's with me. I randomly find pennies if I'm thinking about him or talking to him. I've found a penny in bed, in the bathroom-

# MADISON

He's definitely still with you.

# HENDRIX

He was the one that got me into Heroin. I was thirteen, he was sixteen. I wanted to be just like him. He went to wilderness treatment for a year, they made him hike twenty miles a day, it's like the army. And then he got back, I told him I was sober, but I wasn't. He found me in the bathroom taking a shot and he wanted one too. The shot I gave him was too big. I woke up and he was dead.

#### MADISON

I'm so sorry. I can only imagine how difficult that is to live with.

# HENDRIX

At first I couldn't. I wanted to die too.

(MORE)

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

I tried, pushed to see how far I could go. I kept waking up. I didn't understand why, but now I do.

Hendrix pauses and there's awkward silence.

MADISON

What?

HENDRIX

I had to meet you. I know that sounds crazy and a lot to put on you but-

MADISON

I feel the same way.

Awkward silence.

HENDRIX

I'm glad we've cleared that up.

MADISON

Me too. Now what?

HENDRIX

Well, we're in rehab.

MADISON

Right.

HENDRIX

I don't want to throw a wrench in your recovery. I just had to say something.

MADISON

There was an elephant in the room for sure.

HENDRIX

I don't ever meet people I can talk to with such a flow, it's effortless.

MADISON

I know!

HENDRIX

I'm also insanely attracted to you and think about you all day. Is that too much?

MADISON

No. I feel the same.

Hendrix and Madison furiously make out. Things escalate quickly.

HENDRIX

Oh my God, I want you so bad.

Madison kisses Hendrix as he starts to unbutton her pants. Little Madison appears.

LITTLE MADISON

Wait! You're not ready.

HENDRIX

I'm sorry. This is not so romantic.

MADISON

It's okay, I want to.

Hendrix and Madison have sex. As they get dressed, Deion appears.

DEION

Oy, Gavalt!

HENDRIX

Deion! I know what this looks like.

DEION

What am I supposed to do with this?

MADISON

I'm sorry. It just happened.

DEION

This is wrong! It's not allowed! Christine will-

HENDRIX

Deion. It's okay... You don't have to say anything. If she kicks one of us out, you don't want that hanging over your head, do you?

DEION

You master manipulator!

Deion breaks down into tears, Hendrix and Madison look at each other and go over to console him.

HENDRIX

I'm sorry Deion. Things got out of hand.

DEION

You don't understand-

MADISON

We get it. We don't want to put anyone in a bad position, especially you.

DEION

It's not that... Vinny's dead.

Hendrix collapses with pain, Madison stands frozen.

HENDRIX

I don't understand. How did this happen?

EXT. MOBILE GAS STATION - SAME TIME

Vinny is walking up to the bathroom, holding a spoon.

DEION(O.S.)

They found him in a Mobile gas station bathroom. He must have left right after we got back from CVS-

Deion's voice is drowned out as he rambles.

EXT. TREATMENT CENTER PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Time stops.

Silence.

HENDRIX

RECOVERY
NO GUARANTEE
RECOVERY
NO GUARANTEE
VINNY'S GONE I'M ANGRY

INT. VINNYS HOME - SAME TIME

INTERCUT with SARA (7) Vinny's daughter waiting by the door.

SARA

DADDY YOU PROMISED ME

FLASHBACK MONTAGE as the song is sung INTERCUT

- Hendrix and Vinny's relationship, listening to music, laughing.
- Vinny previously getting three years, blowing out candles on a cake.
- Photos of Vinny and Lisa's wedding, Sara's birth, DJing.

### HENDRIX

I'M NOT OKAY, CAUSE IT'S NOT OKAY WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR YOU TO STAY IF YOU KNEW YOUR TIME WAS SO SHORT, IF YOU COULD SEE JUST WHAT YOU'VE DONE RESPONSIBILITY RAN AWAY, YOUR DAUGHTER LOST A FATHER TODAY.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

SARA

RECOVERY NO GUARANTEE RECOVERY

DADDY
DADDY YOU PROMISED ME

DADDY

NO GUARANTEE

VINNY'S GONE I'M ANGRY

## HENDRIX

HUNGER IS ALWAYS WAITING FOR THE MOMENT WHEN YOU SWITCH DIRECTIONS IT MAKES THE WORST LOOK LIKE THE BEST THING FOR YOU BLACK AND WHITE THINKING WITH NO ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION TILL THE HUNGER IS GONE BUT THE PAIN GETS TRANSFERRED ON

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

SARA

RECOVERY
NO GUARANTEE
RECOVERY
NO GUARANTEE
VINNY'S GONE
YOU'RE NEVER FREE

VINNY I AM SO SORRY

DADDY DADDY

DADDY YOU PROMISED ME

SARA(17) now older doing drugs.

#### ENSEMBLE

OOO WOAH WOAH WOAH WOAH
THE CYCLE WILL CONTINUE
UNLESS WE BREAK THE SILENCE
SARA WILL THINK HER DAD CHOSE
HEROIN
INSTEAD OF HER, HIS LAST WORDS
ECHOING INSIDE HER HEAD
"ILL SEE YOU SOON SARA"
"ILL SEE YOU SOON SARA"

HENDRIX

RECOVERY NO GUARANTEE RECOVERY NO GUARANTEE RECOVERY, NO GUARANTEE BREAK THE SILENCE

"ILL SEE YOU SOON SARA"

ENSEMBLE

RECOVERY, NO GUARANTEE BREAK THE SILENCE RECOVERY, NO GUARANTEE BREAK THE SILENCE BREAK THE SILENCE BREAK THE SILENCE

### MONTAGE

- Vinny's casket going into the ground.
- Sara hugging the stuffed animal Vinny got her.
- Vinny's MOTHER (60s) drinking and popping pills to escape the pain.

EXT. THE BEACH - MORNING

Christine stands in the center. The ensemble sits on the sand. The ocean waves are loud. The sun is coming up.

ENSEMBLE

WE MOURN
THE SUN RISES, THE SUN WILL SET
ANGRY AND TORN
WAVES OF OUR HIGHS AND LOWS
WE MOURN

CHRISTINE

WE'VE LOST MANY IN THIS WAR I'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE IT SEEMS SO SIMPLE BUT IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL YOU'LL SLIP AWAY AND NEVER FIND YOUR BETTER DAY

ENSEMBLE

WE MOURN
THE SUN RISES, THE SUN WILL SET
ANGRY AND TORN
WAVES OF OUR HIGHS AND LOWS
WE MOURN

CHRISTINE

WE ARE ALL LOOKING FOR THE LIGHT BETWEEN WHAT IS AND WHAT WAS WE ARE ALL SUFFERING TO FIND THE PEACE INSIDE WHAT DOES ONE DO BUT PUSH RIGHT THROUGH

ENSEMBLE

WE MOURN
THE SUN RISES, THE SUN WILL SET
ANGRY AND TORN
WAVES OF OUR HIGHS AND LOWS
WE MOURN

### CHRISTINE

Vinny was a beautiful spirit and taken too soon. Watching people die this way never gets easier. I never want to get used it. Let's take a moment, close your eyes, hands on heart. Let us honor his life. Let us say a prayer for his family. Let us send them our love and deepest condolences.

