

MR. LINNEY (VER. 3)

by

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MR. LINNEY (VER. 3)

INT. A BATHROOM (I) - DAY

We open on an empty bathroom mirror. We hear someone washing their face. A man, 40s, not very well shaven, red eyes, receding hairline, comes up to check himself in the mirror. It's LUKE LINNEY. He takes a towel and wipes his face down.

A ping from his phone. He picks up his phone and texts back. We see snippets only. "Can't wait to make tonight special <3". He puts his phone down and looks at the mirror. He allows himself a smile.

INT. A HOUSE - BATHROOM DOOR - DAY

A flush. Someone washes their hands. The door opens. Out walks a young woman, 18, tall and lanky, like she's about to fall over, and short hair with a serious face. This is ANDI JENSTEIN. A ping on her phone. ANDI looks at it and grins.

She pockets her phone and walks downstairs, sidestepping a bunch of trash and strewn out food wrappers.

A voice calls out. It's ANDI's mom.

ANDI'S MOM (V.O.)  
You still owe me, you little cunt!

ANDI flips the bird and leaves the house.

EXT. A SIDEWALK - DAY

ANDI walks and turns the corner, revealing the school in the distance. Hold on this for a while, revealing all the students arriving. Then...

INT. LUKE'S BATHROOM - DAY

A woman walks in. LUKE's wife JEN. He quickly flips his phone over as JEN walks to the toilet and sits down. She smiles. He smiles. A trickle of pee. LUKE looks in the mirror again, exhaling. Zoom in on his eyes, the trickling pee growing louder until...

TITLE: "MR. LINNEY"

"I"

INT. LUKE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

A loud classroom. ANDI is loudly chatting away with her best friend HARRY WU. LUKE's daughter BILLIE LINNEY is distracted on her phone. MACY LEE, a shy Korean girl, is staring forward. LUKE is desperately trying to seek order. As we zoom in on him, he eventually yells to get attention.

LUKE  
Everyone!

Some of the commotion dies down. ANDI and HARRY keep talking. BILLIE, feet up on her desk, clearly doesn't care.

LUKE  
Billie, feet down, phone away.

BILLIE glances at LUKE.

BILLIE  
What are you gonna do, ground me?  
In class?

Light laughter.

LUKE  
How about I stop paying your phone  
bill?

Some oohs. BILLIE rolls her eyes and takes her feet off the desk and puts her phone down. LUKE walks around the class, hands in pocket. MACY keeps her head down. ANDI and HARRY keep talking until LUKE appears near them. LUKE places a hand on her shoulder. ANDI freezes.

HARRY  
Sorry, Mr. Linney.

LUKE nods and walks back to the front of the class. ANDI is blushing.

LUKE  
Can anyone tell me what the  
significance of the broken pickle  
dish was?

Silence.

LUKE  
Did anyone read the chapter?

LUKE looks around. Most people are either looking away or shaking their heads.

LUKE  
Does anyone know what chapter was assigned?

A buzz in his phone. He touches his phone and silences it.

LUKE  
It was 7. Let's read it together.  
Macy, how about you start?

MACY nods, head low, and takes out the book. She flips to the chapter and begins to read.

MACY  
(quiet)  
"Ethan went out into the passage to hang up his wet garments."

LUKE  
Louder, sweetie.

ANDI raises her hand.

ANDI  
Mr. Linney, I'll read. I can read louder.

MACY looks relieved. LUKE turns his attention to ANDI.

LUKE  
Okay, Andi. Go ahead.

ANDI clears her throat.

ANDI  
"Ethan went out into the passage to hang up his wet garments. He listened for Zeena's step and, not hearing it, called her name up the stairs."

Another buzz on his phone. He touches his phone to silence it again.

HARRY  
Hey, Mr. Linney, who's texting you? Your secret girlfriend?

Snickers in the classroom. ANDI leans over to HARRY and kicks him.

HARRY  
Ow! What did I do?

ANDI  
You idiot! Mr. Linney is married.  
He wouldn't do that.

The class begins to deliberate. LUKE and ANDI stare at each other. He shakes his head while she just shrugs. LUKE then raises a hand to get everyone's attention.

LUKE  
Everyone!  
(claps his hands)  
Everyone! This is wildly  
inappropriate. Please, Andi...

A knock on the door. LUKE grunts in frustration and walks over to see who it is. It's another lady, a thin brunette with very soft and kind features. She waves meekly. It's TRACY.

LUKE  
(points to ANDI)  
Andi, hold that spot. I'll be  
right back.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

The whole class is in an uproar as LUKE steps out. TRACY raises an eyebrow and peeks into the loud class.

TRACY  
Good start to the day.

LUKE  
What's up?

TRACY  
I was just wondering if you're  
going to homecoming tonight.

LUKE  
We're helping set up, Trace. You  
know that.

TRACY  
Can I hitch a ride with you and  
Jen?

LUKE  
Can you...  
(he grunts)  
... you pulled me out of class to  
ask me that?

TRACY shrugs.

TRACY  
It's a slow day. I don't have much  
to prep.

LUKE shooes her.

LUKE  
All right, all right, I'll pick  
you up at your house at 5:30.  
(a beat)  
Jen's not coming tonight.

TRACY nods.

TRACY  
Okay.

LUKE  
Just Billie.

TRACY  
Okay. Thanks.

TRACY nods and saunters away, like a penguin. LUKE shakes his head and looks back into the classroom. Mayhem. He holds his breath.

INT. LUKE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

LUKE walks back in. Some wolf whistles. A blonde boy pounds the table and stands up as if to make an announcement. This is JOEY.

JOEY  
(yells into the  
air)  
Mr. Linney's got a date!

The class laughs. LUKE waves them off as he walks to his desk. BILLIE looks down at her desk in embarrassment.

HARRY  
Mrs. Capuano and Mr. Linney,  
sitting in a tree...

ANDI steps on HARRY's foot.

ANDI  
Shut \*up\*, Harry! He's not like  
that!

MACY  
Maybe he's in an open  
relationship.

The class turns to MACY and oohs and ahs. BILLIE gets up and steps outside, visibly gagging. LUKE tries to stop her but BILLIE pushes her out of the way. LUKE then turns to the rest of the class in chaos and takes a breath. He then turns to face the chalkboard and taps it loudly.

LUKE  
Listen up!

It quiets down.

LUKE  
This class isn't about me. This  
class is about you. It's about  
Ethan. And that pickle dish.  
(a beat)  
So focus up. Or I'll fail every  
single one of you.

Now it's quiet. LUKE smiles. The bell rings.

INT. HALLWAY - LUNCH TIME - AFTERNOON

ANDI is walking down the hallway into a crowded lunchroom, accompanied by HARRY. They walk up to the lunch line and ANDI and HARRY cut to the front, much to the cries of a freshman behind them. ANDI turns back and jeers. The freshman folds his arms, upset.

ANDI  
Did Macy say yes?

HARRY grins. He nods.

ANDI  
Nice.  
(she slaps him on  
the shoulder)  
You wore her down.

HARRY  
With my charm.

ANDI  
(a huff)  
What charm? You?

HARRY

I got plenty of charm. Girls like  
you don't appreciate the nice guys  
like me.

ANDI and HARRY step forward. ANDI steps in front of HARRY first.

ANDI

Nothing to appreciate, bro.

HARRY rolls his eyes and turns around to the freshman. He mouths "sorry."

ANDI

She's probably desperate since  
it's day off.

ANDI and HARRY make their way through the lunch line as ANDI grabs a bunch of snacks while HARRY is more meticulous picking real food items.

HARRY

Maybe.

(a beat)

Anyway, what about you? Any unlucky guy get a chance with Andi Jenstein tonight?

ANDI

Oh, fuck you.

(a beat)

But yes, I do.

They reach the cashier. ANDI gestures from HARRY to the lady. HARRY pulls his credit card out and pays for both of them. ANDI smiles and pinches HARRY.

ANDI

(she winks)

You'll see tonight.

ANDI pockets her snacks and walks away as HARRY is left alone in the bustle of the cafeteria.

HARRY

You won't even tell me? Your best...

ANDI has left the lunchroom.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

ANDI is chewing on gum as she rounds a corner and peeks over. She sees LUKE talking to TRACY. As she inches closer, a carbon copy of HARRY, but shorter and a girl, appears. It's HARRIET, HARRY's twin sister. ANDI jumps.

HARRIET

Hi.

ANDI

Oh, what the...  
(she shooes  
HARRIET)  
... go away.

HARRIET

Why aren't you with my brother?  
Aren't you two best friends?

ANDI ignores her and keeps on spying on LUKE and TRACY. HARRIET pushes in from the edge of the frame again.

HARRIET

(glancing between  
her and LUKE)

That's a little inappropriate,  
don't you think?

ANDI

I'm gonna inappropriate your face  
if you don't leave.

HARRIET shakes her head.

HARRIET

Harry deserves better than you.

HARRIET leaves. We begin to eavesdrop on LUKE and TRACY's conversation.

LUKE

(quiet)

That was very inappropriate,  
Trace.

TRACY

I think I may have saved you. Your  
class looked a little out of hand.

LUKE

My kids. Not yours. My  
responsibility.

TRACY shrugs, a meek grin on her face.

TRACY  
All right then.

LUKE grimaces, miffed, and walks to the teacher lounge. TRACY notices where he's going and follows. ANDI steps back and out of sight. When LUKE gets to the lounge door and notices TRACY is following, he sighs. He reaches the door and ushers TRACY in first.

TRACY  
What a gentleman.

INT. LOUNGE - AFTERNOON

LUKE sits by himself at a long table, looking rather pathetic, as he's furiously texting someone, a childish look on his face. TRACY walks up and sits down across from him. LUKE gives an acknowledging glance. She sips her coffee while LUKE and her swap awkward smiles.

TRACY  
How's Jen?

LUKE drops his phone, flipping it over.

LUKE  
I'm tired.

TRACY  
Just checking in.

LUKE  
She's great.

TRACY leans forward, an eager look on her face.

TRACY  
Did I tell you about Josh?

LUKE leans his head on his arm, plopping down onto the table.

LUKE  
(muffled)  
No.

TRACY  
He's a nice guy, but he's a little clingy. Texts me all the time, can barely get in a word, and...

LUKE keeps his head buried, but he feels other teachers eavesdropping. TRACY's voice becomes muffled as she drones

on. Suddenly...

He stands up, backs away from the table, and smiles. Now he knows everyone is looking. TRACY, still oblivious, looks up and returns the smile.

TRACY

Am I boring you? I'm sorry.

LUKE maintains his composure and walks to the door. Before his hand reaches the handle, he hears a throat clear.

He turns to see PRINCIPAL MARTHA BLACKWOOD, a rather short woman of portly stature. Everyone freezes. Folder in hand, she gestures him over to a quiet corner. LUKE obeys. Once they're in private...

MARTHA

Mr. Linney.

LUKE

Martha.

MARTHA

I see Tracy has filled you in on  
her love life.

(a mild snicker)

I expect you two will do a good  
job running the show tonight.

LUKE leans on the wall, rubbing his forehead.

LUKE

Why did you put us ...

MARTHA shushes him, finger to his lips.

MARTHA

Not another word, Mr. Linney.

LUKE, confused, watches MARTHA lower her finger. She then taps his shoulder with the folder.

MARTHA

Those Regents results.

LUKE

What do you want me to do about  
it? My kids won't even pick up the  
book. My own daughter won't!

MARTHA  
Make them. I expect better next  
year.

MARTHA hands LUKE the folder. He looks and immediately grimaces.

LUKE  
Goddamn.

MARTHA  
I'm counting on you tonight, Luke.

MARTHA grins and walks away, her heels clicking loudly. LUKE watches her leave, eyebrows raised.

EXT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

ANDI watches MARTHA leave the lounge. She hides. LUKE walks out next. When he spots her, she pretends to be on her phone.

LUKE  
Andi.

ANDI looks up.

ANDI  
Hi, Mr. Linney.

LUKE smiles. ANDI smiles back, feeling her face flush red. LUKE keeps walking. ANDI recomposes herself and goes back to her phone. She looks back at the lounge door.

Soon, TRACY leaves. ANDI follows her. When they're isolated, she calls her name.

ANDI  
Hey, Tracy.

TRACY jumps. She turns around and sees ANDI. She shakes her head and backs away.

TRACY  
I don't owe you anything.

ANDI steps forward and corners her in a dark area of the hallway.

ANDI  
Oh come on, teach, don't be like  
that.

TRACY  
What do you want?

ANDI  
Not much. Just a little intel.

TRACY glances back and forth.

TRACY  
You know, extortion is wrong.

ANDI cackles.

ANDI  
I have nothing to lose. You, on  
the other hand...

ANDI smiles mischievously.

ANDI  
I'm sure Principal Blackwood would  
love to hear about Damien and...

TRACY shushes her by covering ANDI's mouth completely. ANDI is still grinning. TRACY releases her palm and then straightens herself. Beads of sweat roll down her side as she pretends to regain composure.

TRACY  
This is neither the time nor  
place, Andi.

ANDI drops the smile and begins to walk away.

TRACY  
Wait!

ANDI stops.

TRACY  
One question only.

ANDI smiles again, knowing she's in control.

ANDI  
Is Mr. Linney coming alone  
tonight?

TRACY  
Yes.

ANDI  
And you \*are\* going with him, like  
we talked about?

TRACY  
You said one...

ANDI turns around, glaring.

TRACY  
(looks down)  
Yes.

ANDI  
Good. You'll give me updates.

ANDI turns to leave. She looks determined, confident, as she walks away.

TRACY (V.O.)  
What do you want from this, Andi?

ANDI  
(without  
hesitation)  
Him.  
(a beat)  
See you in calc.

ANDI turns the corner down a long stretch of hallway as students pile out of the lunchroom when the bell rings. She passes by LUKE's classroom and sees LUKE through the window, berating BILLIE. She eavesdrops.

INT. LUKE'S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

LUKE  
You think that shit's funny, huh?

BILLIE  
I don't think it's funny. I think it's fucking embarrassing, Dad.

LUKE  
You're not helping. Okay? How am I supposed to have \*authority\* if you're just sitting there, laughing, walking out, when they're mocking your mother?

BILLIE steps back, incredulous.

BILLIE  
Oh, my God, Dad. Are you listening  
to yourself?

A pause. LUKE waits for a response.

BILLIE  
You're the one "mocking" her. Who  
the fuck are you texting, huh? Is  
it a student? I bet it's a  
student. Give me your phone.

BILLIE tries to grab his phone on his desk. LUKE swiftly  
takes it away.

LUKE  
That's none of your goddamn  
business, Billie.

BILLIE  
If you want us to take you  
seriously, get your shit together.

BILLIE shakes her head and grabs her bag.

LUKE  
I \*AM\* getting my shit together.

BILLIE laughs.

BILLIE  
I feel sorry for you.

LUKE  
Do your fucking reading, Billie.

BILLIE  
(rolling her eyes)  
It's Homecoming.

