INT. OFFICE – DAY

The sun shines through the windows of the conference room. An elevator opens releasing half a dozen corporate drones. Heels click along enamel tile.

A page is snatched off a printer by ERIN (27), dresses like she wants to be Tyra Banks mini me.

Erin struts down the aisle between a dozen cubicles, moving to the beat of her own drum until she reaches her desk.

ALAYNA (26) year old music junky, refuses to wear anything that didn't come out of a thrift store.

Music blares from her headphones. She sits reclined, with one leg propped up on a stool nearby. She bobs her head to the rhythm of the song.

Erin peeps over the edge of the cubicle separating the two. Alayna's eyes are glued to her screen. Her fingers dance across the keyboard.

Alayna feels Erin staring at her. She pulls her headphones down and doesn't look up from her screen.

ALAYNA
Don't you work here?

ERIN
I'm sure this place would fall apart without me.

Alayna rolls her eyes. She looks around the building and then to Erin.

ALAYNA
I don't see anything crumbling yet?

ERIN
Ah ha, very funny. So what time should I come by your place tomorrow?
ALAYNA
I'm sorry, for what?

Erin sighs.

ERIN
Stop playing. You're coming tomorrow.

Alayna begins to type again.

ALAYNA
I really am not though.

ERIN
But, you promised that I get to pull you away from work every two weeks for something that's actually fun.

ALAYNA
You don't think that binge watching grey's at my apartment is fun?

ERIN
No I don't think rewatching our favorite show wine drunk while you paint headphones is fun. It's reliable.

Alayna sighs. She looks at the spreadsheet pinned on her wall, a long list of orders.

She looks back at Erin who now makes puppy dog eyes.

ALAYNA
How much is the Uber?

ERIN
Yes! Well if I go home with you and we drive to Mike's then Uber from Mike's will be

Erin pauses to think.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Probably only 7.

Alayna slides her headphones back on.

ALAYNA
Bring your clothes with you. You're not stealing from my closet again.
Erin smiles slyly. She sinks back into her cubicle.

EXT. OUTSIDE GYM - AFTERNOON

Alayna and Erin sit in Alayna's car. They scroll tirelessly through timelines.

Erin looks at the time on the dash.

ERIN
Where the hell? Markus will get left.

ALAYNA
Stop calling this man by his government name. He's coming.

ERIN
Well he better come on.

ALAYNA
Girl you are not driving. How are you going to leave someone?

MARKUS busts through the gym doors.

MARKUS (MARK) (28), well built, believes he's can beat the Rock in an arm wrestle, but would easily lose.

He slides into the back seat with a smile.

ERIN
What took you so long, Magic Mark?

MARK
I was working on my 5 step plan to get the girl behind the desk to finally realize that I'm just her type.

Alayna pulls off.

ALAYNA
You do realize she probably gets hit on by like every guy in there and you're no different?

MARK
What you don't realize is that those guys couldn't tell The Notebook from The Vow because they don't have emotional capacity.
Alayna raises her eyebrow. Mark might have a point.

    ERIN
    And you do?

    MARK
    (to Erin)
    Who was there for you with tissues and food everyday when that one guy lied to you about not having herpes.

Alayna laughs.

    ERIN
    Alayna.

    MARK
    Well, okay, well I gave her the idea so.

    ALAYNA
    He did.

    MARK
    Thank you, Alayna.

    ERIN
    Well, when your plan fails like that time when you tried to do p90x drunk, we are not going to the hospital for a broken heart.

    MARK
    Hello, when's the last time I let a girl hurt me?

    ERIN
    Last week, when Angie told you no for the fifth time.

    MARK
    I wasn't hurt by that though. She's hurt because she just is missing me and is still in denial.

    ALAYNA
    Mark, bro. I'm giving this one to Erin. No more throwing yourself around.
INT. MARK'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Mark throws his keys on the counter and flips on the lights.
He leaves Alayna and Erin in the living room and heads to the shower.

The two girls move around the apartment like it's their own.
Erin immediately heads for the top of a cabinet. She pulls out a bottle.

    ERIN
    Shot's o'clock?

She hands the bottle to Alayna and pulls out another.

Alayna places the bottle on the counter and grabs three shot glasses from the cabinet.