They take a moment. The ocean waves get more intense.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Vinny is not the only one who died in this epidemic. He's not just a statistic of the opioid crisis. He was a father, son, friend, human. Who else have you lost to addiction, or mental illness? Who else has been a casualty to the voices in their head? Let us show them we still hold them in our thoughts.

(MORE)

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

That they have left earth and their human form but their spirit remains. Say their name one by one, then let us all repeat.

We see FACES of all the people that they have lost.

JUAN

Julia.

**ENSEMBLE** 

Julia.

BELL

Diana.

**ENSEMBLE** 

Diana.

HENDRIX

Justin.

**ENSEMBLE** 

Justin.

MADISON

Tyler.

**ENSEMBLE** 

Tyler.

BRUCE

Arden.

ENSEMBLE

Arden.

SATORI

Whitney Houston. I don't know anyone personally?

ENSEMBLE

Whitney Houston.

CHRISTINE

Can we commit to speak up and stop the stigma? Can we reach out our hand and answer the phone even if we don't want to? Every single person deserves to be heard. We all have that voice. A voice within that isn't nice or compassionate, the voice that lies. **ENSEMBLE** 

WE MOURN
THE SUN RISES, THE SUN WILL SET
ANGRY AND TORN
WAVES OF OUR HIGHS AND LOWS
WE MOURN

CHRISTINE

A moment of silence. We see you and we love you.

Everyone walks back to the treatment center except Hendrix and Madison.

LITTLE MADISON

This is all your fault.

MADISON

If it weren't for me, Vinny would still be alive. I introduced him to Josh!

HENDRIX

Don't do that. He would have found a way to use.

MADISON

I can't stop thinking about his daughter.

Madison starts to have a mild panic attack. Hendrix holds her.

HENDRIX

Hey, hey, hey, please breathe for me. Just breathe.

MADISON

I can't, please I don't want to,
I'm a fucking tornado, I ruin
everything-

Madison rips herself away.

HENDRIX

You're the best thing that's ever happened to me! Because of you, I a future. I want to be with you Madison. Ya know?

MADISON

Why do you have to look at me like that?

HENDRIX

Like what?

MADISON

Like you-

HENDRIX

Love you... I know that's scary but I do. I love-

MADISON

I love you too. I'm sorry, I just feel so terrible. Thank you for supporting me.

HENDRIX

If anyone gets it, it's me. You can't blame yourself, you had no idea that was going to happen. I'm here for you. I think you're my twin flame.

MADISON

What's that?

HENDRIX

A shared soul, split into two bodies.

Hendrix and Madison kiss.

MADISON

So what do you see for us?

HENDRIX

I've always wanted to live in New York.

MADISON

Yeah?

HENDRIX

Yeah. Walking through Central Park, coffee in the village, playing my songs for change on the subway.

MADISON

Till someone hears you and gives you a record deal! We'll be bundled up, looking out our Brooklyn window at the first snow.

\*

HENDRIX

Oh my God! I've never seen real snow.

MADISON

Oh my God! Christmas in New York is magical!

HENDRIX

You're Jewish right?

MADISON

Yes, but I love Christmas! Take me to an ugly sweater party any day.

HENDRIX

Our kids can celebrate everything.

Madison kisses Hendrix passionately again.

INT. TREATMENT CENTER GROUP ROOM - LATER

Deion is running a laughter yoga group. The ensemble sits spread out on the floor.

DEION

Ha, ha, ha!

It starts off as just a sound but then everyone joins in and crazy authentic laughter ensues.

**ENSEMBLE** 

Ha, Ha, Ha!

Hendrix and Madison open their eyes to make fun of it together.

DEION

Good! Ha, Ha, Ha! Michaela farted! It's okay, it's natural.

ENSEMBLE

Hahaha! Hahaha! Hahaha!

DEION

Coming to a close, your biggest laugh of the day! Ha, Ha, Ha!

Everyone is hysterically laughing. Christine walks in.

ENSEMBLE

Hahaha!

The laughter dies down.

DEION

Open your eyes.

CHRISTINE

Circle up, group time.

The ensemble moves in formation.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Can someone tell me what love is?

BELL

Love is a beautiful feeling that has power to transform all things.

JUAN

Love is an action.

BRUCE

Love is \$500 an hour.

DUSTIN

Damn, what kind of hookers you getting bro?

BRUCE

I'm rich!

MICHAELA

Love can be unconditional or conditional. Different levels for spouse or a child.

SATORI

An intense feeling of deep affection. I remember looking it up in the dictionary.

CHRISTINE

Would anyone here try to get a date at a hospital? Hit on someone in the ER?

ENSEMBLE

No?

CHRISTINE

It seems absurd right? People come here because they're sick trying to get well. Hendrix do you have anything to say about this?

\*

HENDRIX

I agree with what you're saying, but I also don't think that analogy works. What if two people were in the ICU and they happen to fall in love?

CHRISTINE

Oh, I see. How many times have you been to treatment?

HENDRIX

Seven.

CHRISTINE

What is a common thread you hear?

HENDRIX

Don't date in your first year.

CHRISTINE

Why do you think that is?

HENDRIX

People get hurt. They relapse and could die.

CHRISTINE

Did anyone here not know that hooking up in treatment is against the rules? The problem is, us addicts think we have a better idea.

HENDRIX

Okay, Christine. We get it.

CHRISTINE

Madison?

MADISON

I didn't mean for this to happen.

CHRISTINE

I hear that a lot. I wish you did mean it! When we're conscious of something, we can change it. How long has this been going on for? Can someone in the community speak? Dani?

TMAC

Uh. Uh. I've known she had a crush on him for a while.

BELL

I've seen them flirt. It was obvious to me there's chemistry.

SATORI

I ain't no snitch.

CHRISTINE

Can I speak freely? Can I bring up something from a previous session?

HENDRIX

No.

CHRISTINE

I will honor your answer. I'm disappointed that you are not willing to be honest.

HENDRIX

I'm willing to be honest. I just don't think what you wanna bring up applies.

MADISON

What is she talking about?

DANI

Hendrix once got kicked out of treatment for having sex with someone. I'm sorry Madison.

CHRISTINE

You're sorry? You wanna keep her sick and hold his secrets?

HENDRIX

That was different! Don't do this Christine.

CHRISTINE

Tell the truth?

HENDRIX

It was an eternity ago! I was 19. Everyone makes mistakes.

CHRISTINE

What happened to her Hendrix?

HENDRIX

One has nothing to do with the other.

CHRISTINE

Hendrix! What happened to her?

HENDRIX

Why don't you tell everyone what you think happened.

CHRISTINE

I think you took advantage of a girl and she relapsed.

HENDRIX

So that's what you really think of me? You think I would take advantage of someone?