EXT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

ANDI realizes BILLIE is about to walk out and hides. Once  
BILLIE is gone, ANDI walks back to LUKE's classroom and  
checks inside. LUKE is burying his face on his desk. He then  
lets out a yell as we zoom in on him...

INT. LUKE'S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

... and zoom out on LUKE, standing ghostfaced as his next  
English class is also not listening, talking incessantly. He  
looks around the room. People we don't recognize, besides  
HARRIET, who stares attentively. For a second LUKE and

HARRIET lock eyes. HARRIET offers no solace, neither here nor there, just existing.

LUKE talks but his voice is drowned out. He points to HARRIET to read. HARRIET reads, quite loudly, but her voice is still drowned out by the rambles of other students. When HARRIET finishes reading, she looks up, awaiting acknowledgement. LUKE nods.

LUKE takes a seat as we zoom in on him. The voices in the class die down and he then hears other voices. His wife JEN, his daughter BILLIE, TRACY, MARTHA, MACY, ANDI, and as they swirl around his head, he then raises his hand. HARRIET looks confused, but no one else is paying attention. He then stands up and walks outside. It dies down a little.

EXT. LUKE'S CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

LUKE steps outside, the noise from the classroom inching through. His phone buzzes in succession. He leans against the door and slides down to sit on the floor. He checks his phone. And then, we only hear his heartbeat. He reads, and he's in a happy place. He doesn't even notice the students peeking through the window, pointing, laughing. But it doesn't matter to LUKE. As he reads, he becomes happier.

HARRIET walks outside. She bends down, offers a tissue, and walks back inside. Slowly, but surely, LUKE's heartbeat fades, and the kids grow louder. The jeers, the yells, and the laughter. CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY (II) - AFTERNOON

ANDI and HARRY and sitting besides each other at respective computer terminals.

"II"

HARRY leans over.

HARRY  
Hey, can I ask you something?

ANDI  
What have you done for me  
recently?

HARRY  
Uh, everything.  
(he exhales)  
Seriously?

ANDI slaps him on the shoulder.

ANDI  
I'm kidding. What's up?

HARRY  
Why isn't Macy talking to me?

ANDI  
Macy? Not talking? I don't know  
what this world's come to.

HARRY grumbles. ANDI just shrugs.

ANDI  
She barely speaks. What do you  
expect?

HARRY  
She's my date. Shouldn't we be,  
you know, talking?

ANDI thinks, then just shrugs.

ANDI  
There's still time. I don't  
know... just...  
(a beat)  
... be patient. Listen.

HARRY  
(shrugs)  
All right.

HARRY retreats to his computer. We focus on ANDI. Suddenly, she leans over to him.

ANDI  
Women like listeners.

HARRY  
I can do that. But I also want  
someone to listen to me, too.  
That's important in a  
relationship.

ANDI lightly bumps HARRY on the shoulder.

ANDI  
And you'll find that girl. I  
believe in you.

ANDI goes back to her computer as we focus on HARRY. Hold on HARRY, whose face is a bit hard to read as he processes many emotions. Suddenly, to the right, we see HARRIET walk in.

HARRIET  
(to HARRY)  
Sup.

HARRY swiftly gets up from his chair and grabs HARRIET, putting her into a headlock.

HARRY  
Yeodongsaeng!  
(he speaks in  
Korean)

HARRIET, like a feral animal, writhes free and pushes him away, spouting some Korean.

HARRIET  
Oppa! You know I hate it when you  
do that!

HARRY shushes her.

HARRY  
Keep it down, sis. This is a  
library.

HARRIET flips him off and walks away.

HARRIET  
(muttering)  
Asshole.

HARRY, very happy with himself, sits back down and goes back to browsing the computer. ANDI looks on, amused.

HARRY  
She can handle it.

ANDI spots BILLIE leaving the library. She gathers her stuff and says bye to HARRY. In the stairwell, ANDI looks down as BILLIE is about to leave.

ANDI  
Hey.

BILLIE looks up to see ANDI. She looks disinterested.

BILLIE  
Hey.

ANDI  
You shouldn't talk to your Dad  
like that.

BILLIE ignores her and keeps walking. ANDI follows her to the bathroom.

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Some girls leave. BILLIE walks to the mirror and checks herself. ANDI remains by the entrance.

ANDI  
I'm serious.

BILLIE  
Are you stalking me?  
(she glances over)  
Weirdo. Why do you even care?

ANDI  
He's a good man. He's just...  
overwhelmed. He needs someone to  
listen to him.

BILLIE takes out lipstick and applies it.

BILLIE  
"Good" is a stretch, Andi.

ANDI  
Everyone has their off days.  
That's when he needs...  
(she begins to  
daydream)  
... he needs someone to just  
understand. And be there.  
(she refocuses)  
You're his family. You can do  
that.

BILLIE plays with her lips and pockets the lipstick. She then turns to ANDI and shrugs.

BILLIE  
I don't know what sort of kissing  
ass technique this is, but it's  
not working. Better off just ...

BILLIE pauses. She raises her eyebrows and glances at ANDI up and down.

BILLIE  
(mutters under her  
breath)  
Oh my God...

BILLIE steps towards ANDI, narrowing her eyes.

BILLIE  
It's not you, is it?

ANDI  
I don't know what you're talking  
about.

BILLIE shakes her head and walks past ANDI out the door. ANDI watches her leave in the empty bathroom corridor when her phone buzzes. She texts furiously, a smile on her face.

INT. LOUNGE - AFTERNOON

The texting flurry echoes as we focus on LUKE, who's texting as well. Everything around him is muted as he's singularly focused. He seems happy, giddy, and has a boyish look. He doesn't notice the eyes on him, no doubt from the incident outside his classroom earlier.

Someone walks in. Audio returns. We turn to see MARTHA, followed by TRACY, enter the lounge. TRACY spots LUKE and walks over. MARTHA makes herself coffee.

MARTHA  
How's everyone doing today?

Mild affirmations. MARTHA looks at LUKE, who shrugs. MARTHA grins.

MARTHA  
Day's almost over. Chin up.  
(a pat on the  
table)  
You got this.

TRACY sits besides him. She sighs and begins to unload on him, but her voice fades. We zoom in on LUKE, who's texting again, that passion in his eyes, and once again sound fades. As we zoom in further, TRACY's voice begins to cut through.

TRACY  
Luke? Luke?

Audio returns. LUKE drops his phone flat and turns it over. He plays with it. He looks to TRACY and gives a faint smile.

LUKE  
I'm sorry to hear that.

TRACY  
Who are you texting? Is it Jen?

Before LUKE can even put in a word, TRACY cuts in again.

TRACY  
I wish I could be happy texting  
Josh. But he's so needy. He makes  
me feel bad about wanting some  
space.

(a beat)  
You understand that, right? I'm  
sure that Jen gives you space.

LUKE  
(dismissive)  
Yeah. Sure.

TRACY  
(smiles)  
You see, I wish I had that. I wish  
I had it as good as you and Jen  
and Billie and I wouldn't have  
to...

Something snaps.

LUKE  
(pounds his fist)  
No, you don't wish that, Trace!  
You don't know anything!

Dead silence. Everyone stares.

LUKE  
You...  
(voice breaks)  
... you don't know shit, Trace.

TRACY maintains her composure well. She stands up, steely faced, and turns around to leave the lounge. Some teachers follow, where outside she begins to sob quietly. Commotion in the lounge as some teachers shake their head and some outright berate him. MARTHA's grin is gone.

MARTHA  
My office, Mr. Linney.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

LUKE paces around. MARTHA is seated, posture perfect at her desk.

LUKE  
Just punish me.  
(a beat)  
You know I'll like it.

MARTHA  
You know I can't do that.

LUKE  
Then take me off chauffeuring  
duties tonight!

MARTHA  
That's not what it is.

LUKE groans in frustration.

LUKE  
That's what it feels like.

MARTHA  
You and Tracy are important to  
keep things running tonight.  
(she stands)  
Do I make myself clear?

LUKE shakes his head, looking out the window.

MARTHA (V.O.)  
Will you be busy with something  
else tonight? Something I should  
know about, perhaps?

LUKE turns around. He raises his eyebrow and walks back to  
face MARTHA.

LUKE  
I'll take care of things.

They lean in close, as though to kiss, but LUKE pulls away.  
He heads to the door.

MARTHA  
Jen can't make it tonight?

LUKE  
She's busy.

MARTHA nods.

MARTHA  
No more dramatic breakdowns  
outside your classroom. Got it?

LUKE ignores her and walks out. Just as he leaves, ANDI walks by.

MARTHA  
Andi!

ANDI stops and turns to see MARTHA.

ANDI  
Yes, Ms. Blackwood.

MARTHA  
Come in.

ANDI walks in and closes the door. She takes a seat.

MARTHA  
How are you, Andi?

ANDI shrugs.

ANDI  
Fine.

MARTHA  
How's your mother?

ANDI  
Still a cunt.

MARTHA  
Andrea! Watch your language.

ANDI  
I got it from her.

MARTHA folds her hands on the desk. ANDI is jittery.

MARTHA  
Are you okay? You seem anxious.

ANDI  
I'm just looking forward to  
Homecoming tonight.

MARTHA smiles, nodding.

MARTHA

Good. The committee and Mr. Linney and Mrs. Capuano are doing a great job planning it.

ANDI

It's going to be a special night.

MARTHA

Andi...

(leans in)

... you're a bright young woman.

ANDI

Thanks, Ms. Blackwood.

MARTHA

But I've seen your grades slip.

(taps her finger  
on the table)

It matters now when you're  
applying to college. I know you  
can do it.

ANDI rolls her eyes and leans back. She locks her fingers behind her head and stares at the ceiling.

MARTHA (V.O.)

Have you thought about where you  
want to apply?

Focus on ANDI. She's staring at the rotating fan, spinning in circles and she's in a trance until MARTHA repeats her name.

MARTHA (V.O.)

(snaps her fingers)

Andrea.

ANDI whips her head down and locks eyes with MARTHA.

ANDI

Mom can't afford shit.

(ANDI rolls her  
eyes)

She's too busy with men to care  
about college.

MARTHA

Have you thought about financial  
aid?

ANDI stands abruptly. MARTHA dutifully stands as well. ANDI heads to the door.

ANDI  
Ms. B, who needs college when you  
can have a teach...  
(ANDI catches  
herself)  
... a man provide for you? You  
don't even need a Dad.  
(she mutters under  
her breath)  
Who needs them, anyway?

MARTHA nods, simply listening. She walks ANDI to the door.

MARTHA  
Andi, let's talk again soon. Have  
a good day.

EXT. HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

ANDI walks out of the PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE and takes a sigh of relief. She shakes it off. She checks her phone and grumbles.

ANDI walks by herself. She says hello to some friends, and they greet her warmly. When she leaves, it's like they forget her. As we focus on ANDI, we get the sense that she doesn't quite fit in here, that she's barely hanging on...

ANDI bumps into someone. It's MACY. She doesn't say a word, head down.

ANDI  
Sorry, Macy.

MACY nods and walks past her. We hold on ANDI. She closes her eyes and then says:

ANDI  
Macy!

ANDI turns around. She sees MACY stop. ANDI walks over.

ANDI  
I'm sorry.

MACY  
It's okay.

ANDI spreads her arms out, smiling.

ANDI  
She speaks!

MACY nods. ANDI lowers her arms, settling them on her hips.

ANDI  
I'm also sorry that I stole your  
thunder in English today.

MACY  
It's okay.

ANDI  
(a chuckle)  
I mean... no one even did the  
reading, anyway.

MACY  
I did.

ANDI  
Right. Of course you did.

MACY is restless, indicating that she's itching to go. ANDI notices MACY's sunflower dress.

ANDI  
You looks really pretty today!

MACY  
(a smile)  
Thanks!

An awkward pause. They both nod politely. MACY inches away, trying to leave.

ANDI  
Okay, see you in Calc!

MACY takes that as a sign to go and walks away. We hold on ANDI staring down the hallway, not quite sure what to make of MACY. She notices her make a wrong turn. ANDI, suspicious, follows her and sees her walking instead towards LUKE's room. She wants to inspect but HARRY pops into frame, just like his sister HARRIET.

HARRY  
You after my girl?

ANDI snickers.

ANDI  
We're best friends now. You better  
watch out.

ANDI and HARRY walk out of frame, and CUT TO:

EXT. BUILDING - AFTERNOON

The bell rings. People begin to file out immediately. We slowly zoom out and we reveal a car, where LUKE is already sitting there. Suddenly, LUKE yells into the ether in his car, but we hear nothing as it's drowned out by the chaos of the end of the day. He hits the wheel a few times. He breathes. He closes his eyes. He then starts the engine and drives away.

As we keep zooming out, we see ANDI and HARRY walk into frame from the left.

ANDI  
Go find Macy.

HARRY  
I should walk her home or  
something, right?  
(ANDI shrugs)  
Oh, did you hear what happened to  
Mr. Linney?

ANDI furrows her brow. It had escaped her.

HARRY  
Apparently, he had a nervous  
breakdown in 4th period. Harriet  
showed me a video. He was all...

HARRY mimes crying with exaggerated hands. ANDI slaps him on top of his head.

ANDI  
Being a teacher is hard! He just  
needs someone to listen to him.

HARRY  
Okay, okay. Jeez. Looks like  
someone's in love.

HARRY pulls his phone out and texts MACY. We hold on ANDI, thinking about something. We zoom in, see her inner conflict, and then...

ANDI  
It's him.

HARRY pops his head up from his phone.

HARRY

Hm?

ANDI

Earlier, you asked about my date.

HARRY

(confused)

Right.

ANDI raises her eyebrows. HARRY doesn't get it. ANDI facepalms.

ANDI

You dolt. He's my date.

HARRY

Mr. Linney?

ANDI shushes him and pulls him aside to a more isolated spot.

HARRY

(laughing it off)

Okay, sure. That's gross, though.

ANDI tries to push HARRY out of frustration, but HARRY dodges, and ANDI almost ends up in a bush. ANDI loses balance but HARRY grabs her.

ANDI

I won't tell you anything ever again.

ANDI is upset. HARRY realizes she's being serious and takes her more seriously.

HARRY

No, you can tell me things. We trust each other.

ANDI settles down. She nods. She's vulnerable now.

HARRY

Because you loooooove me.

ANDI

This is serious!

HARRY points one finger up. He paces around, thinking, making weird faces, while ANDI looks on, concerned.

HARRY

One: he's married. Two, he's 30  
years older than you. Three,  
it's...

(a beat)

... illegal?

ANDI

I'm 18.

HARRY

That's still not right, Andi. Come  
on.

ANDI

He gets me.

HARRY

Does he? Because he's kind of an  
asshole.

ANDI grows more frustrated.

ANDI

How would you know? You don't know  
anything about him. If you did,  
you wouldn't think that.

HARRY stops pacing, exhaling, shaking his head.