Erin pulls out some juice from the fridge.

    ALAYNA
    Taking it slow tonight?

    ERIN
    Oh no, these are for Mark.

The both laugh.

Alayna picks her phone.

Erin start to pour the first shot.

    ERIN (CONT'D)
    Hey, put that down.

She reaches for Alayna's phone. Alayna puts a hand up to defend herself.

    ALAYNA
    I'll put it down. I swear. I was just checking to see what the weekend orders were looking like.

    ERIN
    Well I have orders for you tonight. If you have your phone in one hand there should be a drink in the other.

Erin hands Alayna a shot and she pours another.

They hold them up to toast.
ERIN (CONT’D)
A toast to -

ALAYNA
A toast to good business.

Mark comes out from back with wet hair and new clothes.
Erin hands him a shot glass.

ERIN
Get over here. To friendship.

MARK
To...fresh starts.

Mark taps the girls glasses.
They all throw back the shot.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Cups crash into each other.
People swarm together.
There isn't a still body in the room.
Hands hold three drinks in the air as they maneuver through the room.
The arms lead back to Erin who stops just in front of Mark and Alayna who wait with open hands.
She hands each of them a cup.

ERIN
One for you and one for you.

Alayna doesn't look up at Erin, eyes glued to her screen.
Mark scans the room.
Erin looks at her two "friends" and sighs. She waves her hand in front of Alayna's screen.

ERIN (CONT’D)
Hello? Anyone home.
ALAYNA
Sorry, it's been really busy.
Everyone wants something.

Alayna slips her phone into her back pocket.

ALAYNA (CONT'D)
But I'm here now. We're at a party.
I'm not thinking about selling
custom headphones to pull me away.

ERIN
Perfect. Now we just have to work
on-

Erin turns in a circle and Mark is not in sight.

Mark bumps into GRACE, pocket sized with big personality. His
drink splashes across her back.

She turns around enraged.

GRACE
What the fuck!

MARK
Oh my god.

Mark rushes towards the kitchen and grabs napkins.

The girl composes herself and walks away to the bathroom.

Mark rushes back to an empty hole where she once was. He
sighs.

He picks up his cup off the floor and heads to get another
drink.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Erin drifts towards her roommate who is surrounded by people.
They all sit on the couches in a corner of the room just
laughing and talking.

Alayna looks around the room unimpressed. She pulls out her
phone and drift towards the hallway leading to the bedrooms.
She leans on the wall scrolling through orders.

She pulls up pictures of different looks.
DANNI, gives her username @curlyheadedcutie its value. She clicks by, one foot in front of the other as if she hasn't had any alcohol.

Grace after the booze bath from Mark walks out of the bathroom and back into the party.

Danni slips in right after her.

She reenters the loudness only to find Mark waiting right there for her.

MARK
Hey, I really..ugh I hope the drink came out. I seriously just tripped over my own two feet.

GRACE
Honestly, please don't worry about it.

MARK
Okay, can I least know your name so I can apologize to you correctly.

GRACE
Grace.

MARK
I apologize for the drink spill, Grace.

Grace looks around to try to find her friends.

MARK (CONT’D)
I can help you find your friends.

GRACE
I think I'm a big girl.

Mark hold his hand up to his head and then hold it to Grace's comparing their heights.

Grace smiles and swats Marks hands away.

Grace brushes past Mark. He follows close behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Alayna checks the clock.
She sighs realizing she spent the night on her phone again. Just as the goes to turn into the bathroom, Danni walks out. They bump into each other.

DANNI
Oh my gosh.

ALAYNA
Oh sorry, wow. Either we're all black out or the floors are against us.

DANNI
Yeah, I don't think any of us can walk properly but uh you haven't done much walking tonight.

Alayna looks away.

DANNI (CONT’D)
I understand though. I got dragged here for no reason.

ALAYNA
Same, this is my friend's apartment and I never go out.

DANNI
You seem like you could enjoy a nice party.

ALAYNA
I feel like I'm too old for that now but my college days were a different story.

DANNI
Dangerously so. So where'd it get lost? That energy?

ALAYNA
I work in finance and it has it's ups and downs.