CHRISTINE

Yeah I do. You got her pregnant.

HENDRIX

How is that taking advantage? She was a willing participant.

CHRISTINE

She was a vulnerable girl, new in recovery.

HENDRIX

She was a psychopath! She was obsessed with me and begged me to take her virginity. Thank God she lost the baby, if there ever even really was a baby. I don't give a fuck what happened to her.

Madison appears shocked.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

Madison! It's not the same. I didn't love her.

CHRISTINE

If you love Madison, you would hold back and let her get well. I can't control how you feel but what I can do is put you both on non-com. If you both want to stay, you will not speak. Does the community commit to holding them accountable?

**ENSEMBLE** 

Yes.

### MADISON

This seems hypocritical. If we're here owning our truth how can we deny this?

### CHRISTINE

This is dangerous! I'm asking you to be generous with me and to find a part of you that believes what I'm saying. Could it be possible that you and Hendrix would live happily ever after? Sure, but not in my treatment center. The ball is in your court. You will either show up for yourself or you'll be angry that you can't deflect and be validated.

# MADISON

That I can't deflect and be validated? Our relationship is much more than that.

### CHRISTINE

You're upset cause I'm taking your new drug away.

# MADISON

Hendrix is not my drug. Not everything has to do with fucking drugs. I love him. Is that not believable? Is that not enough?

## CHRISTINE

Not now. There are rules here. Group is done. Everyone get out of the group room.

Everyone leaves besides Dani and Madison.

## MADISON

You're so "spiritual", yet you're not managing your feelings well right now, Christine.

## CHRISTINE

You're right. I had an expectation for your experience here and I'm angry.

# MADISON

You should pray about it.

DANI

Madison.

Madison and Dani leave. Christine closes the door and breaks down. Deion walks in.

DEION

Are you okay?

CHRISTINE

I hate being the bad guy. I can't condone behavior I know is wrong. Someone has to hold the line.

DEION

I know. It's not easy.

CHRISTINE

I married the guy I met in treatment, who am I to judge? I set a boundary and I get turned into the villain.

DEION

Christine you are anything but the villain! You bust your ass and give your all to help them.

CHRISTINE

There's always exceptions to the rule but in my thirty years I have seen all the dangers.

DEION

I know. Who are you trying to convince, me or yourself?

CHRISTINE

Myself, I guess. When it's hysterical it's historical. I'm projecting. I still need to work on this wound.

DEION

I'm not just saying this cause you're my boss but you are a queen. This is hard work.

CHRISTINE

Thank you. I just hate that I do my best and it's still not enough. All I can do is share my experience and knowledge and pray they have a shift.

DETON

I've been sober eight years cause of you.

CHRISTINE

That's sweet, but you're sober because you never stopped working on your recovery.

Christine grabs a tissue and wipes her eyes.

INT. RENEE'S HOME - LONG ISLAND - AFTERNOON

Renee is listening to a TAPE. The music and facilitators voice is very ethereal and cheesy.

TAPE (V.O.)

This hypnosis is designed to increase your motivation to work out and create a deep intense desire to exercise. Working out is important. Exercise is good for you. Working out is important. Exercise is good for you-

The phone RINGS and Renee pauses it.

PHONE CONVERSATION INTERCUT

INT. CHRISTINE'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

RENEE

Madison?!

CHRISTINE

Hi, it's Christine.

RENEE

Hi!

CHRISTINE

Did I catch you at a good time?

RENEE

Yeah, I'm just doing some lunges. Exercise is good for you.

CHRISTINE

That it is! I wanted to tell you, Madison has developed a relationship with another patient.

RENEE

Thank you God! Is he Jewish?

CHRISTINE

No, this is not a good thing. Madison's here to get better and it's important for you to not enable her and cosign any bad behavior.

RENEE

I totally understand... Is he Jewish?

CHRISTINE

No.

RENEE

We're on the same page Christine.
My cousin didn't die in the
Holocaust for us not to continue
our line. You see the worlds
antisemitism, we need to multiply.
I send my daughter to get an
education and she's harassed and
attacked!

CHRISTINE

I understand.

RENEE

We got your family week invitation and we're booking flights.

CHRISTINE

Amazing! I truly believe the family system has to heal as a whole unit.

RENEE

You're not gonna try to get Milton and I back together right?

CHRISTINE

No! We're going to work together to create authentic harmony.

RENEE

Good. I'm just not attracted to him anymore. His veneers are rotting and-

CHRISTINE

It was great speaking with you Renee.

Renee puts the tape back on.

TAPE (V.O.)

You love exercising.

Renee picks up two donuts and starts eating them.

INT. DANI AND MADISON'S ROOM - EVENING

Madison is putting make up on in the mirror. Dani's in the bathroom.

We hear Dani vomiting. It's very obvious. Madison walks closely to the bathroom door.

MADISON

Dani, are you okay?

Dani opens the door.

DANI

Yeah, why?

MADISON

I thought I heard...

DANI

What?

MADISON

Were you?

DANI

No! I was just coughing.

DANI (CONT'D)

Yeah, but it was just this one time. I haven't done it in weeks. Please don't say anything. It was really, only this one time.

MADISON

Are you sure?

DANI

Yes! Christine told me my parents won't come for a family session last night and breakfast made me nauseous. I thought it would make me feel better, which it did, but now I just don't wanna make a big ordeal for a slip, ya know?

MADISON

I won't say anything.

DANI

I know, I talked about you and Hendrix in group but please don't say anything.

MADISON

I won't, but do you know any more details and why didn't you tell me before?

DANT

Well, it was his business and I didn't want to gossip. I really do think he's a good guy that loves you.

MADISON

We have something special, I don't care what he did.

DANI

We've all dated the wrong person before. You guys just fit... I'm curious though, have you been restricting? I never see you eat.

MADISON

I've been on the "love diet." I'm so consumed with him, I don't care about eating.

DANI

I'm kinda jealous but you know thats like not good right?

MADISON

Yeah, maybe it's not that I don't care, I'm actually obsessed. I'm legit terrified of gaining weight, if I did, maybe he wouldn't like me? I think he would still like me but I don't know, I have my mom in my head telling me I can't be fat.

INTERCUT

INT. LONG ISLAND HOME - CONTINUOUS

MADISON

EVERY WEEK WHEN I WAS YOUNG I GOT PUT ON A DIFFERENT DIET THE MEMORY OF HER TELLING ME "YOU WANT A MAN, STARVE AND BE OUIET"

INT. GYM AT DANI'S - CONTINUOUS

DANI

I WORKED OUT FIVE HOURS A DAY JUST TO KEEP THE VOICES AT BAY YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE EATEN THAT IF YOU WANT LOVE BE EASY TO LOOK AT

Bell, Clay and Juan enter.

