

BEA & SOFIA

by

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"And I think there was nothing my sister
wanted to take from me. Why would
she want to, she had everything –
in our room she had control of the door,
closed, or open, and the light switch,
dark, or bright. And if anything
had happened to me, I think my sister
would not have known who she was, I was almost
essential to her, as she to me.
If anything had happened to her,
I think I would not be alive today,
and no one would remember me,
as if I had not lived."

-from Ode to My Sister, by Sharon Olds

CHARACTERS

SOPHIA - 24

Smart, driven, kind. A "popular nerd". Bit of a flirt, definitely a people pleaser. Loves fully and deeply. Sensitive, quick on her feet, romantic.

BEA - 21

Heart and soul of an artist. Currently depressed and recovering from a suicide attempt. Prone to lashing out using wit and sarcasm. Sharp. Sometimes silly.

A note on Bea and Sophia's relationship:

Bea and Sophia speak to each other without filters. They are more comfortable with each other than anyone else, and they know how to swiftly and sharply cut to the core of the other's insecurities.

They move between humor, cruelty, and sweetness quickly and without much space in between.

Their dialogue should be quick and largely unedited. They take each other and their relationship for granted. It is difficult for them to let go of their expectations when it comes to their relationship - they are looking at each other through the filter of the past.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK)

A small tent glows bright in the wilderness.

INT. TENT - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK)

POV: GABRIELA'S CAMCORDER

GABRIELA, (late 20s, Puerto Rican, wearing a thick flannel shirt and a beanie), sits cross-legged in a tent surrounded by several sleeping bags. A small battery operated lantern hangs from the ceiling of the tent.

She points the camcorder to her face.

GABRIELA
(putting on a TV host
voice)
Welcome to the show everybody!

She imitates the cheering of an audience.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)
I'm your host, Gabriela Vila-
Johnson and we are so happy to have
you with us today. And to all of
you watching at home, thanks for
tuning in.

In the background, there is some movement coming from inside two sleeping bags, which are zipped to the top. This is SOFIA (age 8) and BEA (age 5). We hear them bickering inside the bags.

BEA (O.S.)
I HATE you.

SOFIA (O.S.)
It doesn't look that bad! I said
I'm sorry! I'm SORRY!

GABRIELA
Please put your hands together for
our guest, Ms. Potato!

She points the camera at a POTATO with a face drawn on it in magic marker. Atop the potato sit large chunks of curly brown hair, tied into place with a rubber band.

GABRIELA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Now, Señora Potato, I can't help
 but notice what gorgeous hair you
 have. I mean, absolutely beautiful.
 Who is your stylist?

A loud zipping noise as one of the sleeping bags unzips and
 SOFIA sits up, her face red and tear-tracked.

SOFIA
 Mami, stop.

Gabriela turns the camera to face Sofia. Another zipping
 noise reveals BEA, who sits up next to Sofia. She is missing
 a large chunk of curly brown hair, that suspiciously looks
 like Ms. Potato head's new do.

BEA
 (crying)
 I'm so ugly!!!

GABRIELA (O.S.)
 Mija don't say that. You're so
 beautiful!

Bea crosses her arms.

GABRIELA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Your sister is very sorry. Right
 Sofia?

SOFIA
 Yes Bea I'm so sorry I love you I
 didn't mean it please forgive me!

BEA
 I have something to say.

Gabriela turns the camera onto herself.

GABRIELA
 (putting back on her host
 voice)
 Everyone put your hands together
 for our next guest!

She turns the camera to face Bea.

GABRIELA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Please, introduce yourself! Though
 of course she really needs no
 introduction.

BEA

I'm Bea.

GABRIELA (O.S.)

Bea! What a beautiful name. Who gave you such a beautiful name?

Sofia giggles.

GABRIELA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Well, Bea, tell us a little about yourself.

BEA

I'm 5 and it's my birthday today and Sofi cut off all my hair but I just decided to forgive.

Sofia tackles Bea in a hug and Bea pushes her off.

Sofia waves at the camera.

SOFIA

Hi I'm Sofia and I'm 8 and I just wanted to say I'm really sorry to Bea. And it's my birthday too.

Sofia scoots over to sit next to Bea while Gabriela gasps in faux shock and awe.

GABRIELA (O.S.)

Oh my goodness! TWO birthdays? This must be the greatest day in all of history!

She turns the camera back on herself.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)

Let it be known, viewers at home, that October 1st is the single most magical and special day of the year.

She points the camera back at the two of them.

BEA

I like dogs! And my favorite color is blue. And mami's is red.

SOFIA

And my first favorite color is pink and my second favorite color is orange.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
 You heard it here first! And
 now...for some questions our
 viewers have been *dying* to know.

She pauses for a moment, considering.

GABRIELA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 If you....were a wild animal...what
 animal would you be?

A lion!

SOFIA

A turtle!

BEA

GABRIELA (O.S.)
 Why would you be a turtle B?

BEA
 Because then I would be like a rock
 and no one could step on me.

SOFIA
 I would be a lion because no one
 tells them what to do and they
 protect their babies.

Gabriela smiles. She sits up, adjusting the camera, focusing
 a little harder on framing the girls.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
 I love it. Okay hmmm. Okay.
 (beat)
 What do you think...your life will
 be like in the future? When you're
 old like mami?

SOFIA
 I'm going to have a big big house
 and lots of horses and all my
 friends and mami and daddy can live
 there too.

BEA
 I'm going to make movies like mami!
 AND I'm going to go live in Puerto
 Rico!

GABRIELA (O.S.)
 (smiling)
 Yeah? You wanna live in Puerto
 Rico?

SOFIA
 Me too!

She smiles, a little sad, then turns the camera back around to her.

GABRIELA

I'm afraid that's all the time we have for today, America.

SOFIA

Noo!!!

BEA

Noooooo!!

GABRIELA

Our guests have very important places to be I'm afraid. Like asleep.

SOFIA

I'm not tired.

BEA

Me either!

GABRIELA

Okay, okay. One more question to wrap things up. And then. We brush our teeth.

The girls nod, growing serious. Gabriela turns the camera to face them.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)

What is...your biggest feeling? Right now?

The girls are quiet for a moment.

BEA

Not tired!

SOFIA

Yeah, not tired!

The camera clicks off.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

SOFIA, now in her mid 20s, pulls her car onto a side street next to a college campus. She balances a cake pan on her lap. She parks the car (next to a fire hydrant), and checks her appearance in the mirror.

Sofia weaves through the bustling campus, carrying the uncovered cake, shielding it from the elements as best she can.

She walks up to the door of a residence hall, waits for someone to exit, and slips in. Someone holds the door open for her.

SOFIA

Thanks!

INT. COLLEGE DORM - DAY

Sofia walks through the dorm lobby and up to the student receptionist, MARCUS (20s, eating a bowl of spaghetti and watching Netflix on his phone, a little stoned?). Sofia sets the cake down on the counter.

SOFIA

Hiiii.

He looks up, setting down his bowl.

MARCUS

Yooo Sofia! Been a minute! How's it goin'?

SOFIA

Well, yeah I had to catch up on a little/work, so-

MARCUS

/No worries no worries.

SOFIA

(a little defensive)

I mean I was here Thursday.

MARCUS

I wasn't working the desk Thursday.

SOFIA

Ahh right, right.

(a beat)

How is she? Has she come down today at all?

MARCUS

Nah, but I did a check-in before lunch.

SOFIA

How did she seem?

MARCUS

I think I woke her up, so. Kinda
pissed.

Sofia nods. She checks the time on her phone.

SOFIA

What time was it?

MARCUS

I don't know. Before lunch. 12.

SOFIA

Did she have a class?

MARCUS

I don't know her schedule. But a
lot of professors have been
cancelling class ahead of the break
so she may just be chillin'.

SOFIA

Yeah, right. Cool.

Jake looks at the cake.

MARCUS

Who's birthday?

SOFIA

Bea's. And mine.

MARCUS

Wooaaahhh dope. Happy birthday to
you both.

SOFIA

Thank you thank you.

He looks at the cake.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

I didn't have any like, foil, and I
thought Saran wrap would mess up
the letters so...yeah.

MARCUS

You killed it.

SOFIA

Thanks.

INT. COLLEGE DORM - DAY

Sofia heads up the stairs. She reaches a long hallway, passing doors decorated with colorful name tags and signs indicating checkout instructions for the upcoming Fall Break.

She turns the corner and sees a door labeled: BEA. She quietly sets the cake down on the floor, reaches into her purse, and pulls out a long lighter, starting to light the candles on the cake.

She gets about halfway through when the door swings open. BEA, now 20, stands in the door, wearing an oversized sweatshirt and boxer shorts.

BEA

Sofia?

Sofia jumps, startled.

SOFIA

Shit! How did you know I was here?

She stands up.

BEA

I just knew someone was out here. I saw a shadow.

SOFIA

You saw a shadow through the door?

BEA

Not *through* the door obviously, like, under the door. Passing the door.

Bea looks down at the cake. The candles are starting to melt.

SOFIA

Fuck.

She kneels back down and continues to light the candles while Bea watches. When they are lit, she slowly picks up the cake. A couple of them go out again.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Goddamn it.

She holds it in front of them. Bea takes one of the candles and relights one of the burned out ones.

BEA

Happy birthday Sof.

SOFIA
Happy birthday B.

INT. BEA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

The room is a disaster. There is an open carton of Goldfish on the floor and several cans of empty Dr. Pepper, a half empty bag of chocolate chips.

Papers and books cover the desk and so do several different pill bottles, along with a hospital bracelet. The walls are covered with a collage of pictures, art, illustrations, and poems. A photo of the two of them as kids.

Bea and Sofia sit on the floor, eating the cake with forks.

SOFIA
Did you ever check in about your comparative lit test? Will she let you retake it?

BEA
I think so.

SOFIA
Because I can send another email if you want.

BEA
No, it's fine. Seriously. I promise.

SOFIA
Okay.

Bea eats another bite.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Do you like it?

BEA
Ehhh.

Sofia tries to stab her with her fork.

SOFIA
You're the worst.

BEA
I'm kidding! I'm kidding. It's delicious, thank you.

(then)
(MORE)

BEA (CONT'D)

You know Dad thinks I should take a year off.

SOFIA

(scoffs)

What? Why?

BEA

Uh...I dunno... maybe because I just tried to kill myself?

SOFIA

Bea!

BEA

What?

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Just. Don't. We know what happened. Okay? We don't have to/like

BEA (CONT'D)

/Yeah exactly we know what happened so we don't have to keep like, talking around it. Right?

A beat. They keep eating cake. Bea knows Sofia wants to say something else. Sofia is trying to hold herself back from zooming full speed ahead.

SOFIA

So are you packed?

BEA

I told you, I'm not going.

SOFIA

(joking)

Honestly I packed enough for us both, so-

Sofia gets up, taking the cake and putting it on Bea's desk, reaching under her desk for a roll of foil. She moves with confidence, gathering momentum.

BEA

Sofia. I'm not going.

SOFIA

Welllll I got these permits months ago and they're really hard to get--

BEA

Welllll sorry if I don't really feel like going on a fucking hike.

Sofia goes to Bea's closet and pulls out a large camping backpack. Bea stands up.

BEA (CONT'D)
Dude, stop! Seriously. I'm not going.

Sofia starts going around and throwing a few things into the backpack. Bea tries to get the backpack from her, but Sofia jumps up onto the bed.

BEA (CONT'D)
Sofia, I'm not kidding.

SOFIA
I'm not either!

She holds the backpack over her head. Bea is not having it.

BEA
Stop.

Sofia bounces on the bed.

SOFIA
If you want it you can come get it!!!

Bea glares at her, then looks behind her out the window.

BEA
Is that your car?

Sofia looks out the window of the dorm room. Her car is being towed.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sofia sprints out to her car, frantic.

SOFIA
Wait! Wait! Wait please!

Her car has been hooked up to a tow truck.

TOW TRUCK MAN (60s, jolly but a little drunk with power) rolls down a window to look at her as she runs up to the window.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Hi, sorry! This is my car!

