

When the Starlight Ends

By

Adam Sigal

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1 INT. A DARK ROOM - NIGHT 1 *

A computer monitor in a dark room. A slow pull back from the monitor, where a screen-saver shows images of a happy life, a young couple (JACOB AND CASSANDRA). Indistinct still photos of the two appearing and then slowly fading away. After a long moment, a cigarette flares in the dark room.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
When did it start? When did
anything start?

The man in the room (JACOB) turns toward the computer screen.

2 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 2

A blank document. A cursor blinking desolately in the upper left hand corner. Onscreen, the words "A BABY IS BORN" are typed. Then erased. Next, the words "NOTHING CAN EVER JUST GO AWAY. NOT IN THIS UNIVERSE", appear on the screen, as Jacob types.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
Nothing can ever just go away. Not
in this universe.

3 EXT. MONTAGE OF NATURE SHOTS - DAY 3

As Jacob narrates, we see images of what he describes -- a man living and dying, rotting...dirt...trees, etc.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
A man lives. A man dies. He rots.
He becomes dirt. He becomes trees.
He burns and becomes gas. He
becomes clouds. He becomes rain. He
becomes trees. He becomes fruit. He
feeds men who die and become dirt.

4 EXT. THE EARTH FLOATING IN SPACE - NIGHT 4

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
Nothing ever vanishes. It just
changes its form. Everything was
everything else, at some point in
time. All the atoms that ever were
still are, somehow and somewhere.

The earth spins slowly, glowing vibrant blue. *

5 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT 5 *

Another one cigarette is stubbed out in the full ashtray.

JACOB SILVER V.O.

No.

6 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 6

Back on the screen, the cursor continues to blink. More words appear. "I WONDER WHAT BILL IS GOING TO THINK WHEN HE SEES THIS..."

7 INT. BAR - NIGHT 7

The bar is dimly lit and pretty quiet, dark. A few people huddled in booths. The kind of place serious drinkers go to drink.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

I wonder what Bill is going to think when he sees this. That I've written my story editor into my story. Will he edit himself out?

A man enters the frame. We see him only from behind. This is JACOB SILVER. He's in his thirties, dark hair and haunted eyes. He looks to a booth in the corner, where an elderly gentleman sits, hunched over a drink. This is BILL, the story editor.

8 INT. BAR - BOOTH - NIGHT 8

Jacob sits across from BILL. There is a long moment of silence between them.

JACOB SILVER

I have no idea how to start this fucking thing.

9 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 9

After the line about editing himself out -- a new sentence appears onscreen. "I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO START THIS FUCKING THING."

10 INT. BAR - NIGHT 10

Jacob sitting next to Bill.

JACOB SILVER
I should give this up. Find another profession...

BILL
Nah...

JACOB SILVER
The beginning of a story is the most important thing. You write a good beginning and you have a chance that people will stick with you throughout the whole thing. A shitty beginning...

BILL
What about some writing exercises?

Jacob is horrified.

JACOB SILVER
I will fucking kill you if you ever suggest that again.

*
*
*

Bill shrugs, takes a sip of his drink. An awkward silence follows.

*
*

Jacob sitting with Bill.

JACOB SILVER
I was so desperate for inspiration that I Googled the word "PHILOSOPHY" today. There were 138 million hits. There are 6.7 billion people in this world. That means that theoretically, there could be a unique philosophy for about every fifty people. You...have a philosophy?

Bill looks surprised.

BILL
Do I?

JACOB SILVER
You wanna hear the one I made up? Become one of my fifty?

*
*

Bill shrugs.

A newly born child is lying in a crib, asleep.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
 What if we're all standing on
 either side of a giant scale?

12 INT. HOSPITAL - SECOND ROOM - NIGHT 12

This is two hospital bedrooms now, displayed with a split screen with two sleeping newborns.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
 If we're all born with...an
 antithesis. Someone who's our exact
 opposite. Maybe not in terms of,
 like, personality...but in a more
 metaphysical sense.

On the right side of the split screen, with BABY 1, the mother comes in and she picks him up and starts cooing and kissing him, and that baby smiles and starts to giggle. Immediately, on the other side of the screen, BABY 2 starts crying hysterically.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
 You believe in God?

BILL (V.O.)
 Not particularly.

13 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY 13 *

A young boy, CHILD 1 is riding his bike down the street. As we watch, he continues riding successfully. As he goes, the screen splits into a second street, similar to this one. *

JACOB SILVER (V.O.) *

Well what if he's real? And some time ago, he got really bored with humanity. And decided to play this...this game? This...twisted game?

14 EXT. SECOND SUBURBAN STREET - DAY 14 *

CHILD 2 is skateboarding with a few friends. As we watch, he eats shit, falling down hard, his friends rush to help him. *

15 INT. BAR - MOMENTS - NIGHT 15 *

Bill frowns.

BILL

For that to work...wouldn't it mean that one half of the world would be miserable, and the other half really, really happy?

JACOB SILVER

I knew you would ask that! But no...not necessarily.

16 INT. HOUSE - PARTY - NIGHT 16

A Party is going on. TEEN 1 is walking through the party, weaving his way through the highschoolers. He's leading a pretty blond by the hand and his buddies are all looking at him and jostling each other. He heads toward a hallway...

17 INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 17

TEEN 1 goes into the dark bedroom with her and they start making out, some heavy petting...her shirt starts to come up.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

You've gotta consider how much mediocrity there is in the world.

(beat)

How many people are, like you said, out-of-their-fucking-minds happy, and how many people are truly, consistently, unalterably miserable.

The screen splits again and on the right side, we've got TEEN 2. He's in a hallway at a party and there's a cute girl screaming at him. They're arguing. The girl slaps his face and walks away.

18 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 18

MAN 1 is sitting on his couch, holding a lottery ticket in his hands. He's watching a TV and the numbers are being read off for that night's big jackpot.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

Rich and poor...moderately rich and moderately poor...upper and lower class...the tiers of the middle-class. It all balances out. At least, unless something extraordinary happens to somebody.

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER (V.O.) (cont'd)
 These little...glitches that God
 sticks in the game to make things
 interesting. To keep things off an
 even keel.

The numbers finish being read and the man looks down at the
 ticket, his eyes go wide.

MAN 1
 Holy shit!

19 EXT. CITY CROSSWALK - DAY 19

The screen splits again to MAN 2, who is walking into a
 crosswalk. He looks to his left, sees a bus bearing down on
 him.

MAN 2
 Holy shit.

The bus takes him out.

20 INT. BAR - NIGHT 20

Back with Jacob and Bill.

JACOB SILVER
 That's rare though. Mostly it's
 just these little victories. Little
 defeats. And my theory is; when
 we're getting shit on.
 Just...mildly shit on, or really,
 really dumped on, the exact
 opposite is happening to our
 opposite. You get it?

BILL
 I think so.

JACOB SILVER
 What do you think?

BILL
 I like it.

21 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 21

The words "I LIKE IT" are up there. They are erased. "I HATE
 IT" replaces them.

22 INT. BAR - NIGHT

22

Jacob is back with Bill in the bar. They are a few drinks in, now. Jacob staring at the table for a long moment before speaking. Bill looking at him skeptically.

JACOB SILVER

What would you do if a genie appeared here, the way they do in stories...and you had three wishes? What would your wishes be?

BILL

Never really thought about it. What would you do?

JACOB SILVER

My first wish would just be...that she would come back.

BILL

And the other two?

23 EXT. NICE CAR - NIGHT

23

This is a flash to Jacob's real life. Jacob Silver is sitting in a nice car outside of a house. The lights are on in the window of the house. Shadows are moving there. The distant sound of laughter. We can see Jacob in the car, lit from within, and above the car, the stars are shining bright in the sky. Jacob looking over at the house, listening to the sounds of laughter.

FADE OUT.

24 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

24

Jacob is sitting in a Starbucks with a laptop on his lap. He looks nervous. He's got a cup of coffee in front of him. His eyes are pale and sunken.

JACOB (V.O.)

I swore this would never be me.

He looks around at the other Hollywood hipsters sitting around, doing their thing.

JACOB (V.O.)

Nothing more disgusting than the guy that writes at the coffee shop. And yet...

He flips up the lid of the laptop. He starts to type. Someone walks past--a random dude.

RANDOM DUDE
Hey man, how's it going?

Jacob rolls his eyes. *

JACOB (V.O.)
I'm never going to forgive myself
for this. *

A long pause.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
And now that I think about it, I'm
writing about myself writing about
myself writing.

A man looking at a picture of himself looking at a picture of himself looking at a picture of himself... He starts typing. As he does, there is something of a commotion near the door.

25 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 25

He is typing on the screen. "AND IN SHE WALKED..."

26 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 26

The girl that comes in through the door is absolutely stunning. Dressed really well, carrying an expensive bag, she is a total stunner. Everyone is staring at her, and she's pretending not to notice. Jacob is staring at her too.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
You live in L.A.--you hear about
this happening all the time. I was
shopping last night and oh my god I
saw blah blah blah at the register.
Blah blah pulled up next to me on
his motorcycle and I swear he
smiled at me. This famous guy or
that one. It's always somebody
obscure. DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT
GUY...HE WAS IN THAT MOVIE LAST
SUMMER...?

The beauty is ordering her coffee. She gets it, sits down in a little booth near Jacob. This is CINDY O'HARE.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

But Cindy O'Hare...Jesus Christ.
She's so famous other famous people
are starstruck around her. Like
Madonna. And...there she is. Not
twenty feet away. No bodyguard or
anything. Anyone could...I could
just walk up to her. I could tell
her she was my first love...

27 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 27

He erases those last words. "MY FIRST LOVE".

28 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 28

Jacob is staring at her over his cup of coffee.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

I've seen everything she's ever
done. Even the early avant garde
stuff nobody liked, when she had
that awful hairdo. *

29 EXT. BEACH - DAY 29

Cindy is on the beach in a bikini with a muscular man. She
has a terrible hairdo. It's a sappy love scene. Her running
toward him, him taking her in his arms.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

I used to watch them with the sound
off and write my own dialog.

Cindy and the muscle man locked in an embrace. Looking into
each other's eyes. Their mouths move but it's Jacob's voice
speaking, as he talks for them.

JACOB SILVER (V.O. AS CINDY)

I'm losing track of where you
end...where the memories of you
begin.

JACOB SILVER (V.O. AS MUSCLES)

When did I stop thinking about you
in the present tense?

30 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 30

Jacob at his computer, looking at the place where Cindy was
sitting a moment ago. Her booth is empty now. He looks down
at his computer monitor, looks back up and sees that she is
there again.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

Some guy wrote in a fashion magazine once, "God should have stopped making women after Cindy O'Hare, because he would never top her."

Jacob with his laptop, staring at Cindy as she sits in her booth drinking coffee. He looks back at his computer, starts to type.

31 INT. SUBWAY TRAIN - NIGHT 31

Jacob is sitting on a subway with an old man.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

There is a subway in L.A., even though hardly anybody knows about it. We used to ride it downtown to watch the Lakers.

32 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 32

Jacob in the coffee shop at his laptop -- we are close in on the monitor. He erases that last sentence "WE USED TO RIDE IT INTO DOWNTOWN TO WATCH THE LAKERS."

33 INT. SUBWAY TRAIN - NIGHT 33

Back sitting beside the old man. Jacob, cigarette in mouth.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

There was an old man on the train. I asked him what the true meaning was of the word, LOVE.

The old man turns to him.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

He turned to me and he said--

OLD SUBWAY MAN

Love is when you can jerk off to thoughts of the person you're with.

34 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 34

Cassandra is changing her clothes -- we get a shot of her partially nude/in her underwear, referencing what the old man was just talking about. *

*

35 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

35

Back at the shop, staring at Cindy again in her booth. A little girl, holding her mom's hand, walks up to her, asks for her autograph. Cindy smiles, signs it, hands it to her and the girl walks away.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

What do you do in this situation? You leave her alone, right? Let her enjoy her coffee like a normal person. Walk up and and smile. Say, "Gosh, I love your films", and I just look like an idiot. She's just here to relax.

Jacob continues to watch her.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

But what if--

36 INT. COFFEE SHOP - CINDY'S BOOTH - DAY

36

Up walks Jacob. He stands over her for a moment, looking very awkward. She doesn't notice him for a moment, then she looks up, smiles.

CINDY O'HARE

Hey.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

What if I'm the exact kind of guy she likes to date? Maybe she doesn't like rich guys. Maybe she doesn't care if guys are handsome. Maybe she hates actors, and models, and athletes, and business moguls. Maybe she wants a normal guy who would treat her right. And what the hell is a "Mogul", anyway?