MADISON

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I AM

I AM

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I AM

I AM

INT. BELL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BELL

I LOOKED FOR COMFORT WHEN I WAS SCARED

FOOD WAS THERE WHEN NOBODY CARED

INT. CLAYS HOUSE- CONTINUOUS

CLAY

A VISITOR WITH THE WRONG ANATOMY LIVING LIFE LIKE A CARBON COPY

INT. DANI AND MADISON'S ROOM- CONTINUOUS

LITTLE MADISON
IF ONLY YOU WERE THINNER
YOU'D DESERVE TO EAT DINNER

JUAN

BEFORE THEY'LL EVER MEET THE MAN HERE

THEY'LL ALWAYS MEET THE WHEELCHAIR

MADISON

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I AM

I AM

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I AM

I AM

MADISON, DANI, BELL, CLAY, JUAN

DON'T EAT

EAT SOME MORE

COVER UP

BE A WHORE

LOOSEN UP

SUCK IT IN

SHOW SOME SKIN

AND PLAY TO WIN

ADVERTISING DOLLARS

DO NOT VALUE WHAT YOU HOLD WITHIN

LIVE LIKE THIS, THINK LIKE THAT

SQUAT UNTIL YOU LOSE SOME FAT

KETO SMOOTHIES LOOK JUST LIKE A

MOVIE STAR THAT YOU ARE NOT

SPONSORSHIP PROVIDED BY ATKINS

PROTEIN BAR

INSECURE MOTHERS MAKE INSECURE

**DAUGHTERS** 

MISOGYNY SETS THE STAGE

TESTOSTERONE FILLED WITH RAGE

WE'RE ALL LOST IN THIS CAGE

INFLUENCERS GET PAID SO WE BUY

THEIR SHIT AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF

IT I DON'T NEED TO CHANGE MY LOOKS ON DEMAND

BECAUSE MY SOUL IS THE TRUTH AND MY

TRUTH IS THE BRAND BECAUSE MY SOUL

IS THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH IS MY BRAND

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I AM

I AM

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I AM

I AM

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY (MORE)

MADISON, DANI, BELL, CLAY, JUAN

I'M MORE THAN JUST MY BODY

I AM

I AM

INT. TREATMENT CENTER PATIO - EVENING

Hendrix, Dustin, and Bruce are smoking a cigarette.

DUSTIN

Do you really think you love Madison?

HENDRIX

I've never felt this way before.

**BRUCE** 

Yeah, but you're 23!

DUSTIN

I've been with my chick for 12 years and I'm just figuring out how much I love her. I treated her like shit. She drives me crazy but really cares for me. It's the loyalty.

BRUCE

She's hot, but you wanna bang just her forever?

HENDRIX

I don't care about anyone's opinion, especially yours Bruce.

DUSTIN

Yeah man, don't listen to us.

The patio door opens, Dani and Madison come outside to smoke a cigarette.

DANI

Oh, hey guys. We'll come back later.

BRUCE

Yeah, get out of here Madison, I'm not gonna cosign any bad behavior.

DUSTIN

Shut up Bruce. You're so fucking annoying sometimes.

Madison and Dani leave.

Hendrix smiles and puts out his cigarette. He looks like he's leaving but sits at a back table and starts writing.

**BRUCE** 

They're just horny young kids that like the same music. Please.

DUSTIN

You're 40 and have never been in a relationship.

**BRUCE** 

I've been in relationships but they were gold diggers!

DUSTIN

I think Hendrix and Madison are super cute.

BRUCE

Super cute?

HENDRIX

Thanks Dustin, I think so too.

BRUCE

Woah! Hendrix, I thought you left.

HENDRIX

Nah man, I'm gonna stay out here and work on a song.

Dustin and Bruce get up to go back inside.

BRUCE

Sorry man, I didn't know you were there. I think you and Madison could totally work out.

HENDRIX

Right.

Dustin and Bruce go back inside. Hendrix plays the guitar.

TIME ELAPSES. It's late. Madison sneaks outside.

Madison and Hendrix hug.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

How did you know I'd be out here? This is what I'm talking about, we're telepathic.

MADISON

I feel so scandalous.

HENDRIX

I've been dying to talk to you. I was making up ten thousand stories that you hate me now that you found out all that stuff.

MADISON

I love you and I'm not going to judge you by your past.

HENDRIX

I really fucked up with that girl. It was real bad.

MADISON

Hendrix. I will not let them tear us apart.

HENDRIX

I know, but Christine is right. I don't have a good track record.

MADISON

Do any of us?

HENDRIX

You're the most beautiful woman I've ever met.

Hendrix kisses Madison.

HENDRIX (CONT'D)

I wrote three songs with all the time I've had not being able to talk to you.

MADISON

I can't wait to hear them!

HENDRIX

One about Vinny and two about you.

MADISON

Can you sing them softly?

HENDRIX

I'll play them for you tomorrow.

MADISON

It is tomorrow.

HENDRIX

You're the death of me.

Madison picks up a penny.

MADISON

Oh my God! A penny! Your brother's here with us.

HENDRIX

Woah.

MADISON

It's a sign!

HENDRIX

We're exactly where we need to be.

They start making out.

INT. MILTON'S LIVING ROOM - MID AFTERNOON

Milton is in his underwear watching the hockey playoffs screaming at the T.V.

MILTON

You idiot! What's wrong with you? Yes! Yes! That's it!

The phone RINGS.

PHONT CONVERSATION INTERCUT

INT. CHRISTINE OFFICE - SAME TIME

CHRISTINE

Hi, Mr. Finkelstein. It's Christine, Madison's therapist. Did I catch you at a good time?

Milton puts the T.V. on mute.

MILTON

No.

CHRISTINE

Oh. Can you call me back when you're free?

MILTON

It's fine. Just watching the game.

CHRISTINE

I'm concerned that Madison has developed a relationship with another patient and she'll leave AMA.

MILTON

(to game)

God damnit!

(back to phone)

AMA?

CHRISTINE

Against medical advice. You are currently supporting her financially-

MILTON

Yeah.

CHRISTINE

I wanted to see what your opinion on the matter was and if you would hold a firm boundary with her to not support her if she leaves treatment.

MILTON

And put her on the street? Malibu would be a nice place to be homeless.

CHRISTINE

She will be less inclined to leave if she has no money to. It's not nice to be homeless anywhere.

MILTON

Yeah.

(to game)

You moron!

(back to phone)

That wasn't for you. You're the boss. Whatever you want.

CHRISTINE

Thank you for understanding, I look forward to seeing you during family week.

Milton hangs up and continues to watch the game.

MILTON

Family Week? Why do I have to go? She's the one that needs help. DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT NOT AN EMOTIONAL GUY DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT THIS IS MY BATTLE CRY

Milton see's a bad call in the game and flips out.

MILTON (CONT'D)

MY GENERATION WE PRETENDED LIKE NOTHING'S WRONG SO MUCH BETTER FOR EVERYONE TO GET ALONG IF WE PRETEND LIKE IT'S NOT HAPPENING MAYBE IT'S NOT HAPPENING

Milton drops mustard all over his chest and freaks out.

