

EFFECT

Written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. KENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A statue of a man wearing a business suit is at the center of an ornate garden. The plaque reads: "Arthur Bradford".

A dripping red line is sprayed across the statue's torso.

DEAN VALDEZ (17), Hispanic, in ratty brown clothes, shakes his can of red spray paint. He sprays the statue like it has personally wronged him, and he looks at home doing it.

He finishes his work and steps back to admire it.

"THIEF" is emblazoned across the statue's chest.

Behind the statue is an incredibly ornate building with large, glass windows, surrounded by forest. It's hard to decide whether to call this place a house or a mansion.

A door closes softly, but Dean hears it. He whips around to see a police car parked in the road in front of the house.

Dean books it, sprinting across the ledge. He hears the policeman jump the fence to get into the yard.

POLICEMAN

Stop!

Dean slides around the corner of the building, hearing the Policeman's feet pounding the pavement behind him.

Dean reaches the back edge of the roof and throws a rock off the edge, which CRACKS a pot on the back porch. He doubles back, adeptly clambering over the tilted roof.

He's about to slide down the front side when a BLUE LIGHT flashes in his face.

Blinded, he slips and slides back down the roof-

-and lands in the backyard. He scrambles up, trying to run away.

POLICEMAN

End of the road. Hands over your head.

Dean holds his hands over his head and turns around.

DEAN

Believe me, this guy had it coming.

The Policeman is TYLER (25), Black, who looks uncomfortable holding a gun. He lowers it.

TYLER

Dean?

DEAN

Hey, Tyler.

TYLER

Man, what's wrong with you? You said you were done with this kind of thing.

DEAN

Kent Bradford was begging for it.

TYLER

I'm not talking about Kent Bradford. I'm talking about you. You want to end up in jail? You want to go broke paying fines?

DEAN

I'm already broke.

TYLER

And you think adding fines to your plate will help any?

Dean glares at him.

DEAN

(mocking)

That's how the town of Glen Basin runs. By bleeding the poor dry.

TYLER

I know things are bad. And I'm doing my best to help. That's why I'm a cop. That's why I let you off the hook before.

Tyler sighs.

TYLER

But not this time. This time, you're gonna do some community service.

DEAN

You think Kent Bradford will let me get off with community service?

(MORE)

DEAN (CONT'D)

His lawyers will try to get me the death penalty.

TYLER

I'm not reporting you. You're going to do some community service of your own free will. Or I *will* report you.

Dean looks skeptical.

TYLER

I'm serious. I'd better hear about Dean Valdez helping out at a soup kitchen or something *very soon*. You have two days.

DEAN

I won't work with those-

TYLER

Yes you will. Now get out of here. This is the last time I'm covering for you.

Dean starts walks past Tyler.

DEAN

The Chief buying you guys new equipment, huh?

TYLER

What do you mean?

DEAN

I would've gotten away if you hadn't blinded me with that blue flashlight.

Dean doesn't wait for an answer and heads towards a beaten-up old pickup truck hidden in the trees.

Tyler looks confused. He turns his flashlight on and off. It's yellow.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A blue-tinged leaf floats to the ground.

It lands next to an abandoned shoe.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - NIGHT

A lone candle barely makes a difference in the dark church.

FATHER LEON (54), Hispanic, wearing a black suit and a Roman collar, walks through the pews, holding the candle aloft. He looks like he hasn't slept all night.

He walks to the tabernacle - a box built into the wall that was painted gold at one point but has been losing chips of paint for decades.

He genuflects and kneels before the tabernacle on the hard wood floor.

FATHER LEON
I'm sorry, Lord. You deserve better
than this.

A KNOCK at the door echoes across the church.

Father Leon genuflects to the tabernacle again before walking up the aisle to the door.

He opens the door a crack.

FATHER LEON
Hello?

A poor woman stands on the other side.

POOR WOMAN
I- I know it's late, but- I just
lost my job; I don't know how we're
going to eat- I need money.

Father Leon looks at a basket labeled "Collections" on a nearby table. It's empty.

FATHER LEON
I'm so sorry. We just- we don't
have anything to give.

She looks down, defeated.

POOR WOMAN
I don't know- I don't know what I'm
going to do...

She walks away.

Father Leon closes the door softly. He sighs.

Loud KNOCKING on the door again makes Father Leon jump.

He opens the door.

FATHER LEON
Maybe if you come next week, after
the Sunday collection-

He stops when he sees-

The STRANGER, wearing a grey hoodie with the hood up, a black bandana around his mouth, and square sunglasses.

He pushes past Father Leon into the church.

FATHER LEON
Hey! Who are-

The stranger holds out an envelope to Father Leon. The envelope is open- it's full of cash.

STRANGER
Take it.

FATHER LEON
Oh- well- Wow, thank you very much.
We're always happy to accept a
donation.

Father Leon slowly takes the envelope.

STRANGER
It's not a donation.

FATHER LEON
Pardon?

STRANGER
It's not a donation. It's a
payment.

FATHER LEON
A payment? I'm not sure I understa-

STRANGER
You get \$2500 up front. Do what I
ask, and you get \$50,000 more.

FATHER LEON
\$50,000?! What-

STRANGER
When the moment comes, someone will
be looking for something. I need
you to take it and destroy it. No
one will know.

FATHER LEON
You want me to-?!

STRANGER
That someone is insane. If he gets
it, you won't get your money.

Father Leon stares at the Stranger in shock.

STRANGER
And people will get hurt.

INT. NEW YORK CITY POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The NYPD CHIEF (47) looks grimly over his massive desk at
EMILY (28), White, who has a stiff posture and ring with a
cross on her finger.