HARRY

I know he's a horrible English  
teacher, he yells and freaks out a  
lot, probably has a loveless  
marriage, and has a daughter who  
despises him.

ANDI

Why don't you just try to listen  
instead of dismissing me? I'm  
telling you because you're my best  
friend!

HARRY

(bursts out)

What do you want me to say?!

ANDI is taken back. Some students look, but when HARRY  
notices this, he calms himself.

HARRY

(quieter)

What do you want me to say, Andi?  
What do you think is gonna happen?

ANDI

I'm gonna make it official  
tonight. It's gonna happen.

HARRY can't help but laugh. ANDI is unphased.

ANDI

Forget you.

ANDI shakes her head and turns to go.

HARRY

Just go. You don't care about  
anyone other than yourself,  
anyway.

(a beat; ANDI  
stops)

You only told me to make yourself  
feel better, and when you didn't  
get the reaction you wanted, you  
got pissy.

ANDI swiftly turns around.

ANDI

How do you think it feels when you  
tell your friend something, and he  
just laughs in your face?

HARRY

How do you think it feels when  
your best friend doesn't pick you  
but picks their gross, balding, 48  
year old English teacher?

ANDI folds her arms, a smirk. HARRY doesn't find this  
amusing.

HARRY

Feels pretty fucking bad!

ANDI

You're jealous.

HARRY

No. I'm disgusted.

ANDI

Harry.

(she steps forward)

You have to move on. You have

Macy. Get over it. Get over me.

Okay? We're friends. Just friends.

(a beat; she

grunts)

I'm never fucking telling you  
anything again.

HARRY contemplates. He nods and steps away without a word. ANDI watches him go. She turns and sees HARRIET chewing gum, watching from a distance.

ANDI

Why do you care? He treats you  
like shit.

HARRIET shakes her head and leaves. Focus on ANDI. She looks pleased with herself at first. But soon, it turns dour.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM (III) - AFTERNOON

A quaint living room. Nothing fancy. LUKE walks in and drops his coat on the couch. He paces around aimlessly, checking his phone. He texts and then puts his phone away.

"III"

He sits on a chair. He leans back, rubbing his forehead, and lets out a huge exhale. A chuckle. He leans back some more. We slowly zoom in on LUKE. He keeps checking his phone and smiling.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

LUKE walks in and sees JEN sleeping. He walks out and closes the door, but JEN mumbles something. LUKE notices JEN's phone sitting right besides her. She had been texting BILLIE.

LUKE

Hey.

JEN

(yawning)

Hey.

JEN sits up, rubbing her eyes.

JEN  
Long shift today.  
(she checks her  
phone)  
You're back early.

LUKE  
Couldn't wait to get out.

JEN  
I can tell. You forgot to give  
Billie a ride.

LUKE facepalms.

LUKE  
Shit.

LUKE turns to leave.

JEN  
Don't bother. A friend's dropping  
her off.

LUKE  
Ah.

JEN  
Have fun without me tonight.

LUKE pauses. He then goes back to bed and takes a seat next to JEN.

LUKE  
Jen. You know it's teachers only.  
You're gonna be so sleepy after  
last night's shift, anyway.

JEN  
(a sharp sigh)  
Right.

LUKE offers a firm but lifeless smile, and stands up. He gets a text on his phone but he silences it.

JEN  
Busy man.

LUKE  
(rolls eyes)  
Tell me about it. Martha wants me  
and Tracy to run things tonight.  
Me and Tracy! Imagine that.

An awkward silence. LUKE and JEN are just existing together, barely having a conversation.

JEN  
Imagine that.

LUKE  
I'm gonna take a shower.

JEN  
Luke...  
(a beat)  
... if there's anything you need  
to talk about, please just tell  
me. We can work it out.

LUKE nods facetiously. He thinks about it.

LUKE  
No. Nothing comes to mind.

A lump in JEN's throat.

JEN  
Okay...

We follow LUKE walk away. In the background, we hear JEN quietly sobbing. This doesn't phase LUKE, for now.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

LUKE walks in and closes the door. He looks at his teeth, his hair, his chin, and nods. We zoom in on him as he keeps looking at his face, as though examining it for the first time.

Once he's satisfied, he gives a short grin and nod. He then violently punches the mirror while yelling out a roar. The mirror doesn't even crack. He looks to the bathroom door, expecting JEN to run over, but JEN doesn't show up. He breathes heavily, methodically.

EXT. A ROAD - SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

ANDI also breathes heavily as she walks home at a good pace.

A car honk. HARRY drives by in his car with MACY and BILLIE. In that brief interlude, ANDI and HARRY briefly lock eyes. BILLIE doesn't even look up from her phone. MACY gives a slight smile, waving. Once the car has passed, ANDI gives a middle finger. She kicks up dirt.

LATER, we see ANDI looking at something off the camera. When she smiles, the camera turns and we see that it's MACY, sitting on a bench at a bus stop, reading a book.

ANDI

Hey, Macy.

MACY puts her book in her bag and stands, greeting ANDI face to face.

MACY

Hi.

ANDI

He couldn't even give you a ride  
all the way home?

MACY

(shakes her head)

No, I told him to drop me off.

ANDI

Why?

MACY

Because it seemed like you needed  
a friend to walk with.

ANDI

Me? I need a friend?

(she laughs)

What about you? Maybe worry about  
your "friends" first. I have  
plenty of friends.

A beat. MACY says nothing. ANDI awkwardly laughs and walks past MACY.

ANDI gets a few feet from the bench before she stops, closes her eyes, and exhales. She turns around to see MACY in the same spot, looking at her with something that resembled pity.

ANDI

You're not gonna say anything to  
that? Typical.

MACY

People mistake being quiet with  
having no opinions.

(a beat; ANDI is  
confused)

I just don't have anything to add  
(MORE)

MACY (cont'd)  
to what you said.

ANDI  
So you agree?

MACY shrugs. ANDI rolls her eyes and walks away again, this time getting a little bit farther before she turns around to face MACY again.

ANDI  
You know, you're really starting  
to get on my nerves.

MACY  
I didn't say anything.

ANDI  
Exactly!

ANDI sighs, rubbing her forehead and massaging her hair.

ANDI  
(quiet)  
I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said  
that.

MACY  
Harry told me about your argument.  
I'm sorry.

A beat. ANDI narrows her eyes.

ANDI  
(suspiciously)  
What'd he say?

MACY  
That you guys are going through a  
rough patch.

MACY sighs, relieved.

ANDI  
Right. Yeah.  
(a beat)  
I'm starting to realize no one  
likes me. Even I don't like me  
right now.  
(she shrugs)  
At least you got a date tonight.

MACY smiles and begins to walk towards ANDI.

MACY  
I only said yes because he sounded  
desperate.

ANDI  
(chuckles)  
That he is.

MACY walks past her, gesturing up the road. ANDI follows.

We follow ANDI and MACY as they walk side by side, away from the camera.

ANDI (V.O.)  
He needs to find someone better  
than me.  
(turns to MACY)  
Like you.

MACY (V.O.)  
Yeah, okay.

ANDI (V.O.)  
I'm serious!

ANDI stops walking. MACY turns to see ANDI, contemplating.

ANDI  
Harry's got you. Plus...  
(she adjusts her  
shirt)  
... I got someone else in mind.

MACY's eyes glow.

MACY  
Ooh, is it Joey?

ANDI  
(disgusted)  
Ugh, no!

ANDI feels the words "Mr. Linney" dance around her lips. She restrains herself.

ANDI  
All I'll say is that he can take  
care of me. When I'm down, he'll  
lift me up.

MACY nods. She's trying to form words, but appears hesitant. Then:

MACY  
Harry's temporary, too.

ANDI  
(surprised)  
Really?  
(a beat)  
That's baller.

MACY  
I don't know what I'm doing.

ANDI  
Does he treat you with respect?  
Does he give you little  
butterflies in your stomach when  
you text him?

MACY nods. ANDI claps her hands.

ANDI  
There you go.  
(lowers her voice)  
But damn! You're still going with  
Harry tonight?

MACY  
Because he's sweet. And I think I  
need that right now.

A beat. ANDI beckons MACY to keep walking. MACY follows.

MACY  
You need a ride tonight?

ANDI  
Hell yeah.

ANDI and MACY keep walking. We follow them turn a corner and walk into the distance, like we're eavesdrop.

ANDI  
I saw you were in his dirty ass  
car.

MACY  
It wasn't that bad.

ANDI  
\*And\* you were with Billie? How'd  
that happen?

MACY  
(a chuckle)  
It's a long story. Basically...

FADE OUT:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

FADE IN: JEN walks down the hallway. She turns to the bathroom and finds the bruised mirror. JEN sighs and turns off the bathroom light.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

JEN walks in. She sees LUKE in a suit, more handsome than usual with his thinning hair combed nicely. He's checking himself out in the mirror.

JEN  
Looking good.

LUKE turns around. He grins and calls her over. She abides.

LUKE  
I wish you could be there tonight,  
babe, but...

JEN  
... teachers only. Yes. I know.

LUKE adjusts his bowtie.

LUKE  
Can you help me with this?

JEN walks over and adjusts his bowtie. LUKE looks on, with genuine compassion and love.

LUKE  
Thank you.

JEN nods curtly and makes the final adjustment. She wipes some dust off his jacket.

JEN  
Are you happy?

LUKE is a bit surprised to hear this. He nods.

LUKE  
Yeah. Why?

JEN  
I hope you're happy.

JEN immediately steps out of the room just as the front door opens. LUKE steps out in the hallway and sees BILLIE, who looks angry.

BILLIE  
(to LUKE)  
You asshole.

BILLIE steps up to LUKE.

BILLIE  
Is this revenge for not doing the reading?

LUKE  
Honest mistake. I'm sorry.

BILLIE  
Yeah.

BILLIE looks LUKE up and down. She shakes her head.

BILLIE  
Hope it isn't a student.

BILLIE walks past LUKE and goes to her room, shutting the door. Focus on LUKE. He looks at his suit. He notices JEN staring out of the corner of his eye. She returns to her chores. LUKE walks back into the bedroom and closes the door.

INT. ANDI'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The front door opens. ANDI walks in. She steps over piles of mail.

INT. ANDI'S HOME - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

ANDI checks the fridge. It's mostly empty besides a half eaten loaf of white bread. She grabs it and plops it on the counter, where she spreads peanut butter sloppily on the bread.

INT. ANDI'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

ANDI, peanut butter sandwich in hand, makes her way up the stairs, dodging the usual junk. She hears commotion in the bedroom upstairs. Whispers, frantic movement, and then out walks a man. He runs right past ANDI down the stairs. She watches him leave.

ANDI'S MOM (V.O.)  
Great timing as usual.

ANDI turns around. She sees her mom standing at her door, in a loose nightgown, a cigarette between her lips.

ANDI'S MOM  
Can you spot me a twenty?  
(a beat)  
In addition to what you owe for  
rent.

ANDI  
I'm not working at Carvel's  
anymore! I told you.

ANDI walks up the stairs, turns left, and goes to her room.

ANDI'S MOM (V.O.)  
You have til tomorrow. You hear  
me?!

INT. ANDI'S HOME - ANDI'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

ANDI steps in, shuts the door, and throws her bag down. She throws herself onto the bed, eats her sandwich, and stares at the ceiling, contemplating. Her phone buzzes. She wolfs the sandwich and checks her phone. She smiles and texts rapidly. Focus on the ceiling and FADE OUT.

A knock on the door. ANDI jolts awake, having fallen asleep. She gets up and stumbles to the door. She opens it.

ANDI  
What do you want?

She's frozen. It's her DAD.

ANDI  
Dad.

ANDI'S DAD  
Hey, baby girl.

ANDI shoves her DAD. ANDI's DAD doesn't budge and ANDI collapses onto her DAD. They hug.

ANDI  
Mom told me you left us for your  
second family.

ANDI'S DAD  
Your mom's full of shit.

ANDI breaks the hug.

ANDI  
That's what I tell her!

ANDI'S DAD  
Can I come in?

ANDI takes her dad's hand and brings him into the bedroom. She spins around, arms spread out.

ANDI  
What do you think?

ANDI'S DAD walks around, peering at the cheesy posters and tacky decorations.

ANDI  
My taste in decor has changed in  
the past 2 years, obviously.

ANDI'S DAD  
It's perfect.

ANDI  
(beaming)  
You really think so?

ANDI'S DAD  
Yes. Come here.

ANDI'S DAD taps her bed. They both take a seat, the bed creaking under their weight. ANDI is joyous, while her DAD is serene.

ANDI  
So?  
(a beat)  
Where've you been?

ANDI'S DAD  
I just needed a break.

ANDI  
From us?

ANDI'S DAD  
From your mom.  
(he points at her  
nose)  
\*You\* are perfect.

ANDI blushes. She lays her head on his lap.

ANDI  
Then why didn't you come back to  
visit me?

A beat.

ANDI'S DAD  
You want to hear a funny story?

ANDI  
Yes!

Focus on ANDI's face. Audio is muted as we see ANDI listen and laugh with her DAD. Zoom in as ANDI's face becomes gradually more wistful and sad, until finally she realizes what's happening. She turns to face the other way and then...

ANDI falls off the bed, out of her dream. She lands with a thud, cringing in pain as she lays there. She checks her phone.

ANDI  
Shit.

MONTAGE:

ANDI puts on headphones and begins to put on makeup. Metal music begins to play.

LUKE is in his bathroom, texting. He then takes hair gel and mashes it on his head.

ANDI checks her closet and pushes through various dresses. She takes out a yellow dress. Her phone pings.

LUKE walks out of the bathroom. He walks past BILLIE's door. BILLIE is putting on makeup. BILLIE sees him, gets up, and shuts the door.

ANDI, now fitted in the yellow dress, takes a picture of herself and sends it to HARRY. She thinks, and then also sends it to MACY and someone else.

LUKE's phone pings. He checks it. He nods approvingly and then sees JEN walk by. He doesn't even try to hide it this time. He grabs his jacket.

JEN  
Don't forget your daughter this time.

LUKE nods and loiters in the hallway. As he waits, he texts again.

ANDI's phone pings. She texts back. It pings again. It's MACY. ANDI had texted "too much?" with her yellow dress. MACY texts back "a little, but it's you." She shrugs, agreeing. MACY then texts that she'll be at her house at 6:00PM. ANDI checks HARRY's texts and sees that he hasn't replied.

BILLIE walks into the hallway, dressed in a dark green outfit. LUKE looks up from his phone.

LUKE  
That's a little revealing, Billie.

BILLIE  
It's how you like them, Dad.  
(she flips him off)  
Mom!

LUKE wants to burst out but sees JEN walk in.

BILLIE  
Can you help me tie this?

JEN  
Sure.

JEN ties BILLIE's dress in its back. BILLIE locks eyes with LUKE. BILLIE's eyes are cold, emotionless. LUKE fights back his urge to yell at her. When JEN finishes, BILLIE immediately grabs her bag and walks out the front door.

LUKE  
(to JEN)  
She can't talk to me like that.