TOW TRUCK MAN
Well, 'fraid you parked it in front
of a hydrant.

Bea walks up, casually catching up with Sofia, and stands to
the side of the car.

SOFIA
Shit.

She did.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry, I didn't notice it.
I'll move it right now.

TOW TRUCK MAN
You're gonna have to pay the towing
fee.

SOFIA
But, you haven't actually towed it.

TOW TRUCK MAN
But I hooked it to my truck.

He gives her a big smile and gestures a thumb back to the
attached car.

SOFIA
Okay, yeah, yeah I see, but you
haven't moved at all. And I'm here,
and I can move it.

TOW TRUCK MAN
Sorry, hon. No can do. A violation
is a violation.

He readjusts his hat on his head, checks out his reflection
in the rearview mirror. Sofia looks at Bea.

TOW TRUCK MAN (CONT'D)
I can either take it away or you
can pay the tow fee.

SOFIA
How much is it?

TOW TRUCK MAN
Two seventy five.

Sofia looks at Bea again, who is sitting on the curb, vaping.

SOFIA

Two hundred and seventy five?

Sofia is starting to lose it a little bit. She takes a breath.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Okay, sir, I completely understand that this is your job, but like. Since I'm here now, and I can move it, could you please just-

TOW TRUCK MAN

I really wish I could help you out.

Sofia starts to cry.

SOFIA

Okay but, like you *can*. If you wanted to.

(starting to spiral out)

Listen I didn't see the hydrant, I swear, and I'm really sorry to keep asking but can you please *please* just give us a break here? Please can you just give us a *fucking* break?!

Sofia is a mess. The tow truck man looks at her with pity. She looks back at Bea, who shrugs.

TOW TRUCK MAN

I can take card if that's easier.

He pulls out a portable card reader. She fumbles for her wallet and hands him her debit card. He swipes it, and hands her a receipt.

SOFIA

I'm sorry.

Bea and Sofia watch in silence as the Tow Truck Man gets out of the car, detaches it from the truck and drives away.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

FUCK. FUCKING FUCK FUCK FUCKKKK.

She kicks the wheel of the car. She sits down on the curb. Bea sits next to her, playing with a blade of grass and vaping.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Fuck.

BEA
Alright, fine. I'll go.

Sofia looks up at her.

SOFIA
Really?

BEA
Sure.

Sofia tackles Bea in a hug.

INT. CAR - DAY

Sofia is driving and Bea is in the passenger seat. Two camping backpacks sit in the back.

SOFIA
Did you know the Grand Canyon
actually creates its own weather?

BEA
Cool.

A beat. Bea looks out the window.

SOFIA
Are you mad I made you come?

BEA
Nope.

SOFIA
Cause it's okay if you are.

BEA
I'm not mad. I just don't know why
we have to go so far.

Sofia lightly punches Bea on the arm, smiling.

SOFIA
Go big or go home am I right?

BEA
(sassy)
Well, I wanna go home.

A beat. Sofia stares at the road ahead of her.

SOFIA
(lightly)
Too late, sorry.

Bea doesn't say anything.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Just. Play something.

Sofia hands her the aux and Bea plugs in her phone and blasts music from the speakers. It's loud and fun. A beat of release.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
(so excited)
Road trip!

Bea cracks a smile. Sofia jumps on this and starts play punching Bea.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
ROAD TRIP! ROAD TRIP!

Bea laughs, won over.

BEA
Keep your eyes on the fucking road!

INT. CAR - DAY

Sofia pulls up to a drive thru microphone.

SOFIA
Hi! Could I please have the Garden
Salad with no cheese and the
dressing on the side?

Bea leans over Sofia to speak into the mic.

BEA
And one 10 piece chicken nuggets.
And a Dr. Pepper.

FAST FOOD EMPLOYEE
We have Pepsi.

Sofia waves Bea back.

SOFIA
That's fine! And can I get a
sparkling water?

FAST FOOD EMPLOYEE
 Okay, I have one garden salad no
 cheese, dressing on side, one 10
 piece nuggets, one Pepsi, one
 seltzer.

BEA
 (to SOFIA)
 Will you switch mine to a Sprite?

SOFIA
 She already put in the order.

BEA
 She didn't put in the order, she's
 literally confirming it right now.

SOFIA
 (to microphone)
 That's great, thank you!
 (to Bea)
 Sorry, I got stressed.

Bea sits back in her seat. Sofia pulls forward. They wait.
 The FAST FOOD EMPLOYEE opens the window.

FAST FOOD EMPLOYEE
 That'll be 10.76.

Sofia hands her a card. She swipes it. The employee looks at
 the girls.

FAST FOOD EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
 Y'all sisters?

SOFIA	BEA
Yeah!	No.

The employee looks confused.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
 She's kidding. Yes, we are.

Still confused.

FAST FOOD EMPLOYEE
 Oh well, I can tell. Y'all got the
 same kinda face.

SOFIA
 Ahh thanks, yeah. We get that
 sometimes.

FAST FOOD EMPLOYEE
 Y'all are sweet too. I got a sister
 but to be honest she's kind of a
 lot. Ketchup?

SOFIA
 Oh, uh yeah that'd be great!

The employee stuffs the bag with ketchup and hands it to Sofia.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
 Thanks so much.

FAST FOOD EMPLOYEE
 Have a nice day!

SOFIA
 You too!

They drive away and back onto the road.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
 Aww she was sweet.

Bea grabs the bag and starts eating her nuggets. Sofia hands her her drink.

BEA
 I'm not drinking that.

SOFIA
 Fine.

INT. CAR - DAY

Bea is sleeping, her head up against the car window. It's quiet, save for Bea's light snores. She adjusts, and her head falls forward a bit, her hair falling in her face.

Sofia reaches in the backseat and grabs a USC college sweatshirt. She balls it up and tries to fit it behind Bea's head. She swerves, then corrects. Bea adjusts, grabs the sweatshirt, and falls back asleep.

The landscape rides along with us.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

POV: GABRIELA'S CAMCORDER

Sofia (age 11) and Bea (age 8) sit side by side in camping chairs in front of a fire. There are huge steaks on paper plates on their laps. Bea picks hers up with her hands and knaws on it.

Gabriela is behind the camera filming.

SOFIA
Today is October 1st.

BEA
I'm Bea and I'm 8.

SOFIA
And I'm Sofia and I'm 11.

Sofia turns to Bea, gnawing away at the steak.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Bea stop.

BEA
Mami said we could.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
I did, Sof. Camp rules.

SOFIA
Fine.

Bea looks at Gabriela.

BEA
Can we do talk show now?

GABRIELA (V.O.)
We are doing talk show!

BEA
No we're doing interview its different.

SOFIA
Bea stop complaining.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
Once we're done we can make s'mores, okay?

She changes the settings on the camera.

BEA
Okay.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
Okay. First question.

She smiles and focuses the camera on the girls.

BEA
I'm cold!

Gabriela sets the camera down on her chair. She gets up and hands Bea her sweatshirt, walking into frame for a moment. It is the same USC sweatshirt Bea sleeps on in the car earlier. She picks up the camera and sits back down.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
Okay. Here we go. If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

Sofia sits up and looks directly into the lens.

SOFIA
A dog, because everyone loves dogs and they are very smart and hopefully we will have our own dog soon and then I could be friends with them.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
I have made no promises about this, Sofia.

SOFIA
Dad said we could get a dog.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
Dad doesn't know what he's talking about.

SOFIA
But Mami-

GABRIELA (O.S.)
(harshly)
Sofia, I said no. No. Basta.

A beat.

GABRIELA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Okay B your turn.

BEA
I would be a whale because they have their own secret language.

SOFIA
You were a whale last year.

BEA
Well I still want to be one.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
That's okay! That's great. Okay.
Okay. And what do you think your
life will look like in the future?

SOFIA
I want to make movies like Mami.

BEA
Mami doesn't make movies she makes
videos.

SOFIA
She made a movie one time!

GABRIELA (O.S.)
Okay, okay that's okay, Bea what
about you?

BEA
I want to own a restaurant where I
only make mini foods.

GABRIELA (O.S.)
(smiles)
And what is your biggest feeling
right now?

SOFIA
Thoughtful.

Bea takes a big bite out of her steak.

BEA
Bleep blorp bloop blorp.

SOFIA
Mami can you answer the questions
too this time?

GABRIELA (O.S.)
Well, I would, but I promised
s'mores and I am afraid of her.

She points to Bea who giggles and growls. Gabriela packs up
her camera, carefully, placing it back in her bag.

SOFIA

We can have s'mores after you go!

Bea growls. Gabriela looks at her, and then at Sofia. She raises her eyebrows. She turns the camera back on herself.

GABRIELA

My hands are tied.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Sofia is outside, holding the gas pump. She swipes her card. It's declined.

She goes into her wallet and pulls out another card, looking at it for a moment. She hits credit.

Bea gets out of the car and stretches.

BEA

You want anything?

SOFIA

No I'm good, thanks.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Bea walks into the gas station store. She goes towards the drinks at the back. She stares at them for a moment, stretching out before her. She opens the refrigerator door.

She steps closer, feeling the cold on her body. She leans her forehead against one of the shelves and closes her eyes. A cashier comes up behind her.

CASHIER

Miss? Do you need any help?

Bea grabs a soda and shuts the door.

BEA

No I'm good. Got it.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Bea comes out of the store holding a large bag of jolly ranchers and a couple of drinks.

BEA

Jolly ranchers?

SOFIA
Incredible.

Bea gets in the passenger seat. Sofia is still waiting for the car to fill up. Bea calls out to her through the window.

BEA
Do you have any chapstick?

SOFIA
Yeah in my purse. Inside zipper pocket.

Bea reaches into Sofia's backpack. She finds the chapstick. She looks inside the backpack at Sofia's journal. She looks at Sofia then pulls it out.

She flips through a couple pages. There are a couple of planned out meals/calorie counts. She sees her name a few times. She flips back a couple of pages further to find a page of ANNOTATED TIME STAMPS, DATES, and STORYBOARDS. The dates all read 10/1 with different years.

Bea closes the journal. Sofia gets back into the car, starts it up, and looks over at her. She grabs her journal.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
What the fuck, Bea?

BEA
(casually)
Sorry.

SOFIA
That's so fucked up you can't just read my shit!

Bea shrugs. Sofia peels out of the parking lot and onto the road.

BEA
1300 calories a day?

She gives Sofia a hard look.

SOFIA
At least I don't get all my calories from Dr. Pepper.

Bea shrugs. Sofia stares ahead. Bea unwraps a jolly rancher.

BEA
So you're making it?

SOFIA

What?

BEA

Mom's movie. You're making it.

A beat. Bea pops the jolly rancher into her mouth.

SOFIA

Oh. Um. I mean. Maybe. I dunno I was thinking about it, but I dunno. Is that okay? Do you think that's okay?

BEA

(sucking loudly on the jolly rancher)
No, do it. Go ahead. I don't care.

SOFIA

Would you want to do it with me?

BEA

Not really, no.

SOFIA

I don't know I just thought-. We should do something with it. I mean she was going to, right?

BEA

Welllll, we don't know, really.

SOFIA

But probably.

BEA

Who's to say.

SOFIA

She was an artist. She would've done something.

Bea snorts.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

What?

BEA

What

SOFIA

Why'd you laugh? She was.

BEA

I mean, yeah I guess. But mostly she was just sad. Or mad at Dad.

SOFIA

That's not true. That's just...selective memory.

BEA

Well, they're pretty powerful selections.

SOFIA

That's not fair Bea.

Bea looks out the window.

BEA

Why now?

SOFIA

What?

She turns back to Sofia.

BEA

Why are you making the movie now? You could have made it at any point over the last four years.

SOFIA

I mean, I didn't know what I was doing, before. Like, I have more tools now. And now we have the stuff with just you and me too.

Bea shrugs. They drive in silence.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Are you sure you're okay with it?

BEA

Yeah, I don't care. I was just curious.

Bea turns up the music.