NYPD CHIEF
You're demoted. And you're
transferring out of NYC.

EMILY
You can't demote me! This was a one-
time mistake!

NYPD CHIEF
It was the kind of mistake that
would get most detectives fired. If
it wasn't for your impressive
career, you would be too.

EMILY
But-

NYPD CHIEF
Don't make things worse for
yourself. There are two small towns
that need more officers. I'm being
exceedingly gracious and leaving
the choice up to you.

He hands her some papers and stands up from his desk.

NYPD CHIEF
I know you're familiar with one of
them.

EMILY
I'm not going back there.

NYPD CHIEF

Your decision will be quick, then.
I'll be back soon. I want you to do
the paperwork and be on your way by
the time I get back.

EMILY

On my way? It's 11pm!

NYPD CHIEF

The other officers will have heard
the rumors by morning. I'm sure you
realize that the sooner you're out
of the city, the better.

He sighs.

NYPD CHIEF

It's been good to work with you,
Emily. I'm sorry things had to end
this way.

He walks out of the room.

Emily looks at the papers - one for each town.

Emily's phone rings. She answers.

A beat.

EMILY

I'm sorry, mom. But how do you know
it was him?

A beat.

EMILY

Look, I want to help, but we aren't
exactly best friends either, you
know. And I'm not going to convince
him I care over the phone-

She looks at one of the papers again.

EMILY

Okay, yes, he needs me. Bye, mom.

She hangs up.

She looks at the papers one last time-

And signs the one labeled "Glen Basin."

She signs it.

INT. KENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A teenage BOY wearing expensive pajamas stands at the window.

STRANGER (V.O.)
Every cause has an effect.

He holds the latest smartphone up to his head.

BOY
I'd like to file a complaint
against Officer Tyler Davis.

INT. GLEN BASIN POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

CHIEF ANDREWS (61), experienced and hardened by a lifetime of policing, sits at a small desk.

STRANGER (V.O.)
Every action has consequences.

CHIEF ANDREWS
Thank you, Mr. Bradford. I'll deal
with him.

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A sparsely furnished apartment, with only the essentials.
Some things are arranged neatly, others hastily.

Tyler is sitting on mattress that lies on the floor. He
finishes typing an email into his phone and sends it.

The email's subject: "A new volunteer for you"

STRANGER
Every choice ripples through the
lives of others.

Tyler sets his phone down, but it pings and he looks again.

An email from Chief Andrews. "Meeting at my office. 9:00am."

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Emily drives a blue mid-range sports car past a sign that
reads "Glen Basin, 300 miles".

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - NIGHT

The Stranger walks out of the door and turns to Father Leon.

STRANGER
So choose wisely.

TITLES

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT./EXT. MR. RICHARD'S PORCH - DAY

A door opens, bringing light to a dark house. On the porch is HOPE SPENCER (17), bright-eyed and always smiling.

HOPE

Hi! My name is Hope! May I ask if
you go to church anywhere?

MR. RICHARDS (56), White, looks at Hope blankly.

MR. RICHARDS

Church? No.

HOPE

Then maybe you'd like to come to my
church sometime?

Hope offers Mr. Richards a card.

HOPE

It's called the West United
Methodist Church. It's a really
great community!

MR. RICHARDS

I'm afraid not. I'm really busy.

He closes the door without taking the card.

Hope is unfazed.

INT./EXT. LUCAS' PORCH - DAY

The door opens to Hope's cheerful knock.

HOPE

Hi! My name is Hope! May I ask if
you go to church anywhere?

LUCAS (34), Black, smiles. He is putting a tie on.

LUCAS

Yes, I go to Fountain Baptist
Church. Afraid I'll be late for
work if we talk any more,
unfortunately. Have a nice day!

HOPE

You too!

INT./EXT. AIKO'S PORCH - DAY

The door opens slowly.

HOPE

Hi! My name is Hope! Do you go to
church anywhere?

AIKO (16), Asian, looks frightened. She slams the door.

Hope's smile is still just as genuine as before.

EXT. DEAN'S TRAILER - DAY

Hope walks up to the front door. The trailer is old, broken down, and rusty. She hesitantly knocks on the door.

Her knock accidentally pushes the door open. She sees that the lock is busted.

HOPE

Oh- Hello?

She pushes the door open the rest of the way. The trailer looks like its been furnished entirely with things people left by the road for bulk trash pickup.

She can't see anyone there. She takes a few steps in.

INT. DEAN'S TRAILER - DAY

Dean stands at the trailer's one window with his back to Hope. He's wearing an old pair of headphones with the padding worn off. He's sadly watching a group of teenage friends talking and laughing as they walk to school.

Hope sees Dean and looks sad for him.

HOPE

Hey, Dean!

He doesn't respond.

She taps him on the shoulder.

HOPE

Dean!

He whips around, holding up his fists.

Hope jumps. Dean sees who she is.

DEAN
What the- Who are you?

HOPE
I'm Hope Spencer; we have class
together, remember?

DEAN
Oh, right...

He takes his headphones off.

DEAN
But what the heck are you doing
here?

HOPE
I'm friends with Officer Davis - he
sent me an email that you were
interested in volunteering.

DEAN
Oh. That. Great.

He starts making himself a bowl of cereal.

HOPE
He said you wanted to volunteer
asap, so I came to see if you
wanted to help set up the school
dance tonight.

DEAN
Why didn't you just tell me that at
school instead of breaking into my
trailer?

HOPE
I didn't- the door was ajar, and I
thought something might be wrong.

DEAN
Well, it is now.