DANNI
The job or you?
ALAYNA
Aha very funny. Well, I work with my best friend who happens to be one of the owners of this apartment so she keeps my spirits up. Speaking of, I need to find her.

DANNI
Well, I wanna hear more about those college days.

Danni takes Alayna's phone from her hand which is still open to her website.

DANNI (CONT’D)
Wait, you're the girl who sells those dope headphones? I've always wanted one of your custom records!

ALAYNA
Yeah, that's me. Why haven't you got one?

DANNI
I just can't decide what to get.

Danni slides through Alayna's site.

She swipes to the phone app to add her number.

ALYANA
Well how about I send you one and surprise you?

DANNI
I love surprises.

Danni hands Alayna her phone back. She gives her one last look and then walks back down the hallway.

Alayna looks at the contact now in her phone saved as, "surprise me"

Alayna swipes out of the app and finally sees the time for the first time all night. She diffuses back into the crowd in search of Mark.

Through the twists and turns she finally finds him in the kitchen playing pong with an unexpected teammate.

Mark lands the final shot of the game and everyone around the table erupts in a roar. Grace kisses Mark to everyone's surprise.
Alayna snatches Mark by the arm, his face still in shock. She drags them to Erin's bedroom where she lays flat on the bed entranced by the ceiling fan.

Erin's head spins as she calls out to her new intruders.

**ERIN**
Hey, the party's behind you.

**ALAYNA**
We know. Hopefully it stays in our rear view.

**MARK**
I didn't even get her instagram.

**ALAYNA**
Mark, focus.

Erin sits up quickly.

**ERIN**
Which girl?

Alayna looks at Erin in confusion.

**ALAYNA**
Erin?

Mark looks are the ceiling fan, entranced.

**MARK**
Her name is Grace.

**ERIN**
Wait, I know her. I gotchu Mark.

Erin daps Mark up and they laugh. Mark looks at Alayna.

**MARK**
Why is she only nice to me when we're drunk.

**ALAYANA**
Because, y'all are both clowns when you're drunk and the party is your circus.

**MARK**
Alright then ring master why take the clowns out the circus?
ALAYNA
Because, before I was so rudely interrupted by your fifth fornicaiton of your life, we were about to leave.

ERIN
Boooooo

Erin flips back over onto her back.

ALAYNA
We love you too, sweetie.

MARK
See you soon, E.

Mark leans over to hug Erin.

Erin drops a fake tear.

ERIN
I'll catch you on the flip side, P.

Alayna rubs Mark's back with care.

ALAYNA
We gon keep making dollars.

Mark peels himself off the bed.

Alayna and Mark leave Erin's room.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARK'S APT - NIGHT

The doors shut.

Mark and Alayna walk sluggishly to the front of Mark's apartment.

MARK
You can stay here if you want. You know you're always welcome.

ALAYNA
I know but I really should go home.

MARK
C'mon, Lay it's 2 am. Just stay.

Alayna sighs. She looks back to her car in the street.
ALAYNA
I'll stay.

Mark weakly throws a punch in the air because he's finally won.

The door glass door slams. Alayna shuts the front door behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. ALAYNA'S APARTMENT - MORNING
A glass falls to the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. MARK'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS
Alayna eyes shoot open.
She takes a breath.
She turns off her alarm entitled, "It's Saturday."

MARK
Finally.
Mark flips on the blender.

ALAYNA
Don't let me stop your gym flow.
I'm on my way out.

Alayna plugs her ears and throws the blanket off of her. She grabs her phone and her keys.

Mark flips the blender off. He hugs Alayna as she attempts to push him away.

ALAYNA (CONT'D)
Goodbye, Mark.

They both laugh.

It echoes.
INT. ALAYNA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alayna jogs up the stairs.

Her steps slow as she reaches the top.

The door sways.

Alayna tip toes across the floor.

She pushes gently on the door.

The lock is shattered.

Glass crunches under Alayna's shoes.

In the corner of the room all of her display case is in pieces. All her product is gone. Records, headphones, and paints across the room.

Alayna begins to cry. She drops her keys and jacket on her kitchen counter.

Light bounces off of the shards on the floor.

She picks up a picture from the floor of her and __________.

Alayna walks to her room that's untouched. She goes to the closet and pulls out a large brown box from under her bed.