MILTON (CONT'D)

Son of a bitch! I DON'T LIKE TO SEE ANYONE CRY I CAN'T CONTAIN IT OR PACIFY EVERYONE NOW A DAYS IS TOO SENSITIVE EVERY LITTLE THING TURNS INTO A NEGATIVE MY PHILOSOPHY HAS WORKED FOR ME TILL NOW I GET ANGRY IT'S THE ONLY WAY I KNOW HOW TILL NOW WHEN THINGS GET HEATED I YELL AND TEAVE WHEN PUSHING GETS TO SHOVING I JUST SHOVE IT UNDER THE RUG WALK AWAY LIKE NOTHING WAS SAID WITH A SHRUG DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT NOT AN EMOTIONAL GUY DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT THIS IS MY BATTLE CRY Oh no whaddya doing, Putzes!

Milton jumps up and scolds the team.

He slams his hand down on the table and it breaks.

MILTON (CONT'D)

MY CONCLUSION IS THAT MY MARVEL OF A DAUGHTER CAN FIGURE THIS OUT ON HER OWN AND TO THINK WITHOUT HER MOTHER THERE SHE CAN FINALLY JUST GO AT IT ALONE BUT REALLY SHE IS MY MADISON SHE'LL GET IT DONE I'M PROUD SHE'S INDEPENDENT AND I WISH I COULD TELL HER BUT THE WORDS NEVER COME DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT NOT AN EMOTIONAL GUY DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT THIS IS MY BATTLE CRY HARD ENOUGH TO SAY GOODBYE, NO -DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT NOT SENTIMENTAL IT'S POSITIVELY MENTAL TO SHARE AS A PARENTAL HOW MUCH I LOVE MY DAUGHTER BUT I'M NOT GONNA

TALK ABOUT IT MY EMOTIONS MAKE ME

Milton gets emotional.

CRY

## INT. PREVAIL TREATMENT LOBBY - MORNING

Hendrix has a letter in his hand and paces with it. He gets close to Madison's door but turns around, grabs his suitcase and walks out the main door.

# INT. TREATMENT CENTER GROUP ROOM - MORNING

The ensemble sits in the group room talking amongst themselves.

CHRISTINE

Good morning everyone. I have something important to share. Hendrix has left.

Madison looks around to everyone.

MADISON

What do you mean? You kicked him out cause of us?

CHRISTINE

No. He left on his own accord.

MADISON

Why? What did you do?

CHRISTINE

Madison. Please breathe.

MADISON

Did anyone talk to him? Did he say anything? Why would he just leave?

No one says a word. Madison begins to panic. Little Madison and her are both hysterical.

LITTLE MADISON

I don't understand. Why would he-

The room gets dark, everything moves slow and fast at the same time.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

There has to be an explanation. You don't tell someone you love them. Then disappear.

They get up and move around.

MADISON

I can't breathe.

Hendrix's voice echoes.

HENDRIX (V.O.)

I love you. I love you. I love you.

LITTLE MADISON

No! Why would he leave me?

CHRISTINE

Madison?

MADISON

I'm leaving too.

Christine goes right next to Madison. She is fierce and doesn't break eye contact.

CHRISTINE

Madison. You're hurt. You are out of your window of tolerance right now. I am asking you to pause.

MADISON

I don't know what you did but I know it was you.

CHRISTINE

You can place blame on me if that makes you feel better. I'm an easy target. I was not a fan of your relationship with Hendrix for good reason. I show up for you and what's best.

MADISON

Love is bigger than rehab.

CHRISTINE

Love is also a fantasy and can be gone in an instant.

MADISON

He wouldn't just leave me.

CHRISTINE

But he did.

The room again fades in and out. Slow motion. Fast motion. Madison is frozen. Lost.

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)

Why are you here?

MADISON

I don't know.

CHRISTINE

Did you come to fall in love or to get better?

MADISON

I'm leaving. I need my phone.

CHRISTINE

If you leave your family won't support it.

MADISON

What? See, you did do something! You're evil. You meddle with peoples lives. You're not God! What the fuck do you know?

Madison gets up runs out of the group room door. Little Madison and Dani follow her.

LITTLE MADISON

He lied. He didn't love you. You're disgusting.

MADISON

Deion! I need my phone.

LITTLE MADISON

Maybe he wants you to follow him. He wouldn't just leave? You guys planned to be together.

Madison grabs the front door. Time freezes. Dani puts her arms around her.

DANI

Madison! Don't leave! Please! I followed Fernando out, remember? You must stay. You can't ruin your life for him.

MADISON

It doesn't make sense.

DANT

It never does. Let's go back to group.

LITTLE MADISON

You need to fucking leave. You should do Heroin. I wanna know what it feels like. If he left you for Heroin. You should do Heroin too.

DANT

Madison, I love you. Please stay, for me.

Dani grabs Madison's hand and they go back to group.

CHRISTINE

Madison. I am sorry you're hurting. This was my greatest fear.

MADISON

I feel sick.

Madison starts panicking. It's as if a dark shadow is being cast over her. Her frantic inner child voice is overwhelming her.

LITTLE MADISON

He left you! No one will ever love you. You're not enough! It's cause you're fat. No one will ever love you. You should just kill yourself. You should just kill yourself. (MORE) LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)
There's no point to your life.
You're better off dead.

MADISON

I can't breathe.

LITTLE MADISON

He abandoned me!

MADISON

HE WOULDN'T JUST LEAVE ME
THIS PAIN IS UNIMAGINABLE
IT'S NOT FATHOMABLE
PEOPLE ARE TALKING
BUT I'M FALLING
INTO A DARKNESS I DIDN'T KNOW
EXISTED
BACK AND FORTH BACK AND FORTH
I'M AFFLICTED

LITTLE MADISON/MADISON

I'M DROWNING, BLACKED OUT
HOW DO I LIVE WITHOUT
HE WOULDN'T JUST LEAVE ME
BUT HE SAID
BUT HE SAID
ABANDONED WITH NO EXPLANATION
MY HEART. PALPITATIONS
HE WOULDN'T JUST LEAVE ME

BRUCE

I don't think this is that surprising. The guy killed his brother for God's sake.

MADISON

How dare you!

CHRISTINE

You've done some work but you've also been flying under the radar. You used Hendrix as your higher power and you have been high on him this whole time. Right now is the first time you've shown up.

MADISON

Fuck you, Christine.

CHRISTINE

Are you ready to do the work now? What do you want? Who are you and what do you want?

MADISON

I wanna be sober and-

CHRISTINE

You think you can stay sober if you leave treatment like this? How are you managing your feelings?

MADISON

I'm not.

CHRISTINE

Why are you here?

MADISON

I'm here to recover the truth of who I am. Is that what you want to hear?

CHRISTINE

Part of you is hurt and feels abandoned. Can we sit with this part? Don't run. Be with the pain. Can we give it the love and support it never got? What does this part need to say? It needs to be heard.

LITTLE MADISON

He must not love me.

Madison and Little Madison cry.

MADISON

He was the first guy I trusted in years. Since I got raped.

CHRISTINE

Stay with this Madison.

Everyone participates in the experiential therapy as we are taken to Madison's experience.