HOPE
Our first meeting is at 7:00am
before school, and I was in the
area, so I thought I would drop by.

DEAN
How do you know where I live?

HOPE

I volunteer in this area a lot, so I've seen you coming home from school. What's with all the questions?

Dean sighs.

DEAN

Are there any other volunteer activities in town in the next two days?

HOPE

Well, there's a soup kitchen tomorrow! That could be fun! You might see some of your neighbors there!

Dean glares at her.

DEAN

I want you to leave. Now.

HOPE

Okay, sorry! I don't want to intrude.

Hope walks quickly to the door.

DEAN

You already have.

HOPE

Again, I'm really, really sorry. Just let me know if you do decide to volunteer.

She walks onto the porch.

Dean walks up to close the door behind her.

DEAN

I'll see you at the meeting.

Hope's face brightens.

HOPE

Oh, perfect!

Dean slams the door in her face.

EXT. MIDDLE-CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

JUNE (16), White, always looks like she doesn't care, walks down the sidewalk alone.

Across the street, Hope runs up to a group of teenagers talking and laughing on the other side of the street - the same group that walked by Dean's house.

June pretends not to watch as Hope greets them. They laugh.

Hope checks both ways and walks across the street.

She falls into step next to June.

JUNE

You know, you don't have to walk with me every day. I'm sure they're more fun to hang out with.

HOPE

Are you kidding? You're my best friend!

JUNE

But I am also another one of your charity cases?

HOPE

No, I promise!

JUNE

What if you get to the end of high school and realize that you wasted it spending time with me when you could have been socializing with everyone else?

HOPE

That would never happen!

JUNE

Seriously, I'm fine. I don't want to hold you back.

HOPE

The only one you're holding back is yourself.

JUNE

What do you mean?

HOPE

You still haven't asked a guy to the dance yet, have you?

JUNE

Get off my case! You haven't either!

HOPE

I'm running the dance. I have to be focused on that.

JUNE

Well, then focus on it, and leave me alone.

HOPE

I just hate to see you lonely.

JUNE

I'm not-

Hope lights up.

HOPE

I have an idea!

INT./EXT. TYLER'S CAR - DAY

Tyler drives a small, cheap, brown car to work. He turns his blinker on and makes a right turn.

A SIREN blares behind him.

TYLER

What the-

He looks in his mirror. And unmarked blue sports car with a siren placed on its roof is right behind him.

Tyler pulls over, confused.

The other car pulls over too. Someone gets out and walks over to Tyler's driver-side window.

It's Emily.

She leans down to talk to Tyler.

EMILY

License, registration, insurance.

TYLER

Um, who the heck are you?

EMILY

Who do you think?

TYLER

I know every officer in this town.

EMILY

Are you aware of how fast you were going?

TYLER

Yes, 21 in a 20. And you don't have the authority to do anything about it.

EMILY

Do you want me to take you in for disorderly conduct?

TYLER

Talking back to a police officer isn't disorderly conduct. And you'd know that if you were actually a police officer.

EMILY

Get out of the car.

TYLER

I'm not doing anything you say.

EMILY

Get out of the car!

TYLER

That's it.

Tyler gets out of the car and pulls something out of his pocket.

EMILY

Hey!

Emily reaches for her gun-

But then sees what Tyler reached for - his badge.

TYLER

You're under arrest for impersonating a police officer.

EMILY
You're an officer?

TYLER
Why is that surprising?

EMILY
I'm reaching for my badge.

TYLER
Badge?

Emily shows him her badge.

INT. GLEN BASIN POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE - DAY

Tyler and Emily stand and stare at Chief Andrews, who is sitting at his desk.

TYLER Partners?! EMILY Partners?!

Emily and Tyler are revolted that they spoke in unison.

EMILY
Due respect, sir, but I work best alone.

TYLER
You brought in an out-of-towner?

CHIEF ANDREWS
Please!

He sighs.

CHIEF ANDREWS
I need to speak with you each alone.

A MOMENT LATER

Tyler stares down the Chief.

TYLER
Chief, this is a mistake.

CHIEF ANDREWS
Davis, your arrest rate has been getting lower and lower.

TYLER

We're having arrest quotas now? You want me to arrest on suspicion to meet a *quota*, sir?

CHIEF ANDREWS

Your arrest rate adjusted for amount of crimes. We've been having the same amount of crimes in this town, and you're letting more and more of them go unsolved.

TYLER

Sir-

CHIEF ANDREWS

I don't care about your motives, Davis, be they conscious or not. The point is, something has to change.

A MOMENT LATER

EMILY

Sir, is this because of what I did in NY-

CHIEF ANDREWS

I'm not concerned about your past, Lanelle.

EMILY

I will do far better now, sir. I've learned from my mistake.

CHIEF ANDREWS

Good. I'm hoping you two can teach each other something.

EMILY

I'll show him how it's done, sir. I won't let you down.

CHIEF ANDREWS

That's not-

The chief starts to cough.

It lets up, and he sighs.

CHIEF ANDREWS

Get going, Lanelle.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Hope shows Dean around the auditorium. About ten people are working on different decorations for the dance.

HOPE
So, any of these jobs look good to you?

DEAN
No.

HOPE
Uh- none of them?

A teenage GIRL comes up.

GIRL
We need someone to be the greeter at the door, but the costume we made is too heavy for anyone we have available to wear.

She points to a large fish costume made of paper-mâché.

The girl looks at Dean.

GIRL
Hey! Is he doing anything?

DEAN
No. No way.

A MOMENT LATER

Hope and Dean work on putting decorations up on the wall.