She opens the box to a record player. She pulls the player out of the box. She plugs it in and flips it on.

She opens the record player and a record sits on the turntable. She puts moves the tone arm onto the record and music belts out.

It fills all the empty space in the apartment.

The sound bleeds into the hallway beyond the open door.

Alayna curls up in her bed and closes her eyes.

FADE OUT

EXT. DC STREET - DAY

Erin walks out of a restaurant with a bag full of styrofoam plates.
She angrily hangs up her phone.

CUT TO:

INT. ALAYNA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Alayna slips off the bed and drags her feet through the hallway to the kitchen.
She sees a half dozen missed calls from Erin.
Alayna dials her back.

INTECUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

ERIN
What the hell is you doing?

Alayna sniffles.

ALAYNA
They took everything, Erin.

ERIN
What?

ALAYNA
They took the headphones, the records...

Alayna starts to choke up.

ERIN
Who took it? What are you talking about.

ALAYNA
I was robbed last night.

ERIN (V.O.)
I'm on the way.

Alayna lays her phone back on the counter and wipes her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. ALAYNA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Mark sweeps glass on the floor.

Erin ties a trash bag shut. She fills a second with the pile of broken records on the counter.
Through the window, cars shuffle through the dense streets. 

Music fills the silence. 

Erin breaks it. 

ERIN
Look, Lay we can start over with you. New supplies, same customers. 

Erin bumps Mark who's still in his own world sweeping. 

MARK
Yeah, we can find these cool shelves somewhere and uh, new records.. 

Mark picks up a record and it's fragments fall back into the pile. 

ERIN
Lay.. 

Alayna continues to gaze out the window. 

ERIN (CONT'D)
Alayna? 

ALAYNA
I have to start over somewhere else. 

MARK
(whisper) did she say somewhere else? 

ERIN
Where Alayna? 

Alayna finally turns around to face them. 

ALAYNA
Anywhere else. I've been stuck here my whole life. My whole life has felt like that slow moving traffic just outside my window. I want to be in control of my own trip and not be trapped. 

ERIN
Okay.
INT. OFFICE - DAY

Alayna snatches a page off the printer. She scans down the page as she walks back to her desk.

She holds the page over the cubicle as she sits down.

ALAYNA
Read please.

Erin holds over a sheet and takes Alayna's with the other.

ERIN
This isn't crazy right?

ALAYNA
Read.

The two begin reading the sheets in front of them.

CUT TO:

INT. BOSS'S OFFICE - DAY

Alayna's leg taps rapidly as she waits in an empty glass box.

In walks, JORDAN ANDERSON, strong willed but humble, manager of finance.

Jordan rushes in and plops into his chair. He locks eyes with Alayna.

Jordan shakes his head in a mix of disbelief and disapproval.

JORDAN
Why now? You're one of our best Alayna so I really need a good reason.

ALAYNA
Jordan, you know I love it here. It's great but I've been here my whole life.

JORDAN
I know
ALAYNA
I gotta know something other than these streets.

JORDAN
So where are you going next?

ALAYNA
I don't know.

JORDAN
You aren't gonna make it out there alone. I know you've already thought about it which is why Erin's vacation request is also on my desk.

Jordan picks up another piece of paper and scans it.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Look, you can leave tomorrow and forget everything from this place but you gotta remember this

Jordan moves from behind the desk to in front of it. He takes a seat on the edge.

Alayna looks from the window back to Jordan.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
You can find yourself by getting lost, but don't be surprised if you've already met that person before and you've been running from them.

Alayna hugs Jordan.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL BAR - NIGHT

Bartenders move frantically to fill orders.

A girl and guy run into the bar, clearly drunk as they're making out.

Markus begins to pretend gag from the opposite end.

The couple pushes into others just trying to get a drink.

Mark grabs three drinks and makes his way to a table not far away.
MARK
I don't know if drunk people realize that other people can see them.

Erin and Alayna give confused looks.

MARK (CONT'D)
My 6 o'clock, your three.

The two look over the couple that's now close to toppling. Another infuriated guy yells at them to move.

The couple giggles all the way back to the dance floor without even getting a drink.

Alayna looks to the sky.