MADISON

It was my boss. He's married with two kids. I can't imagine tearing up their family. I can't imagine what people would say.

## EXT. BROOKLYN BAR- LATE

MADISON

I WAS ONLY 18 AND CLOSING UP THE BAR
I WAS A VIRGIN, IT WAS THREE IN THE MORNING

I MISSED ALL THE WARNING SIGNS ALL THIS STUFF ON MY MIND I WAS TOTALLY SOBER IT WAS MID OCTOBER THE LEAVES WERE BRIGHT RED I COULD SEE THEM ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE

AS HE CAME WITHOUT A SOUND I CAN STILL FEEL HIS BODY HIS NAILS SCRATCHED MY CHEEK HE TOLD ME THAT GOOD GIRLS DON'T SPEAK

LITTLE MADISON

He hurt me.

MADISON

I WAS FROZEN
TRIED TO BEG HIM PLEASE
FROZEN WITH HIS HANDS BETWEEN MY
KNEES AND THEN
THEN HE TOOK MY SHOULDERS MY FEET
HEAVY LIKE ROCKS PARALYZED AND
SURPRISED BY THIS DEMON IN
DISGUISE.
DID I GIVE HIM THE WRONG IMPRESSION
I CAN'T STOP ASKING MYSELF
QUESTIONS
WHAT IF I HADN'T TAKEN THE CLOSING
SHIFT
IF I WASN'T WEARING A SKIRT HE
COULD LIFT

LITTLE MADISON Why did he do this?

MADISON

I WAS FROZEN
MY BACK AGAINST THE WALL FROZEN
I COULD SMELL THE ALCOHOL ON HIS...
BREATHE, I CAN'T I CAN'T BREATHE
I CAN'T SEE
THIS PAIN IS UNIMAGINABLE
IT FEELS LIKE IM DROWNING
BUT HENDRIX SAID, NO HE WOULDN'T
JUST LEAVE ME, BUT HE SAID
HE'D BE HERE TO PROTECT ME

LITTLE MADISON

I'm scared. Someone needs to protect me!

MADISON

FROZEN I'M TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH FROZEN I'M DESPERATE TO RENEW MY SOUL BUT I'M FROZEN AND I KNOW ALL I CAN DO IS STAY STILL BE STILL BE STILL

INT. GROUP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LITTLE MADISON
He said he loved me. I'll do anything to feel that again.

MADISON

I hate myself.

Madison breaks down even more and is on her knees.

CHRISTINE

How can you have love and compassion for this part of you? Tell this part of you something it needs to hear.

MADISON

I can't.

CHRISTINE

You can.

MADISON

I don't know what to say.

CHRISTINE

The little girl within you is scared and alone. What does she need to hear?

MADISON

I don't know. I'm sorry!

CHRISTINE

Who else was hurt? Who else has been a victim of sexual assault? Who else has had a broken heart? Show Madison your support.

Everyone surrounds Madison and touches her. The ensemble starts the feed back loop process.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TREATMENT CENTER COMMON AREA - EVENING

Madison sits depressed and zoned out. Bell, Dani, Juan, Dustin, and Satori come out to join her.

BELL

Aw, sweetie. I know this look.

MADISON

I feel stupid, I only knew him for two months!

DANI

Heartbreak is heartbreak.

MADISON

Everything reminds me of him. I feel so betrayed.

Hendrix pops up in her day dream.

JUAN

Did you know being ignored or ghosted causes the same reaction in the brain as a physical injury? Christine told me that, obviously.

MADISON

What scares me is if I feel this terrible now, how will I feel when something really bad happens? Maybe I'm too sensitive to be alive. I could never survive what you went through!

Little Madison comes out and sits by them.

DANI

Madison no one likes being rejected. This is life. It's not about everything working out how you want it to, it's feeling like crap and staying anyway!

MADISON

It's in the unknown where I'm going crazy.

DANT

It's simple. This is what guys like him do. They get scared and bail.

BELL

You're also detoxing from that love high and that's the hardest one of them all.

MADISON

I was so high on him! It was the first time I thought I was okay.

BELL

I'm so co-dependent. I'm almost 50 years old and I'm just starting to realize I'm worthy.

MADISON

I keep going from being angry, to hurt, to confused. The more I think about it, the more I spiral.

BELL

So many stages of grief.

MADISON

I just want it to go away.

SATORT

My only relationship has been with my shower head.

DUSTIN

Damn!

Michaela comes out to join them.

MADISON

Michaela! How did your family session go? Mine's tomorrow, I'm terrified!

MICHAELA

You should be!
NO ONE WANTS TO BE BLAMED OR BE
WRONG
TOO MUCH PRIDE, WE'RE ALL
HEADSTRONG
EVERYONE LOVES TO COMPLAIN
RELATIONSHIPS ARE HARD TO MAINTAIN
MY FAMILY TAKES THE CAKE
SO MUCH HUMBLE PIE I GOT A BELLY
ACHE

ENSEMBLE

MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER THAN YOURS A COMPETITION I CAN WIN SO MUCH DYSFUNCTION IT'LL MAKE YOUR HEAD SPIN MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER THAN YOURS

MICHAELA

MY DAUGHTER BANKRUPTED US SHOPPING ONLINE

 $\mathsf{BELL}$ 

MY DAD USED A SPRAY CAN FOR HIS HAIRLINE

JUAN

MY SISTER MARRIED HER STALKER

DANI

MY COUSIN IS ACTUALLY MY FATHERS DAUGHTER.

BELL

MY BROTHER LIT HIS CAR ON FIRE FOR INSURANCE MONEY

MADISON

MY MOM THINKS WOMENS RIGHTS ARE FUNNY

ENSEMBLE

MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER THAN YOURS A COMPETITION I CAN WIN SO MUCH DYSFUNCTION IT'LL MAKE YOUR HEAD SPIN MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER THAN YOURS

MICHAELA

MY SON IS A RAW FOODIST THAT LIVES IN A TENT

SATORI

MY MOMS WALL IS A VISION BOARD WITH ME AS THE PRESIDENT

BELL

MY MOM USES A TOOTHBRUSH TO CLEAN

MADISON

MY DAD COLLECTS STAR TREK FIGURINES

..

DUSTIN

MY MOM IS A HOARDER YOU CANT SEE HER FLOOR

JUAN

MY MOM HIRED AN EXORCIST WHEN I GOT BACK FROM WAR

**ENSEMBLE** 

MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER THAN YOURS
A COMPETITION I CAN WIN
SO MUCH DYSFUNCTION
IT'LL MAKE YOUR HEAD SPIN
MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER
MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER THAN YOURS
THE LIES BEHIND THE WHITE PICKET
FENCE
ALWAYS READY TO BE ON THE DEFENSE
IT'S LIKE TRYING TO GET MILK FROM A
HARDWARE STORE
CHARACTER FLAW GALORE
MY FAMILY IS CRAZIER THAN YOURS

INT. GROUP ROOM - AFTERNOON

Madison, Renee and Milton sit in a semicircle. Christine sits in the middle.

