

"A SMILE BEHIND THE TEARS"

by
Christiaan E. M. Laan

Second Draft
May 2008

Christiaan Laan
ChristiaanLaan@gmail.com
(902) 429-6148
<http://www.geocities.com/conflictscripts/Home.html>

Copyright 2008

"A SMILE BEHIND THE TEARS"

FADE IN:

EXT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY

It is mid-afternoon. The sky is overcast making the day darker than it should.

KATE (17) walks through the abandoned industrial park pushing her bicycle. She has on a coat, backpack and scarf. She looks towards the ground, her cheeks light pink from the cold, dark blonde hair blowing in the wind.

Every few steps Kate looks at the surroundings and where she is going. Further ahead the parking lot joins a road with no noticeable traffic.

A row of empty buildings lines her left. To her right is a damaged chain-link fence RATTLING in the wind. Beyond the fence is a lake with a bridge far in the distance.

As Kate nears the end of the fence a portion shakes loose and COLLAPSES to the ground. She looks at the fence blankly. A lone tear etches down her cheek. She wipes it away and continues walking.

Kate reaches the end of the industrial park. Still no traffic on the road. This is the ghost area of town. Old brick buildings loom in either direction. Wild growth has begun to overtake the area.

Kate looks behind her at the emptiness. Far beyond the industrial park is a small forest connecting to reaches of the city.

She looks around at the crippled fence and the damaged buildings.

KATE
I'm not the only one.

She hops on her bike and rides out of the industrial park to the left and crosses the street.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Kate rides through the brick buildings.

EXT. INTERSECTION - CONTINUOUS

A small commercial area. The main street has right of way, the side street with 'STOP' signs. A pedestrian looks both ways and crosses the street to a coffee shop.

The occasional car passes through on the main road.

Kate approaches the intersection on the main stretch. The building on her right goes right up to the corner almost blinding the side streets view.

She enters the intersection.

A rushing car SCREECHES it's tires and smashes into Kate from the side street.

Kate is sent flying off of the bike into the intersection. She lies motionless, her bike crippled nearby.

A BUSINESS MAN rushes out of the car to Kate's side. His face is filled with panic. He whips out a cell phone from his suit jacket and dials '9-1-1'.

A gold, crescent moon pendant slips out from Kate's jacket caught by the chain around her neck. It sways a little and becomes still just above the pavement.

FLASHBACK 8.5 YEARS AGO (BLACK & WHITE):

EXT. BEACH - DAY

A little GIRL splashes in the waters of the sandy shored lake.

Kate watches the scene from a distance.

KATE (V.O.)

Where am I?

Her MOTHER throws a beach ball further out on the water.

The girl swims after it. She grabs a hold of it. Floating on the spot she hits the ball like a volleyball back to her mother.

On the shore A MAN is lying on a large beach towel. He has on swim trunks and a bright tee shirt. He has a newspaper up concealing his face.

Above him is a large beach umbrella shielding the sun. Next to him is a large picnic basket.

He lowers the newspaper and smiles to his wife and the girl. His eyes are hidden behind dark sunglasses.

The girl waves to him.

GIRL

Dad! Come play!

MOTHER

Don't bother your father. He is busy.

The man waves back to the girl and raises the newspaper back up.

The girl dives back into the water, the SOUND of water builds as she kicks and swims below the surface.

KATE (V.O.)

I don't want to leave. There is
comfort and happiness here.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE ROOM - DAY

Kate lies motionless. She is hooked up to a life support
unit. Her vitals display on a monitor next to the bed.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALL - CONTINUOUS

PETER MORGAN (43) looks at Kate through the window. He
shakes his head. He is wearing a worn out jacket and jeans.
His hair is dark and slick. His face is covered in two day
scruff.

DR. TRENT PHILLIPS (48) comes out of the room and looks
through the window next to Peter. He stands about six feet
tall. His black hair is scattered with the graying of age.
He wears black framed glasses with a neck string attached.

TRENT

I'm sorry Mr. Morgan. There is
still no further progress in her
condition. The external wounds
have healed, but the brain still
hasn't regained full control.

Peter slumps his shoulders.

PETER

I can't afford this. I've already
pulled out a mortgage against the
house.

TRENT

There are alternatives. Aside from
the breathing, she is in good
enough condition to be at home.

TRENT(cont'd)

It would cost much less to have her
at home on life support.

PETER

You don't get it. I'm out of
money. How can I afford to stay at
home to care for her?

TRENT

What about a nurse? You could have
one care for her during the day.
It's not like Kate will be like
this forever, I can assure you.
The brain is still very much
functional. It just needs time to
fully recover.

Peter is pained as he turns away from Trent.

PETER

Pull the plug.

He starts walking away.

PETER

She's no longer my concern.

Trent flinches. He chases after Peter a few steps and stops.
He returns to the window and rests upon the edge. He wipes
his chin with the back of his hand.

A NURSE (37) comes up behind him and places a hand on his
shoulder. She is fairly tall and slender. Her long black
hair is tied back in a pony-tail.

NURSE

You tried. Pulling the plug is
never easy, but we have no choice
now. You know how it is.

Trent straightens up from the window ledge.

TRENT

I'll cover the costs for a few days. I'll find an alternative.

NURSE

Do you think she'll come out of it soon? It's already been a month.

TRENT

I don't know, but I can't see her go like this. She is still so young.

He goes into the room and picks up the log report by the monitor.

The nurse goes to the door and peers in.

NURSE

Buzz if I'm needed.

The nurse walks off down the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Trent writes down the next line of vital statistics into the log. He puts the log down and swivels back to the bed.

Kate's breathing is shallow. Every aided breath registers bits of moisture in the endotracheal tube.

TRENT

It isn't fair.

He continues to watch her breathe.

INT. DR. TRENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Trent sits at his desk. His head is resting on his fore-arm on the desk as if he were sleeping.

There is a KNOCKING at the door. Trent lifts his head up and straightens himself out.

TRENT

Come in.

The door opens and EDWARD (48) walks in. He is of average height and average weight. He wears glasses and his hair is cut short with traces of balding.

He is wearing a warm spring jacket and corded pants with dress shoes.

Edward closes the door behind him.

Trent comes around the desk and shakes his hand.

TRENT

Thank you for coming, Edward.

EDWARD

I came as soon as I could, Dr. Phillips.

TRENT

Trent is fine, old friend. Please, have a seat.

Trent returns to his chair and Edward sits in the chair in front of the desk.

EDWARD

Straight to the point, what's so urgent? It is strange for a hospital to call on an orphanage. Unless this is like before?

TRENT

I'm not doing this for the hospital, Edward, and no, it is a little different this time..

EDWARD

What's this about then?

Trent turns to a coffee percolator on the side table and pulls out the carafe. He pours two cups of coffee.

TRENT

Do you read the papers?

He hands a cup to Edward. Edward leans forward and takes it.

EDWARD

I do.

Trent moves a jar of sugar cubes and some creamer packets to his desk for Edward.

TRENT

Then you must have read about the girl that was hit on her bike near ghost town.

Edward drops a lump of sugar in his coffee.

EDWARD

She is here?

Edward opens a packet of creamer into his coffee. Trent hands him a stir stick.

EDWARD

Is she well? I read it was nearly fatal with small chance of full recovery.

TRENT

We did the best we could. All of her external wounds have healed, but the injuries must have been more severe than I thought. She is still in a coma, but the brain seems to be functioning well.

Edward leans back in the chair and sips at the hot coffee.

TRENT

The reason I called you here, Edward, is because the father can't afford the life support. Kate hasn't regained control of her breathing and the costs, as we all know, are substantial. If I can't find an alternative then the hospital will have the plug pulled on her.

Edward lowers his cup to the desk.

EDWARD

And what can my orphanage do?

TRENT

Your orphanage is one of the best in the nation, Edward. You are backed by great funding from the government and a staff of fully trained nurses.

Trent slumps forward towards the desk.

TRENT

Aside from the breathing, Kate is stable enough to leave the hospital. She needs to be somewhere that she can be monitored while on life support. A place with back-up power and people who care. I can pull a few strings so you can take one of our systems, and your nurses are more than qualified for this.

EDWARD

What do the parents think of this?

TRENT

From what I know she only has a father and he wanted the plug pulled. I hoped to find an alternative and that's where you came to mind.

EDWARD

Have you told the father about this?

TRENT

Not yet. If you are able to take her, then I will inform him.

Trent straightens up and looks Edward in the eyes.

TRENT

Please, Edward, I don't want Kate to die, not like this.

Edward takes a long drink of the now cooler coffee.

EDWARD

You are getting too old for this, Trent. Give me a few days to clear this up with the staff and inform my government contact. I'll get back to you by, say, Wednesday at the latest?

Trent stands up with a small gleam of hope upon his face. He comes around the desk and shakes Edward's hand as he stands.

TRENT

Thank you, Edward. Would you like to see her?

Edward withdraws from the hand shake and puts his cup back on the desk.

EDWARD

I think it is best to wait until I have confirmation for you. As you said, this is an entirely different situation.

TRENT

Yes, I understand.

Trent and Edward walk out of his office.

INT. HOSPITAL - OFFICE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Trent shakes Edwards hand again outside of the office.

TRENT

Take care, Edward. Say hello to the wife for me.

EDWARD

I will. Talk to you soon.

Edward walks off.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALL - LATER

Trent walks up to Kate's room and looks through the window. The same nurse from before sees him and puts down the vitals report.

She walks to the door and comes into the hall.

NURSE

Think of anything yet?

Trent tries to smile.

TRENT

I'll know in a few days.

A beat.

NURSE

I never asked why you are doing this for her, but I guess it isn't of my concern.

Trent's smile fades away as he looks back at Kate.

TRENT

I haven't really had time to think about why. We as doctors, nurses, surgeons; whatever we may be it isn't about why. It has always been about what we can do to help the patient. But now that I look at her I think it might have to do with the fact I have no children of my own.

In this moment Trent looks as if he could easily be a father to Kate.

The nurse looks at him.

NURSE

You would have made a great father. You are so caring and devoted.

Trent tries to give her a smile.

TRENT

That's why I'm no longer a husband.

He walks off.