Jacob talks aloud, now:

JACOB SILVER

Hi.

CINDY O'HARE

Have we met before? You look really familiar.

JACOB SILVER

Funny--I was just gonna say the same thing to you.

*

She laughs, looks embarrassed. *

CINDY O'HARE

Oh my god...that was a joke, right?
I--wow, that would be incredibly
embarrassing if you were serious.

JACOB SILVER

Of course it was a joke. Do I look
like I live under a rock? *

She squints. *

CINDY O'HARE

It's hard to say...

Jacob laughs.

CINDY O'HARE

How can I help you?

JACOB SILVER

I read in a magazine once, you were
doing this interview, and you said
"I just want a normal guy. I'm sick
of all these Hollywood types. It's
tough because of who I am, people
are intimidated by me. It's harder
than you think for me to find a
date." Something like that. About
how even though you are this uber-
famous, uber-hot actress, you have
trouble meeting men.

Cindy puts her head in her hands.

CINDY O'HARE

I'm so mortified right now.

People in the coffee shop are watching Jacob as he talks to
her, whispering and pointing.

JACOB SILVER

Well? Were you just bullshitting or
what? Were you for real, or were
you just trying to sound cool and
down-to-earth?

CINDY O'HARE

I was serious. *

Jacob sits down next to her. *

JACOB SILVER
Well my name is Jacob Silver.

*

He extends his hand.

*

37 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 37

Jacob is back at his computer. Cindy is still in her booth. He is tapping on the top of the laptop screen, thinking.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
Too mundane.

38 INT. COFFEE SHOP - CINDY'S BOOTH - DAY 38

Jacob standing over Cindy again, her not noticing him for a moment and then looking up.

CINDY O'HARE
Hey.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
What if I focused all my intensity
into one word? What if I funneled
all my passion into a single
phrase? What if I summoned every
ounce of energy in my soul and just
overwhelmed her with my being?

JACOB SILVER
Hi.

Cindy frowns at him for a moment and then stands up, starts making out with him.

39 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 39

Jacob back at his computer.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
Too weird. Too subtle. People don't
like subtle these days. They need
something big.

40 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 40

Jacob back at Cindy's booth, standing over her. She looks up at him, smiles.

CINDY O'HARE
Hey.

JACOB SILVER

Hi. I'm sorry to bother you. I mean--
-I don't mean to bother you. I
just...I'm not going to ask you for
an autograph or anything.

CINDY O'HARE

O...kay.

JACOB SILVER

I just wanted to tell you that I'm
a really big fan of yours. I really
respect you as an actress. Not that
my opinion means much to you
probably, but you're a big
inspiration to me as an artist. I
think you're--

*

At that moment, there's a commotion near the front door of
the shop. Everyone looks up. In walks a man with a black mask
on, carrying a gun in his hand.

JACOB SILVER

Holy shit.

CINDY O'HARE

Oh my god.

The BURGLAR is frantic, pointing his gun at various
customers.

BURGLAR

Nobody move! I want the cash in the
register, and I want wallets on the
floor, now. If there are not enough
wallets on the floor by the time I
get the cash from the register, I
will shoot as many of you as there
are bullets in my gun. If you all
cooperate I will be gone, and you
can go on enjoying your coffee.
Nobody--

The man's voice trails off as he lays eyes on Cindy O'Hare.

BURGLAR

Holy shit.

Cindy tries to duck down in her booth but it is too late. The
man has seen her. He walks over to her, pointing the gun in
her direction. Jacob is standing like a statue, his hands up.
The gunman is fixated on the girl.

BURGLAR

Well I'll be damned. Cindy O'Hare.
No bodyguards? Pretty brave.

Cindy starts crying.

CINDY O'HARE

Please...

BURGLAR

Stand up!

Cindy stands up. She reaches for her wallet, pulls it out of her purse.

CINDY O'HARE

My wallet...

The man doesn't take it. He is staring at her.

CINDY O'HARE

Take my purse. It's worth--

BURGLAR

What the fuck am I gonna do with a purse? I look like the kinda guy carries a purse?

CINDY O'HARE

Please...

BURGLAR

They always say when you see a famous actress in real life she looks like shit...that it's all makeup and...retouching, whatever. But you...you're a god-damn ten-car highway wreck.

CINDY O'HARE

Please just take my money and don't hurt me.

BURGLAR

No. No...I think you should come with me.

We flash to Jacob's face. He looks incredibly distraught.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

What do you do in this situation?
What kind of world is this when a man like this could hurt a girl like her.

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER (V.O.) (cont'd)
 What did the Spanish poet say? Life
 is a dream...what's the point of a
 dream if she's not in it?

The burglar grabs Cindy's arm and at that moment, Jacob moves. He throws an incredibly awkward punch and it hits the gunman in the jaw. the man staggers, lifts his gun and fires. He shoots Jacob in the stomach, but Jacob keeps wrestling him.

He manages to pry the gun loose, blood streaming onto the floor. Once the gun is free, the other customers swarm the gunman. A few of the customers attend to Cindy. The burglar is accosted. Jacob lies on the floor bleeding. Cindy sees him on the floor, rushes over to him.

CINDY O'HARE
 Somebody call an ambulance!

In the distance, a siren starts to howl. Cindy kneels over Jacob, pressing on the wound.

CINDY O'HARE
 Are you okay?

JACOB SILVER
 I don't think so...

CINDY O'HARE
 You saved my life.

JACOB SILVER
 And you ruined mine...so it goes.

41 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 41

He erases that last line.

42 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 42

She is kneeling over him.

JACOB SILVER
 Anybody would've done it...I was
 just closest...

CINDY O'HARE
 It was the bravest thing I've ever
 seen. I...thank you.

JACOB SILVER
 You want to really thank me?

She frowns slightly.

JACOB SILVER

Kiss me.

She laughs.

CINDY O'HARE

What?

JACOB SILVER

If I live...then I will be able to tell everyone I know that I got to kiss Cindy O'Hare and all I had to do was get shot in the gut. If I die, then at least the last thing I'll feel is a beautiful woman's lips touching mine.

She laughs, leans down and they lock lips.

43 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

43

Jacob is sitting back at his laptop. He is laughing. He erases what he wrote, continues to chuckle.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

I actually like it, but it's too ridiculous.

He looks at the booth where Cindy was sitting. There's a fat guy there now.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

No...the best thing is realism. Even if people don't like it, they can't fault it if it's real.

He looks back up, the fat guy has become Cindy again. He sits for a long time, staring at her. She looks over at him once, smiles. After that, he stands up, puts his laptop in his bag. He leaves the place without saying a word to her.

44 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - PARKING LOT - DAY

44

Jacob walking across the parking lot to his car. He gets into his *nice* car and looks up to the sky. *

*
*

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

I am Billy Pilgrim. (Clarify: who is Billy Pilgrim?) I am alive at every moment I ever was and ever will be. *

*
*

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER (V.O.) (cont'd)

Everything in my life is happening now, somehow. Somewhere. She is still here somehow. Somewhere. We are still together somehow, in some different when. I wonder if that other me -- the one who still has her, is aware of this other me, who is alone, the way I am aware of him.

*

45 INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY

45

*

Jacob driving in his car, as voiceover continues.

*

JACOB SILVER V.O.

Everyone I've ever known, even the people I've forgotten, are still here with me, somewhere. Infinite perfect, imperfect souls, depending on how I feel. A king one day, a beggar the next. The beauty of fiction. A single line written or erased can mean everything.

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46 EXT. OUTER SPACE - NIGHT

46

*

Stars, planets, galaxies.

*

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

In an instant, the universe ended. Everything went black.

*

*

*

Silence. Black.

*

47 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - NIGHT

47

*

The previous words, "In an instant, the universe ended..." are seen on the monitor, and erased.

*

*

48 EXT. MONTAGE OF PEOPLE

48

*

Quick, tight images of different people, presumably from Jacob's life.

*

*

JACOB SILVER V.O.

I can be any one of those people I knew or didn't know. Take all their best qualities, none of their worst. I could be Ralph.

*

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(MORE)

JACOB SILVER V.O. (cont'd)

Ralph's so cool. She always liked
Ralph. She thought he was cute.

*
*

End on an image of RALPH. He's handsome, blond-haired, fairly young. Pull back to see him walking from his crappy house to his shitty car. He's dressed like a surfer/stoner, and smoking a joint.

*
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*
*
*

49 EXT. RALPH'S CAR - DAY 49

Jacob is now wearing Ralph's clothes and driving that same horribly shitty car. It's a real piece of work.

*
*

50 EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 50

The shitty car pulls onto a nice street. The houses are big. He cruises down slowly, his window down. He is listening for something. He pulls up to a big house, hears a dog barking from the back yard. He shuts off the car.

51 EXT. BIG HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY 51

He is walking up through the front yard of the nice house, looking over his shoulder. He passes to the side of the house.

52 EXT. BIG HOUSE - PASSAGEWAY - DAY 52

He is in the passageway beside the big house. A dog is barking somewhere nearby.

53 EXT. BIG HOUSE - THE FENCE - DAY 53

Jacob stands by the fence to the back yard. The dog is really barking hard. He looks over the fence and sees the dog. It's a nice-looking yellow lab. He opens the gate, walks into the yard.

54 EXT. BIG HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY 54

Jacob enters, and the dog is jumping up, trying to lick him to death. Jacob laughs.

JACOB SILVER

Easy boy.

He goes and grabs a leash, leads the dog out of the backyard. He heads back toward his car, the dog in tow.

55 INT. RALPH'S CAR - DAY 55

Jacob is in the car with the dog, whose name is WARRIOR.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

There is a reason for everything,
she said.

56 EXT. BIG HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

56

A little girl named ELLIE runs out into the back yard of the big house Jacob was at earlier. She is looking for her dog.

ELLIE

Warrior!

She looks around, puts her hands on her hips.

ELLIE

Warrior! Come here please!

Nobody comes. The girl looks angry, then she starts to look afraid.

ELLIE

Warrior?

She waits another moment and then runs back into the house, screaming.

ELLIE

Mom!

57 INT. RALPH'S CAR - DAY

57

Jacob is sitting with Warrior in the car. He turns to address the dog.

JACOB SILVER

We have to scare them. Give it a
few days.

58 EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

58

Jacob is walking down the street in the suburban neighborhood. He is looking at the houses, whistling.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

There is nothing in the universe
worth anything, except a mystery.
Nothing is ever as enticing, once
you know it. You cannot ever truly
enjoy a story you yourself wrote.
Knowing what lies around every
turn. If only I could be someone
else. If only I could be HIM. The
man called NOBODY.

At this point; the neighborhood dissolves into a hallway at a party. Jacob continues walking--

59 INT. HOUSE - UPSCALE PARTY - NIGHT 59

--it is an upscale party. The people are all older, very well-dressed, Jacob is making his way through the party, looking just a little out of place--maybe engaged in conversation but his eyes are elsewhere. *

Later: We weave very slowly through the party. Jacob is looking for someone. He passes out of the main room and into a hallway. He sees what he is looking for. *

The actress that played Cindy O'Hare is there. She is a brunette again. (The brunette version of her -- the real life version, as it turns out, is named CASSANDRA). Cassandra is talking on her cell-phone. She is laughing. She looks up, sees Jacob. Her smile fades.

CASSANDRA
I'll call you back.

JACOB SILVER
Who was that?

CASSANDRA
Nobody.

Cassandra smiles, walks up to him, kisses him on the mouth.

60 EXT. A SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 60

A nice looking MOM and DAD are putting up signs, with Ellie. Ellie is sobbing. The signs are HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DOG? Warrior's picture is on them, with his name.

61 EXT. A SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 61

Jacob is walking again, as he was before. He looks up at a sign on a telephone pole. It's a picture of Warrior. It says "HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DOG?" Jacob smiles. He reaches up, takes the sign down.

JACOB SILVER
My goodness I think I have.

62 INT. RALPH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 62

This is where Ralph lives. It is run-down, messy as hell. Jacob is on the phone, holding the lost dog sign. Warrior is eating out of a bowl of food at his feet. The phone is ringing. MOM answers on the other line.

MOM (O.S.)

Hello?

JACOB

Uh...yes ma'am, my name is Ralph. I think...I think I found your dog.

There is screaming on the other end of the phone. Warrior perks up his ears.

63 EXT. BIG HOUSE - DAY 63

Back at the house he stole Warrior from. He's got the dog on a leash. He's walking up to the front door.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

It's only the rich ones. The ones who can afford it.