JEN  
She's upset.

LUKE  
I know.  
(he rolls his eyes)  
Last check? How do I look?

JEN  
You looks fine.

LUKE

Thanks.

(he walks over and  
kisses her)

I'll see you later.

Focus on JEN as LUKE leaves, closing the door. She sighs and looks out the window as LUKE and JEN leave.

EXT. ANDI'S HOUSE - EVENING

ANDI steps out into the front porch.

ANDI'S MOM (V.O.)

Get some money, you little cunt! I  
expect to be paid!

As ANDI looks onto the street, a man walks up to the front door. He smiles and slips past ANDI. She hears conversation between him and her mom. ANDI gags and walks to the street. She checks her phone. It's almost 6:00PM.

Very soon, an old red Volvo appears. MACY, clearly too small for the seat and wearing a fire red dress, lowers her window and waves.

ANDI

You look hot!

MACY shrugs and gestures to the passenger seat. ANDI runs around, hops in, and they drive away.

EXT. A STREET - EVENING

The VOLVO drives by as the sun sets.

ANDI (V.O.)

Have you talked to Harry?

INT. VOLVO - EVENING

MACY

Yeah. Why?

ANDI leans back, chewing gum.

MACY

Just talk to him.

ANDI

You don't know anything about our relationship. I know you're his date or whatever, but I've known him for a lot longer than you.

ANDI lowers the window. Focus on her as she feels the breeze.

MACY (V.O.)

He loves you. But he's hurt. He wants someone to listen.

ANDI

But he didn't listen to \*me.\*

(a beat; ANDI relaxes)

Sorry. I didn't mean to yell.

MACY (V.O.)

They drive us crazy.

ANDI dismisses her and pulls down the vanity mirror to check herself out.

ANDI

You got a nice guy who listens.  
You're good.

MACY nods, no emotion on her face. ANDI stops checking herself in the mirror and stares blankly.

ANDI

He barely notices me.

MACY (V.O.)

Harry?

ANDI shakes her head and puts the mirror away.

ANDI

It's not love. It's...  
(she grunts)  
... I just want him to see me,  
understand me for who I am.

MACY

Who?

ANDI

But I know he doesn't care, and...

MACY  
(turns to ANDI)  
Who?!

ANDI  
(points forward)  
Macy!

MACY hits the brakes. The car comes to a stop right before a red light. ANDI checks behind them. No cars.

MACY  
Sorry.

Focus on ANDI and MACY, side by side, not saying a word, waiting for the light to turn green. When the light turns green, they drive. FADE TO:

INT. LUKE'S STATION WAGON - EVENING

LUKE and BILLIE. Not a word is said. Low rock music is playing. BILLIE gets a text and rapidly responds. LUKE suddenly facepalms.

LUKE  
Trace.

BILLIE  
(without looking  
up)  
Ms. Cap? What about her?

LUKE  
I forgot to pick her up.

BILLIE doesn't care and keeps texting.

LUKE  
Shit.

LUKE sighs and keeps driving. BILLIE notices and looks up, a confused expression on her face.

BILLIE  
You're not gonna pick her up?

LUKE  
I gotta help set up.

BILLIE  
Don't you need her to set up?

LUKE  
She can get a ride from someone  
else.

BILLIE  
You're such an asshole.

LUKE  
(snaps)  
You're not allowed to talk to me  
like that!

BILLIE  
Or what? Gonna embarrass me in  
class? News flash, you already do  
that, \*Mr. Linney!\*

A beat.

LUKE  
Just say it.

BILLIE  
No. You know what you did. Or are  
gonna do.

LUKE  
You don't know a thing about what  
I'm going through right now,  
Billie.

BILLIE  
I don't give a shit. It's messed  
up.

LUKE keeps driving. BILLIE goes back to her phone. Uneasy  
music, and FADE TO:

EXT. SENIOR PARKING LOT (IV) - NIGHT

A full parking lot. MACY's VOLVO pulls up to her spot and  
she kills the engine.

"IV"

INT. VOLVO - NIGHT

MACY  
Sorry.

ANDI  
What? What are you sorry for?

A meek shrug.

MACY  
Almost killing you. And losing my temper.

ANDI  
(a chuckle)  
You didn't lose your temper.  
(a beat)  
But you did almost kill us.  
Apology accepted.

MACY  
I was just thinking about... him.  
And if he really does care the way you say.

ANDI peers across the parking lot at the small group of students besides the gym.

ANDI  
Is he here tonight?

MACY nods.

ANDI  
Go ask his ass then. Me...

ANDI stretches and hops out of the Volvo. She then leans in.

ANDI  
I'm gonna make magic happen.

MACY  
Just don't do anything stupid,  
Andi.

ANDI  
Are you kidding?

ANDI smiles and slams the door. She walks to the gym as we focus on MACY, still in the car, looking concerned. We pan to the left and see TRACY walking into the parking lot from the road, dressed for the occasion, but looking very tired. We pan further to the left, and see LUKE'S STATION WAGON.

INT. LUKE'S STATION WAGON - NIGHT

LUKE drives by TRACY but ducks his head. In the backseat, BILLIE rolls her eyes. LUKE pulls up in a faculty spot but notices it's taken.

LUKE  
Melanie. Always takes my spot.

BILLIE  
Don't you have your own spot?

LUKE ignores her and drives further back into the faculty parking lot.

EXT. FACULTY PARKING LOT - NIGHT

LUKE and BILLIE step out of the car. BILLIE immediately races to the gym. LUKE grunts in frustration as he locks the door.

EXT. GYM - NIGHT

Some students are already gathered outside, all dressed up. LUKE pushes past them and enter the gym, where people are still setting up. He greets some student council members. JOEY, from his first period class, approaches him.

JOEY  
Mr. Linney.

LUKE  
Joey.

JOEY  
Evan told me to tell you to fix  
the banners near the bleachers.

LUKE  
You kids are the boss tonight.

LUKE laughs awkwardly. The council members don't even acknowledge him and keep talking among themselves.

JOEY  
Thanks.

JOEY walks away. LUKE notices TRACY approaching. He smiles awkwardly, waving. TRACY walks right up to him and they stand there in uncomfortable silence. TRACY is dressed in all black, a bit like a goth kid from the 70s.

She nods, understanding this is it, and tries to walk past LUKE. LUKE stops her.

LUKE  
You want me to say it? All right,  
I'll say it.

TRACY raises her eyebrows.

LUKE  
I'm sorry.

TRACY looks a bit pleased. She toys with LUKE.

TRACY  
For what?

LUKE rolls his eyes, but sees TRACY eagerly awaiting a response.

LUKE  
For forgetting to pick you up.

TRACY  
And?

LUKE cricks his neck, trying to avoid the situation. He notices that MARTHA is talking to some faculty in the background, eying him. They briefly lock eyes. MARTHA gestures to TRACY, as if to say "apologize."

LUKE  
(turning to TRACY)  
And I'm sorry about yelling at you  
before. Happy?

TRACY pretends to think about it but immediately smiles. She pats LUKE on the shoulder.

TRACY  
See? That wasn't so hard.

LUKE  
Just give me some space. I'm going  
through a lot right now.

TRACY  
We all are, Luke. That's what  
makes us human.  
(a beat)  
The difference is how we treat  
each other along the way.

LUKE begrudgingly nods. He feels his phone vibrate in his pocket. He ignores it.

TRACY  
I know my personal life is boring  
to you, but...  
(she shrugs)  
... you listen. You don't like to,  
(MORE)

TRACY (cont'd)  
but you listen. No one else does.

TRACY peers behind her at the faculty. MARTHA and the others stop talking. TRACY turns back to LUKE, and their chatter continues.

TRACY  
No one respects me. See?

LUKE  
I hear you.  
(he looks for  
JOEY, who beckons  
him)  
But now, we got some stuff to hang  
up near the bleachers.

TRACY salutes him.

TRACY  
Yes, sir.

LUKE  
You go first.

TRACY's phone pings. She texts.

TRACY  
I'll be right back.

TRACY goes back down the steps, out of sight.

LUKE  
(shouting)  
We got work to do!

LUKE shakes his head. He turns back to MARTHA, who has left the other faculty members and is approaching LUKE. He raises his eyebrows.

MARTHA  
Very good, Mr. Linney. Looks like  
you two made up.

LUKE  
Enough so we can get shit done  
tonight.

MARTHA  
Keep up the good work.

MARTHA winks and steps away. We pan to the right of LUKE to see ANDI walking up the steps, looking around - her eyes focus on something. We pan to TRACY. TRACY gestures away from the crowd. ANDI follows.

EXT. SENIOR PARKING LOT - EVENING

TRACY and ANDI are shrouded under a lightpole in the darkness. We push in.

ANDI

Why were you ignoring my texts?

TRACY

He forgot to pick me up!

ANDI

And you couldn't check your phone?

TRACY holds up a hand. ANDI finds herself frozen.

TRACY

You are my student. Please don't forget that.

ANDI

You owe me. You told me you were gonna keep me updated on his location.

(a beat)

I need him alone.

TRACY

(exhales)

I couldn't tell you anyway. We were separated.

ANDI

(yells)

Then what are you good for?!

TRACY slaps ANDI hard. ANDI collapses onto the pavement.

TRACY

I'm so sorry!

ANDI stays on the ground, holding her cheek. Amused, she picks herself back up. TRACY is horrified, hands over her face.

ANDI

Okay, Tracy. I respect that. And I deserved that.

(a grin)

(MORE)

ANDI (cont'd)  
You're in so much trouble now.

TRACY  
Andi...

ANDI  
Where is he?

INT. GYM HALLWAY - EVENING

The hallway is full of council members running around, trying to get stuff done, carrying posters, signs, and boxes. ANDI appears from the left through the main doors, looking both ways.

The camera pulls back and we see TRACY run into the main gym area. ANDI follows her but in the background we see LUKE walking in another direction. ANDI turns to him and immediately follows.

LUKE walks through the trophy room area, his reflections being cast all over the room. ANDI walks in behind him. It's just the two of them. He notices ANDI but doesn't say anything.

ANDI  
Mr. Linney?

LUKE stops. He turns around.

ANDI and LUKE are on opposite sides of the trophy room, a million versions of them in the reflections. ANDI's heart is pounding.

ANDI  
Can I talk to you?

LUKE  
Can this wait, Andi? I got stuff to do.

ANDI takes a step forward.

ANDI  
No.

A beat. LUKE exhales, shaking his head. He knew this was coming.

LUKE  
Andi, I'm married.

ANDI

I don't care about her. Mr. Linney, please, will you just listen and...

LUKE

But I care, Andi! I care!

A beat. ANDI feels her heart drop out of her chest.

LUKE

This is inappropriate, Andi. I let this go too far. You're barely an adult. I have a wife and a daughter.

ANDI

But you told me I was special.

LUKE steps forward and grabs ANDI by the shoulders.

LUKE

You WERE special, Andi. But it's not okay anymore.

ANDI

I don't understand. Is there someone...

LUKE

We can talk about this another time.

LUKE turns to go. We focus on ANDI as he walks away. She's in shock.

ANDI

But you were my date...

INT. GYM MAIN FLOOR - EVENING

LUKE walks in, hands on his pockets where his phone is. A ping. He ignores it and walks up to JOEY at the bleachers to help with the banners.

Focus on the background, where ANDI walks in. She looks disoriented, makeup smeared under her eyes.

Now, from ANDI's perspective, we hear her heavy breathing. Her eyes dart around, looking for someone. She recklessly pushes through the crowd.

BILLIE walks by, catching ANDI's attention. ANDI grabs her from the back. BILLIE flinches, turns to see ANDI, and throws ANDI's hand away.

BILLIE  
What's your problem?

ANDI  
Who is she?

BILLIE narrows her eyes. She gestures to her two friends she's with. They leave her. BILLIE chuckles.

BILLIE  
So it wasn't you.

ANDI  
I mean...  
(she stops herself)  
... no. Not anymore.

BILLIE gags.

BILLIE  
Oh God. I told him I hoped it  
wasn't a student.  
(a beat)  
You know, I feel sorry. For both  
of you. And his other girl...  
(she gags again)  
... friend. Oh my God.

ANDI  
You're not helping!

BILLIE  
What the fuck do you want me to  
say?!

ANDI  
I...

ANDI grunts in frustration.

ANDI  
I need to know who it is.

BILLIE  
Just stop. I don't want to hear  
about my dad anymore.

BILLIE holds her hands over her ears and storms off. ANDI is about to follow her but is stopped by HARRIET, who appears once again from the corner.

ANDI  
Jeez!

HARRIET  
Hello, Andi.

ANDI  
What do you want?

HARRIET points two fingers between her eyes and HARRY, who's on the opposite end of the gym with MACY.

HARRIET  
You two need to make up. He's driving me crazy.

ANDI  
I have a lot on my mind right now,  
Harriet.

HARRIET  
Hey, hey.  
(she wraps an arm  
around ANDI)  
I don't care about your little  
arguments or who Mr. Linney is  
seeing. I need you to make him  
normal again. Okay?

ANDI  
How do you know about ...

HARRIET pushes ANDI, sliding her on the floor uncontrollably towards HARRY.

HARRIET  
I hear things.

HARRIET slides ANDI right up to HARRY and MACY, who turn to see them, slightly amused. HARRIET pats ANDI, smiles, and locks eyes with HARRY, who glowers, angry. HARRIET rolls her eyes and walks away.

HARRY, dressed in a sharp but basic black suit, looks mismatched with MACY's red. ANDI awkwardly waves. HARRY waves back.

MACY  
I'll let you guys catch up.

MACY leaves. Once she's gone, HARRY puts his hands in his pocket and head nods at ANDI.

HARRY  
You look very pretty.

ANDI  
Thanks.

HARRY  
Harriet complained about me?

ANDI  
I have to make you "normal" again.

HARRY chuckles.

HARRY  
Apparently, I've been talking non stop about you.

ANDI  
Even in front of Macy?

HARRY  
Macy's cool with it. Where's your \*ahem\* date?

A beat. ANDI looks down, almost ashamed.

HARRY  
I'm sorry.

ANDI  
No, I'm sorry.

ANDI exhales sharply, shaking her head.

ANDI  
You were right. It was stupid.

HARRY raises his finger to speak but ANDI points at him, almost as though forbidding him to speak.

ANDI  
Don't say it.

HARRY  
You're no fun.

HARRY and ANDI stand there awkwardly, the commotion around them growing as more students begin to file in.

HARRY  
So... what happened?

ANDI  
What is this, an interrogation?

HARRY  
(forcefully)  
Andi.  
(a beat)  
It's over?

ANDI nods.

ANDI  
Yeah.

HARRY shakes his head, swiping his arms back and forth in an "x" motion.

HARRY  
I don't want to know what  
happened. Today or before. Let's  
just...  
(he shudders)  
... move on.

ANDI  
You still got a crush on me?

HARRY, frustrated, looks for HARRIET, but she's gone.