HOPE
You're the only one who can do it.

DEAN
That's too bad.

HOPE
Well, there is one alternative.

DEAN
What?

HOPE
You're not going to the dance with anyone yet, are you?

Dean pauses from hanging things up.

DEAN

No...

HOPE

Well, how would you like to?

Dean looks at Hope.

DEAN

I... might consider it.

HOPE

Great! I have a friend who's looking for someone and I think you two would be so cute together!

DEAN

What?! No. You're not setting me up on a blind date.

HOPE

It's not blind. Look, there she is right there.

Dean turns and sees June asking another volunteer something.

She notices Hope and Dean looking at her and hides behind her hair.

DEAN

(reluctantly)

She's cute.

HOPE

And if you do me this favor, then I'm sure I could figure something out for the fish.

He thinks it over.

HOPE

Of course, you could always help out at the soup kitchen instead.

DEAN

No! Look, I'll think about it, okay?

HOPE

Awesome! Thank you so much!

She hugs him briefly.

DEAN

Whoa! I just said I'd think about it!

Dean is clearly uncomfortable.

HOPE

Remember to decide fast, the dance is tonight!

INT. TYLER'S POLICE CAR - DAY

Tyler and Emily sit in the front seat of Tyler's police car as he drives.

TYLER

So, that's the town pub, best place for a drink after work.

Emily is bored of this tour.

TYLER

That's my favorite coffee place. It's got a great-

Emily reaches over and flips a switch between them.

The siren BLIPS.

TYLER

What do you think you're doing?

EMILY

My job.

Tyler doesn't understand. Emily points out the front.

EMILY

One of his brake lights is broken.

An old car is pulling over in front of them.

INT./EXT. FATHER LEON'S CAR - DAY

Father Leon looks up at Tyler and Emily, who walk towards his window.

Emily steps up to the window and flashes her badge.

EMILY

Officer Emily Lanelle. I need your license, vehicle registration, and insurance card.

FATHER LEON

Of course. What's the problem, officer?

EMILY

One of your brake lights is broken.

FATHER LEON

Oh, yes. I'm sorry, I just haven't had the money to fix it.

He hands Emily the right documents. She looks at them.

FATHER LEON

Are you new in town?

Emily narrows her eyes at Father Leon and ignores him.

FATHER LEON

You didn't happen to come here with a friend, did you? Who wears a grey hoodie?

EMILY

I'm the one asking the questions here.

TYLER

Emily, let it go.

EMILY

Why?

TYLER

I know him. This is Father Leon, the town priest.

EMILY

And you often let your friends off easy?

TYLER

I know his history, too. This is his first violation.

EMILY

(to Father Leon)

You'll be receiving a tic-

TYLER
(talks over Emily)
A warning.

Tyler takes the papers from Emily and gives them back to Father Leon.

TYLER
You're free to go. Drive safe.

Father Leon looks uncertainly at Emily.

TYLER
Go!

Father Leon nods and pulls away.

EMILY
How are people going to learn to respect the law if they're not punished?

TYLER
The warning was punishment enough.

EMILY
You're not stopping me from doing my job again.

She walks back to the car.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Hope and June line up for class.

HOPE
So. I found you a date.

JUNE
What? I told you not to!

Hope smiles at her sneakily. June pretends not to be interested, but can't help herself.

JUNE
So. Who is it?

HOPE
I thought you didn't care.

JUNE
Shut up and tell me.

HOPE
Dean Valdez.

JUNE
Dean? I don't know, I've heard
rumors that he and Kent Bradford
are always at each other's throats.

HOPE
You're going to believe a rumor?

JUNE
Well . . .

HOPE
He said he thought you were cute.

JUNE
He did?

HOPE
Mm hm.

A beat.

JUNE
I don't want my first dance to be
with someone I've barely talked to.
It would be awkward.

HOPE
(giggling)
This is your first dance?

JUNE
Shut up!

Hope thinks.

HOPE
What if you meet up before the
dance? Today is a half day - you
could meet up for lunch. Then
you'll know each other so it won't
be awkward at the dance itself.

June ponders it for a second.

JUNE
Fine. But if anything goes wrong,
I'm holding you responsible.

HOPE
Of course! Don't worry. Nothing
will go wrong!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD - DAY

The courtyard is right next to the parking lot. You can see the auditorium from here - it's a freestanding building separate from the rest of the school

Dean sits on the steps, alone, eating his lunch.

A red Lamborghini speeds into the parking lot and pulls up right in front of Dean, splattering mud on Dean's pants.

DEAN
Hey!

The Lamborghini's door opens up noiselessly-

And KENT BRADFORD (17) himself steps out. He's wearing the most expensive everything. A gold watch. Shoes designed only for a specific type of leisure.

DEAN
Kent Bradford.

Kent looks at the mud on Dean's pants, smiling cockily.

KENT
Oh, did I do that? Gotta say, it's
an improvement.

DEAN
So was your dad's statue.

Kent marches up to Dean and glares in his eyes.

KENT
That was you.

DEAN
(singsong)
But isn't it unfortunate? No proof,
no punishment.

Kent looks like he's about to punch Dean, but a crowd of popular-looking teenagers walk up to him.

Kent's face morphs from serial-killer-esque to a humble gentleman as he turns from Dean to his crowd.

POPULAR BOY 1
Kent, is it true you're taking a
model to the dance tonight?

KENT
A model *and* an actress.

POPULAR BOY 2
Wow. Does she have a friend?

Kent laughs good-naturedly.

POPULAR BOY 2
I'm serious.

Kent turns to Dean, who is slinking away from the crowd.