INT. CAR - DAY

Bea and Sofia are listening to the audiobook of Crazy Rich Asians (or another fun romance novel). The sun is beginning to set.

AUDIOBOOK NARRATOR

"Pinch me, please. Is any of this real?" Rachel whispered as she looked into Nick's eyes. "This place is very real. You're the--"

SIRI

Continue for 210 miles.

BEA

Noooo!

SOFIA

Go back go back!

Bea goes back on the audio.

AUDIOBOOK NARRATOR

"This place is very real. You're the dream." Nick answered as he kissed her deeply.

Sofia sighs.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The bag of Jolly Ranchers is empty. Joni Mitchell is playing on the car speakers. Bea reaches over and turns it up. It blasts. She rolls down the window.

They sing along, loudly and poorly, to "A Case of You" or another emotional belter. They are together, but separate, singing in their own world.

EXT. ROADSIDE MOTEL - NIGHT

A roadside motel with a couple of letters out. A nearly empty parking lot.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Sofia and Bea are sharing a full size bed. Bea is scrolling on her phone. Sofia turns on her side to look at her.

SOFIA

What are you doing?

BEA

Reading.

SOFIA

What're you reading?

Bea doesn't answer.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Is it ok if I turn out the light?

BEA

Okay.

SOFIA

Did you take your meds?

BEA

Yep.

Sofia turns out the light. They lie in the darkness, illuminated from the glow of Bea's phone.

SOFIA

Do you want some of this?

Sofia holds up her weed pen.

BEA

I'm good. I've got this.

She holds up her vape.

SOFIA

Ah yes. Your nicotine stick.

BEA

Weed makes me more anxious. So, no.

SOFIA

Are you sure? It helps me sleep.

BEA

Yep.

Sofia stares up at the ceiling.

SOFIA

I think it might help.

BEA

Goodnight Sofia.

SOFIA

Night B. I love you.

Sofia lies on her back, pulling the covers up more tightly around her. Bea stares up at the ceiling. A beat.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Hey B.

BEA

Hm?

Sofia takes a shaky breath in, working up courage.

SOFIA

Do you-. Do you want to talk to about it? Like, the whole...I mean, like, I know it's been kind of like, um. A lot of just getting back on your feet and everything, but I think I still don't understand, like, how did you get there, you know? I mean, do you want to talk about it? I feel like it might be good?

Bea stops scrolling on her phone for a second.

BEA

I mean, I'm going to therapy.

SOFIA

Yeah, I know. I just meant like, with me. If you wanted to.

A beat. Bea

BEA

I'm really tired, Sof.

SOFIA

Okay, yeah. Totally. We'll talk later.

BEA

Yeah.

SOFIA

Love you.

BEA

You too.

Bea clicks off her phone and turns onto her side, closing her eyes tightly. Sofia stares up at the ceiling.

EXT. MOTEL PARKING LOT - DAY

The next morning, Sofia goes through a checklist while Bea is asleep. We see her pull out and reorganize the two camping backpacks she's packed.

They are filled and highly organized. There is freeze dried food, waterskins, compact sleeping bags, iodine tablets, everything they will need.

She checks off a list of camping supplies, split evenly between "Bea's backpack" and "Sofia's backpack."

EXT. GRAND CANYON PARK REGISTRATION OFFICE - DAY

Sofia drives into the parking lot. A sign reads: Welcome to the Grand Canyon! Sofia parks.

SOFIA

You can stay here, I'll go get our permits.

BEA

Okay.

Sofia moves to get out of the car.

BEA (CONT'D)

Wait, Sofia.

SOFIA

Yeah?

BEA

I just...I-

SOFIA

What?

Bea takes a deep breath out.

BEA

I'm really tired.

Bea stares out ahead of her. They sit in silence for a moment. Sofia takes a breath in.

SOFIA

Bea if you really don't want to do this...I will turn the car around right now. But I think you can do it. I really really do.

Bea stares out the window.

BEA

Yeah.

SOFIA
What do you think?

BEA
I'm fine.

Sofia leans over and kisses her on the head.

INT. GRAND CANYON PARK REGISTRATION OFFICE - DAY

Sofia enters the park office. It is fairly large, with maps and outdated signs covering the walls, shelves of leaflets advertising nearby hotels and attractions.

There are a few different windows for check in. Sofia is at one of them.

SOFIA
Could I actually grab one more of those? Thanks.

NOAH
Well if it isn't Forest Highlands High School's three-time Public Forum debate state champion.

Sofia turns around to see NOAH (25, charming in an easy way).

SOFIA
Oh my God.

They hug.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Holy shit, what are you doing here?

He smiles, raising his eyebrows.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Sorry, that was dumb. Wow. Wow.
Noah Lutz.

NOAH
In the flesh.

SOFIA
You're tall. When did you get tall?

NOAH
Delayed growth spurt.

Sofia smiles back.

NOAH (CONT'D)

This your first time here?

SOFIA

Yep. We're just doing like a one night trip. I'm with my sister/ Bea.

NOAH

/Ah cool, yeah of course I remember Bea! She's awesome.

SOFIA

Yeah, she's the best.
(then, as an explanation)
She's in the car.

NOAH

I actually did the rim to rim a couple years back. Taking it easy this time around though.

SOFIA

Wow that's incredible. I'd love to do that.

NOAH

Yeah it was really cool.

He smiles at her and crosses his arms, leaning back on his heels.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Sofia Sofia Sofia.

SOFIA

(smiling)
What?

NOAH

Nothin'. Just good to see you.

Sofia smiles.

SOFIA

I should get back to my sister.

A beat.

NOAH

Enjoy. Take it all in.

SOFIA

Will do. You too.

He smiles. She waits a second longer for him to say anything else, but he doesn't.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Alright, see ya.

EXT. GRAND CANYON PARK REGISTRATION OFFICE - DAY

Sofia leans up against the outside of the office, holding the permits. She puts one of her hands flat against her cheek and breathes out.

EXT. VENDING MACHINE AREA - DAY

Bea is by the vending machines. She attempts to get a soda, but it doesn't come out of the chute. She waits, shakes the machine a little bit.

BEA

Damn.

NEVADA (vibrant, 20s) comes up next to her.

NEVADA

May I?

She gestures to the machine.

BEA

Oh, I don't know if it's working.

NEVADA

No, no I know. It literally *just* happened to me, so if you just -

Nevada grabs the machine and starts shaking it.

BEA

Oh, thanks.

She keeps shaking it. It doesn't release the drink.

NEVADA

MotherFUCKER. It worked for me, I swear.

She shakes it again and hits it with her fist.

BEA

It's really fine. You don't have to-

NEVADA

Damn. That was about to be really cool. What were you getting?

BEA

Uhhh...Dr. Pepper.

Nevada pulls a Dr. Pepper out of her backpack.

NEVADA

Do you want some?

BEA

Oh no, no I'm good.

NEVADA

Seriously. Wait.

She pulls out her waterbottle from her backpack and pours half of it in there, giving the Dr. Pepper bottle to Bea.

NEVADA (CONT'D)

Here.

BEA

Thanks.

She takes a sip.

NEVADA

It's honestly probably not the smartest thing in the world to drink a full one of these pre-hike so you're actually doing me a favor.

BEA

Fair.

Bea smiles at her. She moves around the vending machine to check out a large 3D facsimile of the canyon.

NEVADA

Pretty wild, right?

Bea turns around.

NEVADA (CONT'D)

All laid out like that. I feel like I'm on a plane, but I'm like, a giant, so I can actually reach out and touch everything.

She goes over to the facsimile and runs her hands over it, dipping her fingers down and up in the grooves.

BEA

Yeah.

Bea doesn't really know how to react.

NEVADA

I'm Nevada.

BEA

Nevada?

NEVADA

Yep.

BEA

Are you...from Nevada?

NEVADA

I've never actually been.

BEA

Oh.

NEVADA

No I'm kidding. I'm from there. Can you imagine if I'd never been?

Bea laughs.

NEVADA (CONT'D)

I mean, of course you *could* imagine, but it would definitely be kinda weird, right?

BEA

I'm Bea.

EXT. GRAND CANYON PARKING LOT - DAY

Sofia is standing at her car, the map splayed out on the hood, marking it with a red pen.

Bea walks up with her Dr. Pepper bottle in tow.

SOFIA

You ready?

BEA

(smiles)

Yeah.

SOFIA

What?

BEA

Nothing. Stop.

END OF ACT ONE

EXT. THE TRAIL - DAY

Close up on the trail marker sign at the top of the Canyon. It reads BRIGHT ANGEL TRAIL. Sofia slaps the sign. Bea follows her. Sofia turns around.

SOFIA

Slap it! You have to slap it!

Sofia slaps the sign again, trying to hype Bea up. Bea turns around, reluctant but smiling. She slaps the sign too.

EXT. THE TRAIL - DAY

We see Bea and Sofia's feet hit the ground, their hiking boots crunching against the trail as they hike, their large hiking backpacks moving together as they make their way down to the bottom of the Canyon.

BEA

He was kind of weird.

SOFIA

Okay, rude.

BEA

No, I really didn't mean it in a bad way. He was just weird.

SOFIA

He wasn't!

BEA (CONT'D)

He carried around a copy of Infinite Jest for two years.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Oh God, I forgot about that.

BEA

And I literally NEVER saw him read it.

SOFIA

Well. He was really sweet to me. And - he was a great debater.

Bea snorts and shakes her head.

BEA
Sometimes I forget how much of a
nerd you were.

SOFIA
What?/What do you mean?

BEA
/I'm not saying it as a bad thing!
You were just...intense about
school.

SOFIA
Yeah, but I still had a lot of
friends!

BEA
I never said you didn't! You were
popular! You were just also a nerd.
You were a popular nerd.

A beat.

SOFIA
I wasn't popular.

BEA
Oh my God.

They walk some more.

SOFIA
Do you want kids?

BEA
Why? Do you want to have Noah
Lutz's babies?

Sofia looks over her shoulder.

SOFIA
No! What? I'm just curious.

BEA
I'm sure he'd have your babies.

SOFIA
What're you talking about?

BEA
He *definitely* had a crush on you.

SOFIA
Nooo...you think?

He did. She knows it, but she wants Bea to say it. Bea's not going to say it. She shrugs.

BEA

I don't know, maybe he didn't.

They leep walking.

BEA (CONT'D)

So do *you* want kids?

SOFIA

I think so. I dunno. Mom was younger than me when she had me.

BEA

(matter of fact)

Yeah, but like...she didn't want to.

SOFIA

(sarcastic)

Thanks.

BEA

Okay calm down, I didn't mean she didn't want *you*, I just meant that she didn't want kids in general.

SOFIA

Yeah.

BEA

I mean, she *wanted* kids. She wanted us. She definitely did. She just wanted a lot of other things.

SOFIA

Yeah. For sure.

They pass a couple of other people on the trail and give polite wave/smiles.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Do you remember that dollhouse we had?

BEA

The green one?

SOFIA

No. The other one.

BEA
What other one?

SOFIA
I don't know it was like...wood. I think Mom got it at a garage sale or something. Anyway. After you were born, I used to play this game where I had to rush the doll mom to the hospital so she could have her baby.

BEA
Did we have a hospital?

SOFIA
The bathroom.

BEA
Mom's bathroom?

SOFIA
No, the guest bathroom.

BEA
Ohhhh got it.

SOFIA
It was/always

BEA
/Did she make it?

SOFIA
Huh?

BEA
To the hospital on time.

SOFIA
Oh, always. Of course.

Bea smiles.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Anyway, it was right after you were born and it was just like, I remember there was a huge rush to get mom to the hospital in time. Dad always said she almost had you on the living room floor.

Sofia is caught up in the memory, but Bea doesn't let her get lost in it.

BEA

You like, you don't actually remember that though. You just remember being told about it.

SOFIA

No I do. I *definitely* remember parts of that day.

BEA

(skeptical)
Really?

SOFIA

Yes, I remember Mom, in the hospital, holding you. And that you were really ugly.