64 INT. BIG HOUSE - DAY 64

The doorbell rings. Ellie and mom and dad are sitting there, waiting anxiously. Ellie races to the door, opens it, and Warrior goes bounding inside. They all embrace him, and he barks and licks and wags like crazy.

Jacob stands back, watching with a smile on his face. After a moment, the dad approaches him. The man's eyes are shining with tears. He takes Jacob's hand, shakes it.

DAD

Thank you so much...

JACOB SILVER

It was nothing--

DAD

No. No...she loves that dog so much. You don't understand how much she loves him.

JACOB SILVER

I do understand.

65 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 65

That last line is erased.

66 INT. BIG HOUSE - DAY 66

Dad is standing, clasping Jacob's hand. The man withdraws his hand, reaches for his wallet.

JACOB SILVER
Oh--no, I couldn't.

DAD
Whether you want the money or not,
I'm giving it to you. You don't
understand what you've done for us.
Warrior is a part of the family.
(beat)
When she was a baby he used to lay
in bed with her...

The man is overcome with emotion. He puts the wad of cash
into Jacob's hand, closes his hand over it.

DAD
Thank you...

67

EXT. RALPH'S HOUSE - DAY

67

Jacob pulls up in the horribly shitty car to the crappy
house. An important note--the house next door is very nice.
IT IS PAINTED GREEN. Jacob gets out of the car, stands in
Ralph's driveway. Ralph is standing in the front yard of the
nice house next door, watering his lawn. He has a joint
clenched between his teeth. *
*
*

AS A CLARITY POINT HERE--IN JACOB'S REAL LIFE, RALPH WAS HIS
NEIGHBOR. THE BLOND, YOUNG MAN. IN JACOB'S IMAGINARY WORLD WE
ARE CURRENTLY IN, JACOB AND RALPH HAVE SWITCHED IDENTITIES. *

Ralph hails Jacob as he gets out of the shitty car.

RALPH
Hey Jake!

JACOB SILVER
Howdy Ralph.

Ralph looks perturbed by something.

RALPH
Hey, you mind stopping by later? I
wanted to ask you something.

JACOB SILVER
Sure. No problem. I'm not busy.
What's up?

They walk to Ralph's front porch.

68

EXT. RALPH'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

68

Jacob and Ralph are sitting together. Jacob is looking over at Ralph, who is staring off into space.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
Did I mention that I'm fucking
Ralph's wife?

RALPH
So how you been, man?

JACOB SILVER
Pretty good. You?

RALPH
Well...you know. I'll be honest
with you. I think...

JACOB SILVER
What?

RALPH
Eh...I was gonna say; I think
somebody is fucking my wife.

Jacob blinks.

JACOB SILVER
What makes you think that?

RALPH
Intuition, I guess. If that's the
word for it. The propensity toward
portent maybe all humans had at
some point.

Jacob looks confused. Ralph chuckles.

RALPH (CONT)
Sixth sense, maybe. Or even a
seventh.

JACOB SILVER
Seems pretty reliable.

RALPH
You ever had a girl for a long
time? Five years or more?

Jacob looks away.

RALPH

Carli and I got married young. Just outta high school. We dated for years before that. My friends said I was crazy to get hitched, you know? But I didn't see why I should wait. When you know you have something perfect...I knew she was the one for me since we were kids. And when you know someone like that...you really know them, they can't hide from you. They look funny a second--they just breathe the wrong way...and you know something's not right.

JACOB SILVER

So CARLI...breathed wrong, and you figured she was cheating on you. Maybe she's got allergies.

RALPH

Trust me, Jake. She's two-timing me. I've never been surer of anything in my entire life.

Jacob looks uncomfortable.

JACOB SILVER

She like, leave at night or something, and you can't reach her? Make up excuses to stay out? If she was...uh...when would she have time to?

RALPH

I go away a lot. Tours. I'm gone for weeks, sometimes. East Coast-- I'm in bed by like 8:00 her time. She could say goodnight and be getting ready to go out.

JACOB SILVER

Theoretically--I mean, if you were right, who do you think it's with?

Ralph looks down at the ground.

RALPH

I honestly have no idea.

JACOB SILVER

How long you think it's been going on?

RALPH
Six months. Maybe longer.

*

Jacob whistles.

*

JACOB SILVER
Well...if you're right, man...then
I'm really sorry.

RALPH
Not your fault, man. But...there
was something I wanted to talk to
you about. It's gonna sound kinda
weird and I hope you don't take it
the wrong way.

JACOB SILVER
Sure.

RALPH
Would you...spy on my wife, for me?

JACOB SILVER
What?

RALPH
I understand if you think I'm
crazy. If you wanna just pretend I
didn't ask. We can just sit here
and act like that never happened.

A moment of silence.

RALPH
But I wouldn't be asking for much--

JACOB SILVER
Come on man!

RALPH
I'm not asking for anything crazy!
I just...you don't have to talk to
her or anything. All you need to do
is follow her. I'd set it up, you
know? Plan a trip outta town and
tell her about it. I'll go to a
hotel in Pasadena for a few nights.
All you would have to do is sit
around and wait for her to leave.
You follow her in your car and
whenever she gets where she's
going; you would...video tape her.
You own a video camera?

JACOB SILVER

No.

RALPH

I got one I can lend you. No problem. If anyone came to the house, you would film them too. I'll...I'll pay you a thousand dollars. Even if you don't get anything. Just for being willing to do it.

JACOB SILVER

And what if she's not?

RALPH

Not what...

JACOB SILVER

Uh...cheating.

RALPH

She is. But if for some reason I'm wrong--if I'm totally crazy, and it turns out she's not...well, at least I'd know, right? That's the thing. I mean, when I find out for sure, I'll be fucking destroyed...but at least that maybe is gone. At least I know. And I can act. It's just this not knowing...this hiding shit that's tearing me up.

A long pause.

RALPH (CONT)

So what do you say, neighbor?

JACOB SILVER

Why don't you just do it?

RALPH

I would if I could but it won't work. She knows my car. She would notice. But you, you're perfect. You won't arouse her suspicion.

*

JACOB SILVER

What if she notices me following her?

RALPH

You kidding? She's a terrible driver. She has to focus all her energy on the road or she'll drive into a ditch or something. She aint gonna be checking her mirror.

*
*

Jacob laughs.

RALPH (CONT'D)

I'll arrange for the night and set it up. I'll pay you up front if you want. You just sit in your car and wait for her to leave.

*
*
*
*

JACOB SILVER

Ah hell...why not? I always wanted to be a spy.

Ralph laughs and slaps him on the shoulder.

RALPH

This really means a lot to me.

JACOB SILVER

When do you want to do it?

69 EXT. SALSA BAR - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

69

This is another flashback to reality; from Jacob's life. He is being pulled through the parking lot by Cassandra (the brunette version of the leading lady in this tale). She is wearing a red dress. She looks beautiful. She is laughing.

JACOB SILVER

I changed my mind. I changed my mind. I changed my mind.

Cassandra laughs harder.

CASSANDRA

It's too late! It's too late!

Jacob moans.

70 INT. SALSA BAR - NIGHT

70

Cassandra pulls Jacob into the crowded bar. It is packed with people. The music is blaring. Salsa music. Everyone is dancing. It's a Salsa bar. Immediately Cassandra starts swaying with the music. Jacob looks very uncomfortable.

JACOB SILVER

Oh my god...I'm so nervous.

She presses herself against him, puts his hands in hers.

CASSANDRA
Just do what I do.

JACOB SILVER
I can't do what you do!

CASSANDRA
Just try.

JACOB SILVER
People are gonna laugh at me.

She shrugs. Then she points to something.

CASSANDRA
Look!

He follows her finger, sees a fat, out-of-shape white guy struggling to dance with his wife. The guy is horrible. Jacob laughs.

JACOB SILVER
I feel a little better now.

CASSANDRA
Come on!

Shots of them dancing, then. Moving under the lights. Their faces getting close together. Passionate. Their lips touch. Slowly the image starts to fade.

71 INT. RALPH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

71

Jacob Silver is lying in bed with CARLI, the wife of his neighbor. She is the same actress who played Cindy, and Cassandra. She's got jet-black hair now though. She's running her fingers through Jacob's hair.

CARLI
He wants you to...spy on me?

JACOB SILVER
Yeah.

CARLI
Wow.

JACOB SILVER
Well, he's convinced you're cheating on him.

CARLI
 Hmm. And what did you say?

JACOB SILVER
 I said I would do it.

CARLI sits up.

CARLI
 What?

JACOB SILVER
 I have an idea.

CARLI
 Uh-oh. You and your ideas...

JACOB SILVER
 You don't understand, CARLI. He really loves you. You didn't have to see his face when he was telling me. He was...he looked like he was dying. And I'm afraid that if he found out about us he'd do something drastic. I don't know, divorce you or...try ot hurt you or something! Or hurt himself. Put a gun in his mouth--I can't be part of something like that.

*
 *
 *

CARLI
 He's not like that...

JACOB SILVER
 Well listen, this is what I think we should do. I'm gonna spy on you, like he wants me to. I'll sit outside and wait for you to leave, like he said. I'll videotape you leaving, getting into your car, and then I'll follow you. Only...we won't go to like, a guy's house or anything. We'll go somewhere else. We'll go somewhere that if he saw you going, it won't hurt him, but which you would still want to hide. I don't know...a casino or something. Or even--to buy some drugs. See, I don't think he necessarily knows you're cheating on him. He just knows you're hiding something. I think we could set it up, make it seem bad enough--like you're scoring crack or something.

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER (cont'd)
Because even that wouldn't hurt him
the way it would if he found out
you were cheating on him. He would
understand, you know? He'd help you
work it out...

CARLI
I don't know...

JACOB SILVER
It's a perfect plan.

CARLI
I don't know if that's the word I
would use to describe it.

JACOB SILVER
No. I've got it all worked out.

CARLI
I can see that. Lemme ask you
something though.

JACOB SILVER
What?

CARLI
Let's say your plan works. Let's
say we do it. Then...what happens
afterward?

JACOB SILVER
What do you mean?

CARLI
I mean...is it over, then? Are we
done? You and I?

JACOB SILVER
Would you want us to be?

CARLI
No. No...in the end, I'd rather
just tell him the truth. I would
leave him.

*

Jacob looks away. For some reason, his eyes are filled with
tears.

JACOB SILVER
Don't say that.

CARLI
It's true.

There is a long silence.

JACOB SILVER
What happened with you two?

CARLI
I...we're just different. We want different things. He was already in love before we got together.

JACOB SILVER
What?

CARLI
I'm not his first love. Or his greatest. *

JACOB SILVER
Sure you are! *

CARLI
No. Sometimes people were put on this planet for a reason. Some people have a purpose. And if they get distracted from that purpose, there's nothing sadder. Seeing someone old and tired, wishing they had done what they were passionate about. Someone once said that we all know what we want to do with our life, from the time we're three years old. And no matter what we end up doing...if it isn't that original thing, we'll be miserable. Maybe not, like, openly so... but some part of us will always yearn... *

CARLI is crying.

JACOB SILVER
I...

CARLI
I'm not his purpose. He wasn't put on this planet to love me. And I love him...but I can't stay. *

She is sobbing now. Jacob pulls her close. After a while, she starts to calm down.

CARLI
When do you want to...go ahead with your little plan?

JACOB SILVER
 He's leaving in 3 days for Salt
 Lake City. He'll be gone a week.

72 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT

72

Jacob is sitting in the crappy car from the earlier scene with the dog. He is fiddling with a video camera, as he stares up at the door of his neighbor's house (the nice house). He is holding a cell phone between his ear and his shoulder.

JACOB SILVER
 Okay--are you ready?

CARLI (O/S)
 Yeah.

JACOB SILVER
 Come outside.

She walks out and he lifts the camera. He tapes her getting into the car. But something is wrong. He looks at the camera.

JACOB SILVER
 Fuck!

He rolls down the window, yells out of it.

JACOB SILVER
 Wait! Sorry! Hang on a second!

She gets out of the car, laughing.

CARLI
 What happened?

JACOB SILVER
 The camera's broken.

She rolls her eyes, walks over to his car, takes the camera from him. She plays with it for a moment, removes the lens cap, hands it back to him.

CARLI
 Lens cap.

JACOB SILVER
 Of course.

CARLI
 So what now?

JACOB SILVER

Go back inside...do it again. No big deal. Just, uh, make sure and act like you don't notice me. You were kinda...smiling, during that take. Gotta look natural.

She pinches him and then closes the door to his car.