KENT
Who are *you* taking to the dance,
Dean? Your mother?

He and his crowd laugh.

Dean turns red.

Hope runs up to Dean, surprising him.

HOPE
Hi, Dean! Have you decided about
the dance yet?

KENT
If you're going with Hope - I'm
sorry, but it's not real, man.
You're just another one of her
charity cases.

He and his crowd laugh again.

Dean turns towards them.

DEAN
I'm going with June Martin.

Kent and his crowd slowly stop laughing.

KENT
Sorry, was I supposed to be
impressed?

DEAN
I know exactly why you're going
with an out-of-towner. Because no
one that knows you would ever go.

Kent's crowd goes Oooh - until Kent glares at them.

Hope turns to Dean.

HOPE

I'm so glad you decided! I was also wondering if you could meet up with her before the dance to make things at the dance less awkward?

Dean is still glaring at Kent.

DEAN

If that's what it takes, fine.

Dean and Hope turn away from Kent and his crowd.

HOPE

Awesome! It's going to be at 2:00pm at John's Diner.

Kent pretends to listen to the babble of his crowd- but glances towards Hope and Dean.

EXT. FOREST STREET - DAY

Father Leon's car drives down a forested road.

INT. FATHER LEON'S CAR - DAY

Father Leon sits behind the wheel, watching the road.

Father Leon glances quickly at the envelope of cash the Stranger gave him, which is sitting on the passenger's seat, and looks back at the road.

FATHER LEON

Show me the way, Lord.

Suddenly, MR. NORMAND (56), Hispanic, dressed in mismatched clothing, runs out of the forest onto the road.

Father Leon shouts, slams on the breaks, and swerves, barely missing Mr. Normand.

Mr. Normand runs up and BANGS on the windshield.

MR. NORMAND

You have to help me.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. FOREST HIGHWAY - DAY

Father Leon's car drives down the highway in the opposite direction.

INT. FATHER LEON'S CAR - DAY

Mr. Normand sits in the backseat of Father Leon's car.

Father Leon clears his throat.

FATHER LEON
So, Mr. Norman-

MR. NORMAND
Normand. Arnold Normand.

FATHER LEON
Sorry. Mr. Normand, you said you
needed help with a moral question?

MR. NORMAND
Yes, I suppose we're far enough
away now. They can't be watching me
out here.

Father Leon glances at Mr. Normand in the mirror.

MR. NORMAND
Might it be- under certain
circumstances, morally right to do
something bad for a good reason?

Father Leon shakes his head.

FATHER LEON
The ends do not justify the means,
Mr. Normand. Ever. If you give evil
an inch, it's too late- evil has
already won.

MR. NORMAND
I've done something terrible.
Something horribly, gravely wrong.
I need to- make my peace with God.

FATHER LEON

There's only one way to do that.
First, you must repent - truly,
honestly, and firmly intend to
never do this thing again.

MR. NORMAND

I wouldn't dream of it.

FATHER LEON

And second, you must confess your
sin to a priest, who stands as an
advocate of God.

Mr. Normand begins to shake his head.

MR. NORMAND

No- I can't- Can't tell anyone.

FATHER LEON

It will never get out. The seal of
the confessional binds me to never
reveal anything from confession to
anyone.

MR. NORMAND

I think- I will confess my sins
directly to God.

FATHER LEON

When someone sins, they do not only
hurt God, but their fellow man as
well, no matter what the nature of
the sin. By confessing to a priest,
you confess to God and man.

MR. NORMAND

I'm sorry. You can't help me with
this.

A beat.

MR. NORMAND

But you can help me make things
right.

Father Leon nods.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Hope walks into the storage room, searching the many shelves
full of odds and ends for something.

She pauses when she hears some music quietly playing.

She walks towards the sound.

As she turns a corner, she sees Dean in the back corner of the storage room, attempting to follow the follow along with a ballroom dancing video on his phone.

Hope smiles.

She waits until Dean turns around in the course of the dance and sees her.

He turns an angry shade of red.

DEAN

Why are you always-!

HOPE

Do you know how to dance, Dean?

He sputters.

DEAN

Of course I do! I'm just a little rusty, so I'm- Just leave me alone, alright?

Hope walks up to him.

HOPE

Sorry, I just can't stand it.
You're so bad!

She laughs. He scowls.

HOPE

Here.

She puts her hand on his shoulder. He pushes it away.

HOPE

I can teach it to you, if you let me.

DEAN

Fine.

HOPE

Just stand like this.

Hope moves Dean's arms into the right position.

HOPE
Now cross one foot behind your
other foot.

The music from Dean's video swells as Hope teaches Dean how to dance.

Soon, they are dancing together.

INT. TYLER'S POLICE CAR - DAY

Tyler and Emily drive in a cold silence.

Emily notices a MAN jaywalking across a busy street.

EMILY
Stop the car.

TYLER
Come on, everyone jaywalks
sometimes.

EMILY
Not in this much traffic. Pull
over!

Tyler pulls over.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Emily jumps out of the car and crosses the street by crosswalk.

Tyler jumps out too, and tries to catch up with her.

Emily is waiting for the jaywalker when he gets to the other side, with a citation in hand.

Tyler runs up.

TYLER
That's not necessary!

Emily has already given the jaywalker the citation.

EMILY
(to the jaywalker)
Go on.

INT. TYLER'S POLICE CAR - DAY

Emily and Tyler get back in the car.

EMILY

Am I going to have to yell at you every time we need to work together on something?

TYLER

If you keep abusing your power, then yes!

EMILY

You're the one abusing your power. You're refusing to do your job.