(then, remembering the experience as if it is coming back to her for the first time)

And I had this little button that said. "I'm a big sister". Which, that part I think I do remember because of a picture. And I remember Dad taking me home after I saw you, and I threw this HUGE fit because I didn't want to leave you and mom. Like I screamed all through the hospital, all the way home, and then I curled up behind the living room couch and passed out.

BEA

Oh my God, of course you did.

SOFIA

And Dad bought me a Playmobile set because he didn't know what to do with me.

Bea smiles. She's amused, but not altogether surprised by Sofia's story.

BEA

I can't believe I haven't heard that before.

SOFIA

(shrugs)
Yeah, well.

BEA

Hmm.

Bea is deep in thought. She keeps walking.

SOFIA

So yeah. I don't know I guess. If I want kids. Maybe I just want to give birth.

Bea gives her a questioning look.

BEA

What?

SOFIA

I just mean, like. I mean...our bodies have the potential to create a whole entire life! And that's like...I mean it's kind of magic, right? But I don't know if I want the kids part.

BEA

So you want to have a baby and give it up?

SOFIA

No, that's not what I'm saying. Just like. Theoretically. It's fascinating.

Bea takes a pull on her vape.

BEA

Well, I don't.

SOFIA

Cool. Do you have like, a reason, or..

BEA

(tongue in cheek)

I mean. Besides the fact that we are destroying the earth?

SOFIA

Yes, besides that.

BEA

I just don't want them.

SOFIA

Okay.

A beat. They keep walking.

BEA
Sooooo are you liking LA any
better?

SOFIA
Well, I haven't been there that
much the past couple weeks soooo...

BEA
I know. I obviously don't mean in
the last couple weeks.

Sofia doesn't say anything.

SOFIA
Sorry.
(then, taking a deep
breath)
I don't know. I have days where no
one knows where I am. Like all day.
I could be anywhere, doing
anything, and no one would know. No
one would be able to find me.

BEA
Yeah.

SOFIA
Like I'm just...floating around.

BEA
Do you like it?

Sofia shrugs.

SOFIA
I keep deleting and re-downloading
dating apps.

BEA
Why?

SOFIA
I dunno. Something to do.

They walk. Sofia looks at Bea, but she doesn't ask anything
else.

BEA
How's work?

SOFIA

Fine.

BEA

Really?

SOFIA

Yeah, I guess. I don't know. All of the assistants are like really competitive with each other? And there's this one guy who truly thinks he's God's gift to the film industry, but he asked me to read his pilot and it's honestly so bad.

(then)

Plus, I feel like no one really likes me.

BEA

I doubt that's true.

SOFIA

Well...you wouldn't really know.

BEA

What?

SOFIA

I mean, you never ask me about it.

BEA

What are you talking about? I *just* asked you.

SOFIA

Well, I mean. When you're at school. You don't answer my calls. I mean you didn't. Before. All this. Since you've been at school, really.

BEA

Sorry.

Sofia shrugs.

SOFIA

Anyway. I think I'm going to be an assistant forever. Just organizing and refreshing my inbox on an endless loop.

BEA

Are you writing anything?

SOFIA

I mean...

Sofia half-gestures to Bea, the Canyon. Bea fills in the blank.

BEA

Yeah but you're not writing that.
You're just like...compiling it.

SOFIA

(hurt)
Okay...

Bea tries to switch gears.

BEA

No I'm just curious if you're
working on anything else!

SOFIA

Um, no. I'm not. Not really.

BEA

You've got time.

SOFIA

I guess. I'm at the age where you
have to keep reminding yourself
you're young.

BEA

Yeah.

SOFIA

You know?

BEA

Not really.
(then)
I'm hungry.

SOFIA

Okay let's stop.

They stop and sit down on a couple of rocks off the side of the trail.

Sofia pulls out a bag of trail mix. Bea starts rooting through her pack.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

It's in the outside pocket. At the
waist.

Bea finds the right compartment and pulls out a bag of her own trail mix.

Sofia is picking out the raisins and collecting them in her hand. She looks right and left, and then tosses the raisins over her shoulder into the brush behind her.

BEA
What the fuck, Sofia?

SOFIA
What?

BEA
Are you serious?

SOFIA
What?

BEA
You can't just throw your trash on the trail! That's like, the number one rule of hiking.

Sofia is confused by Bea's sudden emotional outburst.

SOFIA
It's not trash, they're raisins.
They're biodegradable!

BEA
It doesn't matter! Leave no trace!

She gets up and starts trying to collect the raisins.

SOFIA
Are you serious? Come on, Bea. You don't need to do that. I won't do it again. It's not that big of a deal.

BEA
These could be like, poisonous to animals, or attract bears, or something.

SOFIA
Okay...I won't do it again.

BEA
There are rules for a reason!

SOFIA
Okay, I'm sorry. Why are you making
such a big deal out this?

BEA
(defensive)
I'm not!

SOFIA
Uh...okay.

BEA
I'm not.

Sofia doesn't say anything.

BEA (CONT'D)
We just...we have to respect where
we are.

Bea is being stubborn. Sofia isn't sure how to handle.

SOFIA
Yeah. I agree.

Bea finishes collecting the raisins she can see and tucks
them into her pack. She takes another sip from her water.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

Sofia and Bea hike. Bea is in the lead.

SOFIA
How are you feeling?

BEA
Hot. And my feet hurt.

A beat. They walk. Sofia looks over at Bea.

BEA (CONT'D)
Stop looking at me.

SOFIA
I'm not allowed to look at you?

BEA
Just...what do you want.

SOFIA
Did you take your medicine this
morning?

Bea doesn't answer.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Bea?

BEA

Yes, I took it.

They walk.

SOFIA

How are you feeling?

BEA

Sofia, *stop*. I'm fine, really.

SOFIA

Sorry.

A beat. They walk.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

So, do you ever talk to Reed anymore?

BEA

Not really.

SOFIA

Why?

BEA

Uhh. After we broke up I texted him to see if he was okay and he texted me a picture of a coffee mug I made him on a pottery date that he had smashed into pieces and thrown in the trash.

SOFIA

What?

BEA

So I figured he didn't want to talk to me anymore.

They laugh.

SOFIA

Did y'all ever have sex?

A beat. Too long of a beat.

BEA
Yep.

SOFIA
What!?

BEA
Uh-huh.

SOFIA
You never told me that! When? Your
freshmen year?

BEA
Yeah.

SOFIA
Wow.

They keep walking.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Was it, like, early on?

BEA
Um, yeah I guess. A couple months
in.

SOFIA
Wow. Wow. Holy shit.

They walk.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
I guess I'm just a little surprised
you didn't tell me.

They walk.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Was it good?

BEA
(shrugs)
I mean. It wasn't that big of a
deal.

SOFIA
I just. I told you when I did.

They walk.

BEA
So that means I have to tell you?

SOFIA
Kind of, yeah.

Bea shakes her head and keeps walking.

BEA
Nope.

SOFIA
Have you had sex with anyone else?

BEA
Oh my God.

SOFIA
I'm just curious!

BEA
I mean, yeah, sure.

SOFIA
Who?

BEA
Ummm I hooked up with this guy at a party last year.

SOFIA
Funnnn.

BEA
And I went on a few dates with this girl in one of my classes, too.

Sofia looks at her, trying to conceal her surprise.

SOFIA
And you guys had sex?

BEA
Uh-huh.

They walk. A beat. Sofia is thrown but trying not to show it.

SOFIA
That's awesome! So are you like...I mean, do you still...like...do you need to talk any of this through?

BEA
No, no, Jesus. I mean...I don't know. I'm just attracted to different people.

SOFIA

Yeah, that makes sense. That's cool. That's awesome.

BEA

Don't be weird.

SOFIA

I'm not!

A beat. They walk. Sofia is desperately trying to keep cool.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

I've only had sex with Jack.

BEA

Congrats.

SOFIA

I'm not saying it as like a good thing, it's just true. I mean we were together like all of college, I didn't have that much opportunity.

A beat.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Plus like, we didn't even have sex for like the first two years of dating. Lingering Catholic guilt, I guess.

BEA

Mmmm.

SOFIA

Well I guess, I mean like a couple months into dating, he, like, slipped inside me.

BEA

Wait, what?

SOFIA

Yeah we were just like, making out and like, he just kinda slid it in for a second and I guess it felt good so I didn't stop it right away. But like, it was really quick, so I guess I told myself it didn't count.

Bea stops walking at looks at Sofia.

BEA
That's really fucked up. I'm sorry.

SOFIA
Yeah. I guess. I mean. Thanks.

Sofia looks around. A beat.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
I thought I was going to marry him.

BEA
I know.

SOFIA
Did you know on our first date I
asked him what his biggest dream
was and he told me it was to be a
dad.

Bea scoffs. She pulls out her water and takes a sip. They
turn a corner on the trail.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
What?

BEA
You would ask that question on a
first date.

SOFIA
I thought it was kinda sweet.

Sofia ponders this.

BEA
You were too good for him anyway.

SOFIA
Thanks.

EXT. CANYON - LATER

Sofia puts on sunscreen while she walks. She passes it off to
Bea, who also puts it on, but not very well. Sofia tries to
rub it in on Bea's face but she slaps her hand and rubs it in
herself. Sofia sneezes.

BEA
Your sneezes are always so wet.

SOFIA

Sorry.

EXT. CANYON - LATER

They hike.

SOFIA

You just start on the outside like
near your armpit, and slowly work
your way in using three fingers.

She demonstrates giving a self breast exam on herself. Bea
copies her motions as they walk.

BEA

It all feels kinda lumpy.

SOFIA

Yeah, actually me too. It's kinda
hard to tell.

They both feel their boobs.

BEA

But there's nothing like, hard in
there?

SOFIA

That's good! That's definitely
good.

Two older women hiking pass by, startling them a little.

HIKER

Bunch of grapes baby!

SOFIA

Sorry, what?

HIKER

No hard peas, just a bunch of
grapes!

They pass by Bea and Sofia, who are a little taken aback.

SOFIA

Oh! Thank you!

HIKER

(calling behind her)
No problem!

Sofia and Bea look at each other in mutual delight.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

A small woodland creature scurries across the trail.

Sofia and Bea have stopped. Bea's shoes are off and she is putting moleskin bandages on her blisters.

SOFIA
You ready?

BEA
I'm not wearing shoes.

SOFIA
I mean, once you get them back on.

She starts lacing up her hiking boots.

BEA
Ow ow ow ow ow ow.

SOFIA
Fuck I'm so sorry, that's the worst.

She finishes putting on her boots, wincing in pain. Sofia watches.

Bea picks up Sofia's backpack.

BEA
I feel like mine is heavier.

SOFIA
I literally weighed them, Bea.

BEA
Yes so yours is probably lighter.

SOFIA
Oh my Goddddd.

Bea picks hers up, compares them.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Well?

BEA
I'll carry yours.

SOFIA

Go for it.

They switch backpacks and buckle in. They start walking again.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Is the moleskin working?

BEA

Nope!

They walk on.

EXT. CANYON - DAY

Sofia is squatting back in the brush.

SOFIA

Is anyone coming?

BEA

No. Are you almost done?

SOFIA

Stop talking! I can't focus when you're talking!

BEA

Are you pooping?

SOFIA

No.

BEA

Sofia...when was the last time you took a shit?

Sofia doesn't answer.

BEA (CONT'D)

Sofia?

No answer.

Bea waits. She hears the sound of peeing.

After a moment, Sofia comes out of the woods. Bea is smiling.

BEA (CONT'D)

You gonna answer my question?

SOFIA

No.

EXT. CANYON - DAY

The sun beats down hot over their heads. At this point, they have shed several layers.

BEA

Can you slow down a little?

SOFIA

We only have a little bit more to go!

BEA

Okay, well, let's take a break.

SOFIA

Bea. We've taken so many breaks.

BEA

Sorry I didn't fucking train for this!

Sofia slows down, stops. Bea takes a deep breath.

SOFIA

You okay?

BEA

No.

SOFIA

Do you have any more water?

BEA

No, I'm out.

Sofia checks her pack. She's also out.

SOFIA

Fuck. FUCK.

She pulls out her map.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

We're not that far from a place where we can fill up.