73 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT 73

Same shot as before, Jacob in his car. He's got his camera. Carli walks out the front of her house. She has a little smirk on her face. She walks to her car, gets into it, as Jacob records. Her car starts, she backs out, leaves. Jacob starts his own car and pulls out behind her, starts following her down the street.

74 EXT. RALPH'S CAR - MONTAGE - NIGHT 74

A montage of driving. They're going out of town, into the high desert. The highway heads into the dark.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

Nothing in the universe can ever go away. Never pull a true vanishing act. But what about thought? Can you ever truly erase something from your memories?

75 INT. SALSA BAR - NIGHT 75

The scene of Jacob where he was dancing with Cassandra. Only now, she is gone. He is dancing alone. He is really dancing--getting WAY too into it. People are watching him...almost like he's having a seizure...as the V.O. continues.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

Or can you just push it down? Kick it into the shadows until you can no longer see it. But so much pain can't just remain hidden forever; no matter where you hide it. Every bit of pain and love and sadness we have ever felt is still somewhere, in our minds. Changed, perhaps...but never gone.

76 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 76

A flash from Jacob's life. Jacob is sitting at his computer writing. His face glowing by the monitor's light. Cassandra is draped over him, her head on his shoulder.

She is sleeping. He reaches up, touches her face. And then a second later--she is gone. He is alone in the room, with the monitor.

COMPUTER SCREEN
"SHIT!", RALPH SAID.

77 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT 77

The clock on Jacob's dash says 10:47. The little light next to PM is lit. Ahead there are a few other cars on the road. Carli is a few lengths ahead of him. He follows her for a bit, and then after a while the car starts lurching and a horrible sound comes from the engine. Smoke spews forth from the hood.

JACOB
Shit!

The car dies. Jacob struggles with the steering wheel and just manages to make it over to the shoulder.

78 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT 78

The car pulls off into a ditch and sits for a moment, smoking.

JACOB (O.S.)
Shit.

79 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT 79

He sits in the car for a moment in silence. There are not many cars passing. He is alone on the highway. Far off in the distance, he can see a few brake lights but she did not stop. She is gone. He opens the car door, steps out.

80 EXT. THE HIGHWAY - NIGHT 80

He is walking along the highway, on the shoulder. Behind him, his car is sitting, dead. The stars are burning brightly overhead.

81 EXT. A CALL BOX - NIGHT 81

He reaches the yellow box, pulls the phone off the receiver. It rings twice and then a woman's voice is there.

EMERGENCY WOMAN (O.S.)
Hello, emergency assistance. Can I
have the Call Box number you are
calling from?

JACOB

600359.

EMERGENCY WOMAN (O.S.)

Do you need emergency assistance? *

JACOB SILVER *

Yeah...my car, it's broke. *

EMERGENCY WOMAN (O.S.) *

Alright, please wait with your
vehicle and we'll send someone to
help. *

JACOB SILVER *

How uh...long? *

The woman does not answer. *

82 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT 82

He's walking back to his car.

83 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT 83

He's sitting in the car. He leans back in his seat, looks up at the stars through the windshield. He puts his key in the ignition, turns it slightly. The clock on his dash says he's been lying for a while, dozing. He wakes with a start, turns the keys in the ignition. Looks at the clock. 1:49 a.m.

JACOB

Damn it.

He leans back again, looks back up at the stars.

Now what happens next is very strange. We're seeing from Jacob's POV. He's staring up at the sky. And we start to pull very slowly toward a single star up there which is burning brighter than the ones around it. We get closer and closer, and occasionally we catch a glimpse of Jacob.

He's strangely intent on the star. And it gets brighter and brighter, until it nearly fills the screen. And then--all of a sudden, it is gone. There's a little flash of light, and then there is just black space in the area where the star was a moment ago.

Jacob sits up as though struck by a hammer. And then there is a terrible, loud noise. It is like an explosion combined with the sounds of a billion voices screaming all at the same time. Jacob thrusts his hands over his ears and cringes. But the sound vanishes almost immediately.

And afterward, Jacob sits for a while, his hands over his ears, looking utterly perturbed. After a moment, he pulls his hands off his ears, looks around as though suspicious. And then he looks back up toward the sky...right to where that vanishing star was before. But it's just a black area, now. Surrounded by other stars, but gone.

JACOB

What the hell was that...

*

He reaches down, puts his hand on the key in the ignition. He turns it and--what do you know?

The car starts! He laughs.

JACOB

Huh...

84 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT

84

He's driving on the highway. He still looks a little flustered by the star and the noise. The sound still seems to echo in the silent car. He drives for a short while, not very far, and then suddenly something appears up ahead. It is a figure on the side of the road. He doesn't slow down but he definitely notices the person.

He gets closer and closer and the figure becomes clearer, and then when he passes her, everything slows so he can catch a clear glimpse of her. And what do you know? It is THE SAME ACTRESS WHO PLAYED CARLI, CINDY AND CASSANDRA. She's a redhead, now, wearing a pair of torn blue-jeans and a tight tank top. As Jacob passes, she stares at him.

85 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

85

Jacob's car comes screeching to a halt. We see the hitch hiker's profile, and behind her, Jacob's car is reversing toward her. She smiles.

86 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT

86

He rolls down the passenger window. The girl walks up to the car, leans inside. Her name is CHELSEA. She's got a hint of a Southern accent.

CHELSEA

My...vehicle broke down. I don't suppose you could give me a ride to Palmdale?

JACOB

What's wrong with your car?

CHELSEA

I don't know much about...cars. *

He unbuckles his seatbelt. *

JACOB

Maybe I could take a look.

CHELSEA

Oh no...it seems pretty bad. I don't think you'd be able to fix it.

Jacob looks over her shoulder, outside.

JACOB

Where...is it?

CHELSEA

What?

JACOB

Your car.

CHELSEA

Over that hill there... *

He looks at the hill, back at her. *

JACOB

I could give you a ride to the call-box, if you want...

She laughs.

CHELSEA

What's the matter, sweetheart? You scared of me or something? Think I might be an ax-murderer?

JACOB

No! Of course not!

CHELSEA

Well then listen...I don't want to call anybody tonight. It's already what...3AM? I have a friend in Palmdale. If you're headed up there--and if you're on this highway you can't be headed anywhere else--then I thought you could drop me off. I mean, I promise not to bite. You can...search me for weapons, if you want to.

JACOB

No...no, it's fine. Of course it's fine! Get in. I'll take you to Palmdale. I'm headed up to Lancaster anyway. Your friend live far from the 14?

CHELSEA

Not at all.

She opens the door, gets in.

87 EXT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT

87

The car is pulling away.

CHELSEA (O.S.)

My name's Chelsea.

JACOB (O.S.)

Jacob.

88 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT

88

They're sitting in the car, laughing.

JACOB

Texas? Man...that's crazy. I've never been. I figured you were from somewhere in the South. When you started talking...I knew you weren't from LA.

CHELSEA

Yeah? My accent...?

JACOB

Well, that, and the fact that you actually seem able to carry a conversation. You haven't blabbed on about yourself, you haven't tried to give me your card, or show me your reel. You seem like a...regular person.

CHELSEA

Well, I think that's a compliment.

JACOB

It is! Trust me...it is.

The conversation trails off for a short while. Jacob looks over at her, and she's staring out the window, up at the stars.

CHELSEA
So many of them...huh?

JACOB
Yeah.

He chuckles.

CHELSEA
What?

JACOB
I was just thinking the same thing.

CHELSEA
Oh yeah?

He smiles--and then suddenly, he hears an echo of the loud scream he heard a few minutes ago. He closes his eyes, shakes his head, mops his brow with his hand.

CHELSEA
What is it?

JACOB
Nothing. It's nothing.

CHELSEA
You alright?

JACOB
Yeah.

A long moment of silence. After a bit, Chelsea starts whistling. Jacob laughs.

CHELSEA
We're done talking then?

JACOB
I was...I was gonna tell you something but now I think it's too weird.

CHELSEA
I don't know...I like weird.

JACOB
Eh...

CHELSEA
Come on!

JACOB

Well, just before I picked you up, I was lying in my car, in the front seat, because...well, to be honest with you, my car was broken down, same as yours. I was lying there waiting for a tow, just staring up at the stars. And then all of a sudden this one star...it, I don't know...it caught my eye. Drew my attention to it. It seemed brighter than all the stars around it. And I stared at it for a minute, and then all of a sudden--

CHELSEA

Where was it?

JACOB

What?

CHELSEA

What part of the sky was it in?

JACOB

I...uh...it all kinda looks the same to me.

CHELSEA

Hmm.

JACOB

God--this is so stupid. I can't tell you this. You're gonna think I'm crazy.

CHELSEA

No! No, I promise I won't. Please, tell me the rest of the story. I like this story.

She puts a hand on his thigh. He looks down at it, at her, swallows.

CHELSEA (CONT)

I promise not to interrupt again.

JACOB

Well...anyway, there was something about this star. I felt like...I don't know, like it was really important.

(MORE)

JACOB (cont'd)

Like there was something about it that I was supposed to see. I...couldn't tear my eyes away-- God, I definitely sound crazy.

CHELSEA

No.

JACOB

Well anyway I was staring up at this star, and I don't know what happened, but suddenly there was this flash of light. And then it was gone! And then--and this is the weirdest part. But the second it vanished, there was this really loud sound, like a bunch of voices all screaming at the same time. And then that was gone too. I don't...I don't know what it was. Probably nothing. They say it's really tough to keep your eyes on a single star for any period of time, because there are so many of them. So maybe I just freaked myself out. I was half asleep, after all.

A long moment of silence.

JACOB (CONT)

And now you definitely think I'm crazy. You want me to like...let you out or something?

CHELSEA

No. I don't think you're crazy at all. I'm glad you told me that.

JACOB

Why? I'm embarrassed now.

CHELSEA

Don't be. Just making conversation, right?

JACOB

Yeah...

CHELSEA

Tell me though, what do you think happened?

JACOB

What do you mean?

CHELSEA

The star that disappeared. What do you think it was?

JACOB

I don't...really...

CHELSEA

Why do you think it scared you so badly?

JACOB

I don't really know.

It's silent for another moment, and then all of a sudden, she leans over and starts kissing him. So forcefully he runs his car off the road.

JACOB

Jesus!

89 EXT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT 89

The car swerves off the road onto the shoulder and luckily doesn't crash. It starts idling up the side of the highway.

90 INT. RALPH'S CAR - NIGHT 90

Chelsea reaches up, pulls the emergency brake and then pushes herself onto Jacob's lap. She starts kissing him, getting really aggressive. She takes her bra off from under her tank-top, pulls his shirt off. Starts kissing his chest. Jacob is understandably befuddled but he's not exactly resisting her. He starts running his hands through her hair. She undoes his belt, pulls his pants down. And then she starts to slide down, so her face is near his fly. He leans back, closes his eyes. A dissolve here, from this car, to a different car, in Jacob's real life--

91 INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY 91

--This is a nicer car. Another scene from Jacob's life. He is with Cassandra. They are both dressed nicely.

CASSANDRA

Sweetheart...you know how I don't like surprises.

Jacob smiles.

JACOB SILVER

I think you'll like this one.

She rolls her eyes.

CASSANDRA
I gotta get back to work.

Jacob looks at her, pulls the car over to the side of the road. For a moment, he's quiet.

JACOB SILVER
Babe, listen. I know you're busy. I know you gotta get back to work. If you want, I'll take you back right now. I'll turn around and we can go back. We can forget about this. There will be no surprise. You want me to do that?

She takes a long moment and then smiles.

CASSANDRA
Well we're already almost there, right?

JACOB SILVER
We're almost there.

92 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

92

Jacob and Cassandra pull onto a suburban street. This is still in the flashback. They pull up to a nice house. This is the house Ralph was outside of before; the green house. Jacob turns the car off. Cassandra looks over at him.

CASSANDRA
What are we doing here?

JACOB SILVER
You see that house?

He points at the green house.

CASSANDRA
It's our dream-house. We always said--

JACOB SILVER
When we were rich, right?

CASSANDRA
Yeah.

JACOB SILVER
Well it's our house now.

CASSANDRA

What?

Jacob holds up a key. Cassandra looks at it for a moment, bursts into tears.

CASSANDRA

Are you fucking kidding me?

Jacob jumps out of the car, she jumps out after him. We remain in the car and watch as they go running up to the front door of the house. Possibly slow-motion. Hearing them laughing, Cassandra crying.

JACOB SILVER (O.S.)

You almost didn't see my surprise!