TYLER

Our job is to serve and protect, not persecute!

EMILY

Our job is to defend the law!

TYLER

If the law doesn't help anyone, then what's the point?

Emily turns away.

EMILY

The point is that when when you break the rules, everything goes to shit.

Tyler stares at her for a moment.

TYLER

That's it. We're going to the Chief.

INT. JOHN'S DINER - DAY

A cheap family-run diner. Dean waits at a table, eating some french fries.

Hope and June come into the diner. They walk over.

HOPE

Dean, meet June. June, meet Dean. Well, I guess you've seen each other in class, but have you talked before?

DEAN

No, and the way this is going,
looks like we're never going to be
able to.

HOPE

Oh! You're right, I'm talking too
much! Time to make myself scarce!
Good luck, you two!

JUNE

Wait. Do you think you could
actually stay?

HOPE

Why?

JUNE

It would just make me feel more
comfortable.

HOPE

Uh, is that okay with you, Dean?

DEAN

Yeah, sure.

Hope sits down at a nearby table.

HOPE

I'll be quiet. Just pretend I'm not
here.

June sits down at Dean's table.

She opens her mouth to say something, but-

Kent walks over and dramatically COUGHS on their french
fries.

As they are distracted, he secretly pours something in Kent's
lemonade.

JUNE

Gross!

DEAN

Real mature, Kent.

KENT

Sorry. Just can't help it
sometimes, you know.

He smiles and walks away.

JUNE

What was that about?

DEAN

Don't worry about it.

Hope looks worried.

Dean takes a drink.

INT. GLEN BASIN POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE - DAY

Tyler and Emily storm in and talk over each other.

TYLER

Chief, I can't work with her. She doesn't care about the people involved in anything we do. She doesn't know this town and she doesn't want to. You have to assign us to separate parts of the town, or different cars at least.

EMILY

You have to split us up. Or fire one of us, I don't care. But no matter what, we cannot work together. This man has no respect for the law, and has no business being the one working to protect it.

The police chief waves his hands, interrupting them both.

CHIEF

Guys. GUYS. Please, shut up for a minute.

He waits for them to quiet down.

CHIEF

Believe it or not, I don't make decisions completely arbitrarily. I assigned you two together for a reason. I know you've got opposite mentalities. But I know there's a good cop inside each of you. And I'm hoping that you'll rub off on each other and both end up better because of it.

They both open their mouths to protest.

CHIEF

And that decision is final. You're dismissed.

Emily tries to speak again.

CHIEF
You're DISMISSED.

INT. JOHN'S DINER - DAY

June is clearly distressed. Dean stands up and yells at the waiter.

DEAN
(slurring)
Next time, bring me what I ordered!

HOPE
That *is* what you ordered, Dean.

DEAN
Don't tell me what to do.

He stumbles towards the waiter and falls into a table, knocking it over.

June puts her head in her hands and runs outside.

Hope stands up.

HOPE
(distressed)
What's going on, Dean? Were you
drinking before you came here?

Dean has passed out.

At a nearby table, Kent snickers as he records the scene on his phone.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. JUNE'S PORCH - DAY

A nice porch with flowery designs on the furniture. June sits on a swing, looking down. Hope sits next to her and holds up her phone.

HOPE
Look at this.

She plays a video- it shows Kent getting arrested at John's Diner for underage drinking.

JUNE
What? Did you record this?

HOPE
Of course not! It was posted by Kent. And I think it was all Kent. Remember how he came over to your table? What if he put something in Dean's drink?

JUNE
So?

HOPE
So, that would mean this doesn't ruin your plans for the dance!

JUNE
You promised nothing would go wrong! It did, so I'm out.

HOPE
But if it was Kent, we don't have to worry about it happening again!

JUNE
Yes, we do. This means the rumors are true, and Dean and Kent have a feud going. I'm not getting mixed up in it. Forget about the dance. I'm not going unless Dean and Kent stop being Dean and Kent.

INT. GLEN BASIN POLICE STATION - MAIN OFFICE - DAY

A large room with a few desks here and there. A 911 OPERATOR sits a desk.

An OFFICER escorts Dean from one room to another. Tyler doesn't see him-

He and Emily are fuming in the corner.

EMILY
This is just great.

TYLER
Well, I can think of at least one solution.

EMILY
What's that?

TYLER
You could quit.

Emily restrains a laugh.

EMILY
Right. Or you could.

TYLER
That's option two. We're on a roll.

Emily sighs.

EMILY
I really need this job.

TYLER
Me too. But we couldn't work together if our lives depended on it.

EMILY
So what do we do?

Tyler's gaze focuses on a flyer on the office bulletin board.

TYLER
Workplace relationships.

EMILY
What?

TYLER
Workplace relationships aren't allowed.

EMILY
So if the Chief thought-

TYLER

Then he'd have to split us up.

They pretend not to watch as the Chief walks out of his office and into the break room.

EXT. MR. NORMAND'S LAB - DAY

A small farm shack. Father Leon pulls up the car.

Mr. Normand gets out and leads Father Leon to a trapdoor.

MR. NORMAND

Right this way, right this way.

Father Leon takes an old flip-phone out of his pocket and keeps it in hand.

Father Leon and Mr. Normand head down the stairs.

INT. FARM BASEMENT - DAY

It's dark down here. Mr. Normand turns on a few bare light bulbs hanging from the ceiling.

This place is stacked with various mechanical and electronic equipment seemingly obtained from the local dump.

A large table sits in the center of the room, lit by the only lamp in the room. It's empty.

MR. NORMAND

What happened? Where is it? Where is it?