The nurse reaches to stop him but holds back.

EXT. HOSPITAL - FRONT - DAY

A van pulls up to the front of the hospital. Edward emerges from the passenger side and opens the side door.

He folds out a wheelchair ramp. A girl with glasses wheels herself out of the van, guiding the chair with a joystick on the right arm rest.

This is ELLIE (17). She is a little average size yet pretty. Judging by the wheel chair she might be about five and a half feet tall. She is dressed warmly, her eyes darting around in curiosity.

Edward peers his head into the van.

EDWARD

Drive around to the emergency
entrance, we'll meet you there.

Edward folds the ramp back up and closes the van door.

He walks with Ellie beside him towards the hospital doors.

INT. HOSPITAL - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Trent stands in the lobby as Ellie and Edward come in. He smiles and comes forward to greet them.

TRENT

(shaking Edward's hand)
Glad to see you back, Edward.

Trent looks down at Ellie.

TRENT

And who might you be?

ELLIE

(quietly)
Ellie.

She extends her hand and gives Trent a small hand shake.

EDWARD

This is the last one you sent me.

Trent looks at Ellie long and hard.

TRENT

My have you grown. I couldn't
recognize you.

Edward LAUGHS.

EDWARD

That's what kids do. Shall we go
see her?

Trent leads them out of the lobby.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALL - CONTINUOUS

They make their way through the hall doors into the intensive
care section. They continue down the hall.

TRENT

You must be looking forward to
seeing, Kate.

EDWARD

Not as much as Ellie. She kept
pestering me to come when she found
out that we were going to take her
in.

Ellie gives Edward a silly snarl.

ELLIE

Hey.

Edward and Ellie exchange playful smiles.

Ahead of them some HOSPITAL STAFF stand by in wait.

Trent walks up to the windowed room on his left side by the
hospital staff. He looks in the window. The nurse is
waiting inside by Kate.

TRENT

There she is.

Edward takes a look through the window. He steps aside to let Ellie have a peak.

Ellie's smile quickly fades at the sight.

ELLIE

How long will she be like this?

Trent goes to the door and opens it.

TRENT

We can only hope it isn't for much longer.

Trent enters the room with the staff.

EXT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY CARE ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Kate is carefully transported from the hospital to an ambulance in wait. The life support unit is hooked up to a battery pack as she is wheeled down the walkway.

Ellie, Edward and Trent stand off to the side. The paramedics from the ambulance slide the stretcher carefully into the back.

The nurse hops in the back of the ambulance with Kate. The paramedics hop in the front of the ambulance and wait.

TRENT

Thanks again for taking her Edward. I spoke to the father, before you arrived. He was grateful of our efforts to help his daughter and ashamed of his quick dismissal of her. In the end he said Kate will be better off without him.

EDWARD

Wasn't much for a father was he?

TRENT

He mortgaged his house in hopes
Kate would revive. That justifies
some credit, don't you think?

EDWARD

I guess. Will you be letting him
know of her status?

TRENT

Yes, when Kate finally comes to.

EDWARD

I'll be sure to call you right
away.

Edward gives Trent a hearty pat on the shoulder.

EDWARD

Don't out-do yourself, Trent. We
aren't so young anymore. We'll
look after her from here on.

Trent gives way to a smile.

TRENT

Thank you.

EDWARD

Take care, Trent.

Edward waves and walks to the van.

ELLIE

Good-bye.

TRENT

Farewell, Ellie.

Edward looks back as Ellie starts to follow.

Trent waves as they leave.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - DAY

Ellie watches from the open doorway to Kate's room.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Edward helps the nurse from the hospital get the room set up. Watching from the end of the bed is SARAH (47).

Sarah is of average height with long brown hair left loose down her back. Her ever caring eyes watch attentively from behind half-frame glasses. She wears a light sweater casual pants with slippers on her feet.

The hospital nurse checks all of the tubes and the monitor. On the other side of the bed is a stand with various fluid bags attached.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Edward comes out into the hall and closes the door. He leans against the wall and looks at Ellie.

EDWARD

You have taken a great interest in her.

ELLIE

(quietly)
Is that bad?

EDWARD

I think Kate is in need of a friend. In fact I'm sure of it.

Ellie smiles and begins to maneuver the wheel chair to the next room down the hall. Edward walks with her.

Ellie opens the door.

ELLIE

I have some homework to finish.

Ellie goes into the room.

EDWARD

If you have time later we should
have a game of chess.

ELLIE

That would be nice.

Ellie closes the door.

Edward goes back to Kate's room as the nurse come out. The nurse hands Edward a business card.

NURSE

If you have any questions or need
anything at all you can reach me at
the numbers on the card. Kate will
need to be checked on frequently.

EDWARD

Of course.

NURSE

If you have no questions then I
should be on my way.

A beat.

NURSE

Take good care of her.

The nurse and Edward exchange a quick smile and the nurse walks off down the hall.

Sarah holds up the clip board with a spreadsheet. She waves it to get Edward's attention.

SARAH

Do you think it will be possible to get another nurse to help with this? We have only three nurses on rotating shifts. We can't devote all of our time just to Kate.

EDWARD

At night it shouldn't be a problem to have the nurse watching her. However, during the day I will spend some time watching Kate to free up time. Unfortunately there is no extra funding available for this.

Sarah nods.

EDWARD

I will sit through tonight with Vanessa and show her what to watch for.

Sarah smiles and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

She goes back into the room.

Edward looks in the room at the setup. A sense of worry is noticeable upon his face.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - DAY

Edward is asleep in the chair next to Kate's bed. The readings on the monitor are all steady.

Ellie sits in her wheelchair on the other side of the bed by the window.

Edward wakes up and sees Ellie.

EDWARD

Oh, Ellie. How long have I been out?

ELLIE

I just came in a few minutes ago. Vanessa went to get a drink.

EDWARD

Shouldn't you be getting ready for school?

ELLIE

I'm not feeling all that well. Is it alright if I stay with Kate today?

EDWARD

I suppose that's alright. I'll call the school. Think you can keep an eye on her for me?

Ellie nods with a smile as Edward stands up.

EDWARD

If something happens that you are unsure of just use the intercom by the monitor.

Edward leaves the room and closes the door QUIETLY behind him.

A beat.

Ellie maneuvers around the bed to the other side. She gets as close as she can to the bed without disturbing it.

She looks at Kate's closed eyes and watches her slow breaths as they are helped by the support unit.

A beat.

Slowly she extends her hand towards Kate's on the bed. She touches it and brushes her fingers up the hand until her whole hand covers Kate's.

For a brief moment Kate's heart rate jumps up on the monitor and then settles down again.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - LATER

Edward comes into the room and stands by Ellie.

EDWARD

What do you suppose she is dreaming about?

ELLIE

If it were me, I would be dreaming of my parents.

Edward sits in the chair by the monitor.

EDWARD

I called the school, told them you'd be in tomorrow.

He gives Ellie a little smirk.

EDWARD

You're not really feeling ill are you?

ELLIE

No.

(pause)

I wanted to be here with her.

EDWARD

Only a few more weeks and school will be out. You can spend all summer with her.

ELLIE
(quietly)
I know.

EDWARD
Nothing is going to happen to her.
I promise.

Edward takes Ellie's hand to reassure her.

INT. ORPHANAGE - EDWARD'S OFFICE - LATER

Edward hangs up the phone. He buries his face in his hands and wipes at his sleepy eyes.

There is a gentle KNOCK at the door and Sarah enters.

SARAH
You look exhausted.

She comes around the desk and kisses Edward.

SARAH
Is Jess watching Kate?

EDWARD
(yawning)
Not yet. Ellie is there with
Vanessa.

Sarah smiles.

Edward takes a deep breath and sighs it out.

EDWARD
I talked to my government contact
and we won't be able to get any
further help with this. We'll just
have to make do.

Edward looks in her eyes.

EDWARD

I know, I should get some rest.

SARAH

I'll send Jess to keep an eye on
Kate for a while. It's time for
Vanessa to go.

Sarah straightens up and Edward stands. They both walk slowly towards the office door.

Edward stops Sarah with an embrace. He holds her close against him for comfort.

EDWARD

Why did you agree to work with me
here?

SARAH

That's unlike you to ask such a
question, Edward.

EDWARD

I know, but it is at times like
this that our jobs can put a lot of
stress on us. And well, I've been
thinking that after all these
years...

SARAH

...We might have made the wrong
choices?

Edward nods.

A beat.

SARAH

I decided to work here so that we
could be together, and because I
wanted to be of help to both you
and the children.

EDWARD

I'm sorry that I've never had time
for us to raise children of our
own.

Sarah looks deep into his eyes.

SARAH

Don't be ridiculous. We have all
the children we could ever want
right here. We are raising them
aren't we?

Edward nods again and hugs her even tighter.

EDWARD

Thank you, for everything.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - DRIVE LOOP - DAY

It is a sunny, warm day. The familiar handicap van pulls
into the loop of the orphanage and stops.

Edward comes down from the orphanage door quickly with a big
smile on his face.

He opens the side door and lowers the ramp for Ellie. Ellie
rolls down the ramp and Edward puts the ramp back and closes
the door.

The van pulls away.

EDWARD

How did your exam go?

ELLIE

Easy. You are overly happy.

EDWARD

Oh, right. Follow me.

Edward walks back to the orphanage, almost too quickly for Ellie to keep up.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Ellie continues to trail Edward as he makes straight for Kate's room.

Edward waits by the door. Inside, Sarah sees him and comes to the door.

Ellie finally catches up.

SARAH

Come in, Ellie.

Ellie enters with Edward behind her.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The nurse from the hospital is next to the bed with Kate. The breathing apparatus is no longer hooked up to Kate.

ELLIE

She's breathing!

A beat.

ELLIE

When?

EDWARD

About an hour ago, maybe more. We started to notice some problems with the graphs. Turns out her own breathing was conflicting with the life support.

ELLIE

Did she wake up?

NURSE

Not yet, she is still in a coma.
This is a good sign though. Dr.
Phillips would like to do some
tests to check on her condition.

ELLIE

Kate's going back to the hospital?

EDWARD

Only for a few hours. She'll be
back tonight.

The nurse gets up from the bed side.