ALAYNA
I will never lay another eye on alcohol God if you keep me safe tonight.

Erin looks up to the same spot.

ERIN
Don't worry big guy, we got her.

She slides the cup in front of Alayna and takes her own.

MARK
So when are you guys actually leaving?

ERIN
Oh yeah, what did Jordan say to you today?

ALAYNA
Jordan said I can leave when I want. That he'll worry about the two weeks.

MARK
But where are y'all gonna go?

Alayna shrugs and takes a long pull from her drink.

Erin laughs and taps her cup to Alayna's taking a drink as well.

MARK (CONT'D)
Well how far do you want to go to really "get away?"
ALAYNA
Really the sky's the limit.

MARK
Why not go to Cali then?

Erin looks at Mark in disbelief.

ERIN
We can't just go across country in a week.

Erin looks at Alayna who is actually considering it.

ERIN (CONT’D)
(to Alayna) We can not just go cross country in a week?

ALAYNA
Why not?

MARK
Oakland is my homeland plus is the heart of hip hop. I'm sure you can find all the supplies you need there.

ALAYNA
Wow, California. I like it.

Erin throws back what's left of her drink.

ERIN
We'd literally have to leave like tomorrow.

She looks back and forth between Alayna and Mark who seem unfazed by this idea. Erin scoffs.

ERIN (CONT’D)
I need another drink.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL BAR - LATER

Drinks litter tables. A staff member walks by with a tub to collect anything they can.

People move freely throughout the space.

The regulars litter the bar in deep conversation.
Erin is on the dance floor moves to the beat like she's stuck in a trance.

Over her shoulder we see Alayna and Mark in a booth.

Napkins litter the table.

A half dozen are laid out to look like a crudely drawn picture of the United States.

One has more numbers on it than white space.

ALAYNA
Okay, so DC to St. Louis is 13 hours, St Louis to Denver is 12, and Denver to Las Vegas

She turns to Mark who has attempted to make a paper airplane from the only napkins they have left.

ALAYNA (CONT’D)
Mark?

MARK
Denver to Las Vegas is 13 hours

He turns to their "map." Erin stumbles over, loudly dragging a seat with her.

MARK (CONT’D)
But, Denver to Oakland is 19 hours and Las Vegas to Oakland is 8 and half at best. Meaning...

Erin leans in, squinting at all the carnage.

ERIN
Stopping in Vegas would be a waste 3 hours.

Erin lays down right in the middle North and South Dakota.

CUT TO:

INT. ALAYNA’S APARTMENT - DAY

Boxes are stacked in different corners of the room.

Empty paint cans litter the recycle bins.

Mark's head pops out from behind a stack of boxes. He starts moving books from shelves.
Erin fights with a rolls of tape.

ALAYNA
Okay but don't we deserve to have some fun on this trip?

Erin finally gets the tape to open. She throws it on the box and sighs in relief.

MARK
I kinda think so

ERIN
Markus, you aren't going. Stop hyping her up.

MARK
I'm just saying, you both work in finance of all fucking places. I'm sure you're a little tightly wound.

ERIN
Are you calling me uptight?

ALAYNA
He's saying that you deserve a break! We

Alayna wraps her arm around Erin's should and turns them to the window.

ALAYNA (CONT'D)
Deserve a break from this.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Mark sits at the island.

Erin moves around the kitchen looking for a pot.

Alayna lays on the couch staring at the ceiling.

ERIN
Yes.

MARK
Yes!

Erin lifts up a wok.
Mark lifts his laptop.

ERIN
You know, it's like I don't live here. I can never find a single thing.

Mark turns toward Alayna.

MARK
The dresser sold.

Alayna flips over onto her stomach.

ALAYNA
Finally. Just in time.

MARK
Yeah, I'm gonna miss you guys.

Mark returns to his seat and starts to type on his laptop.

ERIN
Hey, I'm not leaving forever.

MARK
I said you guys but I didn't really mean you..

Erin swings in Mark's direction with a wooden spoon.

They all start to laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIN'S APARTMENT - LATER

The table is set with three placements.

Alayna and Mark have already taken theirs.

Erin comes over with the wok now full. She moves some things around on the table to get the pan to sit correctly.

ERIN
Bon Appetit.

Mark rubs his hands together.