ANDI  
Don't look for Harriet. She didn't  
tell me. \*You've\* been telling me  
since we met.

HARRY  
I'm not that obvious, am I?

ANDI looks around, making sure MACY isn't watching, and pulls him close and kisses him. When she pulls away, HARRY is in shock, eyes fluttering.

ANDI  
You are. But let's talk about this  
another time.

She pats him on the chest. Just then, MACY returns with two drinks in her hand, handing one to HARRY.

MACY  
I'll be right back.

MACY hands ANDI her drink. ANDI watches her leave. When MACY is out of sight, she pulls her phone out and texts someone.

LUKE's phone pings. He checks it, smiles, and tells JOEY he needs to take a call.

JOEY  
Make it quick.

INT. BOY'S LOCKER ROOM - EVENING

LUKE walks in. He's texting furiously, his heart pounding. We see his phone. MACY texts back. "It's almost time. It's going to be special tonight." LUKE quickly texts "It'll be amazing. I'll make sure of it." He locks his phone, closes his eyes, and the sound drowns out again. He's at peace.

INT. GYM HALLWAY - EVENING

LUKE walks outside and almost immediately bumps into BILLIE. She groans in frustration.

LUKE  
Aren't you supposed to be with  
your friends?

BILLIE doesn't answer but simply looks him up and down with disgust.

BILLIE  
More than one girl?

LUKE is unflinching. He clears his throat.

LUKE  
This is none of your business,  
Billie.

BILLIE  
It is. It's also Mom's business.

LUKE steps forward but BILLIE stops him with a hand held up.

BILLIE  
I'm going to hold on to this...  
but I can't promise someone else  
won't spoil it.

LUKE  
Who else knows?

BILLIE  
Andi.

LUKE  
(laughs)  
Andi won't say shit.

BILLIE raises her eyebrows and shrugs, amused. She walks away.

LUKE  
She won't.

BILLIE keeps walking, ignoring him.

LUKE  
You're grounded!

BILLIE flips the bird and finds her other friends. They talk and giggle, turning back to look at LUKE, like they're gossiping about him. LUKE turns around, head in palm, panicking.

We follow LUKE as he stumbles around, lost in thought, terrified. Students laugh, point, speculate that he's drunk. He leans against the wall, sweat pouring down all of his orifices. We focus and the sound goes quiet again. He feels his phone buzz: he checks. It's MACY. He sees her leaving the bathroom. He feels his heart slowing down. He calms himself.

HARRIET  
Mr. Linney.

LUKE jumps. HARRIET appeared behind him. LUKE holds his chest, panicked.

LUKE  
Harriet! My God. Please don't surprise me like that.

HARRIET  
Sorry, Mr. Linney. But we need to talk.

LUKE, hand in pocket holding his phone, wipes his brow. He nods.

LUKE  
It's okay. What is it?

HARRIET  
You need to stop this. All of this.

LUKE narrows his eyes. He glances between HARRIET and MACY.

LUKE  
I'm sorry?

HARRIET  
People are getting hurt. And it's  
gonna get worse.

LUKE  
You need to be more specific,  
Harriet.

HARRIET  
(cold)  
No, I don't.

LUKE leans in to intimidate HARRIET. She doesn't budge.

LUKE  
You need to step back. I'll fail  
you. I'll make sure you don't  
graduate.

HARRIET  
(laughs)  
You can't do that.

JOEY (V.O.)  
(yelling)  
Mr. Linney!

LUKE straightens himself and turns around to look into the crowd. JOEY's hand beckons him. LUKE nods and turns back to HARRIET.

LUKE  
You better watch yourself...

HARRIET's gone. His eyes dart back and forth but she's nowhere.

LUKE  
Stupid kids.

On the other side of the gym, ANDI is looking around the gym as it fills up. HARRY is besides her, making small talk with some other classmates. ANDI is still in her head, thinking about LUKE. She begins browsing her phone. LUKE's texts are all unanswered. The reflection of her phone in her eyes is mesmerizing.

MACY (V.O.)  
Hey.

ANDI looks up. MACY smiles. ANDI hands her drink back.

ANDI  
What?

MACY  
You okay?

ANDI nods. HARRY eavesdrops but pretends not to.

ANDI  
Yeah.

MACY  
Harry told me about Mr. Linney.

ANDI glares at HARRY, who looks the other way, whistling. She sighs.

ANDI  
I don't wanna hear it. I know I  
was stupid. Okay?

A beat. MACY glances at LUKE, who's walking across the gym on the other end. She glances back to ANDI, who's looking down, almost embarrassed.

MACY  
I get it.

ANDI  
(pissed)  
How? How could you possibly get  
it?

MACY  
Because I know people suck. And  
they're unreliable. But... you'll  
find someone to trust. I know you  
will.

ANDI  
You know...  
(sharp exhale)  
... I just need to vent. Okay? I  
don't need your sympathy.

A pause. MACY shrugs, backing away.

ANDI  
I don't need you projecting your  
perfect relationship onto me.  
(a beat)  
I liked you better when you didn't  
(MORE)

ANDI (cont'd)  
talk.

MACY seems unphased. She shakes her head, hooks HARRY's arms, gestures to him, and they walk away. HARRY and ANDI share a look and he leaves.

ANDI  
(yelling)  
He deserves better, Macy!

But MACY and HARRY are gone. ANDI stands there, alone. CUT TO:

EXT. GYM (V) - EVENING

Dozens of students, dressed in suits too large and dresses too revealing, line up at the front doors of the gym. Dance music creeps out.

"V"

INT. GYM - EVENING

The gym is crowded. We zoom in to focus on LUKE and TRACY, standing side by side with EVAN, making sure things are going smoothly. MARTHA walks by, hands behind her back, and stops in front of the three of them.

MARTHA  
Everything okay so far?

All three thumbs up immediately. MARTHA thumbs up back. When she disappears, TRACY leans over to LUKE.

TRACY  
Did she talk to you about the Regents?

LUKE  
Why?

TRACY  
My class didn't do so well. I'm going to work all summer to improve the curriculum. You?

LUKE shrugs.

LUKE  
One thing at a time, Tracy.

LUKE pats her on the shoulder. They awkwardly stand side by side as EVAN runs off to take care of some issue. Zoom out and pan to ANDI, who's standing by herself, finishing the last of her drink. She puts down her cup and takes off her shoes. She leans against the wall, standing near the girl's bathroom.

She sees HARRIET approach. HARRIET is dressed in an black tux, white shirt, and white loafers. ANDI points at HARRIET, then back at herself.

ANDI  
Not so sneaky this time.

HARRIET nods and walks away. ANDI follows her, watching her go, and narrowly misses bumping into BILLIE on the way out of the bathroom. BILLIE sidesteps, holding her arms out.

BILLIE  
Watch it, Jenstein!

BILLIE sees ANDI, a bit drunk, holding her shoes and barefeet. ANDI makes a face at her. BILLIE smiles, looking her up and down.

BILLIE  
I like your style.

BILLIE grabs a drink from a friend and hands it to ANDI.

ANDI  
What are you talking about?

BILLIE insists ANDI take the drink. ANDI takes it and chugs it, crunching the cup and tossing it aside. BILLIE is impressed. She wipes off ANDI's shoulders, straightens her dress, and tosses her shoes aside.

BILLIE  
You look hot as hell. I see why he was into you.

ANDI is at a loss for words, but BILLIE shushes her.

BILLIE  
I don't like you. But I'll say this. You're worth it. So don't do anything stupid.

BILLIE leans in to whisper.

BILLIE  
And don't be fucking gross. Okay?

BILLIE takes ANDI by the arm and brings her onto the dance floor. We follow them in a circle as they dance. ANDI looks around, seeing everyone watching and judging. LUKE and TRACY, watching cautiously; HARRY and MACY, enjoying each other's company but not hers; BILLIE, just enjoying herself and not thinking too much; HARRIET, dancing by herself...

To ANDI, time and space seems to mesh. BILLIE's face becomes a blob. The entire gym becomes a blinking disco ball. As they dance, faces fade into view and fade out of view. Even MARTHA appears, inspecting, observing. ANDI notices LUKE watching her, perhaps admiring her body, perhaps barely interested at all.

BILLIE  
(yelling)  
Just let it go!

The entire gym seems to slow down. It seems as though everyone is slowly moving through molasses. Suddenly, ANDI sees her DAD, watching from the back. He appears to be mouthing something, but ANDI can't understand. Even the music begins to slow down. ANDI keeps dancing, as though this will bring her dad closer.

CUT TO: LUKE on his phone, drowning out what TRACY is saying. His phone shows MACY saying to meet in the trophy room after the king and queen announcement. LUKE smiles. He then leaves, walking away from his conversation with TRACY.

LUKE walks on the outside of the dance floor. For a second, LUKE and ANDI see each other and lock eyes. LUKE then looks away, but ANDI's sharp eyes follow him.

CUT TO: ANDI as we watch her dance from above. It's unprohibited, it's silly, and it's freeing. Some students notice how weird it is, but ANDI doesn't care. BILLIE is deeply impressed. Just as ANDI reaches a peak of carefree bliss, spinning in circles...

INT. GYM - GIRL'S BATHROOM - EVENING

ANDI is throwing up in a stall. She flushes, takes a breath, and stands. She leans against the wall, gagging a bit.

BILLIE (V.O.)  
You all right?

ANDI walks out of the stall to see not BILLIE but HARRIET.

ANDI  
What the...

HARRIET  
Surprise.

HARRIET looks ANDI up and down. She nods and turns to leave the bathroom. A toilet flushes. BILLIE walks out of a stall.

ANDI  
What the hell is going on?

BILLIE  
I couldn't help it.

ANDI  
Couldn't help what?

BILLIE  
Poor, sweet Andi.

BILLIE lightly pats ANDI's face.

BILLIE  
No more drugs for you.  
(she cackles  
loudly)  
I hope you had a good time. You  
deserve it.

Cheers erupt outside.

BILLIE  
Come on. They're announcing king  
and queen.

BILLIE drags ANDI to the center of the floor. In the background, we see LUKE hugging the walls to the exit. He looks around and disappears out the door.

INT. GYM - HALLWAY - EVENING

LUKE looks both ways. As he walks to the trophy room, his footsteps echo. Muffled voices from the main gym.

JOEY (V.O.)  
You voted, we counted!

INT. GYM - EVENING

BILLIE extends her arms over ANDI, who's confused and happy and sad all at the same time. Everything is still like molasses. JOEY is standing by the mic, waving his hands to get everyone's attention.

JOEY  
This year's homecoming king and  
queen are...

INT. GYM - TROPHY ROOM - EVENING

LUKE walks into the room, standing close to where he stood before when he saw ANDI, and there is MACY, her cheeks blushed fire red. LUKE smiles, inching closer, while MACY stays still. As he approaches, JOEY'S voice fills the room.

JOEY (V.O.)  
Dominique and Marko!

Between LUKE and MACY, nothing else matters. They don't care about the cheering. LUKE, adopting a more confident pose now, towers over MACY and takes her hand.

LUKE  
I've been looking forward to this.  
It's the only thing I've been  
looking forward to.

MACY  
Really?

LUKE  
I wouldn't lie to you, Macy.

MACY blushes more. She takes his other hand.

MACY  
So, how are we going to make  
tonight special, Mr. Linney?

Now MACY inches closer to him.

MACY  
How are you going to show me  
you're gonna take care of me,  
teach? Show me what's what?

LUKE grins and pulls her close.

LUKE  
Let's see.

INT. GYM - EVENING

ANDI, her head still swirling, stumbles and holds onto BILLIE, who laughs. BILLIE's friends also point and laugh. The applause and cheers drown out everything else as the king and queen take stage.

ANDI regains her footing but is feeling weak. HARRIET appears from the side and supports her. HARRIET holds ANDI and takes her away. ANDI still feels queasy. In the crowd, her DAD waves. ANDI shakes it off.

INT. GYM - HALLWAY - EVENING

The door opens. ANDI stumbles out, held by HARRIET. ANDI sloppily pushes HARRIET away.

ANDI  
I'm fine!

ANDI feels herself sobering up as she shakes her head. HARRIET still looks concerned.

HARRIET  
Billie did this.

ANDI raises her eyebrows.

HARRIET  
(shrugs)  
Just a hunch.

HARRIET grabs ANDI's face and looks at it from side to side, examining her pupils and mouth.

ANDI  
I'm fine!

HARRIET  
It's wearing off. Weak shit.

HARRIET slaps ANDI. She sees stars.

ANDI  
What was that for?

HARRIET  
I need you to come with me.

HARRIET conjures a water bottle out of nowhere and gives it to ANDI.

HARRIET  
It's not spiked.

ANDI takes the water and drinks it in one go. HARRIET watches, nodding, like an approving mother. When she's done, she tosses it aside. It echoes in the empty hallway.

ANDI  
I kissed your brother.

HARRIET  
Ew.

HARRIET takes her arm and leads her down a hallway.

ANDI  
I don't know why I did.  
Everything's wrong. It's not  
supposed to be like this with him.  
Or with Luke. Or with anything.  
It's not...

INT. GYM - TROPHY ROOM - EVENING

ANDI and HARRIET appear by the side. ANDI's eyes lock on immediately to LUKE and MACY. Her eyes widen.

INT. GYM - EVENING

HARRY is standing alone, drinking by himself. BILLIE walks by. HARRY nods to her. BILLIE nods back and comes over.

HARRY  
Your dad's kind of a shit show,  
huh?

BILLIE  
Yep.

They stand next to each other without a word.

MACY (V.O.)  
Mr. Linney...

INT. GYM - TROPHY ROOM - EVENING

LUKE and MACY lean in to kiss. In the background, ANDI and HARRIET watch. ANDI is in shock. Before LUKE and MACY's lips touch, MACY hesitates. LUKE picks up on this and backs up.

MACY  
Mr. Linney.

LUKE  
What is it, Macy?

ANDI turns around and leaves. We zoom in on HARRIET, who watches her go and then turns back to LUKE and MACY.

EXT. GYM - HALLWAY - EVENING

We follow ANDI, who is sprinting so fast that everything around her is a blur. Dark ambient music plays as shadows shroud her.

As she turns one way, she sees her dad shaking his head and turning away to leave. She then sees many other people standing in the doorways of the hallway. Her mother, calling her her a cunt; HARRY, shaking his head, disappointed in her; PRINCIPAL BLACKWOOD, telling her she'll never amount to anything; LUKE, who just laughs. "You thought you were special?"

MACY (V.O.)  
I'm having second thoughts.

INT. GYM - TROPHY ROOM - EVENING

From over LUKE's shoulder, MACY seems very small all of a sudden. She's reverting back to her shy, quiet self. LUKE tucks and shakes his head. He strokes MACY's dark hair. MACY is trembling now.

LUKE  
Are you nervous? It's okay to be  
nervous.

LUKE looks around. HARRIET hides.

LUKE  
No one's watching.

But MACY appears shaken now. LUKE is impatient.

LUKE  
What? Is it something I said?