NURSE

The life support system will remain
here as Dr. Phillips requested just
in case complications arise later
on.

ELLIE

So she isn't better?

NURSE

That's what Dr. Phillips wants to
find out.

EDWARD

I'll let you know what the results
are, Ellie. For now we just have
to be patient.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kate is back in her bed at the orphanage. Ellie is by the
window watching her.

Edward quietly enters the room.

EDWARD

You are all done with exams now?

ELLIE

Yes.

Edward sits in the chair by the bed.

EDWARD

What do you think she is waiting for?

ELLIE

You mean?

EDWARD

To wake up.

Ellie places a hand on the bed near Kate's.

ELLIE

Whatever it is, Kate might not be ready to come back. She is here with strange people in a strange place. She probably doesn't know what is going on and perhaps has no desire to know. Maybe this world holds painful memories, ones she can escape in her dream.

A beat.

ELLIE

Will we be able to help her?

EDWARD

We'll do all that we can. However, I think you will be more help than any of us.

ELLIE

How do you mean?

Edward stands and looks at Kate's sleeping breaths.

EDWARD

You will find out.

Edward smiles and heads to the door. He stops suddenly and turns around.

EDWARD

Oh, I almost forgot. Dr. Phillips
says Kate is perfectly healthy.
She just has to wake up.

Edward leaves the room and closes the door gently behind him.

Ellie smiles and takes up Kate's hand in hers.

FLASHBACK 8 YEARS AGO (BLACK & WHITE):

INT. HALL WAY - DAY

The man runs down the corridor with his daughter by the hand.
She struggles to keep up.

The corridor is a complete blur of flashing lights and random
objects.

The girl looks at her dad nervously as they run. He looks
worried and anxious.

Nurses come in and out of doors in a blur of motion.

Finally a DOCTOR in clear view leads them into a room.

INT. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate observes from the corner of the room.

The young girl looks around at all of the doctors and nurses.
They shake their head in sadness.

KATE (V.O.)

What is this feeling? A memory of mine, sadness that can't be forgotten.

The man collapses against the side of the door as the mother on the bed flat-lines. She is DEAD. Around her neck, appearing in color, is a gold, crescent moon pendant.

The man wraps the girl in his arms and she begins to CRY.

KATE (V.O.)

Why did she have to die?

END FLASHBACK

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - DAY

Ellie is in the room with Kate. She is reading a hard cover novel, the title not visible.

Kate's eyes OPEN. Her face appears stricken with grief as she abruptly leans up. She looks around breathing deeply, almost gasping, her arms reaching for nothing.

Ellie drops her novel, the pages fold as they hit the floor. She SLAMS her finger on the BUZZER next to the bed.

Kate's eyes fall upon the tube in her arm circulating blood. She panics even more.

Ellie is worried, unable to do anything.

Sarah and Edward come flying in the room.

Kate gets a hold of the tube in her arm.

Ellie backs away from the bed.

Sarah gets a hold of Kate's arm to stop her from yanking it out.

Edward comes to help hold Kate down. Kate struggles to try and pull out the tube.

EDWARD

It's okay, Kate. Calm down. Can you hear me?

Kate nods furiously.

EDWARD

Good. Just stay calm, relax. The tube isn't harming you, and in time we can have it removed. Do you understand?

Kate nods again, this time less sporadic.

Finally Kate stops struggling. Edward and Sarah free her of their restraint.

Ellie moves back to the bed and gently takes hold of Kate's hand.

Kate looks nervously from Edward to Sarah and finally at Ellie. She follows Ellie's arm down to her hand. Kate moves her own fingers as if finally registering the touch.

ELLIE

You are finally awake. I'm glad.

SARAH

It's alright Kate. We are here to help you.

Edward gets up and places his hand on Ellie's shoulder.

EDWARD

Let's leave her to Sarah for now. We'll come back later and bring her some food.

Ellie hesitantly removes her hand from Kate's.

Kate continues to look at her hand as Ellie and Edward leave.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - NIGHT

Ellie KNOCKS on Kate's door.

A beat.

She KNOCKS again and opens it.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - LATER

Kate is sitting on the bed looking out the window. It is late day, the sun setting. On the bed behind her is the majority of her meal still on a tray.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Ellie moves into the doorway.

ELLIE

May I come in?

A beat.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate nods without looking back.

Ellie comes in and closes the door behind her. She moves around the bed and turns her wheelchair towards the window.

Kate is very still, her breathing barely noticeable. Her face appears almost blank in expression.

Ellie looks back at the dinner tray.

ELLIE

Was the food good?

Kate nods once.

ELLIE

Would you like to see the rest of
the... Never mind.

Ellie lowers her head.

ELLIE

I think I'll go back to my room.

Ellie puts her hand on the joystick. Before she can move
Kate grabs her hand, hard at first, but then she loosens her
grip.

Kate looks at Ellie with pleading eyes.

Ellie takes her hand off of the joystick and gives her a
reassuring smile.

ELLIE

Okay, I'll stay.

Kate's stare returns to the window and the setting sun.

Ellie turns her attention to the window as well.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - NIGHT

The blackness of night beyond the window.

Kate's hand slips off of Ellie's.

Ellie turns to see Kate sleeping.

There is a light KNOCK on the door. Sarah peers into the
room.

Ellie closes the curtain and takes the meal tray from the
bed.

Sarah repositions Kate and manages to get her under the blanket.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Edward is outside of the room waiting as Ellie and Sarah come out.

INT. ORPHANAGE - PLAY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It is a big room with a large television, couches, chairs and tables. The walls are lined with book cases that are filled with books, games and toys.

A few older children, middle to low teens, watch television with a MALE VOLUNTEER.

Edward and Ellie are sitting a little ways back from the television. They have a chess board set up on the table between them. The game is half way through.

Edward advances his knight.

EDWARD

She didn't say anything?

ELLIE

Neither of us did. We just enjoyed each others company I think.

EDWARD

Wow, for three hours?

ELLIE

I don't know where the time went.
It didn't feel like I was there for long.

She pushes a pawn forward to attack the knight.

EDWARD

Did you get the impression she
couldn't speak?

Edward pushes his queen forward.

ELLIE

It is hard to say, I believe she
will talk when she is ready. I
think...

Ellie advances her bishop. She is unable to finish her
thought.

EDWARD

This is unlike you, Ellie. You're
not concentrating.

Edward advances into a check with his queen. It is safely
guarded from the king by the knight.

ELLIE

I'm sorry.

She topples her king.

ELLIE

I'm going to bed.

EDWARD

I understand. Good night, Ellie.

ELLIE

Good night.

Edward watches Ellie leave. When she is gone from the room
he picks up his queen and looks at it.

A beat.

He puts his queen down next to Ellie's queen.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

The sun is well on its way to noon. A gorgeous summer morning.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate sits on the bed, the blankets still a mess from sleeping. She stares out into the sun filled yard.

A KNOCK at the door.

Kate takes uneasy steps to the door. Her legs struggle to hold her up. She opens it a crack. She sees Ellie and opens the door further.

ELLIE

Are you coming to breakfast?

Kate steps closer to the hall.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Kate sticks her head out.

Kids of various age walk by. They give Kate looks of curiosity.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate sinks back into her room. She shakes her head 'no'.

ELLIE

I'll have them bring you some then.

Kate thanks her with her eyes.

Ellie smiles as Kate sinks back into the room and closes the door.

Kate struggles back to the bed and returns her attention to the outdoors.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - LATER

Edward KNOCKS on the door and waits patiently. He holds a tray with a glass of juice, toast and cereal. On the side is an orange cut into four quarters.

The door opens a crack.

Kate looks out cautiously. She sees the breakfast tray and opens the door further.

EDWARD

Can't have you starving on us.

Kate doesn't make any response.

EDWARD

Mind if I come in a moment?

Kate backs away from the doorway.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Edward notices Kate's uneasy steps as he enters.

EDWARD

How are you feeling? If you like I can bring you some crutches until the strength returns to your legs.

Kate shakes her head.

EDWARD

Alright, but if you change your mind let us know.

Edward places the breakfast by the monitor.

EDWARD

We'll get all this stuff removed
later today. How does that sound?

Kate just shrugs.

Edward steps back into the hall.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Edward turns to face Kate.

EDWARD

If you need anything from us, Kate,
just push the button by the
monitor. Ellie is also just next
door.

Edward points to the room to his left.

EDWARD

How rude of me. I completely
forgot to tell you who I am. My
name is Edward. I own and operate
this orphanage.

Kate grimaces at the word and begins to close the door.

EDWARD

Anything at all, just...

The door is closed.

Edward looks dumbfounded and leaves.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate looks at the door knob. She withdraws her hand slowly
as if it might attack her.

With her arm back against her body Kate goes to the bed and quickly engages her breakfast.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - DAY

Kate stirs from her sleep. There is no food left on the breakfast tray left by the monitor.

She looks outside and sees the sun high in the sky.

A KNOCK at the door.

Kate makes her way to the door and opens it with no hesitation this time.

Ellie is there with a warming smile.

ELLIE

Would you like to go to the park
with me?

Kate walks away from the door. Her steps seem to be getting better.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Ellie tries to look in without being too nosy.

A beat.

Kate returns with her shoes.

Ellie smiles as Kate closes the door to her room.

Kate follows her slowly down the hall.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

It is a gorgeous afternoon. A refreshing breeze SINGS through the trees of the residential sub-division.

Ellie leads Kate along the new sidewalk. Kate holds on to one of the handles of the wheelchair for support.

Kate looks to be enjoying the wind and the sun as her hair blows back and forth. Her lack of a would suggests otherwise.

They round a corner and make for the forested area ahead.

Kids chase each other on a nearby yard. Further down the street a man is washing his car on the driveway.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Ellie and Kate leave the sidewalk and pass through the gravel parking lot. It is lined by a low chain fence supported by wooden stumps with holes for the chain to pass through.

There are enough middle-class cars parked to make the lot look busy.

Ellie leads through the gap in the chain to the path. A garbage and recycle bin lie just off the path by a trail map.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

Ellie and Kate pass by the jungle gym. Children are running up and down, crossing the monkey bars and sliding on the slide.