Mr. Normand begins to look around frantically. Under the table, through the junk stacked in the corners.

FATHER LEON

What are you looking for? Maybe I can help.

MR. NORMAND

I . . . Well, course, I'm looking for . . . well, it's not exactly public knowledge, but it looks vaguely like . . .

FATHER LEON

Sorry, but its hard to help if I don't know what it looks like.

MR. NORMAND

What . . . was it? How could I
forget, just like that? This is my
life's work . . . This was my
life's work . . . what was it?

Mr. Normand finally settles on something.

MR. NORMAND

It was stolen! Yes, surely it was
stolen!

(at first comforting, the
idea becomes scary)

Oh no, no no. What would they do
with . . . with it. This is
horrible, terrible. It was
something very, very important. Was
it powerful? I think, yes, maybe it
was . . .

FATHER LEON

(gently)

Mr. Normand, are you sure it
wasn't, well, a dream you had, or
something you imagined? Dreams can
seem quite real at the time...

Mr. Normand suddenly pushes Father Leon against the wall.

MR. NORMAND

NO! No, it wasn't a dream! I worked
on this for so long, so many years,
this is my life's work . . .

He starts wandering the room again.

MR. NORMAND

so many memories . . . it couldn't
have been a dream, that makes no
sense . . .

FATHER LEON

If something was stolen, maybe we
should call the police.

MR. NORMAND

No, no, no one can know, this is
very, very important and very
secret . . .

Father Leon heads upstairs.

FATHER LEON

If you'll excuse me for a moment...

EXT. MR NORMAN'S LAB - DAY

Father Leon exits the trapdoor and dials 911.

INT. GLEN BASIN POLICE STATION - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Tyler and Emily stand outside the break room.

EMILY

No, we can't do this. It's stupid
and childish.

TYLER

Do you want to have to keep working
with me?

Emily glares at him.

The break room door starts to swing open-

Emily abruptly leans forward and she and Tyler kiss.

The break apart.

The Chief stands in the open door to the break room.

CHIEF

Davis and Lanelle, what in the-

911 OPERATOR

Davis and Lanelle, I have a
potential burglary for you.

Tyler and Emily turn to the Chief.

CHIEF

I'll deal with you two after your
shift. Get out of here.

Tyler and Emily head outside.

Dean just misses them as he is released and walks to the
door.

EXT. GLEN BASIN POLICE STATION - DAY

Dean comes outside.

He is surprised to find Hope waiting for him.

DEAN

What are you doing here?

HOPE

I know it wasn't you. I think Kent put something in your drink.

DEAN

That has to be what happened. He's going to pay.

HOPE

No, wait! Revenge isn't the answer. It'll just keep going back and forth until you're both in big trouble!

DEAN

I'm already in big trouble! Thanks to Kent, I've got to pay a \$200 fine and my license has been revoked for 3 months.

HOPE

And it'll only get worse if you keep this up! You need to call a truce.

DEAN

No way.

HOPE

If you don't, June won't go to the dance with you and you'll have to be the greeter.

DEAN

I'm not freaking dressing up like a fish.

HOPE

It's the dance, the fish, or the soup kitchen. Or I'll have to tell Officer Davis that you're not cooperating.

DEAN

He told you this was a punishment?

HOPE

No, but it's pretty easy to see. You're haven't been exactly enthusiastic.

Dean sighs.

DEAN

Fine. A truce. But can you drive me somewhere first?

EXT. CHEAP LOAN BUILDING - DAY

Dean walks out, slipping \$1000 into his pocket.

He walks up to Hope's white sedan.

INT. HOPE'S CAR - DAY

Hope looks at Dean as he gets in.

HOPE

That was for your \$200 fine?

DEAN

Yep.

HOPE

I'm sorry you have to deal with that.

A beat.

HOPE

So, are you going to call Kent now?

DEAN

It's not going to work.

HOPE

You said you would if I drove you here.

DEAN

Fine.

HOPE

Awesome! Thank you so much!

DEAN

Don't thank me. I mean, you're basically blackmailing me.

HOPE

What? Of course not! I'm doing you a favor, going out of my way to figure out something for the greeter, and you're doing me a favor, by going to a dance with my friend!

Dean dials into his phone.

DEAN

Whatever, I'm calling Kent now.

A beat.

KENT (V.O.)

Hello?

DEAN

Kent. I know it was you at the restaurant.

Kent laughs.

KENT (V.O.)

I admit nothing.

DEAN

Look. We're even now, okay? I think it's time we just forgot this whole thing.

There's a cold silence over the phone.

KENT (V.O.)

It's too late for that, Dean. This isn't going to be over until you really pay for-

DEAN

Yeah, yeah, whatever. Goodbye.

Dean hangs up.

DEAN

Told you. Didn't work.

Hope sighs.

HOPE

Thank you for trying.

DEAN
So hey, I did my part. About that
fish...

Hope smiles.

HOPE
I'll think about it.

INT. FARM BASEMENT - DAY

Tyler and Emily now stand with Father Leon and Mr. Normand.

Tyler and Emily avoid looking at each other.

TYLER
We're seeing a lot of you today,
Father.

Father Leon smiles grimly.

EMILY
So you think there was a robbery?

MR. NORMAND
You won't get me to say anything.
You could be one of them.

EMILY
"Them"? Who exactly are "they"?

Mr. Normand doesn't answer. He's still searching the
basement.

TYLER
Mr. Normand, can't you at least
tell us what was stolen?

MR. NORMAND
I don't . . . I don't remember. I
don't . . .

He trails off.

Tyler and Emily share a look.