MACY  
No! No, Mr. Linney. It's not like  
that. It's my fault.  
(a beat; her eyes  
are looking down)  
I just don't have a good feeling.

HARRIET narrows her eyes, peering on with curiosity. LUKE takes his hand back from her hair. He folds his arms, frustrated. Somehow, to MACY, this seems worse. Much worse.

MACY  
I'm sorry.

LUKE exhales, closing his eyes. He sees a terrified little girl. Yet, he can't contain his frustration. He walks in a circle and yells out angrily. This is contrasted by the

cheers and whoops in the gym as the king and queen make their speeches.

LUKE  
No, it's my fault. I thought you  
were ready. I pushed you.

MACY, shaking, begins to cry. LUKE hands her a dirty tissue from his pocket.

MACY  
I'm sorry. It's all my fault.

LUKE bends down and holds MACY by the shoulders, looking at her eye to eye.

LUKE  
Macy, we have to fix this.

MACY, wiping her tears, now looks confused.

EXT. GYM - EVENING

ANDI steps outside, stumbling down the stairs. TRACY is taking a smoke break. ANDI points at her. TRACY grows weary.

LUKE (V.O.)  
This was a mistake.

ANDI runs over and grabs TRACY, shaking her. She says something, but we don't hear it. We just see ANDI's desperation, her manic energy, and TRACY's fear.

LUKE (V.O.)  
We need to fix this.

ANDI stares right into TRACY's eyes. ANDI is out of breath, breathing very heavily. We zoom in on TRACY's eyes, who is terrified of ANDI's sudden rampage of emotion.

INT. GYM - TROPHY ROOM - EVENING

HARRIET hides as MACY makes a run for it, speeding right by and quickly disappearing down the corridor. HARRIET peeks to see that LUKE is desperately calling out for her.

LUKE  
Macy! MACY! YOU GET BACK HERE!

Focus on HARRIET as she steps back, closes her eyes, and prepares herself.

HARRIET  
Mr. Linney! We need you out front!

HARRIET then peeks back out and sees LUKE controlling himself, restraining himself from walking in that direction.

LUKE, panicking, walks in a circle and peers down the hall where MACY just disappeared. LUKE sees himself reflected in all of the trophies. He peers into one swimming trophy and collects his thoughts.

VOICE (V.O.)  
Mr. Linney!

LUKE  
Coming!

He had to take care of other business first. LUKE turns around and heads back to the gym.

Once LUKE has left the trophy room, HARRIET runs in the other direction to find MACY.

EXT. A ROAD - EVENING

ANDI running. Lights flash by on both sides as she runs barefoot. We only hear her breathing and some low, brooding music.

CUT TO: TRACY, still smoking, staring into nothingness, leaning against the gym wall. A tear rolls down her cheek as we FADE TO:

ANDI running again. Zoom in on her red, bruised feet.

INT. GYM - EVENING

HARRY and BILLIE, still chatting, notice that LUKE has walked in, looking disheveled. BILLIE looks down, trying to avoid eye contact. A final round of applause as the king and queen finish their speeches.

As we follow LUKE, all other noise drowns out as we focus on his breathing, which is heightened and anxious. He wipes his brow. In his mind, he's thinking to himself: "who needed help? Who called me before?" "Where's Macy?" "Where's that stupid girl?" "I'm gonna kill her!" "She's gonna ruin me." "You idiot, you did that to yourself." As we spin around him, LUKE feels the world closing in. Some kids watch, laugh, and point.

He pushes through the crowd, poking at kids, causing a

commotion. He even bumps into the king and queen, who sneer at him. The kids gossip: Mr. Linney has lost it.

EXT. A ROAD - EVENING

ANDI slows down her run. She notices a house, stops, and collapses onto the grass, lying flat. As we zoom in on her face, we see it's full of anguish, disappointment, exhaustion. She begins to laugh. She sits up on the curb, draws her legs out, and looks around at the pitch black night. No one cares. ANDI stops laughing, breathing normally again, and shakes her head.

ANDI folds her head into her hands and begins to softly weep. After a beat, she pulls her phone out and checks the address. She looks up to confirm. It's LUKE's house.

A knock. CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - FOYER (VI) - EVENING

A knock at the door. JEN walks in from the side, looks out the window, and sees ANDI, who's dressed up but looks terrible. JEN, eyebrows raised, opens the door. ANDI, out of breath, stares at JEN, like ANDI expects her to say something first. JEN raises her eyebrow.

JEN  
Can I help you?

Focus on ANDI as her breath slows down.

"VI"

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

We pan in to see ANDI sitting on a couch, wrapped in a blanket. She's nursing her swollen feet after running so far without shoes. She looks like she's cried a lot. JEN comes downstairs with some puffy socks and slippers.

JEN  
These are all I got, kiddo. Billie  
hates these.

ANDI smiles and takes them. They're fuzzy and pink. The slippers are bright yellow, like they were ripped off of Big Bird. She tries them on and instantaneously feels relief. She closes her eyes and sits back. JEN sits besides her on the couch.

JEN  
You're one of Luke's students.

ANDI's eyes open. That name. She leans forward, trying to control her emotions, and nods curtly.

ANDI  
I came here to tell you...

JEN brings a finger to ANDI's lips and shushes her. JEN shakes her head.

JEN  
I don't want to know.  
(a beat)  
Why were you running barefeet?

JEN narrows her eyes and looks ANDI up and down one more time.

JEN  
Who did this to you?  
(a beat)  
How did you find this place?

ANDI reaches forward to grabs JEN's hands. JEN is taken back by this.

ANDI  
Mrs. Linney. I have to tell you..

Focus on JEN. Zoom in on her as she slowly puts it together. She then grins, shaking her head.

ANDI (V.O.)  
... your husband is cheating on  
you.

JEN throws ANDI's hands off with surprising vigor, standing up and backing away.

JEN  
Did he do this to you?  
(a beat)  
Did he?

ANDI  
No.

JEN  
Was it you?

Focus on ANDI. CUT TO:

INT. GYM - EVENING

The punch table. Pan up to see LUKE getting a cup and then spiking it with a flask. He notices some students watching him but ignores them. He takes a swig and walks aimlessly around.

He walks past TRACY and MARTHA, both looking concerned. He passes BILLIE, who looks spiteful as usual, and JOEY, who is trying to get his attention but LUKE shooes him off. The audio is muffled as he tries to maintain his composure. He keeps looking for MACY. She's nowhere in sight.

ANDI (V.O.)

No.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Now, we focus on JEN, her arms by her waist, interrogative.

JEN

No?

(a chuckle)

Why are you here then? What do you have to do with it?

ANDI

I...

(a beat; she looks inward)

I don't know.

INT. GYM - EVENING

LUKE has finished his drink. He tosses it in the trash. He feels the eyes of students on him. One of them is HARRY, who immediately looks away.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

JEN paces, contemplating, reconsidering. ANDI stands up.

ANDI

I should go.

JEN holds her hand out.

JEN

You stay right there.

ANDI takes a seat.

INT. GYM - EVENING

The noise in LUKE's head, mixed with the music, is an intoxicating combination. LUKE walks up to HARRY. HARRY pretends not to notice and greets LUKE.

HARRY  
(nervously)  
Mr. Linney!

LUKE  
Where's Macy?

HARRY laughs awkwardly and looks in both directions.

HARRY  
That one? I can't keep her close,  
Mr. Linney. She ran off or  
something.

BILLIE walks by, giving LUKE sideeye.

BILLIE  
She's got girl stuff to take care  
of, Dad. You like that?

BILLIE keeps walking. LUKE calms his inner rage and stays focused.

LUKE  
(to HARRY)  
I'll only ask one more time.

HARRY  
I don't know, sir.

Focus on LUKE as he weighs his options. Beads of sweat pour down his face as his anxiety grows.

ANDI (V.O.)  
I shouldn't have come here.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Focus on ANDI, head in lap, visibly shaken.

ANDI  
This is all my fault.

JEN stops pacing.

ANDI

If I kept him happy, I wouldn't  
need to get him back. And then he  
wouldn't have gone to Macy. And we  
wouldn't be here.

JEN remains surprisingly calm about this. She kneels down and confronts ANDI.

JEN

This isn't your fault.

JEN lifts ANDI's head so they're looking at each other.

JEN

Hey, listen to me.

A beat. ANDI is crying. JEN wipes her tears away.

JEN

It's not your fault.

ANDI

But I wanted it. And he wanted it.  
And then suddenly...

(a beat)

... he just ignored me. I was  
going to make tonight special.  
But...

JEN rolls her eyes. He fixes ANDI's hair.

JEN

He's a fickle man.

ANDI

You're not mad?

JEN smiles and strokes ANDI's hair.

JEN

I'm so sorry.

ANDI

You knew about this?

A beat. Focus on JEN as she processes every emotion coming through her mind: bitterness, jealousy, rage, empathy. Instead of answering, she asks:

JEN

What's your name?

ANDI

Andi.

JEN

Andi...

(she grabs ANDI's  
shoulders)

... where's Macy?

EXT. GYM - HALLWAY - EVENING

Pan right as we see LUKE. He's dragging HARRY and then throws him into a locker. HARRY grunts in pain and turns around, looking desperate, wanting to run away.

LUKE

Where's Macy?

HARRY

I told you, I don't know!

HARRY tries to run but LUKE, with surprisingly strength, grabs him by the shoulder.

LUKE

Don't run. You're making my life  
complicated.

HARRY wrestles LUKE's hand away.

HARRY

Mr. Linney, you need to calm down.  
What's the big deal? It's just  
Macy!

LUKE

I need to speak with her. I know  
you're her date.

HARRY

I mean... I wouldn't call us  
dating, exactly.

(awkward laugh)

I had to keep asking her. She  
barely likes me, Mr. Linney. If  
anything...

(a beat; he tries  
to find a way out)

You should ask Andi.

LUKE shrugs, looking both ways.

LUKE  
Andi's not here.

HARRIET (V.O.)  
Hey!

LUKE and HARRY turn to see HARRIET standing in the middle of the hallway.

EXT. CAMPUS - EVENING

HARRIET leads the way while HARRY tags along right besides her. LUKE is walking a few paces behind.

HARRY  
(hushed)  
What's going on?!

HARRIET  
(hits HARRY)  
Jja-jeung-na! Let me handle this!

HARRY  
Why is Mr. Linney acting so weird?  
It's like Macy did something wrong.

HARRIET  
She didn't do anything wrong,  
idiot.

HARRY  
Where's Andi?

Focus on HARRIET, frustrated, shaking her head.

HARRIET  
Just follow me.

HARRY (V.O.)  
Are you sure this is a good idea?

A beat. HARRIET stops, shoves HARRY aside, and looks back. LUKE, hands in pocket, a panicky mess, stops as well. He throws his hands up.

LUKE  
Well? You do know where where she is, right?  
(he steps forward)  
I'm not messing around here,  
Harriet, it's...

HARRIET zips her mouth, indicating LUKE to do the same. HARRY just watches with confusion.

HARRIET  
Just shut up, Mr. Linney.  
(a beat; HARRY  
raises his  
eyebrows, amused)  
You're gonna see her, but you're  
not gonna talk to her. She needs  
space.

HARRY  
But what's the point of...

HARRIET turns and stares HARRY down.

HARRIET  
He needs to see what he's done.  
Then maybe he can talk to her.

LUKE  
Harriet, I don't know what you  
think you heard or saw, but this  
doesn't involve...

HARRIET turns back to LUKE and raises a finger up. She then points right at LUKE.

HARRIET  
Shut up. And do it. Or I'm  
telling.

Focus on LUKE. His heart is pounding, sweat pouring. We hear echoes of women in his life berating, yelling, talking down to him, and then he sees MACY, more than a foot shorter than him, commanding him. He grows angry.

LUKE  
I'm talking to her.  
(he forcefully  
walks past her,  
moving her aside)  
This is a waste of time.

HARRIET leans into HARRY's ears and whispers something. LUKE stops walking and turns around. HARRY's eyes widen.

HARRY  
(an exaggerated  
gasp)  
Mr. Linney! No way. He's so  
unassuming and...  
(he looks him up  
(MORE)

HARRY (cont'd)  
and down)  
... nah. No way.

HARRIET locks eyes with LUKE.

HARRIET  
I'm not kidding, Mr. Linney. You  
... listen to me.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - EVENING

JEN grabs a coat hanging from a door. ANDI watches from the end of the hallway.

ANDI  
Mrs. Linney, you don't need to come.

JEN puts on her coat, but has issues getting it on. ANDI comes over and helps her. JEN accepts the help and straightens her coat properly once it's on. JEN steps to the bathroom mirror.

JEN  
I want to. Plus, you need a ride.

JEN turns to look at ANDI.

JEN  
Are you sure you want to go back?

ANDI  
Yeah. I'm sure.

JEN nods, pensive.

EXT. LUKE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Focus on ANDI as she walks out the door, the house dark behind her. We turn to see that JEN is already in her red pickup truck, engine running. She opens the passenger door. The inside of the truck is dark, JEN's face illuminated only by her cell phone light from below.

JEN  
Well?

The dark house looms tall behind ANDI. She steps forward.

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

The lights are off. The front doors jiggle open. HARRIET opens the door, followed by HARRY and LUKE. HARRIET switches the light on.

HARRY  
Ani, jinjia!

HARRY rustles HARRIET's hair. HARRIET rolls her eyes and dodges HARRY's hands the second time around.

HARRY  
(somewhat  
impressed)  
You little troublemaker. How do  
you know how to do that?

HARRIET  
Because home's loud and Dad sucks.  
So I come here. Got a problem with  
that?

HARRY  
Weirdo. Why don't you do normal  
girl stuff? Talk to your  
girlfriends about boys or  
something?

HARRIET waves HARRY off. LUKE, right behind them, looks around the library.

LUKE  
I'll pretend I didn't see the  
breaking and entering. Where's  
Macy?

Pan right to see HARRIET, HARRY, and LUKE walk into a more secluded part of the library. We hear quiet sobbing. It's MACY. Before LUKE walks any farther, HARRIET stops him.

HARRIET  
You just watch.

LUKE stubbornly pushes right past HARRIET and turns the corner, where he sees MACY at a desk, head down on a book. He stops. We focus on his face as he notices that MACY hasn't even noticed that he's here.

We push back from LUKE's face. HARRIET steps right by him. HARRY takes him back a few paces, where they hide in a stack away from MACY. LUKE looks distraught, as if he's thinking about what he's done. HARRY stands awkwardly like a

bodyguard. LUKE peeks at MACY from a distance. HARRIET tries to talk with MACY, but MACY is too upset to speak.

INT. JEN'S TRUCK - EVENING

ANDI is illuminated by passing shadows from street lamps as they drive. She's staring at her phone.

JEN (V.O.)  
You must think I'm a terrible person.

On ANDI's phone, a long text message chain with LUKE has gone unanswered.

ANDI  
I'm not gonna judge.

JEN grips the wheel tighter.