Parents stand off to the side or sit on the benches supervising.

On the swing set a young girl, no older than eight, is being pushed by her father.

Kate stops and watches. A glimpse of childhood memory traps her.

Ellie turns back to her and tugs her hand.

ELLIE
Everything okay?

Kate snaps back to reality. She continues on towards the field with Ellie.

EXT. PARK FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Kate catches back up to Ellie. A dog retrieves a frisbee lying in their path and brings it to its master.

ELLIE
I always enjoy coming here. It makes me smile to see all of these children so happy.

Ellie leads Kate onto a shaded trail.

EXT. TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

The faint sound of FLOWING WATER becomes ever present as Ellie and Kate move down the bark mulch trail.

The trail clears out from the cover of trees. A bench lies off the path where there is a clear view of the river.

Ellie pulls up next to the bench.

Kate goes to the river and flops down on her knees in the grass. She looks at her reflection in the water. She dips her hand in to the water and swishes it back and forth to blur out her reflection.

An OLD COUPLE walk by hand in hand TALKING amongst themselves.

Kate bores of her reflection and sits on the bench by Ellie. She continues to watch the river flow.

ELLIE

I was seven when I came to the orphanage.

(pause)

There was a snow storm and we were heading home from a visit to my grandparents at the old age home. The car hit a patch of ice and slid into an oncoming truck. They tell me that my parents died on impact and didn't suffer.

Ellie looks at her legs.

ELLIE

I was lucky to survive. Dr. Phillips told me that my legs were paralyzed and that I'll never walk again, at least not with the current advances in medical treatment.

Kate looks as though she hasn't registered any of the story.

ELLIE

I've been an orphan ever since. All of the adults that have come looking to adopt said I was cute, but I know they didn't want the troubles of my disability. In many ways Edward and Sarah are like my parents and at the same time they are my only friends. The other kids are younger than I, and they avoid me.

(pause)

It's the same way at school really.

SILENCE fills up the time save the FLOW of the water. Ellie leans her head back and closes her eyes to the brightness.

A beat.

KATE

(rudely)

Why are you telling me this?

Ellie snaps her head back down in surprise and opens her eyes.

ELLIE

Because I had hoped we might be friends. We are the same age and I thought that if you knew why I was here you might be able to trust and share things with me.

KATE

No matter how much you trust someone, something always happens. They turn their back or disappear and you end up all alone.

ELLIE

That's not always true. Edward and Sarah have never betrayed my trust.

KATE

Must be nice.

ELLIE

So that's a no then.

KATE

What is?

ELLIE

You don't want to be my friend.

KATE

I didn't say that.

Kate turns to Ellie for the first time in the conversation.

KATE

(kindly)

I decided that you were my friend
from the moment I felt your touch.

Kate touches Ellie's hand with her finger tips. Ellie smiles
at the sight.

ELLIE

It's kind of funny. Edward thought
you might not be able to talk.

KATE

Is it wrong that I didn't want to?
Why am I here and not with my dad?
Did something happen to him?

ELLIE

I didn't know you had a father.
They never told me the reasons for
you coming here.

KATE

It doesn't matter I guess. He
wasn't much of a father anyway.

ELLIE

If you want, you could ask Edward.

Kate turns her attention to the river again as a mother duck
and her ducklings climb out of the water on the other side.

A beat.

KATE

Everyone really ignores and avoids
you at school?

Ellie nods.

KATE

It's the same for me.

The ducks disappear into the natural growth on the other side of the river.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - SUN DECK - NIGHT

The last light from the sun fades on the horizon. Stars start to twinkle over the world.

Kate sits by herself slouched in one of the wooden deck chairs.

Ellie opens the screen door to the deck.

ELLIE

They are going to start the movie now. You coming?

KATE

No. I'd like to speak to Edward, if he isn't busy.

INT. ORPHANAGE - PLAY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ellie closes the screen door and heads back to the crowd.

Through the screen door we see Kate get up and move to the railing.

In the play room is about thirty children of all ages sitting on chairs and cushions.

The male volunteer hits the power switch on the DVD player and jumps onto the couch with some of the smaller children. He scoops up the remote from the small table and pushes play.

Along the wall towards the hall is Vanessa and some other STAFF.

Ellie comes up to Edward and Sarah at the back of the crowd.

EDWARD

Doesn't Kate want to see the movie?

(MORE)

ELLIE

She wants to talk to you, if you
are available.

Edward shoots a surprised look to Sarah.

ELLIE

She is out on the deck.

Vanessa uses the dimmer switch near her to darken the room.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - SUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

Edward steps quietly onto the deck and shuts the screen door.
He comes up to the deck railing and leans on it next to Kate.

A beat.

KATE

Before I woke up, the last thing I
remember was riding home on my
bike. I don't even remember how
long ago that was.

Kate looks at Edward to see he is paying attention.

KATE

Why am I here? Did something
happen to my dad?

Kate looks at Edward as if to demand a reply.

EDWARD

Kate, that day you were riding
home, you got hit by a car. You've
been in a coma for over two months.
A month of that time was in the
hospital.

EDWARD(cont'd)

Your father was unable to cover the costs of the life support and asked that they pull the plug.

Every word seems to pass through Kate as if she isn't there.

EDWARD

That's when Doctor Phillips contacted me and we were able to arrange a transfer for you to the orphanage. We monitored your condition here, the nurses and myself.

KATE

That's just like him... To not care.

EDWARD

He probably couldn't stand to see you helpless and suffering. When he was told about the orphanage, your father was grateful that you could live on.

Kate LAUGHS as if to mock what Edward is saying.

KATE

It was his wallet that was suffering. He abandoned me long ago, I just thought maybe some day he would change back, but he never did. I'm better off without him.

EDWARD

That's a harsh way of looking at it.

Kate scrunches her face in an angry response.

KATE

I want to be alone.

Edward reaches towards her shoulder to provide comfort. He withdraws as Kate looks away.

Edward goes back inside.

INT. ORPHANAGE - PLAY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ellie looks on in anticipation as Edward returns to the crowd.

Edward comes up to her and WHISPERS in her ear. The words are drowned out by the movie.

Ellie looks back at the movie and lingers a moment. She removes herself from the crowd and parks herself by the deck doors. She looks through the sliding door to watch Kate.

Edward looks back at Ellie.

Sarah notices and puts her arms around him.

SARAH

What did she want?

EDWARD

An explanation.

SARAH

Will she be alright?

EDWARD

She acts strong and resilient, but just from looking at her you can tell how alone she really is.

Sarah squeezes Edward closer in her arms.

SARAH

What should we do?

EDWARD

Ellie will take care of it in time.
We just have to watch.

Edward gives Sarah a quick kiss and they return to watching the movie.

FLASHBACK (BLACK & WHITE, SILENT):

INT. LIVING ROOM - UNKNOWN

Kate stands in the room. The television is on, the couch empty.

KATE (V.O.)

I'm alone again. It's cold and empty. I'm always alone.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

A pot with the lid partially opened and a spoon handle sticking out sits on the stove. The double sinks are filled with dirty dishes soaking in water.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

A man comes in the entrance and tosses his coat in the closet.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He doesn't acknowledge Kate as he passes her.

KATE (V.O.)

He is not someone I know. There was a time that he would smile and then it all went away like a dream.

Kate sits on the couch and looks at the television.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The man lifts the lid on the pot and looks in. He slams the lid back down.

He turns back and sees the sink. He pulls the spoon out of the pot and whips it down shaking off the loose food.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The man storms back into the living room. He is clearly angry and yelling something at Kate on the couch.

Kate turns to him and for the first time we see his face clearly. It is Peter Morgan.

He points the spoon towards the kitchen as he continues to yell.

Finally he raises the spoon and approaches Kate.

She retreats to the far end of the couch. She curls into a defensive ball as the spoon comes down upon her.

KATE (V.O.)

Where did the father go that used
to care?

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Kate is curled on the couch. Her arms are wrapped around her knees and her eyes visible just above them. Tears pour from her eyes, a big bruise on her cheek.

END FLASHBACK

INT. ORPHANAGE - OFFICE - DAY

Edward sits in his office chair reading a newspaper. He is back in a reclined position.

His face turns to SHOCK as he comes across an article on the inner pages.

His eyes dart back and forth across the page as he reads it. He returns the chair to a normal position and drops the paper on the desk.

Edward rests his arms on the desk and appears deep in thought.

EXT. TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

Kate and Ellie are on the same trail as the day before. They follow it along the river in no apparent rush.

Ellie has her usual warm smile and Kate seems in a rather placid state.

INT. ORPHANAGE - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sarah enters the office with a cup of hot coffee in hand. She sees the paper on the desk and Edwards head down in thought.

SARAH

What's wrong, Edward?

Sarah comes around the desk and places the cup of coffee on the desk. She puts her hand on his shoulder for comfort.

Edward lifts his head up and sees Sarah already reading the article. A beat.

Sarah takes a deep breath.

SARAH

Are you going to tell her?

EDWARD

After what I told her last night,
and her reaction, I don't think
this will have much of a
difference.

Edward folds the paper and tosses it in a recycle bin in the corner.

SARAH

He is still Kate's father
regardless of how she sees him.
Even if I didn't get along with my
father, I'd like to know of his
passing. Wouldn't you?

EDWARD

This is a little different.

SARAH

She should still know.

EDWARD

Okay, I'll tell her.

EXT. TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

Ellie and Kate progress slowly along the park trail. They pass in and out of sunlight from the cover of the trees.

The trail leads to a small lake that feeds the river.

EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Where the lake and river meet is a fair sized bridge to handle pedestrian flow.

By the lake is a small grass field and maintained flower beds. In the middle ~~(of the)~~ field is a small wooden gazebo.

There are very few people around.

Ellie and Kate go in to the shade of the gazebo and look out over the lake. They watch the ducks and swans swim around.

ELLIE

Right before the accident was the last time I really remember being happy.

Kate tosses a questioning look at Ellie.

ELLIE

My grandparents lived in an old care home and the nurses said, weather permitting, they could come spend Christmas at home. The thought of them coming home and spending time with me was all I could think of on the ride home.

Ellie lets out a small SIGH.