93

INT. RALPH'S CAR - DAY

93

A sudden snap back to Jacob in the car with the hitchhiker. SHE HAS A GIANT GUN, AND IS HOLDING IT UP TO HIS FACE!

JACOB SILVER

What the fuck?

She cocks the pistol. It should be noted now that she is speaking without that Southern Accent. She has a very proper, unaffected dialect now.

CHELSEA

Time to die.

JACOB SILVER

What? What is this?

She presses the gun into his face and he puts his hands up.

JACOB SILVER

Listen...you can take whatever you want. I've got cash in my wallet. You want my car? Please don't kill me.

CHELSEA

I'm sorry...I wish there was another way, but business is business.

JACOB SILVER

What? Business? Wh..why? She withdraws the gun slightly and ponders that for a moment.

CHELSEA

You know...I've been called a lot of things in my life. A killer. A butcher. A heartless cunt. Most of them describe me pretty well. But it might be beneath even me to just off you without telling you why.

JACOB SILVER

Please...

CHELSEA

The truth is that I was sent here to kill you because you saw something you weren't supposed to see.

JACOB SILVER

What? What did I see? A moment of silence.

CHELSEA

The end of Aurora.

JACOB SILVER

What? Who...what is Aurora?

CHELSEA

Don't play dumb, Jacob. You just finished telling me the story.

JACOB SILVER

I don't understand...

CHELSEA

The disappearing star.

Jacob looks aghast.

JACOB SILVER

What are you talking about? That was...that was nothing. Just my imagination. I think I was asleep. I...maybe I still am.

CHELSEA

It was not your imagination. And you are quite awake right now.

JACOB SILVER

This is crazy.

CHELSEA

This is real. What you saw was real.

JACOB SILVER

Who are you?

CHELSEA

My name is not Chelsea. I'm not from around here. I'm here on your little planet, like I said, on business. I work for a corporation called--well, you wouldn't have heard of them.

JACOB SILVER

Why are you doing this?
Seriously...what's this about?

CHELSEA

You think I'm lying? I told you...this is what we do. This is what I do. We watch people. We SEE people. We see everything. We were watching you tonight while you drove your little fossil-fuel powered vehicle, when you happened to look up at just the wrong part of the sky at just the wrong moment in time.

JACOB SILVER

This has to be some kind of joke.
Did...did Ralph send you?

CHELSEA

Who is Ralph? And no--this is not a joke. If it makes you feel better, you're not the only one. There were...others who saw what happened. None on this world...but there were others.

JACOB SILVER

This is impossible.

CHELSEA

That's what I said! The odds are really staggeringly against it happening. That you just happened to be looking at that star, at that particular moment--it's really incredible.

Jacob laughs nervously.

CHELSEA

It wasn't even supposed to be me. The regular guy is sick. I had to come out here to the middle of nowhere, to this place--learn a language, find an outfit, come up with a viable pretext...all so I could take the time to kill you. So you should be honored.

She presses the gun into his face, so his head presses against the headrest.

JACOB

Listen...whatever this is...you don't have to kill me.

CHELSEA

Unfortunately I do. Duty calls, and so forth.

JACOB

No...whatever I did. Whatever you think I saw, it doesn't matter. I mean, come on, if any of this is even remotely true. If that thing I saw was...what you said it was...well what difference does it make? I'd already almost forgotten about it until you reminded me. I would never have told anyone about it, and so what if I had? What would anyone have done? I mean...what, the government? The army? The fucking men in black? Nobody would believe me. Nobody would care.

CHELSEA

Listen, you're preaching to the choir here, pal. Don't you think I brought up that very argument when they told me I had to come? You arrogant assholes are some of the last people left in the universe who think you're alone...that life only exists on your world. So I told them why not spare you? You should -- you should thank me for that, by the way.

(MORE)

CHELSEA (cont'd)

I told them even if you did understand what you'd seen -- and you obviously DON'T, there was nothing you could do about it. And even if somehow you did convince people of what happened, we could just destroy Earth without too much trouble.

JACOB

Exactly!

CHELSEA

But they didn't buy it, obviously. Company policy. Can't leave loose ends. Sorry.

JACOB

What kind of company blows up planets?

CHELSEA

Like I said...you wouldn't have heard of them.

JACOB

Please don't. I'm a good person.

CHELSEA

As if that matters.

JACOB

I have...I had a family.

CHELSEA

Have. Or had?

She presses the gun harder.

CHELSEA (CONT)

It's too bad. You seem nice. But I didn't take this job because of my social skills. If I don't kill you, I could be fired.

A moment passes.

CHELSEA (CONT)

Maybe you should close your eyes.

JACOB

No.

CHELSEA

Why not?

JACOB

If I'm gonna die, at least let the last thing I see be a beautiful woman.

Chelsea laughs, pulls the gun away for a second.

CHELSEA

Now why'd you have to go say something like that? I already told you I felt kinda bad about this...

JACOB

There is nothing I can do to stop you...is there? Nothing I can say.

She looks away and strangely, there are tears in her eyes.

CHELSEA

Goodbye, Jacob. Maybe we'll meet again somehow. Nothing ever goes away, after all. Maybe after we're dead, when we've become dirt, we'll be trees together somewhere. In some forest...do you remember our forest?

94 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

94

A tent glowing in a forest beside a lake, as the wind blows in the trees. Shadows moving in the tent. *

CHELSEA (O.S.)

Maybe when the wind blows, our branches will rattle together.

FADE OUT:

*

95 INT. BAR - NIGHT

95

Jacob is back in the bar with the Bill. His face is buried in a drink.

JACOB SILVER

Tell me something.

BILL

Yeah.

JACOB SILVER

What's the saddest thing you've ever seen?

BILL

Hmm. Never really thought about it. You?

JACOB SILVER

It was on the news.

BILL

Uh-oh.

JACOB SILVER

That's the funny thing though. It wasn't like...the war, or some missing child or anything like that.

BILL

What was it?

JACOB SILVER

It was a story about a whale.

BILL

A whale?

JACOB SILVER

It was a baby whale.

96

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

96

THIS IS REAL NEWS-FOOTAGE. A BABY WHALE OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA GOT CONFUSED AND IT THOUGHT THAT A YACHT WAS ITS MOTHER.

JACOB (V.O.)

He was lost off the coast of Australia. I think he was a humpback or something. And he had lost his mother, and he had somehow...he'd come across this yacht. And he thought this yacht was his mom. He kept on trying to...you know...suckle from the side of this boat. And all the people on the boat were watching him and they were, you know -- they felt bad but what could they do? They tried to sail away but he kept following them.

(MORE)

JACOB (V.O.) (cont'd)
 And I just kept thinking what that
 poor whale must've thought,
 wondering why his mom had suddenly
 turned so quiet and cold.

97

INT. BAR - NIGHT

97

Jacob back at the bar with the Bill.

BILL
 You really need to get over this.

JACOB SILVER
 Oh thanks a lot. That's really sage
 advice.

BILL
 Blame yourself. You're the one
 writing the words I'm saying.

JACOB SILVER
 You're right. Really...you are.
 This is so horrible. I'm so lost.
 This story doesn't make any sense.

BILL
 Earlier you said...realism. That's
 the key. When all else fails, you
 just go with what really happened.
 People can't ever fault you for
 that, because you always have that
 defense--you just shrug your
 shoulders and say I'm sorry you
 don't like it--it's real.

Jacob is quiet a while.

JACOB SILVER
 Every day...I just...I feel like I
 made the wrong choice. Letting her
 go...

BILL
 She seemed pretty determined--

JACOB SILVER
 I could've stopped her. If I had
 just been willing to give this up.
 This fucking writing shit. What is
 it? It's nothing. All these
 books...all these words, they're
 not gonna go with me, when I'm
 dead.

BILL
Neither is she...

JACOB SILVER
But at least she would have been
there right up to the end.

BILL
But she wouldn't have been. She
wanted it this way. You know it's
the truth. *

JACOB SILVER
No... *

BILL
That's what this is really about,
you ask me. The jealousy thing. *
Your whole theory about *
balance...having some metaphysical
opposite out there--

JACOB SILVER
Of course I'm fucking jealous. She
cheated on me. *

BILL
She had to have an excuse to go.
She had to have a reason or you
wouldn't have let her.

JACOB SILVER
I should have done something. *

Bill suddenly slaps his palm on the table. The first real
emotion we've ever seen from Bill. *
*

BILL
Stop trying to rationalize it! It's
over. Don't you understand what
that word means? *

Jacob stares at Bill for a long time.

98 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 98

Words appear. "WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN--BILL SPONTANEOUSLY
COMBUSTED, RIGHT BEFORE OUR HERO'S EYES".

99 INT. BAR - NIGHT 99

Bill bursts into flame.

100 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 100
 "SO IT'S NOT A MYTH", JACOB SAID.

FADE OUT.

101 INT. OFFICE - CUBICLE - DAY 101

Jacob is sitting in a cubicle in typical white-bread suburban office. He is on the phone. He's wearing a shabby shirt with a tie. He is a bit younger than when we saw him.

JACOB SILVER
 Yes. Okay. Thanks. No. Bye.

He hangs up, leans back, puts his head in his hands.

JACOB SILVER
 Fuck...

Cassandra appears above the cubicle wall. She looks at him sadly.

CASSANDRA
 Hi sweetheart.

Jacob is surprised to see her.

JACOB SILVER
 Hey! What are you--you here for lunch?

She lifts up a bag of food.

CASSANDRA
 You want to eat out on the grassy knoll?

JACOB SILVER
 Get me out of here please...

102 EXT. GRASSY KNOLL - DAY 102

Jacob and Cassandra are eating out on a little grassy patch with some benches, etc.

JACOB SILVER
 I wasn't working, just then.

CASSANDRA
 Just when?

JACOB SILVER
 When you came just now. With lunch. I haven't been working all morning.

CASSANDRA
What were you doing?

JACOB SILVER
I was--eh...you don't wanna know.

CASSANDRA
I do I do.

JACOB SILVER
Was talking to the credit card
company. We're...

He sighs deeply. She hugs him.

CASSANDRA
Sweetheart...

JACOB SILVER
I just worry.

CASSANDRA
You're a worrier.

JACOB SILVER
It's not like that. Not this time.
I mean, yeah, I'm prone to worrying
but this time...we're in trouble.

CASSANDRA
We'll be fine.

JACOB SILVER
I mean, you always say that--

CASSANDRA
And we always are--

JACOB SILVER
Yeah, sure, like, we won't have
enough money to go clothes shopping
or something--we have to take it
easy on the eating out...but I'm
like worried we're gonna be able to
pay our fucking rent.

A long silence.

CASSANDRA
Babe...

JACOB SILVER

It's just so fucking frustrating. I just...I see women who have so much shit...nice cars, fucking houses, and they're not good people. And you're the best damn person I know and we have to...

He sighs.

CASSANDRA

I'm happy though.

JACOB SILVER

I mean, I'm happy too. But...I could be much happier.

*

Another long pause while they eat.

*

JACOB SILVER

Thanks again for bringing me lunch.

CASSANDRA

I sensed that you needed a break.

JACOB SILVER

I sure did.

CASSANDRA

I've been thinking...I want you to quit.

JACOB SILVER

Quit what?

CASSANDRA

Working at JBL.

Jacob laughs.

JACOB SILVER

Sounds good.

CASSANDRA

I'm serious.

JACOB SILVER

Sweetheart...I just finished telling you I'm worried about our finances and you respond by telling me I should quit my job? I don't think that's the way to get us out of debt, lover.

CASSANDRA
This isn't about that.

JACOB SILVER
It's not?

CASSANDRA
The job is killing you.

JACOB SILVER
Babe I'm not quitting. There is no way. I couldn't do that to you.

CASSANDRA
I don't care about our stupid debt. How is having that shit job going to help? You keep making what you're making...it'll take us years

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)
to pay everything off. Years of struggling...years of not being able to do anything...travel, or buy fucking cars with air-conditioning...

JACOB SILVER
But eventually--

CASSANDRA
Sure, eventually we'll make it and by then you'll have...

JACOB SILVER
I'll have what?

CASSANDRA
You'll have given up!

JACOB SILVER
I won't have...

CASSANDRA
You will! It's not your fault. You slave away here... you're tired when you come home. It's hard to get into the... whatever you call it... the zone.

JACOB SILVER
The zone...

He laughs.

*

CASSANDRA
When's the last time you wrote?

JACOB SILVER
I wrote last night--

CASSANDRA
I mean really. Like made some progress. Not a few sentences and then you're dozing off and you have to go to bed. I mean, when's the last time you knocked out a few pages on your novel? Hmm?