CHRISTINE

Thank you so much for coming.

Madison has met many challenges
while here and has worked through
them. I'm quite impressed with her.

RENEE

Wow! Do we need to do this then?

CHRISTINE

Yes. If you're scared. That's okay.

MILTON

It's hot in here.

CHRISTINE

What we want to avoid is any "he said, she said" stuff or bickering.

RENEE

Okay.

MILTON

Good luck!

CHRISTINE

You're all entitled to your experiences and you might have different memories. The goal is to expand your mind and accept each others perceptions.

RENEE

You're like Dr. Phil with a nicer face.

CHRISTINE

What do you think is the issue here? What mistakes do you think you made that you want to hold yourself accountable for?

MADISON

Mom two things that bother me is you blame everything on Dad. The other is you're always commenting on my weight and told me when I was little no one would love me if I was fat.

Little Madison comes out and sits on the floor next to Madison.

RENEE

I never said that!

MADISON

You sat me down and told me to watch it cause obesity runs on my dads side of the family.

RENEE

That's true! His family is obese!

CHRISTINE

Renee can you imagine that this information could have hurt Madison?

RENEE

I'm an honest person.

MADISON

So you think no one will love me if I'm overweight?

## RENEE

No, but your dating pool will get smaller. You're better off if you're thin.

### MADISON

You think telling a little girl she's fat and to watch herself is okay?

### RENEE

I'm your mother! I'm supposed to tell you you're fat, if I don't who else will?

### MADISON

You're my role model. You teach me how to be a woman and from my perspective, you have taught me that I'm never enough and to hate myself.

#### RENEE

You're taking one thing I said and making me out to be a monster! I was a great mother! I took you to the doctor when you we're sick, when those bullies were so mean to you, I egged their house!

### CHRISTINE

What if both things are true? There's no perfect parent. Every parent makes mistakes and says things they wish they didn't.

# RENEE

I stand by that statement. One day when she's married to a great guy she will thank me.

### MADISON

Do you know how much pressure that is? I have to be thin to be loved? Why do you think I got into drugs in the first place?

### RENEE

Now you doing drugs is my fault? I didn't fly all the way to California to get blamed because you can't control yourself.

(MORE)

RENEE (CONT'D)

You didn't inherit being an addict from me. I have no addictions. I recycle! I have model credit.

MADISON

I think she's a sociopath.

RENEE

Are you getting your period?

CHRISTINE

Renee, why are you here?

RENEE

I'm here because I love my daughter and I want her to get better.

CHRISTINE

Tell her.

RENEE

Madison. I love you. I'm sorry you're in this position and have these issues. I want you to be happy.

MADISON

Are you happy? All you do is complain about my dad.

RENEE

I don't want you to make the same mistakes I did!

MADISON

You made a mistake?! Wow! As I live and breathe. I thought you were perfect!

RENEE

I made a huge mistake by marrying the wrong guy.

MADISON

I wouldn't be alive if you didn't! That's my dad! Forever! You're poisonous and inconsiderate! No, ya know what? I'm sorry. I didn't come here so you could change.

CHRISTINE

Milton, do you have anything to say?

MTTITON

It's still hot in here.

MADISON

Dad.

Milton pauses and then bursts out with courage.

MILTON

Madison! I love you! I know I'm not affectionate. I never wanted to become my dad and now here I am, my dad. I hated him for being angry all the time. I've turned into the very thing I hated. You're my world! I just don't know how to show it!

Madison starts to get emotional.

MILTON (CONT'D)

Don't cry. I didn't mean for you to cry.

CHRISTINE

Crying isn't a bad thing! That's just another thing you were taught. Just like you were taught having emotions is "bad". We're breaking that. Don't try to stop it. We're human beings with feelings and tear ducts, we are meant to use them.

Madison and Milton hug.

RENEE

He opened up, what an achievement! When's the parade? I'll make sure to be there.

CHRISTINE

What do you need, Renee?

RENEE

I can't bear the blame!

LITTLE MADISON

She'll never change! I quit.

MADISON

Mom, I don't need an apology from you. Please if you can though, don't mention my appearance or my father.

RENEE

I just need you to answer my phone calls.

MONTAGE of family session with time passing.

CHRISTINE

How does everyone feel?

MADISON

Thankful.

RENEE

Abused.

MILTON

Hot.

CHRISTINE

Intimacy is not easy.

RENEE

No one cares about me.

MADISON

Mom! I love you and I accept you for who you are. I want to move forward and stop bringing up the past.

RENEE

When you have children of your own you will see how terrible you treated me.

MILTON

Renee stop! This is why I left you.

RENEE

That's news! I thought we got divorced cause I caught you with a a tramp from J-Date!

Milton and Renee talk over each other and fight.

MILTON RENEE (CONT'D)

She was not a tramp, she was I will not be anyones side a pediatrician for godsakes! I dish!

LITTLE MADISON

It never ends.

Milton and Renee keep going.

MADISON

I can't expect them to change for me to get better.

CHRISTINE

Exactly.

MADISON

My recovery is mine and I want it. I was programmed by them, and now I get to reprogram myself to create the future I want. Wow. I sound so clinical.

INT. DANI AND MADISON'S ROOM - LATER

Madison runs into her room excited to share with Dani her experience.

MADISON

Dani! Are you asleep?

Dani is not moving. Madison goes over to her.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Hello! Wake up!

Dani is dead.

Madison let's out an agonizing shriek.

MADISON (CONT'D)

Ahhhh!!!

INT. TREATMENT CENTER LOBBY - LATER

Dani is being taken out in a body bag.

DEION (O.S.)

She was in our care for substance abuse and an eating disorder, which was more severe.

PARAMEDIC 1 (O.S.)

It appears she died of cardiac arrest.

DEION (O.S.)

I did notice she was losing weight but she stated she wasn't active in her purging, she was no longer on watch-

INT. MADISON AND DANI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Madison sits frozen in her room with Little Madison.

Madison goes over to Dani's nightstand and grabs her journal.

DANI (V.O.)

I was so scared Madison was gonna wake up and see me doing crunches.

Madison flips a page.

DANI (V.O.)

I'm no longer on watch and I've purged every meal for the past two weeks.

Madison flips a page.

DANI (V.O.)

I stole laxatives from the pharmacy, thank God no one noticed.

Madison flips a page.

DANI (V.O.)

Madison caught me and promised she wouldn't say anything. Part of me wishes she would so I would stop.

Madison closes the journal.

LITTLE MADISON

This is all your fault.

The room gets darker.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

Dani's dead cause you held on to her secrets. Vinny's dead cause Josh gave him drugs!

Madison stands up and paces.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

Hendrix left you cause you're disgusting! Nothing will ever change.

Madison lays down. Little Madison sits on the edge of the bed.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)
You should die. Your family is
better off without you. It will be
a relief. You're a burden. Dad
won't have to give you money
anymore. Mom can use it to gain
sympathy and attention.

The room gets darker. Madison tosses and turns.