ELLIE

Then in a split second it became the worst day of my life.

KATE

Why do you tell me these things? I haven't told you anything about me.

Kate bends over the rail of the gazebo and tries to reach a blade of grass. After a failed attempt she just leans on the rail looking at the flowers.

ELLIE

I don't want to ask about your past or your feelings.

ELLIE(cont'd)

If you want to tell me something it
will be without me asking. That's
what I feel, anyway.

Kate leans over the rail again and extends her arm further
towards the grass. Her finger tip touches a long blade. She
straightens up and looks back out over the lake.

KATE

Thank you.
(pause)
Do you miss them?

ELLIE

Who?

KATE

Your parents.

ELLIE

All the time.

KATE

Do you think about them?

ELLIE

Constantly.

KATE

I miss my mom. The way you used to
be as a family.

A faint smile betrays Kate as she looks around.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - DRIVE LOOP - DAY

A new looking sport utility vehicle(SUV) pulls into the
driveway of the orphanage. Trent steps out of the vehicle
and makes his way to the front door.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Trent presses the doorbell and waits patiently.

A moment later the door opens. Sarah stands there with BETH (8) by her side.

SARAH

Trent, is that you?

Trent smiles and puts his arms out.

TRENT

Hello, Sarah.

Sarah gives him a big hug.

TRENT

How have you been?

SARAH

Very busy, but I couldn't imagine being happier.

Sarah steps back and playfully messes Beth's hair.

SARAH

What about you? I haven't seen you in ages.

TRENT

I'm still getting by, but it's been harder lately. In fact this is my first day off in a while. I wanted to come by and visit, see how Kate is doing.

SARAH

Well come on in.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Trent steps inside.

SARAH

(closing the door)

Edward is on the patio supervising
the children. I'll get some tea
ready.

TRENT

That would be lovely, thank you.

Trent walks down the hall away from the door.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Edward watches as the children play on the field.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

There is a soccer game involving many of the kids. The male
volunteer is in the middle of it cheering them on.

One of the YOUNG BOYS scores a goal and his team cheers.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Edward smiles and claps.

The screen door opens and Trent steps onto the patio.

Edward turns around.

EDWARD

Trent! What a surprise.

Edward extends his hand as Trent comes over. They shake
hands.

TRENT

I was finally able to take a day
off.

Edward motions to the side where more plastic chairs are.

EDWARD

Pull up a chair.

Trent brings a chair over and sits next to Edward.

TRENT

So how is she?

EDWARD

Healthy and talking, albeit very
little. It is hard to say how she
is mentally and emotionally. Ellie
tells me Kate doesn't speak about
herself.

TRENT

It must be very difficult for her.
You read that her father committed
suicide?

Edward nods.

TRENT

Have you...

EDWARD

Not yet. Kate already knows her
father abandoned her and I'm not
sure what kind of effect this would
have on her.

Sarah comes out with tea all setup on a tray. Beth steps out
behind her.

SARAH

Beth, can you bring that side table
over, please?

Beth nods and hurries to grab a small folding table leaning against the orphanage.

Beth opens it up in front of Edward and Trent.

SARAH

Thank you, Beth.

Sarah places the tray on the table.

EDWARD

Thank you, dear.

Sarah and Beth return inside.

TRENT

It would probably be best to tell her as soon as possible. If she knew that we didn't tell her and found out on her own it might not go over too well.

Trent drops a cube of sugar in the tea.

EDWARD

When Ellie first came to us we had time to bond and form a friendship. Kate is already seventeen. There isn't a whole lot I can do for her.

Edward sips at his tea without adding any sugar or cream.

TRENT

Is Kate around? I was hoping to see her.

Edward lowers his tea and rests it on his leg.

EDWARD

She went to the park with Ellie. They have been going almost every day.

TRENT

What do they do?

Edward shrugs in response.

EDWARD

Mostly walk and just sit with each other. How are things at the hospital?

TRENT

Out of hand. We are under staffed. I've been working overtime for the past few weeks. I spend all my time at the hospital with the occasional nap in my office.

(pause)

I finally understand why my wife left those many years ago. I always put my job ahead of everything else, including her.

EDWARD

Some of us make sacrifices.

TRENT

Not anymore. I'm retiring next month.

EDWARD

Already?

TRENT

I want to be a father, Edward. Age is not on my side anymore, but I'd like to at least adopt.

EDWARD

One of ours?

TRENT

(nodding)

I've given you two. The least I
can do is take one in return.

Edward looks to the field where the children are still
playing.

EDWARD

You know which one you'll take?

TRENT

I'll let you know when I've got
everything straightened out at the
hospital.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Kate and Ellie come up the path to the entrance. Sarah
stands with the door already open waiting.

SARAH

Welcome back. Did you have a good
walk?

Ellie smiles and nods.

Sarah steps aside to allow Ellie and Kate through.

SARAH

Doctor Phillips is here. I think
he is looking forward to seeing you
well, Kate.

Kate stops in the doorway. She doesn't look at Sarah.

KATE

Why is he here?

SARAH

He is an old friend of ours.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Ellie looks over her shoulder.

ELLIE

Follow me.

Ellie heads towards the hall without hesitation. Kate steps inside and follows her.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Ellie comes out on the deck and looks behind her.

Trent stands up and turns to her.

TRENT

Ellie, good to see you again.

ELLIE

Good afternoon, Dr. Phillips.

Kate arrives at the patio but stops in the door. She looks around at all of the children. She takes a step back inside.

Trent takes a step forward.

TRENT

Hello, Kate. I'm doctor...

KATE

I know.

Trent is startled by the interruption. He regains his composure.

TRENT

It's good to see you doing well.
Edward has kept me informed of your
progress.

A beat.

Trent sits back down.

Ellie moves onto the patio and parks next to Trent.

ELLIE

You don't have to be shy. Bring
over a chair and sit with us.

Ellie points towards the plastic chairs against the orphanage.

Kate looks out towards the chairs. Slowly she steps outside and takes a chair. She places it next to Ellie and shoves it against her wheel chair.

Trent watches as Kate sits and clutches Ellie's hand like a child.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - ENTRANCE - LATER

The sun has nearly set. Trent, Sarah and Edward stand outside of the orphanage. Trent gives Sarah a hug and shakes Edward's hand.

Trent walks to his SUV and gets in.

Sarah and Edward wave as he drives off.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Ellie rides in the small elevator. The lights indicate only two floors. Ellie watches the light indicator as it flashes from floor one to floor two. The door opens.

INT. ORPHANAGE - PLAY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ellie emerges from the elevator in the hall just off the play room. She goes around the back of the play room and looks among the children. Kate is not with them.

Ellie turns to the sun deck and sees a shadow standing in the dark by the railing.

She goes to the sun deck.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - SUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

Kate stares at the sky. Small puffs of clouds obscure the stars.

Ellie comes up next to Kate. Kate appears motionless aside from the blinking of her eyes.

ELLIE

Do you not like Trent? You didn't say a word to him.

KATE

Was I supposed to?

ELLIE

He made it possible for you to come here. If not for that you would have died at the hospital.

KATE

I didn't ask anyone to do anything. Maybe... I'd be better off if he let me die.

ELLIE

You can't honestly think that?

Ellie reaches for Kate's hand on the rail.

KATE

Some times I do.

Ellie pulls her hand back.

ELLIE

I thought I was your friend? How
can you say that to me?!

KATE

You are my friend. Does that
suddenly make everything better?

ELLIE

No, but at least you could talk to
me about how you are feeling.

Tears begin to stain Ellie's cheeks.

KATE

It is none of your concern.

ELLIE

I am concerned. Everyone is!
(now quietly)
Or are you to blind to see that
some one could actually care about
you?

Ellie turns and heads back inside. Kate finally looks at
Ellie as she opens the door.

A beat.

KATE

(to herself, quietly)
Idiot.

INT. ORPHANAGE - PLAY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ellie forces the joy stick as far as it will go. She speeds
through the play room while wiping at the tears on her face.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Ellie nearly hits Edward as she comes around the corner. She comes to a stop but doesn't fully look up at Edward.

EDWARD

Ellie, what's wrong?

ELLIE

It's nothing. I'm going to bed,
good night.

EDWARD

Good night, Ellie.

Ellie speeds off again.

INT. ORPHANAGE - PLAY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Edward comes into the play room and looks outside.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - SUN DECK - - CONTINUOUS

Kate's gaze has returned to the sky.

Through the sliding door Edward drops his shoulder in a defeated manner. He leaves view towards the hall way.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ELLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ellie is in her wheel chair near the bed. The walls are covered in posters of fictional beings; unicorns, angels, dragons, etc.

On the bed is a long blue night gown. A side table by the bed has an alarm clock and bed lamp. There is a glasses case and a picture of Ellie and her parents long ago. On the shelf of the side table are various fantasy novels.

Ellie reaches for the wall just above the night table. There is what appears like a door bell wired into the wall. She pushes it and waits.

Sarah comes in and helps Ellie from the wheel chair to the bed.

ELLIE

Thank you.

SARAH

You're welcome, Ellie.

Sarah notices her wet eyes.

SARAH

You've been crying. Are you alright?

ELLIE

Yeah, I'm okay now.

Sarah gives Ellie a hug.

ELLIE

Thank you.

Ellie hugs her bag.

Sarah gets up.

SARAH

Good night.

Ellie turns on the night lamp with a switch on the base.

ELLIE

Good night.

Sarah shuts the main light switch off on her way out and closes the door.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - SUN DECK - CONTINUOUS

Kate lowers her eyes from the stars and looks at her hands on the deck rail. She grinds her teeth and grips the railing in frustration. Suddenly she slaps herself across the cheek.

She steps back from the railing with her chin down to her chest.

KATE
(quietly)
Idiot.

She goes inside.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Kate comes down the hall and stops outside of Ellie's room. She looks at the door.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ELLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ellie tosses her tee shirt on the wheel chair. Now in her bra and underwear she reaches for the night gown. She holds it for a moment in front of her before putting it on.

She pulls it down past her waste and shuffles herself under the blanket. She takes off her glasses and places them in the glasses case.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Kate moves on to her door and opens it. Behind her Edward approaches quietly.

EDWARD
Kate, there's something I need to
tell you.