He reaches to get a scoop.

Alayna swats his hand away.
Alayna raises her wine glass.

MARK
Come on, how many toasts can we do?

ERIN
Enough, Markus. Raise your glass.

Mark raises his glass. Erin removes and oven mitt and follows suit.

ALAYNA
To lost dreams.

MARK
To friendship.

ERIN
To starting over.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALAYNA'S CAR - NIGHT

Alayna slips into the driver's seat and shuts the door.

She places her hands on the top of the steering wheel and sighs as she rests her head on her arms.

Erin reaches over and rubs Alayna on her back.

ERIN
You ready?

Alayna turns the key in the ignition. She looks up at the road.

ALAYNA
Yeah, let's do this.

Mark shuts the trunk of the car and gives it a double tap.

They look back through the rearview mirror.

Mark waves softly.

ALAYNA (CONT'D)
(softly) Let's do this.

CUT TO:
INT. ALAYNA'S CAR - NIGHT
EXT. HOTEL PARKING DECK - MORNING

Erin jumps out the passenger seat.

She pretends to be a rockstar opening for her first concert.

    ERIN
    How are you feeling today Saint Louis!

She hands her fake microphone over to Alayna.

    ALAYNA

Alayna rubs her lower back.

Erin walks to the trunk and grabs two bags.

    ERIN
    I've got some Advil in one of these.

    ALAYNA
    I'll just get it from you when we get upstairs.

Alayna grabs a bag from the trunk and slams it shut.

They start to walk arbitrarily.

    ALAYNA (CONT'D)
    Are we going the right way?

They stop in their tracks and look at signs above them.

    ERIN
    No.

They do a 180.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY

Erin looks in the window of a small boutique.

    ALAYNA
    No.
ERIN
C'mon Lay, we said this was a trip!
It's a break from our lives as usual. How can we have any fun if we don't stop to smell the roses?

Alayna stops in front of a burger place.

ALAYNA
We are stopping to smell the roses.

She wafts the air into her nose and Erin's.

ALAYNA (CONT'D)
You don't smell that?

ERIN
Hamburgers are not roses.

ALAYNA
Then you are not hungry enough.

A man walks out of the restaurant holding the door open for them.

Alayna walks in with a smile. Erin follows, shaking her head.

MONTAGE

CUT TO:

INT. MALL - DAY
Erin drags Alayna into a mall.

EXT. MALL - LATER
Alayna drags Erin out with two bags in her hands.

INT. MUSIC SHOP - LATER
Alayna flips through hip hop records.
Erin drags her fingers across a turn table.
One of the store works catches her eyes.
They smile at each other.
Alayna looks up and shakes her head.
EXT. PARK - LATER

Alayna and Erin cruise through the park.

    ERIN
    I'm just saying the way he was
    looking at me couldn't be ignored.

BENTLY, 7 years old and on the autistic spectrum, sits on a
bench swinging his feet.

    ALAYNA
    You do realize we have a once
    bedroom hotel.

    ERIN
    You think he normally goes for
    black girls?

    ALAYNA
    With one bed, Erin.

    ERIN
    Okay, okay but when we get to ve-

    BENTLEY
    What time is it?

Alayna and Erin are stopped in their tracks by the 7 year old
who now stands in front of them.

Alayna looks at her watch.

    ALAYNA
    It's uhh 5:30.

    BENTLEY
    Thank you.

Bentley walks back to the bench and continues to swing his
legs back and forth.

Alayna and Erin look around at the empty park.

They look to each other.

Alayna motions for them to walk over to the bench.

Erin shakes her head no.

Alayna grabs Erin's arm and turns them away from Bentley.
ALAYNA
C'mon, Erin. There's no one here and this kid is here by himself we can't just leave him.

ERIN
This is not my kid and I'm sure his (beat)

Erin looks around the park again. She looks at Bentley over her shoulder.

ERIN (CONT'D)
I'm sure his parents are just around the corner.

ALAYNA
Well, until they get here we can just wait with him and make sure he's alright.

ERIN
You said it yourself, we're not attaching ourselves to any strings during this trip.

ALAYNA
He's just a kid, Erin. I'm sure it won't be that long.

BENTLEY
My mom usually comes at 6.