MADISON

Leave me alone.

Little Madison stands on the bed and gets louder.

LITTLE MADISON
You need to kill yourself. Go to the kitchen and get a knife.

Madison sits up and shakes her head.

MADISON

Stop. Please.

LITTLE MADISON

Come on Madison. Get the knife. How will you survive in the real world? Everything you touch dies or leaves.

Madison bursts out of bed. She moves fast out of the door into the kitchen grabbing the sharpest knife. Running back to her room. She presses the knife into her skin, making a tiny cut.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

That's not deep! Why are you so afraid? Once its over we won't be in pain anymore.

Madison cut's again.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

That's nothing! Come on Madison. There's no point to your life!

Madison cut's again.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

I can't take this! I hate you! Nothing will ever work out!

Madison throws the knife.

MADISON

Enough! I will not listen to you anymore.

LITTLE MADISON

You need me! I'm the one that protects you!

MADISON

You feed me nothing but lies!

LITTLE MADISON

I'm hurt.

MADISON

So you make everything worse?

LITTLE MADISON

I do what I have to.

MADISON

You've ruined me.

LITTLE MADISON

I'm just a kid and you don't love me.

Little Madison is hysterical.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

You're ashamed of me! You pretend like I don't exist.

Madison appears to shift her perception. Madison goes over to console her and caress her hair.

LITTLE MADISON (CONT'D)

Don't you get it, all I need is for you to love me.

Little Madison looks up and they share a moment. Madison rocks her back and forth.

MADISON

I love you, Madison.

Madison takes Little Madison's hand and goes to Deion and Christine. Madison knocks on the door.

INT. CHRISTINES OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Christine and Deion sit crying.

CHRISTINE

Come in.

MADISON

I don't wanna hurt myself anymore.

Little Madison watches them together.

INT. TREATMENT CENTER LOBBY - MORNING

THREE WEEKS ELAPSE. Madison has her suitcase in the lobby.

LITTLE MADISON

THE ONCE IMPOSSIBLE HAS HAPPENED IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED YOU HAVE LOVE FOR YOUR SELF YOU LOVE ME AND I FEEL SEEN WE ALCHEMIZED INTO A POWERFUL QUEEN WHEN YOU'RE TRIGGERED IT'S ME CRYING OUT I NEED MORE LOVE NOT MORE DOUBT

DEION

Madison! Your ride to sober living will be here in five minutes. I'm so proud of you.

MADISON

I'm gonna take it slow... Have a mental breakdown.

DEION

Or spiritual awakening? You know what to do. Stay close. Listen to all the cliche's. Action. Action.

MADISON

And more action!

DEION

Yassss Queen!

Madison and Deion hug.

MADISON

I have awareness and hope, but I'm shattered about Dani.

DETON

Me too, sweetie.

EXT. PREVAIL TREATMENT CENTER - SAME TIME

Hendrix appears outside of the door, pacing, smoking a cigarette.

INT. TREATMENT CENTER LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

CHRISTINE

I look forward to seeing you twice a week for out-patient.

MADISON

Thank you for everything.

CHRISTINE

You're very welcome my dear.

They hug. Madison opens the big treatment center door.

EXT. PREVAIL TREATMENT CENTER - SAME TIME

Hendrix stands there. Madison's heart starts to race.

HENDRIX

Hi.

MADISON

What are you doing here?

HENDRIX

I heard about Dani, are you okay?

MADISON

Trying to be.

HENDRIX

You'll make it. I know it.

MADISON

Why?

HENDRIX

Cause I know you and you're extraordinary... I'm sorry I left.

MADISON

It was for the best.

HENDRIX

I always thought Heroin was the most euphorically blissful blip of a perfect place and then I realized that's what I had with you, sober.

MADISON

Hendrix.

HENDRIX

I know I fucked up. I don't care about my fear anymore or my traumatic baggage or my stupid patterns. All I care about is loving you and I don't care who thinks it's wrong or codependent. That's my truth and I'm so sorry I ran away from it before. I love you Madison-

MADISON

I love you too Hendrix.

Hendrix moves closer to her and they are about to kiss.

MADISON (CONT'D)

But, I choose me.

They stand in silence, their lips inches apart, yearning for each other. After a long beat, Hendrix quietly turns around, walks away and exits. Madison watches him go in silence.

Little Madison appears and takes Madison's hand. Madison takes a deep breath and smiles.

## MONTAGE

- Madison goes to sober living.
- Madison takes a one year cake.
- Madison finishes her novel.

MADISON (CONT'D)

NOTHING CHANGES IF NOTHING CHANGES I WAS LOSING EVERY BATTLE IN THE WAR AGAINST MYSELF EVERY ACTION WAS A REACTION TO IGNORE THE CHILD INSIDE OF ME SCREAMING OUT FOR HELP AND SHE SAID

LITTLE MADISON WHATCHA YOU WAITING FOR

WAITING FOR

BEEN BEFORE

MADISON

I'M NOT WAITING ANYMORE I ALWAYS TOLD MYSELF THAT IM GONNA START TOMORROW THAT I'D STOP TOMORROW BUT TOMORROW NEVER COMES FOR TOO LONG I WASTED MY TIME CHASING MY SORROWS I HAD TO LOSE IT ALL TO FIGURE OUT TOMORROW STARTS RIGHT NOW TOMORROW STARTS RIGHT NOW LOVE, IT SHOWED ME POSSIBILITY WITH NO LIMITS REWROTE MY STORY I"M NO LONGER THE VILLAIN IN IT I LEFT MY PAST BEHIND ME WON'T THAT SHIT DEFINE ME I'M MORE HOPEFUL THAN I'VE EVER

LITTLE MADISON WHATCHA YOU WAITING FOR WAITING FOR

MADISON

I'M NOT WAITING ANYMORE I ALWAYS TOLD MYSELF THAT IM GONNA START TOMORROW THAT I'D STOP TOMORROW BUT TOMORROW NEVER COMES FOR TOO LONG I WASTED MY TIME CHASING MY SORROWS I HAD TO LOSE IT ALL TO FIGURE OUT TOMORROW STARTS RIGHT NOW TOMORROW STARTS RIGHT NOW I WAS DOWN AND I WAS HURTIN WHAT I TOOK WAS NEVER WORKING I ALWAYS THOUGHT I HAD NO PURPOSE BUT I'M LEARNING TOMORROW STARTS RIGHT NOW TOMORROW STARTS RIGHT NOW I ALWAYS TOLD MYSELF THAT IM GONNA START TOMORROW THAT I'D STOP TOMORROW TOMORROW STARTS RIGHT NOW TOMORROW STARTS RIGHT NOW

VOICE (O.S.)

Accepting everything in your past with gratitude because it brought you here to this moment. Drawing your future to you.

Madison looks in a triple mirror, to the left she sees her past cascade and to the right her future. Her younger and older self, a beautiful dynamic life.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D) And when you're ready. Open your eyes.

EXT. BEACH- MORNING

The sun is rising, her hand on her heart. She looks out onto the horizon and smiles.