Kate stands in her doorway.

KATE

Yes? What is it?

EDWARD

I thought I'd tell you when the time was right, but in the end, there is never a right time for this.

KATE

What are you talking about?

EDWARD

Your father.

Kate's face appears to cloud over in disgust.

EDWARD

He committed suicide. He was found Thursday afternoon.

Kate makes no reply. She starts inching further into her room.

EDWARD

I'm sorry to have bothered you just before bed. Good night.

Edward walks back down the hall.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate closes the door gently. She just stands facing the door.

The curtains are still open. What little light the moon and city provide fills the room with a blue glow.

Kate clutches her right hand to her chest. She stumbles backwards, reaching with her left hand. She clumsily hits the bed and falls onto it.

She starts to SOB quietly as she pulls her knees up to her chest. The crescent moon pendant slips out from around her neck and catches a shimmer of light.

Her hair is dropped across her face. Dark tears streak her cheeks as she looks at the pendant on the blanket. She grabs hold of it with her right hand and raises it in a clenched fist to her lips.

KATE

(quietly)

Come back.

She let's go of the pendant and tucks her head into her knees.

FLASHBACK 10 YEARS AGO (BLACK & WHITE):

EXT. PARK - DAY

It is a beautiful day.

Peter Morgan runs around the large maple trees with Kate on his shoulders.

Kate smiles with her eyes closed and arms raised like an airplane. She leans into the turns as her father rushes through them with an iron grip on her ankles.

Sitting on a large sheet beneath one of the maple trees is Kate's mother. She watches Peter and Kate return with a big smile on her face. Next to her are the fixings for lunch in an open basket.

Peter sits down and lifts Kate down from his shoulders. Kate leaps at her mother and wraps her arms around her neck. Peter LAUGHS as Kate knocks her mother over with the force.

This was a happy family.

END FLASHBACK

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALL - NIGHT

Kate stands in the hallway outside of Ellie's room. The hall is dark, illuminated by a single lamp in the distance. Her face is dirtied from dry tears.

She knocks softly on the door.

A beat.

She knocks harder.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ELLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ellie stirs in the bed and rubs at her eyes.

ELLIE

Who is it?

KATE (O.S.)

Kate. Can I come in?

Ellie props herself on her elbows. In the near pitch black she reaches over and turns on the bed lamp.

ELLIE

You can come in.

The door opens and Kate slips in slowly. She closes the door gently behind her. Kate takes small steps towards Ellie as she clasps the pendant around her neck with both hands.

Ellie pushes herself up into a full sitting position. Kate stops right by the bed, half of her face shadowed by the light.

Ellie looks at Kate's clasped hands and then up to her face.

ELLIE
(MORE)
What's wrong?

Kate loosens her grasp of the pendant and holds it in one hand for the light to illuminate it.

KATE
This was my mothers. My dad gave it to her for their wedding anniversary.

Kate sits on the bed and looks at the pendant in her hand.

KATE
Eight years ago she was driving home from work when the brakes locked up. The only way to avoid hurting anyone else was to force herself off the road. The car rolled over and crushed her against a tree. Her body was broken and bleeding internally. She took her last breath as me and my dad came in the room.

Kate lets go of the pendant and clenches her fists against her thighs.

KATE
My dad held me close and broke into tears. At first I didn't know why but I could feel his sadness and I began to cry as well.

Kate starts to shake lightly as tears run down her cheek.

KATE
At the funeral my dad gave me the pendant and to remember the happiness she brought to us.

KATE(cont'd)

From that day on I was always alone and my dad became more and more depressed. He took his frustrations out on me but I accepted it. After a while it didn't matter if he loved me or not.

Kate turns to Ellie, tears running down her face.

KATE

If I could live without my mom then I could live without my dad.

(pause)

And now my dad is truly gone too. I thought I'd be happy when I used to think about it. But the loneliness I felt after my mom died is nothing to what I feel now.

Kate falls against Ellie and buries her face against Ellie's chest.

KATE

There's nobody left.

Kate continues to cry as Ellie holds her in her arms.

ELLIE

You still have me. Sarah, Edward and Trent are still here too. And as long as you have the memories of being together with your mother and father they will always be with you.

Ellie pulls Kate closer to her.

ELLIE

For the longest time I felt the same way. In the end it is easier to get through with someone to share your pain, don't you think?

Kate lifts her head enough to make eye contact with Ellie.

ELLIE

Will you let me be the one to share
yours?

Kate tightens her hold on Ellie.

KATE

Will you stay with me?

ELLIE

Yes.

KATE

Forever?

ELLIE

Yes.

Kate wipes her face and lies down and closes her eyes.

KATE

Ellie.

ELLIE

Yes?

KATE

Thank you.

Kate takes Ellie's hand and falls asleep in an instant.

Ellie reaches for the light but Kate impedes her reach. She gives up and pushes herself back under the blankets. She lies down with her head close to Kate's.

ELLIE

Sweet dreams.

Ellie kisses Kate's forehead and closes her eyes.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ELLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Ellie is sitting up in her bed. The curtains are partially opened and she is looking outside. It is beginning to rain.

Ellie looks down next to her. Kate appears to still be asleep. Ellie pulls the blanket up over Kate's shoulder.

Kate grabs her hand gently and looks back.

ELLIE

Did you sleep well?

KATE

Yes.

Kate rolls over under the blanket so her body faces Ellie.

KATE

Sorry, I didn't mean to fall asleep here.

ELLIE

No, it's alright. It wasn't a bother at all.

(pause)

It was... Kind of nice.

Kate sits up and pulls her knees against her chest. She looks outside passed Ellie's face.

KATE

I like rain.

Ellie looks back outside and smiles.

ELLIE

Peaceful, isn't it?

Kate nods and hugs Ellie. Ellie looks back at Kate in surprise. Her smile returns and she returns the hug.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ENTRANCE - DAY

The door to Edward's office is closed. The door opens to the main entrance.

EDWARD (O.S.)
Alright, see you soon.

There is an abrupt BEEP signalling the end of a conversation.

The door opens and Edward enters the entrance-way to the orphanage. He heads towards the back of the house.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Edward opens the sliding door and looks around the yard.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - YARD - CONTINUOUS

Sitting beneath one of the trees further back is Kate. Ellie is next to her reading a book.

Edward approaches them and casually sits under the tree with them.

EDWARD
You two are quiet as usual.

KATE
It is a beautiful day.

ELLIE
So we decided to enjoy it.

EDWARD
I see.

Edward lies down with his hands beneath his head and elbows out to the sides.

EDWARD

It's been a long time since I lay
beneath the trees.

Kate looks at him and gradually smiles.

KATE

Close your eyes.

Kate watches him until Edward closes his eyes as told. Ellie
looks over from her book.

ELLIE

You should come out here more
often.

Edward opens his eyes and sits up.

EDWARD

Actually, I came out here to see
Kate.

Kate gives her attention without reply.

EDWARD

Your fathers' lawyer called this
morning regarding his will and a
letter left for you. Trent will be
by shortly to bring you, if that's
okay with you.

Kate's smile fades.

KATE

It is.

Ellie replaces the bookmark from her lap and closes the book.

ELLIE

Will you be alright by yourself,
Kate?

KATE

Yes.

Edward gets up to his feet.

EDWARD

I'd take you myself, but there's a few things I need to take care of. You can help me if you'd like Ellie, while Kate is away.

ELLIE

Okay.

EDWARD

Great. I'll see you inside shortly then.

Edward gives a small wave and heads back to the orphanage.

Kate mindlessly spreads herself out in the grass. She nearly hits the tree trunk with her head.

KATE

A letter? How unexpected.

Kate closes her eyes for a moment.

Suddenly she jumps up.

KATE

No point thinking about it.

She extends her hand to Ellie.

KATE

Lets go wait inside.

Ellie takes it and follows Kate back to the patio.

INT. TRENT'S S.U.V. - DAY

Kate watches the traffic crossing through the busy intersection. The light facing them is RED.

Trent fiddles with the radio tuner and stops it on a news station.

Beyond them are office buildings and strip malls.

The intersection comes to a halt. The light facing them goes GREEN and traffic resumes.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Trent and Kate sit in cushioned office chairs before the desk of the LAWYER.

The Lawyer is in his thirties, tall and refined. He wears a tan suit that matches well with his short, light brown hair. He has a trimmed beard and small oval frame glasses.

The lawyer shuffles through the middle drawer of a filing cabinet. He withdraws a folder with 'Morgan, Peter' on the tab.

The lawyer flops the folder on the desk and opens it. Within the folder lies a key, blank letter-sized envelope and a document titled 'Last Will and Testament'.

LAWYER

Your father had requested I tear up his will as there is nothing left of its contents. Before he took his life debt collectors got most of it. I thought it would be better to at least let you have a glance over it should you choose.

Kate keeps her lips closed with her back straight. There is no change in her expression.

The lawyer picks up the letter and key and places them on the desk in front of Kate.

LAWYER

These are for you. The key is to a small storage facility. Your father boxed up most of your stuff and put it away, however you only have another two weeks or so before the rental expires.

Kate takes the key and letter, one in each hand.

LAWYER

There was no suicide note. Just that sealed envelope. The police thought it would be best that you be the one to open it.

The lawyer closes up the folder and pushes it to the side.

LAWYER

Your father regretted a great deal, Kate. I'm sure that's what you'll find in there. Oh, I almost forgot.

The lawyer pulls a small personal safe out from his desk drawer. He puts in a combination of letters and turns the dial. It opens.

The lawyer withdraws a BANK CARD with a sticky note attached. On the sticky note are an account number and pin and an address.

LAWYER

(handing the card to Kate)
Your father put whatever he could into a savings account for you. I took the liberty of writing the address to the storage unit on there as well.

Kate takes the card with the hand holding the key.

KATE

Thank you.

LAWYER

I'm not sure how much he managed to put away, but its to help with your education beyond high school should you choose. Otherwise spend it how you please.

The lawyer slowly stands up.

LAWYER

Well that's all I have, unless you have any questions for me to answer.

Kate and Trent stand as well.

Kate motions to turn around but stops.

KATE

Was my father sad? The last time you saw him, did he seem sad to you?