He is silent for a long time.

JACOB SILVER
I appreciate it, babe, but I can't. Nobody's paying me to write.

CASSANDRA
They will. I've read your work. You have what it takes. I read a lot...you really have it. Whatever IT is.

JACOB SILVER
Well that's very nice of you to say.

CASSANDRA
I'm serious! You have a gift. I don't want you spending another day at this place, squandering it.

He thinks about it for a long time.

JACOB SILVER
We wouldn't be able to survive...

CASSANDRA
We could make it work. I mean, at least try it. I get a second job--

JACOB SILVER
No. Absolutely not. End of this conversation.

CASSANDRA
No--wait a second. I'm going to get a second job waiting tables.

*
*

JACOB SILVER

What kind of man would I be if I
let you do that?

*

CASSANDRA

It has nothing to do with letting
me! I've thought about this a lot
and it's what I want. And it's not
like you would just be lying around
all day. I would expect a lot out
of you.

*

*

*

JACOB SILVER

Oh yeah?

CASSANDRA

You would have to write your ass
off. I mean, write like you've
never written before. And you would
be eligible for unemployment
insurance--

JACOB SILVER

Oh god...

CASSANDRA

And when you make it--and you will
make it, if you just have the
energy to focus...then I'll expect
you to pay me back for all my extra
hours.

*

Jacob looks at her for a long moment...shakes his head,
laughs.

JACOB SILVER

I don't know if it is possible that
I could love you more.

103

INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

103

Jacob is sitting at the computer, a cigarette pressed between
his lips. He is writing. This is more from his life with
Cassandra.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

They say there isn't anything more
powerful than nostalgia. That you
will always remember the good
times.

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER (V.O.) (cont'd)
 That you will always fall into that
 human trap of wanting to be
 elsewhere...of failing to
 appreciate where you are now, until
 you're gone. Those were the good
 times.

Jacob looks at the clock. It is late...around midnight. In
 walks Cassandra. She looks tired. She is in a waitress
 outfit. She smiles, walks to him, kisses him.

CASSANDRA
 How's it going?

Jacob smiles, kisses her again.

104 INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT 104 *

Later, she is draped over his shoulder, sleeping as he taps
 away at the keyboard. *

105 INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - DAY 105 *

Jacob walks into the apartment. Cassandra is at the computer.
 She is reading his work. *

JACOB SILVER
 Hey. What are you doing?

CASSANDRA
 Reading.

Jacob looks nervous.

JACOB SILVER
 What do you-- *

Cassandra, overcome with emotion, searches for the right
 words. *

CASSANDRA
 It's...

Jacob looks ecstatic.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
 Beautiful. That's what she was
 going to say.

106 INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT 106 *

He is writing again, cigarette between the lips. *

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

And she was right. It was my best work. My most honest. I was tapping into something primal. The most basic instinct of humans is to survive. Not in a tooth-and-nail way, but in a broader sense.

*
*

107 INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT 107

Jacob is lying on the couch talking on the phone. He's got a copy of his manuscript lying open beside him.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

To be wealthy. To be safe. To be fat and happy. To bear children. To ensure their loved ones are looked after. We do every manner of work to try to gain this.

108 INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT 108

Jacob is sitting in the apartment, typing on the computer. He is looking out the window at people walking down the street. There are all kinds of people out there.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

We wear suits. We wear yellow plastic hats. We wear badges. We wear pads and helmets. We shake hands. We shovel shit. We sell crack. We sell people. We slaughter cows. We sell used cars. We buy stocks, wait for them to go up in price, then we sell them back to the people we bought them from. We do all manner of work. We tap letters on a keyboard and watch them appear on a screen.

109 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY 109

He looks away from the window, back at the screen. That last line burns there; "WE TAP LETTERS ON A KEYBOARD AND WATCH THEM APPEAR ON A SCREEN"

110 INT. PUBLISHER'S OFFICE - DAY 110

Jacob is in a publisher's office. There are books everywhere, posters showing movies; everything to indicate this is a high-powered publisher's office. Jacob is shaking hands with the guy.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
We sell stories.

111 EXT. TALL BUILDING - DAY

111

Jacob has just got out of the meeting with the publisher. He's got a copy of his book in his hand. He is dialing on the phone as quickly as possible, grinning from ear to ear.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
It's easy to get lost in it.
Writing books...talking to
agents...talking to publishers.
Getting rejected again and again.
Revising. Editing. Outlining. When
the words you are writing are what
are going to pay the rent...when
the little black letters on a white
screen are what are feeding your
family...you won't fail. You can't
fail. It's your most basic
instinct.

112 INT. SHABBY APARTMENT - NIGHT

112

Cassandra walks up to the door, opens it, walks inside. Immediately -- something isn't right. There are candles lit. Jacob is standing there with a bottle of wine. She frowns at him.

CASSANDRA
What is this?

JACOB SILVER
I...have something to show you.

CASSANDRA
Oooh. I hope it's in the bathroom
because I have to pee really bad.

JACOB SILVER
Well when you're done with that,
please feel free to come out here
and join me for a romantic
dinner...or I'm going to ask one of
the damn neighbors. I put a lot of
work into this. I couldn't find the
damn matches.

CASSANDRA
Okay...hold on.

She leaves, comes back out. Jacob is holding a piece of paper in his hand.

CASSANDRA

What do you want to show me?

He lifts up the paper. It's a check. She walks over, grabs it. She looks at it and her eyes get wide.

CASSANDRA

Holy crap.

JACOB SILVER

That's so funny. Those were my exact words. When I saw it. It came in the mail today. Isn't that weird? That was just sitting in our mailbox. Anybody could've just taken it...I wonder if mail theft is a big deal...how many people steal mail.

She starts kissing him passionately.

JACOB SILVER

You wanna celebrate?

CASSANDRA

I want to go to the bedroom, right now.

They do so, laughingly.

113 INT. SALSA BAR - NIGHT 113

This is them dancing at the bar. The scene from before. Slow, passionate dancing, and kissing...etc.

114 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 114

Jacob walks out with Cassandra, holding a key in his hand. He presses the button on it. A sweet car is there. The lights on the car flash. Cassandra starts freaking out. She grabs the key -- takes it from him and runs to the car. *

115 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT 115 *

This is the first night in their new house. They are lying on the floor in sleeping bags. He reaches out, caresses her face and she smiles. *

JACOB SILVER (V.O.) *

Every moment that has ever been
still exists somehow. Somewhere. I
am there in that moment. *

(MORE) *

JACOB SILVER (V.O.) (cont'd)

I am still there, lying in that
 quiet, empty house, before we had
 our bed shipped in. I can still
 feel the
 hardwood floors pressing against my
 back through that sleeping bag. I
 can still smell the fragrance from
 that herbal shampoo she used to
 use. I can hear Ralph next door
 listening to music.

*
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*

116 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

116

Jacob walks into a room in the nice house. Cassandra is
 sitting at the computer. She is crying.

*
*

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

I am watching her cry. I know what
 has happened and I can't change it.
 I can hear a dog barking somewhere.
 I can feel the heat through the
 windows where the curtains are not
 drawn. I can be there. I can be
 there with myself. I can feel
 everything I felt...but I can't
 change it. A ghost looking over my
 own shoulder. If Time is a great
 city then all the streets are One-
 Way.

*
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*

Cassandra stands up, points at the computer.

*

CASSANDRA

What is this?

*
*

JACOB SILVER

You've been reading my new book...

*
*

CASSANDRA

Jacob...how could you do this?

*
*

JACOB SILVER

How could I do what?

*
*

CASSANDRA

This...

*
*

JACOB SILVER

You don't like it?

*
*

CASSANDRA

This is our life...

*
*

JACOB SILVER
What? No it's not.

CASSANDRA
Our life is in here. Moments from
our life... things that... private
moments! They're in here.

JACOB SILVER
Sweetheart, every writer's life
ends up in his work. It's just what
happens.

CASSANDRA
But these...personal details. I
don't want people reading about
these things. These are between you
and me...

JACOB SILVER
I'm really sorry. I had no idea
that you would be upset by this.

CASSANDRA
That's what upsets me the
most...that you thought I would be
okay with this. With having our
life in a book for millions of
people to--

JACOB SILVER
Not really millions, yet. I mean,
that's the plan...

For some reason that makes her all the more upset.

CASSANDRA
I'm really disgusted with you right
now.

JACOB SILVER
Disgusted?

CASSANDRA
I just... see something I don't
like.

JACOB SILVER
What do you see?

CASSANDRA
Let me ask you a question.

JACOB SILVER

Yeah...

CASSANDRA

If I asked you--if I told you to
change this...if I told you to take
out everything from our life
and...I don't know, make it
different...you wouldn't, would
you?

JACOB SILVER

It's my best work...

CASSANDRA

Would you chose me or your work?

He sighs, walks over to her and tries to hug her, but she
fends him off.

JACOB SILVER

Sweetheart, I write to make a
better life for us. I mean--I've
made a better life for us. I got us
this place--

CASSANDRA

I just...never mind.

117 INT. A DARK BEDROOM (JACOB'S HOUSE) - NIGHT

117

Cassandra lying in bed, not sleeping. Jacob enters, stands
over her a moment.

JACOB SILVER

Babe...

CASSANDRA

Hmm.

JACOB SILVER

I'm sorry...I feel terrible. I
never meant to make you mad.

CASSANDRA

It was just surprising.

JACOB SILVER

About the other thing too. Of
course I'm gonna marry you. It's
just been so hectic. Before I was
broke and I refused to do it until
I could afford a ring. And then...

CASSANDRA
I understand.

A long pause.

JACOB SILVER
I love you.

CASSANDRA
I love you too, Jacob.

118 EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

118

Jacob walks out the front door carrying a suitcase. There is a cab waiting at the curb. Cassandra pulls up in the car and runs up to the house to meet him. He gives her a big hug.

JACOB SILVER
I'm so glad I didn't miss you.

CASSANDRA
Damn traffic in this city. Babe, are you excited! New York! How glamorous.

JACOB SILVER
I can't believe how last-minute this is...

CASSANDRA
Yeah but, come on. You're going to be on TV!

JACOB SILVER
I promised you I was gonna be around this weekend...

CASSANDRA
This is important. Seriously. It's what you've been working towards.

JACOB SILVER
(excited)
I know, I can hardly believe it! I love you so much. I'm going to marry you someday.

CASSANDRA
You promise?

Jacob gets in the cab and pulls away as Cassandra waves goodbye.

119 EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT 119 *

This is the nice, green house that he bought, with Cassandra. *
Where Ralph was, earlier, watering the grass outside. *
*

120 EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY 120 *

Jacob is sitting on the porch outside of the nice house he got for him and Cassandra. Their nice car is parked in the driveway. Next door is the crappy house where their neighbor RALPH lives. This is who Jacob was pretending to be earlier. Jacob is drinking a beer. Ralph comes out of his house after a few minutes. He is the blond actor who in Jacob's story was the well-dressed one, at the nice house. Jacob had switched these two roles earlier, this is the way they really were.

JACOB SILVER

Ralph!

RALPH

Hey Jake. How's it going?

Ralph has a dog with him. It's Warrior, from before.

JACOB SILVER

Hey man, come hang out for a minute. Who's that?

RALPH

This is Warrior.

Ralph comes over with Warrior.

JACOB SILVER

Have a seat.

Ralph sits down.

JACOB SILVER

What's new, man?

RALPH

Not much.

JACOB SILVER

Any new women?

RALPH

Nah man...not yet.

JACOB SILVER

Soon though.

RALPH

Yeah...

JACOB SILVER

Hey I've been meaning to ask you...what's up with the dogs?

RALPH

What do you mean?

JACOB SILVER

It seems like you have a different dog every week. My girlfriend and I have been swapping theories...she thinks you just get tired of them and exchange them--you got some kinda thing worked out with the local shelter.

Ralph laughs.

RALPH

It's nothing like that. I'm a dog-sitter. I mean, just one of the things I do for money. Wow, that didn't sound right. It's a way to earn a few bucks. I watch people's dogs while they're out of town.

JACOB SILVER

Hmm. I like our theories better. I'm not gonna tell Cassandra the truth.

RALPH

How's Cassandra doing?

JACOB SILVER

Eh...

RALPH

Uh oh.

JACOB SILVER

She's doing okay. I think she's miserable though.

*

RALPH

She doesn't seem miserable.

JACOB SILVER

I know. I think she is though.

RALPH

Well you would know.