Bea sits down on a rock and puts her head between her knees.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Can you make it there? Just
like...a quarter mile.

She holds out the map. Sofia is trying not to panic.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Sorry. Sorry. Okay.

Sofia sits down next to her. She spots a leaf on the ground.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Hey, hey look at this leaf. It's so
cool.

BEA
What?

Bea takes some more deep breaths, trying not to cry. Sofia gets in her face and puts her hands on Bea's knees. She is too close, too much.

SOFIA
I promise it's just a little
further. We can get some water and
when we get to the campsite we can
just chill, okay? You got this. You
are so strong. We're almost there.
We're so close. So close.

Bea gets up and starts walking ahead, overwhelmed by Sofia's intensity.

EXT. CANYON - DAY

Sofia and Bea round the corner of the trail and see the Colorado River stretching out adjacent to the trail. They both stop, then walk over to the bank of the river.

BEA
Wow.

SOFIA
Yeah.

Bea sits down on a rock and starts taking off her hiking boots, socks, and shirt. She sets them on the shore and starts to walk in. The water is very shallow, only a couple inches deep and flowing over the river bank. She yelps.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Is it cold?

BEA

Yes.

Bea wades in a little further.

BEA (CONT'D)

It feels so good.

Sofia starts taking off her own shoes and socks and walks in next to her.

SOFIA

Ohmygodohmygodohmygod!

Bea turns around.

BEA

Baby.

SOFIA

It's cold!

Bea takes a deep breath. She sits down in the river bank, and shrieks.

BEA

Holy shit!

She tries to get up and then reaches out her hand to Sofia.

BEA (CONT'D)

Come here, help me up!

Sofia wades in further and reaches out her hand to Bea. Bea starts pulling her down.

SOFIA

I swear to God I will seriously
kill you.

BEA

Then sit!

Sofia stares at Bea for a moment. She plops down in the river and screams. Bea laughs. She scoots over to sit by Sofia.

Sofia looks at Bea. An unspoken question. Then:

At the same time they both lean back and submerge themselves in the river. They shriek, maybe they howl. They lay back in the river, taking in the sky. A quiet moment. Then, Bea starts tapping the water in rhythm.

BEA (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 I see an octopus, I see a shark.

Sofia looks over at her. Recognition dawns on her.

SOFIA
 (singing)
 A dolphin dive or a sea lion bark.

BEA
 (singing)
 A killer whale that can jump and
 twirl.

BOTH
 (singing)
 Oooh, oooh, oooh, I love that water
 world.

After a moment, they stop and look up at the sky, stretching
 out above them, wide and blue and endless.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Sofia (age 18) and Bea (age 15) sit on the dirt by a stream
 bundled up in winter gear.

POV: Bea's camera. Only Sofia is in the shot.

SOFIA
 I would be, um. I would be a
 prairie dog. Just like, living
 underground where it's nice and
 cool with my colony. Having a
 purpose. I guess.

BEA (O.S.)
 Okay, that's good.

SOFIA
 I still don't know why you're the
 one filming. It should be both of
 us in frame.

BEA (O.S.)
 We'll just switch off.

Bea ignores her.

BEA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 What do you think your life will
 look like, in the future?

Sofia takes another breath.

SOFIA

In the future, I think. I think my life will be, um. I don't know. I think it will always feel like there's like, a big hole in the middle of it.

A beat. Sofia takes a shaky breath. Bea sets down the camera. It continues to roll as they speak out of frame or only partially in frame.

Bea goes and sits down by Sofia and puts her arms around her. A moment.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

What happens when people stop asking us about her? Like, at school, you know, everyone wants to know what happened and like, is always asking if we are okay or if we need anything and it's kind of annoying I guess, and hard, but what happens when that all stops? And it just becomes like, normal, and we don't even talk about her anymore?

BEA

What is your biggest feeling right now?

Sofia laughs through her tears at the ridiculousness of the moment. Bea smiles.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAY

Sofia and Bea walk into the campground with wet hair. There are a couple of smaller bathroom type structures, and a smattering of brightly colored tents and picnic tables. There is the sound of light conversation.

SOFIA

It smells so good.

BEA

I'm starving.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Sunset. Sofia and Bea have set up their tent..

Sofia holds up two bags of dehydrated food.

SOFIA
Hungarian borscht or Caribbean
curry?

BEA
(from inside the tent)
Ummm Curry?

Sofia spots something in the distance. She freezes and runs into the tent.

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

The tent is small but cozy. Their sleeping bags are unrolled, and Bea sits on one of the bags, scrolling through her phone. Sofia comes barreling in.

SOFIA
Bea!

BEA
Are you okay?

SOFIA
It's Noah. He's here. At this
campground. And he's with a girl.

BEA
Jesus, you scared the shit out of
me. So?

SOFIA
So what do we do?

BEA
What do you mean what do we do? We
leave them alone.

SOFIA
Are they still there?

Bea unzips the tent and peeks out of it. She sees Noah setting up a tent with Nevada, laughing and talking.

She looks at Nevada, and then ducks back in the tent.

BEA
They're still there.

SOFIA
Should we invite them to eat with
us?

BEA
What? No. What?

Sofia starts to climb out of the tent.

BEA (CONT'D)
Sofia! No, wait!

She tries to grab at her, but Sofia is on her way out.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Sofia, Bea, Nevada, and Noah all sit at a picnic table eating. Sofia is wearing her mom's USC hoodie. There are two small portable camping stoves set up and a battery operated lantern.

Bea catches Nevada's eye across the table. Nevada smiles.

SOFIA
I love your necklace, Nevada. It's
so beautiful.

Nevada looks down at her necklace.

NEVADA
Oh, thanks! Yeah, my mom actually
made it.

SOFIA
Oh, really?

NEVADA
Yeah, she's a flight attendant, so
she travels a lot. And she always
brings something home so. You
should see her apartment.

SOFIA
Wow, that's so cool.

NEVADA
Yeah, it is! Really cool.

An awkward silence.

SOFIA
 (to Nevada and Noah)
 So how long have y'all been
 together?

BEA
 Is anyone else cold?

NOAH
 (to Nevada)
 Three months?

NEVADA
 (to Bea)
 Do you need an extra sweater?

SOFIA
 Do you want mine?

NEVADA
 No, no keep yours on! I run hot,
 and I've got a sweater in the tent,
 let me go get it.

BEA
 No, don't worry about it.

NEVADA
 Really, it's no problem at all.

BEA
 That'd actually be awesome. Thank
 you.

Nevada gets up. Bea looks at Sofia and Noah.

BEA (CONT'D)
 I'll come with you.

NEVADA
 Cool.

The two walk away towards Nevada and Noah's campsite. Sofia
 and Noah are left alone. It is silent for a moment. They both
 start to speak at the same moment.

SOFIA
 Sooo-

NOAH
 How's the curry?

SOFIA (CONT'D)
 What?

NOAH (CONT'D)
 No you go.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
 Sorry. Um. I actually don't even
 know what I was going to say.

NOAH
 Happens to the best of us.

SOFIA
 It's good to see you.

NOAH
You too.

SOFIA
You seem...

NOAH
What?

SOFIA
I dunno, just different I guess.

NOAH
Well, we both are.

A beat. They catch each other's eyes, then look away and smile. Sofia pulls out her pen and takes a hit.

SOFIA
Do you want some?

She offers it to Noah.

NOAH
Sure, thanks.

He takes a hit.

SOFIA
I'm not like...I don't smoke that much it just helps when I'm feeling anxious, I guess. I mean, not that it's like a bad thing to smoke a lot or whatever, it's legal in a lot of places and everyone has their own relationship with it. But, yeah.

NOAH
Yeah, same.

Sofia smiles. He hands her back the pen.

EXT. NOAH AND NEVADA'S TENT - NIGHT

Noah and Nevada's tent is a classic, yellow, military tent. Very vintage, very cool.

INT. NOAH AND NEVADA'S TENT - NIGHT

Nevada is going through her backpack. There is a camping lantern hanging from the ceiling of the tent. Bea stands awkwardly outside.

NEVADA

You can come in if you want!

Bea pokes her head in the tent, climbing in.

NEVADA (CONT'D)

Here ya go!

She hands Bea a soft, chunky sweater. Bea pulls it on.

BEA

Thanks.

She smiles. Nevada sits criss-cross. They are very close - there is very little space in here. The air feels charged and bright.

BEA (CONT'D)

Wow this tent is...

NEVADA

I know, right? Unique. I think it's a military tent or something from like 30 years ago. But Noah says they don't make them like this anymore so...here we are.

Bea sits criss-cross as well. Their knees touch.

BEA

Sooooo you and Noah...

NEVADA

I knowww! It's a small small world.

BEA

Truly. I mean, I didn't really know him very well in high school, but...he seems so sweet.

NEVADA

He is.

BEA

How did y'all meet?

NEVADA

We met at a bar, actually. I was with a friend and Noah was playing darts alone in the corner, and he just looked so...content? Just throwin' his darts and sippin' his beer. And I...wanted to be where he was, I guess. So I asked if he wanted some competition and then lost, badly, but we laughed about it and he didn't try to teach me, which was wonderful.

Bea smiles.

NEVADA (CONT'D)

And he does shit like this
(Nevada gestures around them)
And like, mountain biking, and hiking, and fucking...woodworking. And so I started tagging along and it was really fun. And it was easy. Everything is easy for Noah. So I kind of decided my life was going to be easy too.

BEA

It wasn't? Easy?

NEVADA

Nooo. My whole life has been effort, babe.

BEA

That surprises me.

NEVADA

Why?

BEA

I don't know. You just seem...bright. I don't know. Light.

NEVADA

Thank you.

A beat. They meet each other's eyes.

NEVADA (CONT'D)

I dropped out of medical school in the spring.

BEA

Wow.

NEVADA

Yeah. My mom was like...heartbroken. Even though what I actually wanted was to be more like her. Travel the world, make it feel bigger. It just felt too small, you know?

BEA

Yeah.

NEVADA

I want to do everything. But at the same time I have no idea what I actually want.

(then)

I mean, I know I want to be here. In a tent. With you. But that's about all I got.

Bea smiles.

NEVADA (CONT'D)

You got sunburnt.

BEA

I guess I did.

Nevada reaches out gently and presses her thumb to Bea's cheek, where it flushes pink when she presses it down.

NEVADA

I like your freckles.

BEA

Thanks.

They look at each other.

BEA (CONT'D)

I tried to kill myself a couple of weeks ago. I swallowed like. An entire bottle of Tylenol.

Nevada leans in and takes Bea's hands. We are living in that liminal space between romance and friendship, we don't know what will happen next. Nevada leans in and kisses Bea on the cheek, softly.

NEVADA

Okay.

BEA

Thank you.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Sofia and Noah are a bit more relaxed.

SOFIA

Soooo you do a lot of camping.

NOAH

That a question?

SOFIA

Not really. You have like *gear*.

NOAH

Yeah. I guess I do. I'm a sucker
for the gear.

He pours Sofia a mug of tea from a thermos into an attached
mug.

SOFIA

That's the only reason though. The
gear.

NOAH

Right. Nothing to do with the
vastness and mystery of nature.

Sofia gives him a look. Noah smiles and puts his head down.

SOFIA

No, no. It certainly is vast and
mysterious. Nature.

They both start laughing, a little silly.

NOAH

What about you? Have you
become...one with the wilderness.

Sofia laughs again.

SOFIA

Uhhhh well I don't know about that.
I have done a fair amount of
camping. Nothing like, crazy. I
mean, a lot of car camping. We used
to go every year with our mom for
our birthdays.

NOAH
Oh, wow. That's really cute.

A beat of awkward silence.

NOAH (CONT'D)
I'm really-. I'm sorry for your
loss.

SOFIA
Thanks.

Noah looks down at the table and then back up at Sofia.

NOAH
I wish...I could have been there
for you more when it happened. But,
I don't think I really knew how.

SOFIA
No, you were great. Everyone was
really sweet. It's fine. Really.
Thank you.