LAWYER

Yes.

KATE

I see.

The lawyer comes around and sees Kate and Trent to the door of his office. He opens it for them.

LAWYER

It was a pleasure to meet the both of you, despite the circumstances.

TRENT

Likewise.

Trent shakes the Lawyer's hand.

LAWYER

And you Kate, I wish you the best
with your future and my
condolences.

Kate gives him a small hand shake.

KATE

Thank you.

Kate and Trent walk out from the office. The lawyer watches
from his door.

EXT. STRIP MALL - DAY

Trent and Kate stand outside of the strip mall. The SUV is
parked a few cars away. Trent looks down the row of shops.
There are a few tables and chairs outside. Above is the sign
'A New Day Cafe'.

Trent looks back at Kate.

TRENT

Would you like a drink?

Kate looks at him with a face that is neither happy nor sad.
She gives a nod of approval.

Trent leads the way.

Kate places the key and bank card in her pocket. She begins
to fold the envelope but stops. She keeps it in hand and
hurries to catch up with Trent.

INT. A NEW DAY CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Trent stands by the register. On the counter is a cup of
coffee and a soda can. A WAITRESS rings in the items.

Kate is looking at the various flavors of ice cream. She looks at Trent and points at the ice cream.

TRENT

Sure, tell the waitress which kind.

The waitress comes over to the ice cream display.

KATE

Vanilla... Please.

WAITRESS

What size would you like? We have small, medium and large.

Kate again looks at Trent.

KATE

Small.

The waitress grabs a cone and opens the freezer door.

EXT. A NEW DAY CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Trent sits with his right foot on his left knee. His cup of coffee is held with both hands by his ankle.

Kate's soda is open on the table. She licks diligently away at the ice cream.

TRENT

There was something I'd like to talk to you about, Kate.

Kate keeps going at the ice cream.

TRENT

In a few days I will no longer be working at the hospital. When that day comes, I was hoping that you might accept me as your legal guardian.

Kate stops licking the ice cream. Unaware she brushes her chin with the melting ice cream.

KATE

May I ask why? I have hardly shown you any reason to think I'm worth looking after.

TRENT

That isn't true at all. You have had to endure a lot these past few months, no, probably longer. Under different circumstances I'm sure you would have acted much differently and so, there is nothing that you have done wrong.

Kate notices the ice cream on her chin and wipes at it with the back of her hand. She then licks it off her hand.

TRENT

Back at the hospital I had said that as a doctor I was doing what I could for my patient, but that was only part true. I have no children of my own or a wife to go home to at the end of the day. When I was supposed to let you die I wanted to save you, to look after you as if I were a father. Selfish of me isn't it?

KATE

You are human too.

Kate licks up the melted ice cream sliding down the cone.

KATE

I appreciate your kind offer, however, I am selfish as well.

Trent smiles.

TRENT

And what is it you want in return?

KATE

That you don't just adopt me, but
Ellie as well.

TRENT

That leaves me little choice then.

Kate looks away as a frown begins to form.

TRENT

I will have to adopt both of you.

Kate looks back at him and smiles.

KATE

You mean it?

TRENT

Of course.

Trent drinks some of his coffee and leaves the half drunk cup
on the table. He stands.

TRENT

Shall we return to the orphanage
and give the good news then?

Kate gets up and nods.

They walk back towards the vehicle.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM - DAY

Kate opens the curtains and makes the bed. She walks to the
door and opens it. Sitting next to the door is a small
duffle bag.

INT. ORPHANAGE - KATE'S ROOM/HALL - CONTINUOUS

Standing in the doorway Kate looks back at the room.

Ellie comes up behind Kate in the hallway.

ELLIE

Ready so early?

Kate looks back.

KATE

Can't be helped. I didn't really
have anything here. Just some
clothes.

Kate picks up the duffle bag and throws the strap over her
shoulder.

KATE

I wasn't here long, but it started
to become like a home.

(smiling to Ellie)

The bed was a little small though.

She closes the door and accompanies Ellie to her room.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ELLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

There are a few small boxes stacked by the door along with
poster tubes. The walls and bookshelves are now bare. The
bed hasn't been made yet.

Ellie leads Kate into the room.

ELLIE

Why don't you leave your bag with
my stuff? We can get it all at the
same time.

KATE

Sure.

Kate places her bag by the boxes.

ELLIE

Ten years I've lived here. As happy as I am to finally have a new home, this place will always be a part of me.

Edward and Sarah arrive in the doorway. Edward KNOCKS twice on the open door.

EDWARD

You two are up early.

ELLIE

I suppose we're just anxious.

EDWARD

You've waited a long time for this day.

ELLIE

Yes.

A beat.

SARAH

How about we have breakfast on the patio this morning?

KATE

That sounds nice.

The four of them leave the room.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - PATIO - DAY

The sun is already shining brightly in the early morning. The last of the morning dew shimmers as light reaches it through the trees.

The Patio is still mostly in shade.

Edward, Sarah, Ellie and Kate dig in to a stack of pancakes and all the necessary spreads.

Edward enjoys a cup of coffee as he watches Kate and Ellie stuff themselves.

EDWARD

It'll be strange without the two of you around. Especially you, Ellie. You've been as much a daughter to Sarah and I as you have been a friend. We couldn't be happier to know such a kind and wonderful heart.

ELLIE

You make it sound as if we'll never meet again.

Sarah kicks Edward lightly under the table.

SARAH

Don't listen to this old man. He's being overly sentimental.

A beat.

KATE

It's sad isn't it? I was just getting to know you; just getting used to this place. I would like to come and visit, if that's okay.

EDWARD

You are both welcome any time.

SARAH

We'll always be here for you.

ELLIE

Thank you. We'll visit whenever we can.

Edward drinks more of his coffee and wipes his eyes with his sleeve.

EDWARD

You'll have to play me a proper game of chess then, Ellie.

ELLIE

You're on.

Ellie stuffs a chunk of pancake in her mouth.

Kate rests her fork and knife on her plate. She clasps her hands on her lap and looks down. She struggles to hold back tears.

SARAH

What's wrong, Kate?

KATE

Nothing. It's nice, that's all. This is what a family meal must be like. It's been so long that I forgot the feeling.

She looks up and smiles, no longer able to hold back her tears.

KATE

It's nice.

Sarah gets up and goes to Kate. She takes Kate's hand and pulls her to her feet. She wraps Kate in a comforting embrace.

EXT. ORPHANAGE - DRIVE LOOP - DAY

A new handicap van is parked in front of the path. Kate and Ellie stand by the van facing Sarah by the path to the door. Trent and Edward load boxes into the back.

Trent shuts the back doors and comes around to the side with Edward.

EDWARD

That's the last of it.

Trent takes his place next to Kate and Ellie. Edward goes to Sarah and takes hold of her hand.

TRENT

Thank you for all the help. I'll be sure to let you know when we're all settled in.

EDWARD

Everything is in place then?

TRENT

Yes. The condo is up for sale and I'm pretty sure I will get my research grant. I will continue what I was working towards in university.

Trent looks over at the girls next to him.

TRENT

And perhaps find a way to give Ellie her legs back.

SARAH

I'm sure you will find success in your research, Trent.

EDWARD

You three have a lot to do. Don't over do it.

TRENT

Yeah, I won't anymore.

EDWARD

Ellie, Kate, take care of him. He's old and reckless.

SARAH

But a good man. Try your best to become a family.

Kate comes forward. She seems hesitant, her arms crossed over her chest squeezing herself.

KATE

Thank you for looking after me. I will never forget your kindness.

Edward just smiles.

Kate gives Edward and Sarah both hugs and jumps in the front seat of the van. She rolls down the window and looks out.

Ellie moves forward in her wheel chair. Trent opens the side door and pulls down the two-fold ramp.

Sarah leans forward and gives Ellie a hug.

SARAH

Take care of yourself.

Sarah ends the hug.

Edward extends a hand towards Ellie.

EDWARD

Do us proud.

Ellie gives him a hearty hand shake.

ELLIE

I will.

Ellie looks back to the van. Trent stands waiting. Kate watches with sad eyes but wears a smile. Ellie smiles to Edward and Sarah.

ELLIE

And I'll be sure to look after
them.

Ellie turns around and goes into the van. Trent steps in and secures the wheel chair in place. He comes back out and folds the ramp up. He closes the side door and faces Edward and Sarah.

TRENT

This will be like starting my life
all over again. Being a father was
something I always wanted, but
what's best now is to act more as a
guardian and a friend I think.

EDWARD

If it ever gets too difficult you
can ask Sarah for advice. She's
good at it.

SARAH

You'll do fine. They are great
kids. You have nothing to worry
about.

TRENT

You're probably right.

Trent gives a half turned smile.

TRENT

Take care, the both of you.

Trent walks around the front of the van and jumps in the driver's seat.

The van STARTS up.

Kate and Ellie wave as the van pulls out of the drive loop.

Edward and Sarah wave back as the van takes off down the street.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A nice two-story house sits in the middle of a nice fenced in yard. It has a large driveway that loops by the front door to a garage. Evergreen trees litter the yard.

The van is parked outside the front door of the house with it's rear doors open.

Trent leads Kate and Ellie to the door. He has two small boxes in his arms. Kate has her duffle bag on her shoulder and is carrying Ellie's poster tubes.

Trent places the boxes down and opens the door. He retrieves the boxes and they enter the house.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The house appears spacious from the moment they enter. The fair sized entrance leads straight to the kitchen in the back left of the house. A staircase along side the hall to the kitchen goes to the second floor.

To the left is a large living room. To the right is a room used as a study or den.

INT. HOUSE - STUDY - CONTINUOUS

Trent leads Kate and Ellie through the study to another room. In the study are boxes and furniture yet to be organized.

INT. HOUSE - ELLIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It is a large bedroom with a connected bathroom. Trent steps off to the side so the girls can enter. There is already a bed put together centered on the far wall.

TRENT

This will be your room Ellie. I was unable to find a place with easy access to a second floor so I hope this will be good for you.

ELLIE

This will do great.

TRENT

Why don't you take a look around down here Ellie and I'll show Kate her room?

Ellie nods agreement and moves towards the connected bathroom.