JACOB SILVER

You'd think I would. I'm just not sure this is her scene. The world I'm in...writing...agents and publishers and press...all this shit I'm doing. It's something about the arts...it's really difficult to love an artist, because somewhere you always wonder if they love their art more than you. It's like...every other person hates their job. A mill-worker comes home and he's so damn happy to see his wife because he's miserable about his day at work. But...

*
*
*

RALPH

I know what you mean. I was screwing an actress recently. Well, last night as it turns out. And it's like...sometimes I think if she got a call to go to an audition while we were in the middle of fucking, she'd go. It's crazy...

JACOB SILVER

It is crazy.

RALPH

She's amazing in the sack though.

JACOB SILVER

Well that's good.

121	INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT	121	*
	Jacob sitting at his computer, working. He hears something, Cassandra somewhere, crying. He frowns, gets up.		* *
122	INT. THE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER	122	*
	Cassandra is in the kitchen, crying. Jacob rushes to her.		*
	<p style="text-align: center;">JACOB SILVER</p> Babe what is it?		* *
	<p style="text-align: center;">CASSANDRA</p> It's nothing.		* *

JACOB SILVER
You're crying about nothing?

CASSANDRA
I'm sorry I'm crying.

JACOB SILVER
It's okay, just tell me what's wrong.

She laughs ruefully.

CASSANDRA
Everything is wrong.

JACOB SILVER
What do you mean?

CASSANDRA
I just...nothing is how I thought it was going to be.

JACOB SILVER
You're not happy?

CASSANDRA
I...I don't know. I am. I mean, I feel like I am. Most of the time. But sometimes...

JACOB SILVER
Sometime what?

CASSANDRA
Sometimes I think about how I always imagined I'd be married by now. Maybe have a baby. I want to be your wife. I want to have your child!

JACOB SILVER
I know you do. I want all of that too.

CASSANDRA
And I don't want people reading about our life together. I don't want our private business out there for everyone to see.

JACOB SILVER
I know. You have to believe me when I tell you that everything I do--my work, it's all for you.

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER (cont'd)
 So we can be married. So we can
 have kids and give them
 opportunities--

CASSANDRA
 I just hate this waiting.

JACOB SILVER
 I'm almost where I want to be. I'm
 close to a good place in my career.
 I'm close to having enough money
 that we won't ever have to worry.

CASSANDRA
 But I will still worry. I'll still
 worry I'm always gonna be second.

She starts to cry again.

JACOB SILVER
 Second to what.

CASSANDRA
 Your work.

JACOB SILVER
 Sweetheart...that's not true.

She shakes her head.

CASSANDRA
 It is. I feel like your mistress
 sometimes. When we're together.
 You're...somewhere else.

JACOB SILVER
 Fuck...I'm so sorry.

She calms down a bit.

CASSANDRA
 No. You know what, it's fine.
 Everything is fine. We're gonna be
 alright.

He goes to her, puts his arms around her.

JACOB SILVER V.O.
 I'm there, feeling her breathing
 against me. Feeling trapped.
 Knowing there's nothing I can tell
 her for comfort but lies.

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER V.O. (cont'd)

In three months and four days
she'll leave me. She's already
gone, even though her body is still
here in my arms.

*
*
*
*

123 EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

123

*

People are wearing black, standing around a gravestone. A priest is present. Cassandra is there, in black. She looks young. Jacob is there too, wearing a suit. He keeps looking at her. She smiles at him.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

I see her for the first time. She
is dressed in black. I think, I
can't hit on her, this is a
funeral.

124 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

124

*

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

We go out that night for drinks. I
try to kiss her and she turns away,
telling me she promised she would
never kiss a boy who was drunk. I
ask her whether she would ever have
sex with one. She says no.

*

125 INT. YOUNG JACOB'S CAR - NIGHT

125

Young Jacob is watching young Cassandra walk up to an apartment building. This is the night after the funeral. They are both wearing their black, still. She looks back at him before she enters her building, smiles.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

I don't sleep that night, thinking
about her. I try to remember how
long I have to wait before I can
call her...she calls me the next
day. In five years, seven months
and eleven days, she will leave me.

126 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - NIGHT

126

He and Cassandra are in the entry way of their house. Cassandra has bags over her shoulders.

CASSANDRA

Everything happens for a reason.

127 INT. CRAPPY APARTMENT - NIGHT 127

Younger Jacob and Cassandra are making love on the bed.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

We make love for the first time. It is awkward and I'm so nervous I have trouble staying hard. She says it's okay...that we will have plenty of time. That it will get better.

128 EXT. LAKE - DAY 128

The two of them are wearing hiking clothes. They are lying on a rock beside a stream, staring up at the trees.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

We have been hiking all day. She says she likes the way the sunlight filters through the leaves when the wind blows. She says it makes her feel restless in a good way. I tell her it feels like we are in a scene from a movie. In three years and four days, she will leave me.

129 INT. AQUARIUM - DAY 129

Jacob and Cassandra, back at the end of their relationship, are mid-fight. *

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

In eight days she will leave me. The moments we have shared will start fading like film negatives left in the sun.

CASSANDRA

I can't go on like this. I just can't. This isn't working. *

JACOB SILVER *

Look at what we have. Look at what we've built together. We can make this work. *

CASSANDRA *

I love you so much, Jake. But we're not right for each other. *

JACOB SILVER *

How can you say that? *

CASSANDRA
 We just want different things. We
 need different things.

JACOB SILVER
 What do you need? I can give it to
 you.

CASSANDRA
 I need a normal life. With a
 husband and kids... someday. But
 you're different. You...you're
 doing what you're meant to be
 doing. You have another purpose.

JACOB SILVER
 I will quit. I'll quit right now.
 I'll leave it all behind. I just
 want you.

CASSANDRA
 It's not that simple. It's...it's a
 Catch-22. What I love about you--
 what I've always loved about you
 was your passion. Your talent. If
 you gave up your work for me, you
 would be giving up what I love most
 about you.

JACOB SILVER
 What am I supposed to do?

CASSANDRA
 Exactly what you are doing! What
 you are good at!

JACOB SILVER
 I can't! Not without you.

CASSANDRA
 Of course you can.

JACOB SILVER
 Let's start over. Leave all of this
 behind. I can be happy with you. No
 matter where we are...

CASSANDRA
 I want to so bad... But really
 think about what you're saying.
 Just stop and consider it. Imagine
 a small house, in a small town, and
 a small job. A small life. Would
 that *really* make you happy?

For a long time he is quiet. She looks away, hiding her tears.

*
*

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
Eight days.

130 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

130

Jacob is with Cassandra at a fancy restaurant. Their food has not arrived. She looks distracted; he looks nervous.

CASSANDRA
This place has gone downhill...

JACOB SILVER
I've been meaning to talk to you about something... She sees the look in his eyes...very serious.

CASSANDRA
I have to pee.

She gets up, walks away. Jacob pulls something out of his pocket. It's an engagement ring. He fingers it nervously, waits for her to return. She gets back a few minutes later.

JACOB SILVER
I've been meaning to talk to you about something...

CASSANDRA
Yeah?

He slides out of his chair, gets down on one knee. He's got the ring in his hand. The other patrons of the restaurant start tittering, looking at them and pointing and whispering.

CASSANDRA
Oh god...

JACOB SILVER
Baby, it's time. It's past time. I've loved you since the day we met. You're the best person I've ever known. There is nobody in the world I want to be with but you.

*

CASSANDRA
Jake...

JACOB SILVER
I know you worry about my work...but you're my muse. You inspire me to be better.

*

CASSANDRA
 Jake...I don't know what to say.

JACOB SILVER
 It's just one word.

CASSANDRA
 I want to...talk about this.

JACOB SILVER
 What's there to talk about? Will
 you marry me?

CASSANDRA
 Jake...

JACOB SILVER
 I saw this ring and I knew it was
 time. I saw our whole life
 together. I saw us with babies...I
 saw us with grown up kids, when
 we're all old and covered with
 wrinkles and all we do is sit in
 the same room all day and read. I
 saw fifty Christmases. I saw trips
 to Europe. Every moment I've ever
 looked forward to involves you. I
 want you to be with me, now.

She puts her head in her hands, starts to cry.

131 EXT. LAKE - DAY

131

Cassandra is standing against the sun. Jacob is propped up on
 his elbows, staring at her. As we watch, she slowly starts to
 take her bikini bottoms down (we move down with her hands, we
 don't see anything). We remain on the ground with her
 discarded bottoms and way off in the distance, she splashes
 into the water. A moment later, Jacob is seen running in
 after her.

*
*
*
*
*
*

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
 We are at the lake. Her skin is
 dark. Her hair is a mess. She is a
 goddess. We make love that night
 and I can smell sulfur on her skin.
 Faint. Cicadas an endless
 undulation. Dark things out there
 moving in the forest.

*
*
*
*
*

132 EXT. IN THE LAKE - MOMENTS LATER

132

The two entwined in the water.

*
*

133 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

133

Jacob is on his knees, looking stunned.

JACOB SILVER
What do you mean...no?

She looks around nervously.

CASSANDRA
You really wanna do this... here?

JACOB SILVER
Why the fuck not?

CASSANDRA
I'm sorry. I didn't want it to be
like this--

JACOB SILVER
What? Is it...I know it's not too
early. Here, why don't you just
take the ring. Maybe you're just in
shock. You're right...let's talk
about this later.

CASSANDRA
I can't take that ring.

JACOB SILVER
Why??

CASSANDRA
Because I'm not RIGHT for you.

JACOB SILVER
What???

CASSANDRA
I'm really not. You're...a big
person. If that makes sense. You
have a big mind. A big spirit. You
have big dreams. And I've always
just felt...not part of them.

JACOB SILVER
Of course you're part of them! I do
this for you!

CASSANDRA
I don't want this! I don't want
money! I don't want...fame, or
whatever you want to call it.

(MORE)

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

I don't want to live in this shit town, with these shit people! I don't want a big fucking ring.

*

JACOB SILVER

I told you I'd give all that up...I told you I'd leave it all behind for you.

*

*

*

CASSANDRA

And I told you, I'm not that cruel.

*

*

JACOB SILVER

What am I supposed to do? You don't want me to keep going...you don't want me to quit.

*

*

*

*

CASSANDRA

I want you to keep going. I just...can't keep going with you.

*

*

*

Jacob laughs in disbelief.

*

JACOB SILVER

So if I was rich and successful...you would hate that?

*

*

*

CASSANDRA

I thought I could be happy. I just want to be everything to you.

*

*

*

JACOB SILVER

You absolutely are.

*

*

CASSANDRA

No. I'm not.

*

*

*

There is a moment of silence. People are trying not to stare at them. Jacob looks around at the other patrons.

*

134

EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY

134

Jacob is standing outside of his house, watering his lawn. He is unshaven...extremely morose. His eyes are glazed over.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

One month and fourteen days since she left. Five years, eight months, twenty-four days ago we met. I tell myself that every one of those moments still exists, somewhere in time. I tell myself that we just met, at that funeral.

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER (V.O.) (cont'd)
 I tell myself we are lying on a
 warm rock beside a cool creek in a
 forest where the leaves shiver and
 the sunlight dapples the ground.

Ralph walks into frame.

RALPH
 Hey man...

Jacob ignores him.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)
 I tell myself we're floating in
 that lake, our bodies unattached
 from the world. Her warmth against
 me in the cold.

*
 *
 *
 *

RALPH
 Hey man.

Jacob shuts off the hose. Turns to Ralph.

JACOB SILVER
 Ralph. What's happening? You found
 a girlfriend yet?

RALPH
 A few. How...uh...how are you
 doing?

JACOB SILVER
 I'm doing great, man. Thanks for
 asking though.

RALPH
 Sure.

A long silence. Jacob starts watering the plants again.

RALPH
 You're gonna drown those plants,
 man.

JACOB SILVER
 Let them drown. They're just
 plants.

RALPH
 Right. Hey...if you want to, you
 know...talk, feel free to stop by.
 I'm not a psychologist, I mean. But
 I got beer.

JACOB SILVER

Thanks.

RALPH

No problem.

Jacob keeps watering. Ralph walks away.

135 INT. RALPH'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

135

Ralph is in his house, a few minutes after the last scene. There is a knock on the door. He answers it. Jacob is standing outside.

RALPH

Hey.

JACOB SILVER

You said to come over if I wanted to talk.

RALPH

Yeah. Come inside. Have a beer.

JACOB SILVER

You know...I don't miss my mother.

RALPH

Huh?

JACOB SILVER

She died three years ago.