A beat.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
My mom actually used to go camping
a lot growing up with her dad, in
like, I mean basically in the
rainforest. So, I guess she wanted
to keep it going. Never really got
used to the cold though.

NOAH
Why'd she move to California?

SOFIA
Oh you know. To make it big. She
wanted to be a filmmaker. But then
she met my dad, and she had us, and
well. So the story goes.

NOAH
Right.

A beat. Noah sips his tea.

SOFIA
It's weird, I feel like I haven't
talked about her in a while.

NOAH
What was she like?

SOFIA

She was. Really stubborn.

(smiling)

She loved a good deal. There was a lot of expired food in our cabinets.

Noah smiles.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

And she was friends with everyone. She used to go to this Mexican grocery store by our house like, every day. They ended up inviting her to their employee thanksgiving.

NOAH

No way.

SOFIA

Yeah.

A beat.

NOAH

It was a car crash, right?

SOFIA

Yeah, yeah. Well. Yeah.

NOAH

What?

SOFIA

No, I mean, it definitely was a car crash. We just.

Noah looks at Sofia, listening.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

My mom was really happy, but she also...she also got really sad. For long periods of time. She would just shut down. She would talk your ear off for a month and then not at all, for days. She was angry a lot. Really creative. It's like...she was always bubbling with something. I dunno. Kinda like Bea.

(then)

Anyway, she. The way that she was found...um. My dad said he would have bet his life that she let go of the wheel.

NOAH
He said that? To you?

SOFIA
And Bea, yeah.

NOAH
Damn.

SOFIA
Yeah. That's just, how he is. He's never believed in treating us like we're kids. Even when we were kids.

Noah reaches across the table and grabs Sofia's hands, interlacing his fingers through hers. She meets his eyes. It's intimate, and kind of hot.

A breath.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
They've been gone for a while.

NOAH
Should we scare them?

SOFIA
What? No. Really?

Noah shrugs. Sofia smiles.

EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Sofia and Noah slowly creep up to the tent. We hear the soft murmuring of conversation and movement inside. Noah gestures to Sofia and they move quietly to opposite sides of the tent.

NOAH
(mouthing)
1...2...3.

They both grab the tent and shake it. Immediately, screams! There is a commotion inside the tent, someone stands up, someone trips. A jumble of limbs as they fall over each other, screaming and laughing.

Bea falls back against the side of the tent and it rips at one of the seams, exposing an entire side of the tent to the elements.

Noah and Sofia stare on in horror. Nevada pokes her head out.

NEVADA
Sleepover?

INT. SOFIA AND BEA'S TENT - NIGHT

The four of them are packed like sardines into the tent. Sofia and Jack are on the outer edges, and Bea and Nevada are in the center. Sofia leans into Bea, Noah leans into Nevada.

NEVADA
So I went over and I knocked on the door to see if she could come play.

SOFIA
And there was no little girl.

BEA
Sofia don't ruin the story!

NEVADA
There was no little girl.

NOAH
Freaky.

NEVADA
And I didn't see her for like a year. But then, on my tenth birthday. I look across the street and there she is. In the window, playing piano.

BEA
No way.

NEVADA
Swear to God. It really fucked me up. I started seeing her in my dreams.

BEA
Woah.

SOFIA
Do you think she was real though? Like he was hiding away a little girl in there? Did you tell anyone?

NEVADA
She was always wearing this pink dress with a ribbon in her hair. And she never aged.

(MORE)

NEVADA (CONT'D)

I saw her two more times before I went to college.

BEA

Holy shit.

SOFIA

There's no way.

BEA

Sofia stop interrupting her!

Nevada shrugs.

NEVADA

I saw what I saw. I think she had something to tell me, but I never figured it out. Maybe someday.

Silence.

SOFIA

Okay NO more ghost stories I am not going to be able to sleep.

NOAH

Should we play a game?

Noah sits up and the rest adjust as well as they can in the tight space.

NEVADA

Like a card game?

SOFIA

There's no room for card games.

NOAH

So like a talking game?

BEA

Two truths and a lie?

NEVADA

Never have I ever?

SOFIA

Please God no.

A beat as they consider.

BEA

We could answer the questions?

Sofia looks at Bea.

NEVADA

What questions?

SOFIA

Actually, two truths and a lie
isn't a horrible idea.

BEA

Every year on our birthdays, my mom
would ask us the same questions and
we would answer them.

NEVADA

When's your birthday?

BEA

It was yesterday.

SOFIA

Yesterday.

NEVADA

No way! We have to celebrate! Wait
you have the same birthday?! Y'all
aren't twins are you?

SOFIA

No. I mean yes we have the same
birthday, but we aren't twins.

NEVADA

I love that so much. Yes! Let's do
the questions!

SOFIA

No, we can't do the questions.

NEVADA

Why not?

SOFIA

They're just...they are something
we did with our mom. And now that
we do with each other. And our mom
is...she passed. So. It's just
important that we do them together,
I'm sorry.

BEA

It's not a big deal.

Sofia looks at Bea, confused.

NEVADA

Got it. Totally understand. I'm
sorry.

A beat.

NOAH

What about. Cheers to the Governor.

NEVADA

Isn't that a drinking game?

Noah reaches into one of his many pockets and pulls out a
flask.

INT. TENT - LATER

The four of them sit around, knee to knee in a tight circle.
Things feel a little looser, a little easier. The game moves
quickly.

SOFIA

1

BEA

2

Noah turns to Bea, who is sitting at his right and looks into
her eyes.

NOAH

Bea. I really like your sweater.

SOFIA

That doesn't count as a compliment
for Bea, it's Nevada's sweater!

BEA

It's fine.

NOAH

Okay. Bea. I remember in high
school that you painted your locker
bright green and then got in
trouble for it and I thought it was
really cool.

BEA

Thank you.

SOFIA

I think you should drink.

NOAH

3 is compliment I did a compliment!

Sofia gives him a teasing look, eyebrows raised.

NEVADA

4

SOFIA

5

BEA

6

NOAH

14

NEVADA

(leaning forward)

Okay, so. There was this guy, and he went to a tailor. And the tailor was like, what's up? And the guy is like, no pairs of pants fit me. And so he goes, okay why? And the guy is like, well, I have five penises.

Bea lets out a short burst of laughter.

NEVADA (CONT'D)

So I have a hard time finding pants that fit. And so the tailor is like, okay, let me see what I can do. So he makes some pants for the guy and he tries them on and the tailor says, well how do they fit? And he goes: like a glove.

Bea and Noah laugh. Sofia kind of chuckles.

SOFIA

Oh my God. They must have been some tiny penises.

BEA

What?

SOFIA

Just cause, gloves aren't that big.

No one laughs.

BEA

9

SOFIA
(makes a dolphin noise)

BEA
That sounded like a horse.

SOFIA
It was a dolphin!

11 BEA

12 NOAH

13 NEVADA

7 SOFIA

15 BEA

16 NOAH

Nevada moves across the circle, half crawling across laps,
and switches places with Sofia.

17 SOFIA

BEA
Hudson Jones.

NOAH
No way. For real?

BEA
He was hot.

NOAH
Yeah, but he was stupid.

SOFIA
Noah!

NOAH
Hey no hate, truly. Just a fact.

BEA
 (playfully)
 I don't have to defend my high
 school crush to you Noah.

NOAH
 I know, I know! Just was not
 expecting Hudson Jones.

BEA
 Well who was yours?

NOAH
 Well if I'm 18 next round you'll
 find out.

NEVADA
 19

SOFIA
 20

BEA
 21!

ALL
 CHEERS to the Governor!

They pass around Noah's flask each taking a sip.

NEVADA
 Okay Bea.

BEA
 Hmmmmmm....

SOFIA
 We could do tiny man!

NEVADA
 What's that one?

SOFIA
 It's like where on a number you
 have to take an invisible tiny man
 off of your drink and if you forget
 you have to drink twice.

NOAH
 I love tiny man.

BEA
 Sofia it's my rule!

SOFIA
I'm just trying to help!

BEA
No, I've got one. Okay, if you land
on...eleven...

SOFIA
We have something on 11.

NEVADA
No we don't we have animal noise on
10.

SOFIA
Oh yeah.

BEA
Okay if you land on eleven. You
have to answer the question...if
you were an animal what would you
be and why?

NEVADA
I LOVE that.

SOFIA
(to Bea)
Seriously?

Bea doesn't look at her.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
We're not doing that one.

NEVADA
Why not?

Silence.

NEVADA (CONT'D)
Ohhhh it's a *question* question.

BEA
1.

SOFIA
Bea, stop!

BEA
Sofia, chill out. Seriously.

SOFIA

Don't tell me to chill out! Why are you being like this?

BEA

I'm not being like anything. I mean, we're going to answer them anyway.

SOFIA

Yes, tomorrow. When we record them.

BEA

Ohhhh right I forgot, your movie.

SOFIA

What? I told you/you could help.

BEA

/I don't want to!

SOFIA

Okay so why are you being like this?

BEA

I'm just playing the game!

Sofia is about to say something and then stops herself. Awkward silence in the tent.

NOAH

Maybe we should go to bed. We were thinking about getting up early and taking a hike to the waterfall anyway. You guys are totally welcome to join, of course.

BEA

That sounds incredible!

We can't.

SOFIA

SOFIA (CONT'D)

We're filming in the morning.

BEA

Oh my Godddd. Shut UP.

SOFIA

What is your problem, seriously?

NEVADA

Let's go to sleep. I'm exhausted.

BEA
Yeah, same.

A beat. They all start settling into their sleeping bags.

SOFIA
Fine.

NEVADA
Hope no one has to go to the
bathroom!

Noah chuckles.

NOAH
Well, I'm planning on pissing into
this waterbottle.

NEVADA
Of course, why wouldn't you?

SOFIA
Ewww.

BEA
They're joking.

SOFIA
I know.

They lay down. Nevada reaches up turns off the lantern.

NEVADA
Goodnight my sweet friends.

A chorus of goodnights as the tent goes dark.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

The middle of the night. Moonlight streams in from the top of the tent. Nevada and Bea face each other in the blue light, whispering.

BEA
I can't sleep.

NEVADA
Do you want to take a walk?

BEA
Yeah.

Nevada carefully gets up, trying not to disturb anyone. Bea follows, grabbing her coat and a flashlight. Nevada unzips the tent. Sofia opens her eyes.

SOFIA

Where are you going?

BEA

I have to pee.

SOFIA

Okay. Do you want me to come?

BEA

Nevada's coming.

SOFIA

Okay.

Sofia lays back down. She listens to Bea and Nevada talking and laughing outside of the tent. Their voices get farther away and eventually grow silent.

Noah rolls over in his sleep onto Nevada's sleeping bag. Sofia looks at him, considering. She scoots over on top of Bea's sleeping bag so they are next to each other.

She considers for a second, looking up at the ceiling of the tent, and then kicks Noah sharply before closing her eyes and pretending to be asleep.

NOAH

(sleepily)

What? Everything okay?

He rolls over to see Sofia, eyes closed. She flutters them open. His eyes adjust to the situation.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Hi.

SOFIA

Hi.

NOAH

Did you kick me?

SOFIA

(feigning grogginess)

What?

NOAH

Where are Nevada and Bea?

SOFIA

I think they went to the bathroom.
 (then)
 Sorry, I'm a nightmare to sleep
 with. I move around so much.

NOAH

It's alright.
 (he smiles)
 It's a small price to pay for
 shelter. Thanks for letting us
 crash.

SOFIA

Happy to have you. Seriously. And
 just...happy to see you.

Noah nods.

NOAH

I'm happy to see you too.

A beat. Sofia turns to Noah.

SOFIA

Can I ask you something?

NOAH

Shoot.

SOFIA

Did you have a crush on me? In high
 school.

NOAH

(joking)
 What? Who told you that?

SOFIA

No, no one, sorry, I just wondered
 if-

NOAH

Yes. I obviously had a crush on
 you.

A beat. Sofia smiles.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Hey -- you okay? Just. Seemed a
 little tense tonight with Bea.