Trent leads Kate out of the room.

INT. HOUSE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door is open. It is a large bedroom. There is a bed put together against the wall with a bag of pillows on it. It has aged a bit judging by the wood frame. Varying sized boxes are stacked neatly along the wall.

The television and stand from the THIRD FLASHBACK are in the corner next to the window.

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - CONTINUOUS

Trent and Kate walk down the hallway to the right of the stairs. Trent stops outside the door on the left and motions for Kate to enter it.

INT. HOUSE - KATE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kate walks in slowly as she sees her things already there. Trent comes a step in through the doorway.

TRENT

This was everything left at the storage. If you want a hand moving anything just ask.

KATE

Thank you.

Kate walks over to the stacked boxes and drops her duffle bag.

TRENT

I'm going to finish bringing in Ellie's things.

Trent leaves the room.

Kate takes the top box off the stack and places it on the floor. She gets on her knees and removes the tape. She slowly opens the box revealing a folded blanket of sorts. Kate pulls it out and the folds fall apart.

Kate moves the blanket through her hands slowly. The star night pattern shifts to an angel riding on a crescent moon.

Kate engulfs the blanket in her arms and cuddles it. She closes her eyes and pushes her cheek against it.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A kitchen table stands evenly spaced between the kitchen island and the wall. Two pizza boxes lie half shut with a bottle of ginger ale half empty.

Seated at the table Kate, Ellie and Trent bite into the remains of their pizza crusts. Their glasses are almost empty.

Trent takes one bite from his crust and places it at the edge of his plate. He gets up and takes up the bottle of ginger ale. He fills each of their glasses and retakes his seat.

TRENT

I'll cook us a proper dinner tomorrow. Things were a little crazy today.

Kate stuffs the last of her crust into her mouth and chugs a bunch of her soda. She swallows most of it and gives out an unexpected BURP.

KATE

(still chewing)
Excuse me.

Trent LAUGHS.

TRENT

You have quite the appetite.

Kate swallows the last of it and finishes her soda. Ellie takes intermittent sips of hers as she fights to finish her last slice.

TRENT

It's been a long time since I've shared the dinner table with anyone.

Ellie puts down the last bit of her pizza.

ELLIE

Edward had said you were married once. Will you ever marry again?

TRENT

I've thought about it but while I worked at the hospital it was out of the question. I wouldn't mind marrying again though, assuming you girls are okay with it.

KATE

We have a place to call home thanks to you. All that's missing is a mother.

ELLIE

Whatever makes you happy.

Trent smiles.

TRENT

I should have expected no less from you two. Thank you.

He gets up and takes the plates to the sink. He closes up the pizza boxes.

TRENT

How are your rooms coming along?

Trent puts the boxes in the fridge.

ELLIE

Good. Kate helped me with most of it.

KATE

I still have a lot to unpack.

Trent retakes his seat at the table.

Kate fiddles with her glass a bit. She leaves it be and folds her hands into her lap.

(MORE)

KATE

Do you think it would be possible to visit my father's grave tomorrow?

TRENT

Sure. When did you want to go?

KATE

Any time in the afternoon is fine.

(pause)

Thank you.

INT. HOUSE - KATE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kate throws the star and moon blanket on her bed and straightens it out. She opens up the duffle bag and pulls out her pyjamas.

The blank letter envelope falls to the floor from within the pyjamas. Kate looks at it for a moment and then picks it up. She places her pyjamas by the pillow and lies down on the bed.

At first she lies facing the ceiling with the closed envelope held above her. She flips it over and rips open the flap with her pinky.

Kate rolls over onto her stomach and pulls the letter out. She discards the envelope on the floor and unfolds the letter.

PETER MORGAN (V.O.)

Kate. My eyes have finally been opened to what I neglected all these years. I let the loss of your mother consume me and I no longer knew what to do.

PETER MORGAN(cont'd)

It was only after your accident that I realized all that I forgot. That day I told the doctor to let you go I was running from that same responsibility I let go eight years ago.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Trent drives the van up to the door as Kate and Ellie come out of the house. Kate is dressed up in a long black skirt and light blue blouse.

PETER MORGAN (V.O.)

When the doctor told me what he did for you I knew I could never be that father again.

INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Kate pays for two dark red roses at the register.

PETER MORGAN (V.O.)

From that day I decided to do what I could to try and make things a little easier for you in the future.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

The graveyard sits on the top of a hill. It is surrounded by an iron bar fence and filled with large leafed trees. Many brick paths weave through the grave stones. The grass is trimmed short, the grave stones kept clean.

The graveyard is fairly large yet Kate, Ellie and Trent are the only ones there. They walk down the main path through the center of the graveyard. Kate holds the two roses gently in both hands.

PETER MORGAN (V.O.)

Every penny I could I put in a bank account for you. It is not my place to tell you what to do with this money, but I hope you will put it towards a good education.

They pass rows of large stones. Some have lists of names and years, others small phrases or just a name and date.

Kate leads them towards the back where the graveyard overlooks a stream.

PETER MORGAN (V.O.)

You deserved better. I do not expect your forgiveness but at least accept this as my apology.

A few rows in from the fence Kate stops and looks around. Her eyes fall to a spot that appears to have no grave. She walks off the path towards it.

PETER MORGAN (V.O.)

Good bye, Kate. I'm sorry.

Trent puts a hand on Ellie's shoulder. Ellie looks at him. Trent just stands watching Kate. Ellie returns her gaze to Kate and folds her hands on her lap.

Kate stops in the grass and looks down. To her right and left, a short distance apart, lie two memorial plaques.

To the right: 'Heather Alice Morgan, Born 1968, Deceased 2001'

To the left: 'Peter Donald Morgan, Born 1966, Deceased 2009'

Kate faces her mothers' grave and gets down on her knees. She takes one of the roses and places it across the plaque. She looks back towards Ellie and Trent and forces a smile. She looks back at her mothers' grave.

KATE

I'm happy I could visit you at
 (MORE)
 least once this summer, mother.
 Summer just isn't the same without
 you. Days at the park, trips to
 the beach... I've missed them all.
 I have something else to be happy
 about too.

Kate looks back towards Trent and Ellie again.

KATE

Ellie and Trent are going to be my
 new family so you don't have to
 worry so much. I will be well
 taken care of and in return I want
 to show them the same care that you
 did for me in the short years we
 had.

Kate lightly touches the grave plaque with her finger tips.

KATE

I promise to make you proud.

Slowly Kate pulls her hand away. She swivels on her legs to
 face her fathers' grave. She looks at the rose in her hands.

Kate fights back a few tears.

KATE

Mom's death was hard on both of us
 wasn't it? Things didn't go so
 well since that day. I don't blame
 you for anything but I wish I could
 just forget what you became. For
 those years I didn't consider you
 my father.

(pause)

However, now that you are gone I
 wish to call you my dad once more.

KATE(cont'd)

Despite everything you tried to do
something for me at the very end
and I'm glad.

Kate is no longer able to hold back her tears.

KATE

Now you are with mom again and can
take care of each other as you used
to. I'll smile for you both... But
not today. Today I get to miss you
both with all my heart.

Kate's eyes are clouded and her face wet as the tears pour
out.

Kate leans forward with the rose held in both hands. She
leans forward tears dripping from her cheeks. Her hands hit
the grave plaque. She struggles to let go of the rose.

KATE

(crying whisper)

I forgive you.

Her hands loosen their grip on the rose. She cries on all
four limbs above the grave.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The red-gold sun of early evening shines through wisps of
high clouds. The clouds go from orange by the sun to a dark
grey in the distance. There are streaks of a distant rain
fall in the mountains.

The van containing Trent, Kate and Ellie rolls down a
familiar street. The van approaches the intersection where
Kate was hit on her bicycle.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

Kate looks at the intersection as they approach.

Her gaze turns to the side street to the left as they pass through the intersection.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The van rounds the corner beyond the buildings.

INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

The abandoned industrial park becomes visible ahead to the right.

A large billboard now stands on the corner of the lot advertising a new condominium development.

Kate points towards the entrance ahead.

KATE

This is it.

Trent starts to slow the minivan.

EXT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL PARK - CONTINUOUS

The van slows to a halt a few parking spots into the lot.

Kate hops out enthusiastically and opens the side door. She folds out the ramp. Trent waits by the front bumper of the van as Ellie descends the ramp.

Kate waits while Ellie gets off of the ramp.

She folds up the ramp and closes the door.

Trent looks towards the lake.

TRENT

I have a memory of this place.
Although I don't know why it comes
to me all of a sudden.

ELLIE

Was it a happy one?

TRENT

Not really, but not sad either. It was over thirty years ago now. Edward and I were eleven or twelve. We were cutting through the parking lot and came across a puppy tied to the fence.

Trent points to the end of the fence that's now fallen apart.

TRENT

It was a friendly little thing and we didn't know if it had an owner. The leash was nothing but a loosely tied rope. Finally we decided to take it so I started to untie the rope. Before I could get the knot undone another boy showed up. He was a few years younger than us and begged us to give it back to him. He said that his parents gave it to him for a birthday present and he'd never be able to forgive himself if anything happened to it. I handed the leash back to him and he ran off. We never saw him again.

The three start walking down the parking lot. The wind kicks up in gusts as they move further away from the van. Kate takes hold of Ellie's hand.

Trent looks down the line of buildings. Doors are boarded over with plywood; windows cracked and shattered; bricks eroded and holes in the walls. From the roofs protrude mid-century chimneys.

KATE

This was my favorite place. This empty space somehow lifted my loneliness.

Kate leads them to the fence. They look out over the lake towards the bridge.

KATE

My father was severely depressed after my mother died. He got demoted again and again yet the company kept him on because of his past successes. After that it was one fall after another. At first it was the drinking, and then gambling. I can't remember when he began to take his frustration out on me. He fell into a deep pit that had no ladder to escape. In a way I fell down as well. I secluded myself and threw away my friends.

Kate looks over to Ellie and Trent beside her.

KATE

However my path doesn't end at the bottom. I can climb back up. I'm not alone anymore.

TRENT

None of us are.

The three remain standing by the fence a moment longer.

They turn and head back towards the van.

FADE OUT:

THE END