JEN  
Why not Tracy? Or that principal, Martha? She's attractive.  
(a manic laugh)  
I mean... anything other than an 18 year old girl.

ANDI redirects her attention out the window.

JEN (V.O.)  
Maybe I am a terrible person.  
(a beat)  
I'm sorry, Andi.

ANDI  
I'm gonna fix this.

Focus on JEN, illuminated in the dark. She looks over at ANDI. A beat.

EXT. LIBRARY - EVENING

LUKE is leaning against the wall of the library. His hand covers his forehead. He's shaking. He reaches into his pocket and checks his phone. The bright light illuminates his face. He texts.

INT. JEN'S TRUCK - EVENING

A ping. ANDI receives a text. It's from LUKE. "I messed up."

JEN  
Is it Luke?

ANDI shows JEN her phone. JEN looks and shakes her head.

JEN  
Oh, \*now\* he's feeling remorse.

EXT. LIBRARY - EVENING

A ping on LUKE's phone. He smiles and texts.

INT. JEN'S TRUCK - EVENING

A ping on ANDI's phone. She reads it and closes it. JEN looks over.

ANDI  
He's at the library.

JEN  
(confused)  
Why? Shouldn't he be at the gym?

ANDI shrugs. She leans her head against the window.

JEN (V.O.)  
All right, library it is.

ANDI pulls her phone out and checks LUKE's messages again. "Where are you? <3" He had replied simply "Library." She puts her phone down again.

JEN (V.O.)  
What's your plan, exactly?  
Confront him? You want me there too?

ANDI  
No.  
(a sigh)  
I'll do this alone.

EXT. LIBRARY - EVENING

The doors open. HARRY walks out.

HARRY  
My sister's looking after her.

He leaves for the gym.

LUKE  
Harry.

HARRY stops walking. Focus on him as he closes his eyes, breathing heavily.

LUKE (V.O.)  
Not a word.

A beat.

HARRY  
Yes, Mr. Linney.

HARRY leaves. LUKE checks the front doors, looking through the windows.

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

LUKE steps cautiously but barely takes one step when he hears a door close. HARRIET appears.

HARRIET  
You see what you did?

LUKE  
Harriet, this is all some big misunderstanding.

HARRIET  
No. You're not fooling me with your teacher voice. I heard what she said.

LUKE  
Macy's been through a lot. She needs an adult to help her.

HARRIET shakes her head.

HARRIET  
Time to go back to the gym, M. Linney. Joey is calling you.

HARRIET steps towards the door. LUKE cuts her off. The size difference is clear - he is more than twice her height.

HARRIET  
(unflinching)  
What are you gonna do? Silence me?

LUKE  
No.

LUKE takes his hands and strokes HARRIET's hair. HARRIET finds herself temporarily immobilized.

LUKE  
I want you to understand, too.

HARRIET  
Mr. Linney...

LUKE  
We can talk this out.

LUKE leans into HARRIET's ear and kisses it. HARRIET is still frozen.

HARRIET  
Mr. Linney...

LUKE  
(gently)  
Yes, Harriet?

HARRIET  
I'm not into you.

HARRIET takes a book and launches it into LUKE's gut. She drops the book. It makes a loud thump, just as LUKE keels over in pain. HARRIET runs.

LUKE  
HARRIET!

LUKE sees stars. He gets to his feet slowly. He holds his head in pain. HARRIET is long gone.

He walks to the room that HARRIET had left.

LUKE  
Macy.

LUKE opens the door. There's no one there. LUKE looks around the library, back to where MACY and HARRIET had been. The library is empty. LUKE grunts in frustration, slamming his fist against a table.

INT. JEN'S TRUCK - EVENING

The truck pulls to a stop at a red light. The red light floods the entire truck. Focus on ANDI. It turns green. When she realizes they're not moving, she turns to look at JEN. She's frozen, staring straight ahead. There's no one else on the road. ANDI looks both ways.

ANDI  
Mrs. Linney?

Focus on JEN. She's breathing heavily. She then starts to drive but immediately pulls to the shoulder and engages the brake.

EXT. A ROAD - EVENING

JEN steps out of the truck and locks the doors. She then steps around to the back and grabs something.

INT. JEN'S TRUCK - EVENING

ANDI turns to see what JEN is doing. JEN pulls a tire iron out. ANDI immediately unbuckles her seatbelt and tries to get out, but the door is locked. She fumbles with the door. When she looks up, she's shocked to see JEN there, holding the tire iron, almost in a trance.

ANDI

Mrs. Linney! What are you...

JEN brings her arm back as though to swing. ANDI immediately hops over to the driver side, backed up all the way. Focus on JEN's face through the window, holding her pose.

ANDI

Mrs. Linney! Snap out of it!

ANDI is freaking out, reaching behind to try to unlock the door. But suddenly something breaks in JEN - she loosens her grip on the tire iron. It falls to the ground. ANDI is still tense. She is covered in pools of sweat.

JEN

Why?

JEN drops to her knees, sobbing, hands clutched to her face.

JEN

Why did you tell me?

ANDI sits up and climbs over to the passenger side. Her breath is still shaky. She lowers the window. JEN is devastated.

ANDI

Because I needed to take responsibility, and so did he, and so do you.

A beat.

ANDI

Because...

(she sighs)

... because I realized I was the  
bad guy. And I needed to tell  
someone. And the only person I  
could think of you was you.

JEN's sobbing quiets. She looks up. ANDI is peering over the edge of the window.

JEN

You've ruined us.

Focus on ANDI. Before she can react, someone is approaching on the road. They both turn to see BILLIE. All BILLIE sees is JEN, sobbing, and ANDI in her mom's truck. BILLIE raises her eyebrows.

BILLIE

What the hell is going on?

JEN composes herself and wipes her tears aways. She walks over to BILLIE and hugs her. BILLIE locks eyes with ANDI.

JEN

Oh, honey. I'm so sorry.

BILLIE breaks the hug.

BILLIE

Is this about Dad? Because barf. I  
don't want to know more.

JEN is confused and looks to ANDI, who shrugs.

ANDI

(to BILLIE)

What are you doing here?

BILLIE

Prom sucked. So I left.

JOEY (V.O.)

Mr. Linney!

EXT. LIBRARY - EVENING

LUKE is leaving the library, a slight stumble to his step from HARRIET's punch. JOEY runs down to meet him.

JOEY  
 Where have you been?  
 (a beat)  
 Are you okay?

LUKE  
 Fine. What is it?

JOEY  
 Speeches. Very soon. First  
 Principal Blackwood, then you.

Focus on LUKE. He narrows his eyes as he sees the gym light up with dancing. JOEY begins to hurry back to the gym. LUKE follows him, close behind. CUT TO:

INT. GYM (VII) - EVENING

A close up on MARTHA. She clears her throat. The gym is quiet. A few random whoops here and there.

"VII"

MARTHA, right at the middle of the stage, takes a breath and smiles.

MARTHA  
 How about a hand for everybody who  
 helped put this together?! Joey,  
 Mrs. Capuano, Mr. Linney, and all  
 of the student council members,  
 please wave!

Applause. We cut to the crowd - HARRY is tucked in the corner, looking a bit shellshocked but putting on a good show, clapping apathetically. We see JOEY, having just rushed in from the library, popping in to wave, looking as enthusiastic as ever. TRACY waves meekly, not really caring anymore. We even see HARRIET, wandering through the crowd, popping in to check on things.

MARTHA  
 Marlboro High is built on our  
 founding three principles:  
 integrity, honesty, and trust. And  
 as long as we continue to  
 demonstrate these principles, our  
 students, you all, will be well on  
 your way to a successful future.

Just then, LUKE hobbles into the side door. MARTHA, on the front stage, claps preemptively. Everyone else follows suit.

MARTHA

Now, please give a warm welcome to your favorite English teacher, Mr. Linney!

MARTHA extends her hand out, making eye contact with LUKE. She raises her eyebrows, smiling, and gestures LUKE to come onto the stage. LUKE sees JOEY beckoning him as well. "Hurry up!" He takes a few steps. He sees TRACY out of the corner of his eye, leaning against a wall. She waves her hand for him to go on stage. LUKE slaps his own face a few times and goes to the microphone.

BILLIE (V.O.)

I'm done with this. I'm going home.

EXT. JEN'S TRUCK - EVENING

BILLIE walks past JEN.

JEN

At least let me drive you home!

ANDI

(to JEN)

Mrs. Linney, we have to go now.  
Macy could be in trouble.

BILLIE

Macy?

(she puts it  
together)

Oh, God. Just...

(she stops and  
walks to ANDI at  
the window)

... Jenstein, I'm sorry about  
the... you know. But I just don't  
care about this anymore. I'm  
leaving.

JEN

(to BILLIE)

Billie!

BILLIE

I'm not a child anymore, Mom!

ANDI and JEN watch her go, fading into the darkness.

ANDI

We have to go.

INT. GYM - EVENING

LUKE walks to the microphone. There's more jeers and catcalls than usual. He turns to see MARTHA giving encouragement. He sees TRACY barely paying attention. And then he sees MACY poke her head in from the outside doors, quietly. His eyes dart to HARRIET, who looks panicked and rushes to her.

LUKE

Good evening.

VOICE

Pedo!

LUKE freezes. He looks around to see that no one had reacted to that. We hold on a closeup of his face, sweat pouring down every orifice.

LUKE

Integrity. Every day, students and faculty at Marlboro hold ourselves to the highest standards of morality.

He looks around. No one is paying attention.

LUKE

Honesty. The truth is hard. But we must always strive to tell each other the hard truth, and in that way, we will improve ourselves and each other.

He spots MACY, still watching, but HARRIET is approaching. LUKE grips the podium.

LUKE

And most importantly, trust.

(he locks eyes  
with MACY)

Trust is the bedrock of Marlboro.  
We trust each other, we trust our students, we trust our teachers.  
We trust each other to do the right thing.

HARRIET grabs MACY. They talk quietly. HARRIET clearly wants to take MACY away from here.

LUKE

And sometimes.... sometimes, we make mistakes. And that's okay. What's important is that we have  
(MORE)

LUKE (cont'd)  
an honest and open conversation  
about it.

MACY and LUKE now are locked on to each other. HARRIET watches helplessly.

LUKE  
Then when we're on the same page,  
we know that the intention was  
never for anyone to get hurt.

Students and faculty murmur, confused as to the context of the speech. HARRIET drags MACY and walks out the back doors.

LUKE  
Thank you.

LUKE steps off the stage to more murmurs and whispers. He walks down the side steps and out the back entrance.

EXT. GYM - EVENING

LUKE bursts out the back entrance. He looks around. No one to be seen but some stragglers and smokers. The kids put away their joints but LUKE waves them off and they leave. He looks around.

He walks to the front entrance of the gym and sees TRACY standing outside, browsing her phone.

LUKE  
Tracy.

TRACY looks up.

TRACY  
Hi, Luke. Good speech. Very inspiring.

LUKE  
You listened?  
(a beat)  
How did you get here so fast?

TRACY pockets her phone. She walks right up to LUKE.

TRACY  
I'm lying. I only listened to half of it.  
(a giggle)  
I wanted to share something interesting with you.

LUKE

Trace, where's Macy? Harriet was with her. I need to speak with them urgently.

TRACY leans into his left ear.

TRACY

I'm sorry about Andi. She forced me to.

TRACY pulls back. LUKE looks very confused.

LUKE

What are you talking about?

TRACY

I didn't want to tell where you lived. But she left me no choice. Damien was a mistake.

(she shrugs)

But then it made me realize that... well... things are just going to happen anyway. So why fight it?

A horror grows on LUKE's face.

LUKE

What did you do?

(looks around)

Where's Macy? MACY?!

TRACY

I don't know what Andi is going to tell Jen. But... what's going to happen will happen.

She shrugs, amused. LUKE sees that in the distance, a car is approaching. He pushes TRACY aside and keeps looking.

EXT. SENIOR PARKING LOT - EVENING

LUKE sees HARRIET and MACY furiously arguing. When HARRIET spots LUKE, she stands in front of MACY.

LUKE

Please, Macy, we need to talk.

HARRIET

Back up, you pedo!

This word hits LUKE hard. He steps up to confront HARRIET when a red Volvo appears around the corner. It's JEN and ANDI. They lock eyes with him as the Volvo rolls in. There's fire in JEN's eyes.

LUKE  
Jen. Andi.

The Volvo parks. JEN and ANDI step out. LUKE finds himself glued to the ground as JEN steps towards him.

In the background, MACY sneaks away while attention is off her. HARRIET curses and chases after her. ANDI follows. LUKE doesn't even notice.

EXT. ADMIN BUILDING - EVENING

We follow ANDI through the backwoods of the admin building. She looks around. We hear yells from HARRIET, calling out for MACY. ANDI is lost. She looks around. She wanders aimlessly, trying to find HARRIET's voice, and the wandering abruptly ends when ANDI bumps into HARRIET accidentally, knocking both of them down.

HARRIET  
(grunts)  
Are you \*trying\* to make this  
worse?

ANDI stands up and offers a hand to HARRIET, who accepts.

HARRIET  
What are you doing here?  
(a beat)  
Are you looking for Macy?

ANDI  
Yeah....  
(a beat)  
... because she's ... vulnerable  
now. And I shouldn't have run away  
when you took me to the trophy  
room.

HARRIET crosses her arms. "Mhm", it says.

ANDI  
But I did tell his wife.

HARRIET

I saw. Nice.  
(she offers a fist  
bump)  
Very reckless of you.

ANDI

Now we need to make sure Macy's  
okay.

A sound. They turn to see something.

EXT. SENIOR PARKING LOT - EVENING

JEN and LUKE stare at each other. JEN raises her hand to  
slap him. But she can't and puts her hand down. She just  
shakes her head.

LUKE

You knew. And you don't care.

LUKE turns around. As he walks away, we see JEN breathing  
heavily, fists tightly clenching in the background.

EXT. GYM - EVENING

LUKE reaches the front of the gym and looks around.

LUKE

Macy!

MACY (V.O.)

Mr. Linney.

He turns to see MACY appear from behind a car. LUKE smiles.

EXT. ADMIN BUILDING - EVENING

ANDI and HARRIET see HARRY in the bushes. A thin wisp of  
smoke rises. HARRY steps out, coughs, and pockets his weed.

HARRIET

Oppa!

HARRIET marches towards HARRY and slaps him all over the  
sides of his head. HARRY is just grinning, not even  
protecting himself.

HARRIET

Mom's gonna murder you!

HARRY  
Geokjeongma! Relax!  
(a chuckle)  
Just relax.

HARRIET  
Where's your date?

HARRY clears his throat and looks up. HARRIET stands back, standing side by side with ANDI, both glaring at him. HARRY feels very exposed.

HARRY  
Are you a cop? Because you have to  
tell me if you're a cop.

ANDI  
Harry, come on. This is serious.

HARRY  
OKAY, \*ANDI\*. Look, it's all  
serious, okay? Today's been a  
weird day. A lot to process. Pedo  
teacher, friend breakup,  
disappearing date ...