RALPH

I'm sorry, man.

JACOB SILVER

Like I said. I don't really miss her.

RALPH

You don't?

JACOB SILVER

When she went, I hadn't seen her in over a year. I used to go home a lot...then less...I still loved her. I still love her. That's the thing. But the love wasn't...immediate. It was all tied up in memories. There were these warm, happy memories. And that was her. But I didn't see her every day.

(MORE)

JACOB SILVER (cont'd)

She wasn't lying beside me in bed every morning when I woke up. When she passed away...I was sad. But I didn't even cry. Because...I hadn't seen her in so long. And I had Cassandra...And now I'm worried. I'm worried that the same thing is going to happen with her. That in five years I'm not going to miss her anymore. She won't be immediate anymore. It will just be memories...

RALPH

I'm sorry, man. Jacob shrugs.

JACOB SILVER

Thanks for listening.

He starts to leave, stops.

JACOB SILVER

She always liked you.

RALPH

I liked her too...

JACOB SILVER

She thought you were cute.

Ralph looks uncomfortable.

RALPH

I...she was a pretty girl?

JACOB SILVER

I think you would have been better for her than me. You didn't...you never fucked her, did you?

Ralph looks aghast.

RALPH

Dude...what kind of fucked up question is that?

JACOB SILVER

You're right. See you later, Ralph.

FADE OUT.

136

INT. BAR - NIGHT

136

Jacob Silver is five years older. He's got a beard to show it, now. He is sitting at the bar with Bill, who is also older.

BILL

Five years...I begin to despair that this masterpiece will ever be finished...it seems you are so close.

JACOB SILVER

I am close. Just trying to end it. The end is the most important part of a story. Once you've taken them on this journey you can't just leave them...things have to wrap up properly. I want to end this with a quote.

BILL

What quote?

JACOB SILVER

That's the thing. I don't know. A quote that ends the story perfectly. The story of her...say, that's not a bad title. What do you think..."The story of her?"

BILL

I don't like it. So are you just looking for any quote, then?

JACOB SILVER

I've been searching online. You can type in "famous quotes", and just read them for hours. I've read every poem by Keats. I've read everything meaningful anyone ever said, I think.

BILL

And?

JACOB SILVER

I hate it all.

BILL

I see.

JACOB SILVER

I invented my own. About her. About our story.

BILL

Drumroll?

JACOB SILVER

Not necessary. It goes like this: What does the sun have to fear? For he looks down and sees all the world, and all the people on it, and they look to him, and they are lit by him, and they cannot live without him. He grows the plants that feed them, and heats the air that warms them. They are his friends. Everything is the sun's friend.

BILL

Beautiful...?

JACOB SILVER

But what of the night? Which does nothing but scare, and make it hard for people to see. It has but the moon, whose glow is ever changing and fickle as the passing of time. Only the stars are its friends. And what sayeth the night, when the starlight ends?

BILL

I like it.

JACOB SILVER

I hate it.

137 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

137

Jacob, the bearded version, is lying in bed, sleeping. The phone rings. He opens one eye.

JACOB SILVER

Really?

He reaches over, answers it.

JACOB SILVER

Hello?

There is a murmur on the other line.

JACOB SILVER
 Huh?...Oh...No...that's great,
 Don...Don, you couldn't have waited
 until a reasonable hour to tell me
 this?...No...I'm sorry, you're
 right...thanks...yeah, I'll come by
 once I wake up for real.

He hangs up.

138 INT. JACOB'S AGENT'S OFFICE - DAY

138

Jacob's agent is DON. Slick-looking, but not unkind. He is sitting at a nice desk, with a manuscript in front of him on the table.

DON
 A fucking masterpiece.

JACOB SILVER
 So you said...

DON
 I know...this is gonna sound
 terrible, but I'm almost glad this
 chick did such a number on you.

JACOB SILVER
 What?

DON
 How long ago was it you and this
 broad were...doing whatever it was
 you were doing?

JACOB SILVER
 Five years, seven months, thirty
 days.

Don laughs.

DON
 Yeah, like in the book, right? You
 count the days...fucking clever as
 hell.

JACOB SILVER
 I stole it.

DON
 What?

JACOB SILVER
 That literary device. It's stolen.

*

Don looks miffed.

*

DON

Is anybody gonna notice?

JACOB SILVER

Only smart, well-read people.

DON

Perfect. Who gives a shit then?

JACOB SILVER

Not you.

DON

What's your problem, man? I'm complimenting you. I hate reading. I HATE to read, and I stayed up all fucking night last night reading this. And I'm telling you it's a masterpiece.

JACOB SILVER

And I'm telling you thanks.

DON

You're being an asshole.

JACOB SILVER

I'm sorry. You're right. I just...got to thinking about her.

DON

For real? Five years gone? Dude...you need to find a new chick, my friend. You can't still be stuck on this. I mean--it's great that you are. All that angst, or whatever...this book. But for real, you need to get over her. I mean, she cheated on you, right?

JACOB SILVER

I don't know.

DON

She said she did.

JACOB SILVER

She knew it was the only way I would let her go. She knew she had to go...if I was ever going to be able to write something like this.

*

*

DON

Whatever, man. Listen, the book is great. You need to get laid.

JACOB SILVER

Thanks. I'm going to go see her.

DON

Really? You know where she is?

JACOB SILVER

She's married now. She lives up in the bay area.

DON

And you're just going to...drop in? Won't that be pretty fucking weird?

JACOB SILVER

Maybe. But if I don't, I think I might totally go off the deep end. I...ve been kicking it around for a while. I think if I don't go see her, I'm worried I might kill myself.

DON

Whoa. You should go see her then, my man. But...what do you think is gonna happen?

JACOB SILVER

I don't think anything's gonna happen. I just...have to know.

DON

What?

JACOB SILVER

If I made the right choice or not. If I should have fought to keep her. If I should have given all of this up.

DON

Fuck that. You chose wisely, my son.

JACOB SILVER

Thanks, Don.

139 EXT. CASSANDRA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

139

This is a scene from before. Jacob sitting in the car, smoking. Watching a house. There is light in there, shadows moving...the sound of laughter.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

One day since I called her and heard her voice for the first time in five years. I told her I was in town...that I had tracked her down through a friend. She didn't know if it was a good idea for us to see each other. I said it was. Just to catch up. Have a mellow chat. That was what I said.

140 EXT. CASSANDRA'S HOUSE - DAY

140

Jacob in the car. The same shot as last night...has he been sitting there all night? Who knows? He gets out, walks to the door.

He walks up, rings the doorbell. It takes a few minutes for someone to answer. It's Cassandra. She looks a bit older, but not too much. She is extremely pregnant. Jacob looks down at her belly, smiles. There is a moment of uncomfortable silence, and then she hugs him.

CASSANDRA

It's great to see you!

JACOB SILVER

You're pregnant.

*

They walk inside.

*

141 INT. CASSANDRA'S HOUSE - DAY

141

They are sitting on chairs, uncomfortably quiet. Jacob has an iced-tea, she is drinking water.

JACOB SILVER

This is really great iced-tea. You make this from scratch?

CASSANDRA

I buy it at Costco. It's five bucks for a box of twenty bottles.

JACOB SILVER

It's delicious. You're not...

CASSANDRA
Caffeine's not good for--

*

She points at the bump.

*

CASSANDRA
I get it for Al.

JACOB SILVER
Al. That's his name, huh? Al. Is that short for something...? Alfred? Alvin? Alowishus--

CASSANDRA
Alan.

JACOB SILVER
The next one I was gonna say.

CASSANDRA
I was surprised when you called. I tried to get in touch with you a few years ago -- after we...I thought we could be friends.

JACOB SILVER
I was still pretty bitter.

CASSANDRA
Yeah...

JACOB SILVER
I'm sorry if this was weird...me coming up here. I just...finished my latest book. And it's the one about you. The one I've been working on forever. I just finished it, and I don't know...it felt right, coming up to see you for some reason.

CASSANDRA
For closure?

JACOB SILVER
I guess.

CASSANDRA
I've read all of your work. While you've been working on that book, I guess. The other novel...the spy-novel. And I saw Tears of--

JACOB SILVER
Yeah. I've been pretty busy.

CASSANDRA
You got a...girl?

JACOB SILVER
Sometimes.

CASSANDRA
Ha. Good for you.

He looks at her. A funny expression on her face.

JACOB SILVER
Al. Al. What's your last name, now?

CASSANDRA
Miller.

JACOB SILVER
Cassandra Miller. Al Miller. Alan
Miller. I like it because it's
exotic.

She laughs.

CASSANDRA
It's not all that different from
Silver.

JACOB SILVER
Nah. Just a few letters. And a
totally different guy.

CASSANDRA
Yeah.

A long silence.

JACOB SILVER
I was talking to my agent the other
day...you remember Don?

CASSANDRA
Sure. The loud one...

JACOB SILVER
I told him I was coming up here
because I wanted to see if I'd made
the right choice. I mean...with how
things went, in the end...with you
and I.

*

*

CASSANDRA

And?

Jacob looks down at the bump.

JACOB SILVER

I feel weird talking about it...like, can the baby hear us? I don't want him hearing some other man...some other dude you used to have sex with all the time. Couldn't it be confusing for him?

She laughs.

CASSANDRA

It's a girl. And I think it's okay. Just don't start yelling at me or anything.

JACOB SILVER

Yelling at you? I'm not really the yelling type.

CASSANDRA

No, you were always really patient...

A long silence after that.

CASSANDRA

So...about that choice. What do you think? You think made...the right choice, or whatever?

He looks up at her.

JACOB SILVER

You're happy, aren't you? *

She smiles. *

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

In forty-one minutes I will walk out. I will hug her, being careful not to press my stomach too hard against her stomach, because I don't want to squish her baby or fold it in half or something. She will say we should keep in touch. I will say I will. She will smile and close the door. I will walk to my car. I won't look back.

142 INT. JACOB'S CAR - DAY 142

He is driving, looking out the front window.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

In one hour and eleven minutes I will be in my car on the way to the airport. I will start crying suddenly, and then I will stop. Like those summer rainstorms that just come and go so fast it's like it never happened.

A long pause.

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

Then, I'll rewrite the future.

143 EXT. BEHIND JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY 143 *

(This is the new ending sequence) *

We begin in the back yard, a VERY slow pull back, and see that there is a wedding set up in the yard. Guests there, a small affair. Pull back down the aisle, seeing Jacob and Cassandra standing there. Cassandra in her dress, is pregnant. *

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

In this alternate timeline -- she says yes, when I ask her to marry me. We make love that night and she gets pregnant. Al Miller died in a horrible sky-diving accident. No big deal, since neither of us ever met him. *

144 INT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY (CONTINUOUS SHOT FROM PREV) 144 *

Continue our pull backward, down a hallway in the house. See photos on the wall of the two with their kid, with another kid. *

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

Our son's name is Morgan. She always loved that name and I say it's fine, as long as we never start shortening it to become Morg. *

We continue down the hallway. As the voiceover continues, we pass a room and seen FROM BEHIND, are different actors, playing middle-aged versions of Cassandra and Jacob. *

Hair just starting to grey, a bit. We pass that room and continue down the hall, see some awards, trophies, etc. More pictures.

*
*
*

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

Chelsea and David come later. Morgan is a star tailback in high-school. He is drafted by L.A.'s new football team. In this alternate universe, L.A. finally has a football team. They are terrible, until Morgan comes along...then they win an unprecedented three straight Super-Bowls. Chelsea becomes a doctor. David joins the army for a week, then leaves because he says it's too hard. He goes to film school. He wins an Oscar. He thanks his mother, and says I'm his inspiration. He gets a star on the Hollywood walk of fame.

145 EXT. JACOB'S HOUSE - DAY (CONTINUOUS SHOT FROM PREV) 145

Continue pulling backward. See the old couple on the porch, holding hands. Sitting on rockers. Very slow pull. If we can pull it off, it's now night time (it was day in the back yard). We pull back slowly, and start to rise up into the air, with the voiceover.

*
*
*
*
*

JACOB SILVER (V.O.)

Cassandra and I get old. Our bones don't work so good anymore. We have to wear diapers. Her glasses get thicker every year. I wear a hearing-aid and she's always nagging me to turn it up because I always can't hear her. We never get Alzheimer's. We always remember each other right up til the day we die. We die on the same day so neither of us is alone at all. She reaches over, takes his wrinkled hand in hers.

(beat)

The last thing she ever asks me is if I made the right choice. I ask her if she's happy. She says of course she is. Then I just smile, and that's my answer.

THE END.