Alayna walks over to the bench and sits next to Bentley.

ALAYNA
Well do you mind if we

Alayna looks up to Erin. Erin finally turns around.

Alayna motions for her to come over.

ALAYNA (CONT'D)
If we sit with you til she get here?

BENTLEY
I guess that's not a problem.

ALAYNA
So how long do you usually wait here?
BENTLEY
School gets out at 3:25.

ALAYNA
So you just wait here, on this bench, in this park for 3 hours?

BENTLEY
Yes.

ERIN
What does your mom do?

BENTLEY
I don't know really. She works in a big building though. She has own desk and a phone.

ALAYNA
Do you have a phone?

ERIN
He's eight Alayna?

ALAYNA
It's 2020, Erin.

Bentley laughs.

BENTLEY
I don't have a phone. She's right, I'm only eight.

Erin sticks her tongue out at Alayna.

ALAYNA
Well what do you do while you wait?

BENTLEY
Sometimes people walk by. Sometimes they talk to me, like you, but a lot of the regulars just wave.

ERIN
How long have you been doing this?

BENTLEY
Well, my mom got her job in the building like
(beat)
What's today?

ERIN
It's April 7th.
BENTLEY
Oh then it's been like a month.

ALAYNA
You've been doing this every week for a month?

BENTLEY
Yeah, it's not that bad. The first week was the most boring. I didn't know anyone and everyone kept bothering me.

ERIN
Bothering you from what?

BENTLEY
Thinking.

ERIN
What do you like to think about?

BENTLEY
Numbers.

ERIN
What about numbers? Do you count things?

BENTLEY
Yes, almost everything. It keeps me calm.

ALAYNA
Give us an example.

BENTLEY
Well, I count the time until my mother will come get me. That's easy to do because I have this watch. BEAT. 151.

A runner passes by.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - LATER

The sun hangs lower in the sky.

BENTLEY
163.
So you count the minutes and the number of bikers

And the number of runners

And the number of strollers with babies in them

And one time I attempted to count the wood chips but I kept getting lost.

Where do you hold all of these numbers?

In my head. 166.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Erin paces back and forth in front of the bench.

So what do you want to be when you grow up, Bentley?

I don't know.

Well, what do you do in your free time?

My mom said time isn't free.

Your mom is very right Bentley.

She's right but as a kid all your time is free cause you don't pay for it. What're some of your hobbies?
BENTLEY
Well, I read a lot at home mostly because I can get free books from the library.

ERIN
That's good. I always wished my parents made me get a library card when I was a kid.

BENTLEY
Oh no, I get books from their free books bin. My mom says we can't afford an unnecessary late fee from the library.

ALAYNA
Raising a kid is pretty expensive.

BENTLEY
*whispers* 181.

TAYLOR, 26 and looks it, walks from behind the bench over to the group.

Bentley turns around to look over his shoulder.

Alayna and Erin turn to see what Bentley is looking at.

BENTLEY (CONT'D)
That's my mom.

Alayna and Erin both stand up as Taylor reaches the bench.

She sits down and pulls Bentley in for a hug.

TAYLOR
Hi buddy. How was the wait?

BENTLEY
The usual, 7 bikers, 15 walkers, and Gracie is still growing according to schedule.

TAYLOR
Did you tell Ms. Anderson thank you for stopping to talk to you?

BENTLEY
Yes, I did.

Taylor looks up towards Alayna and Erin who awkwardly wait to explain themselves.
TAYLOR
And who are these friends you've made today?

BENTLEY
Alyana and Erin. They're going to Los Angelos.

TAYLOR
Oh are they? Thank you for sitting with him. I swear I'm not a bad mother, the school just won't let him stay that long.

ALAYNA
We're in no place to tell you how to parent.

ERIN
Yeah, we're barely adults. We're traveling across the country with no plans.

ALAYNA
All we have is a dream.

TAYLOR
I wish I could take this guy on a trip like that. He's always reading about different places but we're stuck in Saint Louis.

ALAYNA
How long have you been here?

TAYLOR
Since Bentley was born, so about 8 years. It's getting easier, mostly because he's getting older and more independent.

ERIN
He's a really good kid. Kept us from spending all our money in the shops all day.