ANDI  
I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry. A lot  
of that is on me. I've been a bad  
friend.

HARRY's eyes widen. He points at ANDI.

HARRY  
You and Mr. Linney?  
(he claps his  
hands)  
You were serious. Oh God, I'm  
gonna puke.

HARRIET  
Oppa!

Brother and sister lock eyes. HARRY shakes his head. He looks at ANDI.

HARRY  
What have you done?

ANDI has the thousand yard stare.

LUKE (V.O.)  
I'm sorry. It's all my fault.

EXT. GYM - EVENING

LUKE and MACY are embraced, standing a bit to the side away from the gym doors.

MACY

I got freaked out. I'm sorry.

MACY pulls away from the hug, looking down, in shame.

LUKE

No, it's my fault. I pushed you. I shouldn't have.

(a beat)

But now it's time to set some boundaries.

MACY

Boundaries?

LUKE

Macy. What do \*you\* want from this?

MACY

I...

(she looks up)

... don't know.

LUKE exhales, arms folded.

MACY

I'm confused, Mr. Linney. I don't want to ruin your marriage with Mrs. Linney, but I also have feelings, and...

LUKE

Macy.

MACY is crying.

MACY

I can't do this.

LUKE bends a knee and hugs MACY again. MACY cries into his shoulder. Focus on LUKE as he seems a bit frustrated. He lets her cry more, until he pats her and they stare face to face.

LUKE

It's okay. I respect your decision, Macy.

A wave of relief floods over MACY's face.

MACY  
Thank you, Mr. Linney.

LUKE  
But... no more running. We still  
have to fix this.

LUKE holds MACY by the shoulders.

LUKE  
Do you trust me?

MACY nods, wiping her tears.

MACY  
I won't run.

LUKE reaches into her pocket, fumbles, and finds her phone.

LUKE  
This is your only phone?

MACY  
(confused)  
Yes.

LUKE tries to unlock the phone. It's face-locked. He holds the phone to MACY's face. It won't recognize her. MACY takes the phone and unlocks it with a PIN. LUKE grabs the phone back and goes to her texts.

MACY  
What are you doing?

LUKE holds up her phone and shows her their text messages.

LUKE  
We can't have this, can we?

Focus on MACY. She shakes her head.

MACY  
No...

LUKE  
Right. Because who knows how this  
will look to your friends, right?  
(a chuckle)  
I mean... you, Macy Lee, and me?  
What will your friends think of  
you?

We hold on MACY, zooming in. Her head slowly droops again. She's thinking. LUKE's handling of the phone is loud, like large clicks in the void, and MACY hears every one of them.

LUKE (V.O.)

And me, well, you said it  
yourself, you don't want to ruin  
my marriage, and you don't want to  
make Mrs. Linney unhappy, right?  
(a beat)

Right?

MACY nods. A tear. A few more clicks on the phone, and LUKE shows MACY the phone. MACY peeks her head up.

LUKE (V.O.)

You see this, Macy? Like we never  
talked.

LUKE shoves the phone in MACY's chest. MACY takes it. She's shivering.

LUKE (V.O.)

But wait. You see, I'm deleting my  
messages too. Because we're in  
this together, right, Macy?

MACY doesn't reply at all this time. We're still zooming in on MACY. LUKE's clicks are much swifter now. He shows MACY his phone. MACY doesn't look at it. LUKE sighs, pockets his phone, and lifts MACY's head with two fingers.

LUKE (V.O.)

Do you trust that I deleted our  
texts? Our pictures?

MACY slowly nods. Several more tears.

LUKE (V.O.)

Good. Because I know you care  
about my marriage. And you should.  
And I know you care about your  
friends. I mean... what would they  
think?

A beat.

MACY

They wouldn't like it.

LUKE (V.O.)

Exactly.

LUKE stands, towering over MACY. He exhales, hands on hips, nodding his head. MACY still looks defeated.

LUKE (V.O.)  
Okay. What a relief off my  
shoulders. I hope you feel the  
same way.

We cut back to LUKE. He hears a sound from the front door. Two students. He clears his throat.

LUKE  
(exaggerated)  
We can talk about this on Monday.

Focus on LUKE as he taps MACY on the shoulder and leaves MACY. He walks to the FACULTY PARKING LOT.

As we follow him, we hear the voices in his head quiet. He shakes himself loose. He even manages a smile.

EXT. ADMIN BUILDING - EVENING

ANDI and HARRIET walk towards the gym. In the background, HARRY pops out of the bushes.

HARRY  
(yelling)  
Just, like, relax. Go home and  
sleep it off!  
(a cough; a puff  
of smoke)

HARRIET  
(mutters under her  
breath)  
Babo!  
(to ANDI)  
Andi, can you...

They both look in the distance. On the right, MACY disappears down some steps to lower campus where the LIBRARY is. On the left, LUKE is walking from the gym towards the FACULTY PARKING LOT.

HARRIET  
What is it with this girl and  
libraries...?

ANDI  
Make sure Macy's okay. Let me go  
talk to him.

HARRIET  
Are you sure?

ANDI nods. HARRIET dashes to the LIBRARY. ANDI follows LUKE to the FACULTY PARKING LOT.

EXT. FACULTY PARKING LOT - EVENING

LUKE finds his STATION WAGON, but someone has tagged it up. The word "PEDO" is sprayed everywhere. He kneels to check underneath the car. The tags are on every surface. He feels a rush of anger, an uncontrollable rage.

Suddenly, LUKE is blinded by headlights. LUKE shields his eyes.

LUKE  
Jen?

From the other side, ANDI jogs in, seeing LUKE.

ANDI  
Mr. Linney.

ANDI is caught off guard by the headlights and turns to look in that direction, also shielding her eyes. It's the red Volvo.

ANDI  
Mrs. Linney?

JEN walks out of the Volvo, holding the tire iron.

LUKE  
I swear to God, Jen, if I found out that you did this to my car...

JEN slams the tire iron onto the pavement, making a devastating crack in the air. There's a silence.

JEN  
I didn't do that. But I didn't stop them, either.

ANDI  
Mrs. Linney, maybe you should...

JEN points the tire iron away from the parking lot. "Leave." ANDI shakes her head.

ANDI  
No. This is about me, too.

JEN

Andi, none of this is your fault.  
It's all about him. And him only.

ANDI

But it is my fault. It's almost  
all my fault.

ANDI, who for the first time is standing above LUKE, turns to face him. LUKE is still on a knee.

ANDI

All I wanted was someone to look  
after me. And you took advantage  
of that. You took advantage of me.  
And worst...

ANDI leans in to speak into LUKE's left ear.

ANDI

You made me ashamed of myself.

ANDI stands back.

ANDI

I might be an asshole to a lot of  
people. But you will always be a  
goddamn pedophile.

LUKE looks down. He shakes his head.

LUKE

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hurt  
you.

He looks up now, into ANDI's eyes.

LUKE

I didn't mean to hurt Macy.  
(turns to JEN)  
Or you, Jen.

A beat. JEN and ANDI seem to be breathing concurrently, and LUKE has controlled the flow of the situation.

LUKE

(to JEN)

I'm weak. I shouldn't have blamed  
you for not caring. It's my fault.

JEN

(through gritted  
teeth)

You're goddamn right it's your  
(MORE)

JEN (cont'd)  
fault.

LUKE  
I'm trying to make it right. But  
we have to work together.  
(turns to ANDI)  
Right, An?

The word "An" echoes in ANDI's head. We see flashbacks of ANDI and LUKE together, holding hands, kissing. ANDI flashes back to the present, doe-eyed.

ANDI  
You... you can't do this anymore.

LUKE  
I won't. I promise.

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

Ominous music. HARRIET busts through the doors ungracefully. She sees the maintenance room door is open and walks over. She peeks inside and looks up. The roof hatch access lock has been broken.

EXT. LIBRARY ROOF - EVENING

HARRIET climbs up the ladder to the roof. She immediately spots MACY, standing at the edge. A look of horror envelopes HARRIET's face. As we focus on MACY:

LUKE (V.O.)  
All I ever wanted to do was make  
you happy. Do you believe me?

Focus on HARRIET. Her eyes emanate horror, sadness, everything. She reaches her hand out.

LUKE (V.O.)  
I didn't mean for this to happen.

Focus back on MACY. She holds her hand out. "Stop." HARRIET freezes. MACY shakes her head.

LUKE (V.O.)  
I won't do this anymore.

HARRIET unfreezes. She sprints to MACY.

EXT. FACULTY PARKING LOT - EVENING

Focus on LUKE. His eyes seem sincere. ANDI steps back and stands besides JEN. Together, they stare at LUKE. He stands.

ANDI

Bullshit.

A yell pierces the night.

ANDI, JEN, and LUKE all turn towards the library, where they have a clear line of sight downhill. JEN runs over to go check it out.

JEN

Macy!

LUKE

How do you...

LUKE turns to meet ANDI's eyes. ANDI shakes her head.

Focus on ANDI as she walks to the edge of the parking lot, which overlooks the campus and the library. We only see her face, but her horrified reaction says it all. She covers her mouth. A commotion begins to grow. More yells of anguish.

Focus on LUKE. He refuses to look. ANDI and LUKE stand near each other, LUKE looking down into his lap, ANDI staring into the distance. In the background, she hyperventilates, panicking, but slows her breathing. This shock turns into anger. She turns left to look directly at LUKE.

Zoom in as she steps right up to his profile. She's breathing heavily, trying her best not to strike him. LUKE remains surprisingly calm. ANDI gets her breathing under control. The music is still intensifying.

ANDI steps away, out of frame. But one second later, she returns and slaps LUKE so hard he falls out of frame and collapses onto the pavement. We focus on ANDI, breathing fast again, trying to calm herself. She then begins to cry. ANDI steps out of frame. We zoom into campus, where we see a gathering crowd around the library.

PRINCIPAL MARTHA BLACKWOOD's frantic yells over the crowd echo...

MARTHA (V.O.)

(fading away)

Everybody! Please proceed back to  
the gym while...

FADE TO:

EXT. SENIOR PARKING LOT (VIII) - EVENING

FADE IN: A faded, torn up poster of the motto: INTEGRITY, HONESTY, TRUST, THAT'S THE MARLBORO WAY. It's flapping in the light breeze. It's illuminated by the glow of red and blue, from police cars occupying the lot.

"VIII"

Pan right.

It's MACY's VOLVO. There's police tape around it. A man and a woman, her parents, are standing besides it, talking to police officers. They're sobbing. Pan right.

TRACY sits on the hood of a car, just observing. She's definitely cried, but is remaining very calm. TRACY flicks a cigarette to the ground and shakes her head. Pan right.

JOEY is talking fast to some reporters as he thoroughly explains what happened. He speaks matter-of-factly, like his fellow student didn't just kill herself, and with an air of neutrality that is a bit off kilter. Pan right, through the building...

EXT. FACULTY PARKING LOT - EVENING

... and we see HARRIET, wrapped in a blanket, holding HARRY very tight, still crying. HARRY has his chin on her head. Pan right. JEN is smoking, leaning against her truck. We hear a familiar voice.

BILLIE

Mom?

JEN perks up and sees BILLIE walking towards her. She tosses her cigarette away.

JEN

I thought you went home.

BILLIE

Is it true?

(she peers over  
campus, towards  
the library)

Shit.

JEN extends her arms out. BILLIE immediately walks over and collapses into her arms, crying immediately. JEN closes her eyes. Pan right.

ANDI stands alone, near LUKE's parking spot. He notices BILLIE staring at her. They nod. BILLIE leans into her mother's arms, giving in.

ANDI tries to go down to lower campus, but is stopped once again by a police officer.

ANDI  
I just need to see her. Please. I  
just need to. Please, Officer...  
(she reads his  
uniform)  
... Simms.

OFFICER SIMMS  
Once again, all students need to  
stay up here. I can't let you  
pass.

ANDI feels the world swirling around her. Voices, memories, MACY's face, LUKE, all culminating in a jumbled mess. She grabs her head, trying to control her emotions.

ANDI  
Please...

OFFICER SIMMS  
Miss, I can't let you past...

Focus on ANDI's face, very close up.

ANDI  
Then you need to talk to Luke  
Linney.

ANDI's breath is fast, short-paced. She feels like she's going to pass out. Her heartbeat is loud. All sounds seem to fade into the background until OFFICER SIMMS' voice cuts through.

OFFICER SIMMS (V.O.)  
Ma 'am?

ANDI looks confused, lost.

ANDI  
What?

OFFICER SIMMS  
I said: he turned himself in  
already.

INT. ADMIN BUILDING - EVENING

Focus on LUKE as we zoom in. He's seated, looking straight ahead, with the thousand yard stare. Officers surround him on all sides, asking him questions. But we hear none of it. We just hear his breathing. It's not fast. It's slow. It's almost like he's relieved. One officer snaps his fingers, leaning in. But LUKE ignores it.

EXT. ADMIN BUILDING - EVENING

ANDI, JEN, and BILLIE stand outside as LUKE is brought out by 4 officers. He's not handcuffed. LUKE sees the gathering crowd and locks eyes with ANDI. LUKE holds his hand on his face, where it's red from ANDI's slap. ANDI shakes her head. LUKE then breaks off from the officers and walks up to JEN, who holds BILLIE and backs off.

JEN  
No.

LUKE  
I'm sorry.

Focus on JEN. She's breathing heavily. She's holding back tears. Back to LUKE, who returns to the officers. ANDI watches as they take him to a car.

INT. POLICE CAR - EVENING

LUKE sits back. He sighs. He turns to look out the window. An entire crowd is watching now, whispering. Some are even laughing. He sees ANDI watching from a distance, arms folded. Suddenly, a loud sound. A rock. He turns to see HARRIET toss another rock. She's restrained by some officers as she yells.

HARRIET  
You pedo! You murderer! You  
asshole!

OFFICER SIMMS is standing outside the car. He taps the window.

OFFICER SIMMS  
Let's go.

The car moves. We focus on LUKE as we leave campus. The noise subsides, and soon we're left with just LUKE and his thoughts.

EXT. GYM - EVENING

A bench right outside the gym. ANDI stumbles over and sits down in the middle. She slouches, hands on her face, and shakes it out.

JEN and BILLIE appear from the right. All 3 of them acknowledge each other. JEN sits first and BILLIE leans on her lap.

HARRY appears from the left. He waves. ANDI waves back. He sits next to her. HARRY gives her a hug. ANDY begins to cry at last. HARRIET also appears from the left. She walks over to HARRY and ANDI and sits right besides HARRY, leaning on his shoulder.

TRACY appears from behind the bench, from the gym doors. She takes off her heels and tosses them into the bushes.

We zoom in on ANDI, who's still crying on HARRY.

JEN (V.O.)

Andi.

ANDI pops out to turn to JEN.

JEN

It's gonna be okay.

Focus on ANDI. CUT TO BLACK.

"THE END"

FADE OUT.