SOFIA
Oh, yeah. Sorry about that. Yeah,
I'm good. Just...sometimes I don't
know what to do with her. Or what
I'm going to get.

NOAH
Yeah, I get that.

A beat.

SOFIA
(tearing up)
I just want her to be happy.

Noah pulls Sofia to him, wrapping his arms around her.

NOAH
She's really lucky to have you.

SOFIA
Thanks.

She looks up at him. A moment. She closes her eyes as if to
kiss him.

NOAH
Sof.

She opens her eyes.

SOFIA
Yeah?

NOAH
Hey, I'm sorry if I...gave you the
wrong impression.

Sofia sits up.

SOFIA
Wait, what?

NOAH
I'm really happy with Nevada.

SOFIA
Okay.

NOAH
I've really enjoyed reconnecting
with you. Truly.

SOFIA

Yep.

NOAH

It's just, I think we are probably better as friends, you know? As much as high school me would hate that.

SOFIA

No, yeah, I get it. I'm sorry. I just, I thought that what's you wanted. It...definitely seemed like it.

NOAH

Sof.

SOFIA

They've been gone for a long time. I think I should go check on them.

She gets out of the sleeping bag and starts to pull on her jacket and grab a flashlight.

NOAH

I'm sure they're fine.

SOFIA

Yeah, I know, but. I still think maybe I should check.

NOAH

Hey, just. Hold on a minute.

SOFIA

No, no, I really think I need to go. It's not about this, really. I just need to make sure everything's good.

NOAH

Do you want me to come with you?

SOFIA

No. No. Like you said, I'm sure they're fine.

EXT. SOFIA AND BEA'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Sofia crawls out of the tent. It is quiet, maybe save for some quiet conversations from neighboring campsites. She looks around, pulling her jacket tight around her.

Sofia walks around the campsite, looking out in all directions.

SOFIA

B?

EXT. CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

Nevada and Bea are laying down on a couple of rocks, looking up at the stars and out at the canyon. Nevada shines her flashlight on different parts of the canyon, discovering it piece by piece.

NEVADA

Do you believe in God?

BEA

I don't think so.

NEVADA

Yeah.

(then)

Do you like to dance?

BEA

Yeah. I do.

She looks at Nevada.

BEA (CONT'D)

Wait you're not about to ask me to dance right now, right?

NEVADA

No.

Bea looks out at the canyon below, and takes a deep breath in and out.

Nevada looks at her. She scoots closer to Bea and wraps her leg around Bea's leg so that they are entwined. They look out at the canyon together.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

Sofia heads towards the campsite's bathroom. No Bea. She opens the bathroom door. No Bea.

SOFIA

B?

She begins to panic. She lets the bathroom door slam shut.

She starts walking through the campground and surrounding trails. Her breath quickens as she searches.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Nevada? Bea?

EXT. CANYON TRAIL - NIGHT

Sofia starts heading down a trail, calling out for Bea. Everything feels dark and scary, as if the trail and the canyon are closing in on all sides.

Sofia runs up a trail, calling out. She walks in a different direction, shining her flashlight, panic building. She turns a corner, crouches down, and puts her head down, trying to steady herself, breathing deeply.

The beam of a flashlight illuminates her.

BEA
Sofia?

Sofia gets up and runs to Bea, throwing her arms around her. Bea doesn't really respond. Nevada is a few feet behind them.

BEA (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

SOFIA
I just...I didn't see you at the
bathrooms and-

BEA
Yeah, we went for a walk.

NEVADA
Do y'all want to go ahead and head
back?

SOFIA
Are you mad at me?

BEA
Oh my God.

SOFIA
I'm just trying to figure out what
I did.

BEA
Sofia it's fine, let's just go.

SOFIA
No, but. Are you?

BEA
No.

Bea starts walking away towards the campsite.

SOFIA
It just seems like you are.

BEA
Just...stop.

Sofia follows her.

SOFIA
Stop what?

BEA
Being so fucking annoying!

SOFIA
That's mature.

BEA
I'm not trying to be mature.

SOFIA
Okay...

Bea keeps walking and Sofia follows behind her.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
You gonna tell me what's going on?

Bea turns around.

BEA
We were just taking a walk.

NEVADA
I'm going to go back.

BEA
I'm coming with you.

Bea keeps walking.

SOFIA
Ok wait, can we just talk for a
minute, please?

Nevada gives a little wave. She's out. Bea turns around again.

BEA

What do you want to talk about?

SOFIA

What am I supposed to do, Bea?

Bea just stares at her.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

I'm. I don't, I don't get it. I don't know what you want from me. You just...it's like there's this little secret room inside your brain and some days you let me in but I never know how I got there or what I did right and then all of a sudden I'm alone again and there's a new door, there's a different room. And I don't know where you are.

Bea looks back at her, set and resolute. Sofia is working herself up again.

BEA

I really can't have this conversation right now. I'm sorry.

SOFIA

I'm so tired. I'm trying so hard.

BEA

No one said you had to.

Sofia is out of breath, on the verge of a panic attack. Bea looks back at her stubbornly.

SOFIA

Why won't you talk to me? You're so annoying! Fucking talk to me! Fucking try, Bea! You have to keep trying!

Bea turns to walk away again and Sofia grabs her arm. Bea shoves her off, and Sofia loses her balance, stumbling and falling down a steep section of the trail.

Sofia hits hard on the rocks as she crashes down. It looks like it could be bad. Really bad. Bea rushes towards her.

BEA
Sofia? Are you okay?

SOFIA
What the *fuck*?

Bea freezes.

BEA
Are you hurt? Is anything broken?

Bea crouches down next to Sofia, checking out her injuries.

BEA (CONT'D)
Let's go back to the campsite, we should clean those up.

SOFIA
What is *wrong* with you?

BEA
I'm sorry. I wasn't trying to hurt you.

SOFIA
(shaken)
Fuck you.

BEA
Okay.

Sofia is fully unraveling at this point.

SOFIA
FUCK YOU. You're not better than me! You're not.

BEA
What are you talking about?

SOFIA
You're so fucking selfish! You're just like mom. So fucking SELFISH. I mean...I mean give me a fucking break! You are clearly BEGGING for some...some sort of attention, for someone to come and save you, and then you're pissed when I try? How could you do this? How DARE you?

BEA
I'm sorry.

SOFIA
I'm done. I'm done trying with you.
I'm fucking done. I'm DONE.

Bea stands up.

Sofia watches her walk away.

EXT. SOFIA AND BEA'S CAMPSITE

Early morning.

Sofia climbs out of the tent. Her face is scratched, and she looks a little beaten up. Nevada, Bea, and Noah are sitting at the picnic table, drinking instant coffee.

NOAH
Coffee?

He turns to look at Sofia.

SOFIA
I'm okay, thanks.

A beat. No one says anything.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
(to Nevada and Noah)
Y'all still headed to the waterfall
this morning?

BEA
I think we're just gonna head back
to the car after we eat something.

SOFIA
Oh.
Okay. Cool.

Sofia stands awkwardly, looking at them.

NEVADA
Yeah I'm feeling pretty wiped. You
and Noah can go though and meet us!

NOAH
No, no let's all head out together.

SOFIA
No, I think I will go, actually. If
Bea doesn't mind waiting for me.

NEVADA
Sure. Of course.

Sofia looks at Bea.

BEA
Fine with me.

EXT. SOFIA AND BEA'S CAMPSITE - DAY

They pack up in silence, quickly and efficiently.

Occasionally Bea and Nevada will whisper something to each other and laugh, or Noah and Sofia will call out a directive. Noah kisses Nevada on the side of the head - Sofia witness them share a sweet moment.

EXT. CANYON TRAIL - DAY

Sofia walks a trail down to the waterfall. She follows the rushing sound down further, nearly slipping on a rock. She steadies herself.

She reaches the waterfall, stretching out tall above her. She lets the mist coat her hair and clothes. She looks up at the size of it, the sheer power and force. She feels nothing.

EXT. CANYON TRAIL - DAY

Sofia walks back up, her backpack weighing heavy on her back.

She notices a small path off the trail and after a moment of hesitation, follows it.

EXT. CANYON CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Sofia moves into a secluded enclave, a hidden cave of sorts surrounded by cliffs. She looks up at the sky, clear and bright above her.

She breathes in and out.

She looks in front of her, allowing her imagination and her memories to take her somewhere. We see her eyes focus on the space in front of her, deep in thought.

Then: we see GABRIELA, a camera set up on a tripod in front of her, sitting cross legged on the ground.

Gabriela looks younger, brighter, happier. She wears her college sweatshirt.

Sofia watches her.

GABRIELA
(into the camera)
If I were an animal, I would be...I
would be...a bird. Any bird.

Gabriela smiles and clears her throat, fixing her hair. Sofia doesn't move, watching her.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)
In the future, I think my life will
be like.
(she looks off)
I don't know.

Gabriela looks back into the camera.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)
Maybe like...a little house in the
mountains. With a fireplace. Harry
chopping wood in the back. Me
complaining that the house is never
warm enough.

Gabriela draws her knees up to her chest.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)
Or we'll move back to Puerto Rico
and Harry will have to finally
learn Spanish.
(smiling)
And I don't know. I'll be making
things. I hope. Always working
on...my next film. Accepting my
Oscars. So. Maybe I'll be really
busy. It will be hard to balance my
schedule.

She looks around her, takes a breath. Sofia steps a little bit closer.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)
But then I'll come home from work
and Harry will sit next to me on
the couch and we'll drink hot tea.
(then, getting lost in the
image)
And maybe we'll have kids.
(MORE)

GABRIELA (CONT'D)

And maybe one of them will get out of bed when she's supposed to be sleeping.

Sofia smiles.

GABRIELA (CONT'D)

And most days we will take turns tucking her back in but one night she'll run out to the living room...and she's crying. She had a bad dream.

EXT. TOP OF THE CANYON - DAY

We cut to BEA at the top of the Canyon, looking out at the fullness of it. She is alone for a moment.

EXT. CANYON CLEARING - DAY

Sofia moves closer to Gabriela, watching.

GABRIELA (V.O.)

The world was shrinking. First it happened with her bed. It was too small. Then it was her room. Then the house started to shrink, so she had to crawl to get out of the door so she wouldn't be crushed. And outside the sky started to come down to the earth, and the earth started to come up to the sky, until all that was left of the world was a small dark room with no windows.

Sofia turns around, leaving Gabriela and the clearing behind her.

EXT. TOP OF THE CANYON

Bea runs along the top of the Canyon, free. Nevada follows behind her, laughing.

GABRIELA (V.O.)

Her limbs started to fall off. First her feet, and then her hands. She tried to put them back on, but they were too small now, so her body began to drain out of her.

(MORE)

GABRIELA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And when there was nothing left,
she woke up.

EXT. CANYON - DAY

Sofia climbs out of the Canyon, past the river, following the twists and turns of the desert. She is on a mission - sweating, exhausted, determined.

GABRIELA (V.O)

I try to tell her it was just a bad dream, that it wasn't real, but she doesn't believe me. And nothing I say can make it any different.

EXT. TOP OF THE CANYON - DAY

Nevada, Bea, and Noah sit at the top of the canyon together, legs hanging over the edge. Nevada shows Bea an interesting rock, which Bea takes and admires.

GABRIELA (V.O.)

So we let her stay up and sit on the couch between us and take little sips of our tea. And eventually, she falls asleep. And we don't want to wake her up, so Harry covers her with the blanket, and we let her sleep there until the morning. Just for one night.

EXT. CANYON CLEARING - DAY

Gabriela looks into the camera.

GABRIELA

My biggest feeling right now...

EXT. CANYON - DAY

Eventually, Sofia reaches the rim of the canyon. She is exhausted. When she finally makes it to the top, Sofia sees Bea and Nevada, dancing. Nevada teaches her some complicated choreography.

Sofia stops suddenly in her tracks and watches them. A moment of relief, of space, of understanding.

GABRIELA (V.O)

Is all of them. All of them.

The sun is hitting the desert in brilliant shades of amber, red, and gold. Bea is laughing. She looks happy.

Bea turns around and sees her. She raises her hand in greeting.

Sofia raises her hand back. In this moment, she sees her sister more fully than she ever has.

EXT. CANYON CLEARING - DAY

Gabriela leans back, laying on the desert floor. Her eyes fill with tears - it is hope, it is fear, it is the promise of an entire life ahead of her. She looks up at the sky.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Noah, Bea, Sofia, and Nevada are standing by Noah's car.

SOFIA

Are you sure you don't want me to drop you off?

BEA

No, really, this is just easier.

NEVADA

We're headed to the airport anyway, it's super easy.

SOFIA

Okay. I can take your pack with me and you can get the rest of your stuff from the car?

BEA

Sounds good.

NOAH

We'll be here.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Bea and Sofia stand outside of Sofia's car. Sofia shuts the trunk.

SOFIA

That everything?

BEA

Think so.

SOFIA
Say hi to Dad, ok?

BEA
I will.

A beat.

SOFIA
I'm sorry.

BEA
Me too.

Bea picks up her backpack and straps it on.

BEA (CONT'D)
I love you.

SOFIA
I love you too.

A beat. Bea moves to give Sofia a hug. Sofia holds on tight, but Bea breaks it. It goes by too fast.

BEA
Good luck with the movie and everything. I'm sure it'll be great.

SOFIA
Oh, yeah. Thanks.

Bea takes a breath.

BEA
I was just scared. I was just really scared.

Sofia nods, taking this in. She doesn't push, she doesn't ask anything else of Bea. This is an offering.

SOFIA
(gently)
Okay.

END OF ACT TWO

EXT. LOS ANGELES, CA - NIGHT

Traffic backed up for miles. People honking. LA is glittering.

INT. SOFIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sofia and three friends hang out in Sofia's small living room in the dark, watching the TV. Sofia sits a bit farther off from the group, picking at her nails. Sofia's hair is shorter. Some time has passed.

We see the end of Sofia's movie: It's Bea as a kid, laughing, giggling uncontrollably. The image fades out.

Across the screen: **Directed by Sofia Vila-Johnson.**

Her friends clap.

FRIEND 1
Awww that was so sweet!

FRIEND 2
Congrats Sofia!

SOFIA
Thanks guys.

There is a beat of awkward silence. No one knows what to say. Sofia gets up and grabs a bowl of popcorn from the coffee table.

FRIEND 2
I can help you with that!

SOFIA
No, no I got it.

She grabs a couple of empty glasses as well and heads into the kitchen.

FRIEND 2
(calling out as Sofia
moves into the kitchen)
So proud of you!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sofia turns on the sink and starts washing the dishes. She hears the soft murmur of voices in the other room.

She leaves the water running, slowing it down a bit, and then silently moves to the doorway, listening to her friends talk in hushed tones.

FRIEND 1
I feel so awkward. Do we just go?

FRIEND 2
We can't just go.

FRIEND 1
Yeah.

Sofia closes her eyes.

INT. LA BAR - NIGHT

Sofia and BRIAN (late 20s, wearing a black turtleneck and gold rimmed glasses) sit at a bar. It is dimly lit and crowded. They have to shout to hear each other.

BRIAN
You look different than you did in
your profile.

SOFIA
Oh really?

BRIAN
Older.

SOFIA
Oh.

BRIAN
I mean, sorry, not in a bad way.
Just...more mature.

SOFIA
It's fine. I mean, I guess some of
those were taken a while ago, so.

BRIAN
What about me?`

SOFIA
Um, you look pretty much the same?
Different clothes, I guess!

The BARTENDER approaches them. She is cool. Very cool. Very beautiful. She leans over the bar.

BARTENDER
Hey hey, how are we doin'?

Brian openly stares at her. He smiles.

BRIAN
We're doin' alright. How are you?

BARTENDER

I'm great. Almost done with my shift, so can't complain. What can I get you guys started with?

SOFIA

I'll have a whiskey sour.

Brian leans over the bar.

BRIAN

Bring me your favorite drink on the menu.

BARTENDER

You sure?

BRIAN

I trust you.

BARTENDER

Okay then.

She slaps the bar and smiles. He smiles back. Sofia takes a sip of water, fiddles with her napkin.

SOFIA

So, you are...a ?

BRIAN

I'm in finance right now, but I consider myself more of a storyteller.

SOFIA

Oh, that's cool! I actually/

BRIAN

/Everything tells a story you know? You follow the money, it tells a story.

SOFIA

Sure.

A beat. He looks behind the bar, distracted.

BRIAN

And you're from...

SOFIA

Texas.

BRIAN
Right, right. Siblings? Parents?
Younger, older?

He still isn't really making eye contact with her.

SOFIA
I have a sister. Younger.

He looks back at her.

BRIAN
Ah. I'm an elder sibling as well.
Brother.

SOFIA
Oh that's awesome! Are y'all close?

BRIAN
Yeah we're really tight. Hated him
when we were kids, but. He's a
solid dude. And he moved out here
about a year ago so that's been
chill.

SOFIA
That's great. Yeah, my sister is
actually in Texas now. She's taking
some time off school. She's been
there for the past year? Or almost
a year, I guess? She's like. She's
a genius, though.

BRIAN
I was a crazy kid, man. Miss those
days. So free.

SOFIA
Totally. I miss--

Brian checks out the area behind the bar again. Sofia looks
down and tears at a bar napkin.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
I miss like, being someone that
someone looks up to. I think when
you're little you think you're
always going to have that you know?

BRIAN
(not listening)
Yeah, for sure.

Sofia looks up at him. She feels stupid for having shared this with him.

SOFIA

I'm gonna use the restroom.

She grabs her purse and takes it with her.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sofia sits on the toilet in a stall.

SOFIA

Get a fucking grip, Sofia.

She pulls out her phone and scrolls through her dating app profile. She opens the camera and looks at her face.

She digs through her purse, taking out mints, keys, and other miscellaneous stuff. She takes out some concealer and touches up her face. She flushes, exits the stall, washes her hands.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sofia walks back towards the bar, where Brian is talking to the bartender. She is laughing at something Brian is saying. She puts her hand on his hand and walks away. Sofia sits down. No drinks.

SOFIA

So you want to order fries or something?

BRIAN

Oh, I actually told her to hold off. I just, I got a call from work actually and our deadline got pushed up for a big client so I actually have to head out.

SOFIA

Oh really?

BRIAN

Yeah, sorry about that. I'm happy to call you a car, though.

SOFIA

No, no that's okay.

BRIAN

Please. Put in your address.

He hands her his phone.

SOFIA
Okay. Thanks.

She puts in her address.

BRIAN
Uber Black. Should be outside in
two!

SOFIA
Oh, okay.

She stands up, grabs her coat.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Well, thank you. It was really nice
to meet you.

BRIAN
You too. Really sorry about this.
Hope you still manage to have a
nice night!

SOFIA
Thanks. You too.

He smiles at her.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Sofia stands outside of the bar waiting for the car. She looks inside the windows and sees Brian leaning over the bar, laughing with the bartender. A car pulls up and she gets inside.

INT. HEALTH FOOD STORE - NIGHT

Sofia walks into a health food store. The door jingles. Sofia walks down the aisle and stops in front of the pastas. There are many different varieties: Protein plus, plant pasta, fusilli, spaghetti, bow tie. She stares at them. She looks to the right. Sauces. There are a lot of different types of sauces.

She stands in front of them all. She is small in front of all of this pasta and all of these sauces. She doesn't move. She reaches for one. She looks at the calorie count. She puts it back. She reaches for another one. She starts to breathe a little more heavily.

She stares at the pasta wall. She chews her lip. She reaches for another box. She puts it back. The fluorescent lights in the deli are bright and offensive. The door jingles. The top 40s pop music is very, very loud. She heads for the door.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The next day. Sofia walks to her car. She takes out her phone. She goes to her favorites. Her thumb hovers over Bea's name. She puts the phone to her ear. We hear a man's voice on the other end. This is Sofia's DAD.

DAD (O.S.)

Hello?

SOFIA

Hey Dad.

DAD

Sofia. Hi.

DAD (CONT'D)

How's it goin'?

SOFIA

I was just calling to-

DAD (CONT'D)

Sorry.

SOFIA

No, um. I was just calling to check in, I guess. How're y'all doing?

DAD

We're good, we're good. It's chicken parm night. So. Making chicken parm.

SOFIA

Your specialty.

There is a voice in the background.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Is that Bea?

DAD

Yep. You wanna talk to her?

SOFIA

No, no. I'm good. Just tell her I said hey.

DAD

Will do.

A beat of silence. Neither of them really knows how to communicate with the other.

SOFIA
Well, cool, I'm glad things are good.

DAD
Yep.

Another beat.

DAD (CONT'D)
You doin' okay?

SOFIA
Yeah. Yes. You know, work stuff. You know, it's been-. Things have been a little tough, I guess? But, that's just how it goes. So. Yeah. Um. Yeah.

A beat.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
Yeah.

DAD
Ok well. Let me know if you need anything.

SOFIA
Yeah, okay. Thanks.

DAD
Be safe.

SOFIA
I will. Bye.

Sofia leans up against her car, holding back tears.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

Another day. Traffic. Sofia walks on a crowded street, alone.

INT. SOFIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Another day. Sofia sits on the floor of her living room, leaning against the couch and staring into space.

She is alone in the dark - it should feel like she's been sitting there when it was still daylight, but it's been long enough that the sun has now set.

She opens her computer, lit by the glow of its screen. She stares at it. She closes it.

She slides down the couch until she is lying on the floor.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

Sofia sits at a coffee shop alone, a cup of black coffee in front of her. She looks around. She makes eye contact with someone sitting at a nearby table. She smiles. The person looks away. Sofia takes a sip of her coffee.

INT. SOFIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Another day. Sofia unlocks her door and pushes into her apartment, holding grocery bags.

She puts groceries away. She pulls out a tray of store bought cupcakes with green icing. She considers them, and then puts them in the fridge. She puts a box of black bean pasta on the counter.

She goes to the sink and washes her hands. She moves around the small apartment and turns on all the lights. She goes back over to the kitchen.

She goes to wash her hands again. She scrubs them hard and thoroughly. She grabs a pot and fills it with water. She puts it on the stove. She squats down on the floor, puts her head between her knees, takes a deep breath. She stands up. She looks at her hands. She goes to wash them again. Her hands are red and raw looking. She washes them again.

We hear a loud BUZZ. Sofia dries her hands, confused. She goes over to the intercom.

SOFIA

Hello?

We hear a sort of fumbling around the intercom.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Hello?

She presses listen. Through the tinny speakers of the intercom, we hear:

BEA
 Happy birthday to you. Happy
 birthday to you, happy birthday
 dear Sofia, happy birthday to you.

Sofia takes a sharp breath in, then buzzes her up.

We hear Bea thumping up the stairs as Sofia stands and waits.
 Bea reaches the landing, and stands outside the apartment
 door. Bea smiles.

SOFIA
 Happy birthday B.

BEA
 Happy birthday Sof.

They look at each other. Sofia smiles.

INT. SOFIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sofia and Bea sit on Sofia's floor, eating the store-bought
 cupcakes.

BEA
 These are gross.

SOFIA
 So gross.

BEA
 Look my fingers are green.

She holds up her hands, which have been stained green by
 icing.

SOFIA
 Ew.

A beat.

BEA
 Did you ever finish the movie?

SOFIA
 Yeah.

A beat. Sofia starts laughing.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
 It's so bad.

They both laugh.

BEA
That's okay.

SOFIA
(softly to herself)
That's okay.

Sofia takes a bite of cupcake. They sit for a moment in contented silence.

BEA
Hey Sof.

SOFIA
What

BEA
If I was an animal I would be a dinosaur. Because I'm green and hungry.

Sofia smiles.

BEA (CONT'D)
Hey Sof.

SOFIA
(smiling)
Yeah?

BEA
What's your biggest feeling right now?

Sofia looks at Bea. She takes a cupcake and smears her lips with green icing. Bea smiles, and does the same. They smile at each other, green lipped and happy.

FADE OUT.