EMILY
(to Father Leon and Pastor
Martin)
Can we talk outside?

EXT. MR. NORMAND'S LAB - DAY

Emily, Tyler, Pastor Martin, and Father Leon stand outside.

EMILY

There's not much we can do. We don't have any evidence a crime was committed and he's not cooperating.

TYLER

I'm afraid that's right. It doesn't seem like he's a risk to himself or others.

FATHER LEON

Thank you for your help.

Emily starts to walk away.

FATHER LEON

Will he be alright?

EMILY

Does he have any family?

FATHER LEON

I don't think so, but I can ask.

TYLER

If not, do you think you could ask someone to check on him every so often?

EMILY

I'm sorry, but we need to get back to work.

Emily walks back to the car. Tyler hands Father Leon a business card.

TYLER

Let me know if there's any way I can help.

FATHER LEON

Thank you.

Tyler follows Emily.

Father Leon opens up the trapdoor.

FATHER LEON

I have to go. I wish you the best of luck finding what you've lost.

(MORE)

FATHER LEON (CONT'D)

Do you have any family? Is it
alright if I send someone to visit
you sometime later?

INT. FARM BASEMENT - DAY

Mr. Normand keeps searching.

MR. NORMAND

I'm not crazy. I just can't
remember . . . I can't find it . .
. I can't find it . . .

He collapses on the ground.

Behind a cupboard lies a scientific diagram of a small
DEVICE. It's shaped something like the hand guard of a
medieval sword, but it's designed like an iPhone.

It's trapped where no one can see.

INT. TYLER'S POLICE CAR - DAY

Tyler and Emily get in and Tyler begins to drive.

EMILY

We made a mistake.

TYLER

With the imaginary burglary?

EMILY

No, we actually - did okay with
that.

TYLER

Yeah. I guess so. Then what-

EMILY

The kiss. What if the Chief fires
me?

TYLER

If he's firing, seems like he'd
fire both of us.

EMILY

I'm the new one. He knows you. But
I need this job.

TYLER
 Sorry, but I've seen your car. You
 don't look like you need this job.

EMILY
 I'm not talking about money.

TYLER
 Then what?

Emily is silent.

TYLER (CONT'D)
 Why'd you take this job in the
 first place?

Emily is silent.

TYLER (CONT'D)
 What's so important you had to come
 impose your views on this town,
 huh?

EMILY
 I need to be in town to help my
 screw-up brother, alright?

Tyler focuses on the road.

EXT. MR. NORMAND'S LAB

Father Leon is about to get in his car when-

MR. NORMAND (O.S.)
 Eureka!

Father Leon turns towards the trapdoor.

Mr. Normand bursts out from the trapdoor holding his phone.

MR. NORMAND (CONT'D)
 I remembered, I put a tracker in my
 invention, I tracked it! I know
 exactly where it is. We're going to
 catch the thief! I just need your
 help one more time, Father. Please!

Father Leon begrudgingly nods.

FATHER LEON
 Let's get to the bottom of this.

INT. TYLER'S POLICE CAR - DAY

Tyler glances at Emily. She looks at the floor, sullen.

TYLER
Have you talked to your brother
yet?

Emily doesn't answer.

TYLER
Course not, you had to spend all
day with me.

He glances at the car clock.

TYLER
Are you planning on eating dinner?

EMILY
No.

TYLER
Me neither. Then we've got a 30
minute break. Where does your
brother live?

Emily turns towards Tyler, surprised.

TYLER
Come on, we don't got all day.

EMILY
Turn left here.

EXT. KENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tyler pulls up on the side of the road. He gawks.

INT./EXT. TYLER'S POLICE CAR - NIGHT

TYLER
Your brother is Kent Bradford? But
I thought-

EMILY
Lanelle is my middle name. I don't
want to be thought of as a
Bradford.

TYLER

Well, go on. Your 30 minutes is ticking.

Emily gets out, but leans down to the window.

EMILY

Thank you, Tyler.

She heads towards the house.

INT. KENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Illustrious. Everything is expensive and beautiful. But many things are arranged in a utilitarian way - left wherever they were used last.

Emily walks in the front door, putting a key back in her pocket.

EMILY

Kent!

She looks around the large, empty house.

EMILY

Kent!

Kent walks downstairs slowly. He glares at Emily.

KENT

What, did dad send you to check up on me?

EMILY

Kent...

KENT

The housekeeper told him about the statue, didn't she?

EMILY

It was mom that asked me to talk to you. She's worried.

Kent gets to the bottom of the stairs.

KENT

Worried that I might tarnish the family name.

EMILY

Worried about *you*.

KENT
If she was really worried, she'd be here.

EMILY
I'm here.

KENT
Yeah, but for how long?

EMILY
I'm here to stay, Kent.

Kent looks at her, confused.

KENT
What?

EMILY
I got a job as an police officer in town.

KENT
Why?

EMILY
Look, I know mom and dad aren't ever there for you.

KENT
Or there at all.

EMILY
I know what it's like. I think it's time we start acting like brother and sister again, not strangers.

Kent fiddles with a loose knob on the banister.

KENT
The statue wasn't me.

EMILY
It wasn't?

KENT
It was a kid from school. I know it was him.

EMILY
Do you have proof?

KENT
You don't believe me?

EMILY

I want to believe you. But it seems like you're always involved in something.

KENT

It wasn't me.

EMILY

But did you provoke this kid?

Kent is silent.

EMILY

Please, Kent. Try to stay out of trouble, at least for a little while. For me.

Kent looks at the ground.

KENT

I'll try.

EMILY

Thank you, Kent.

Emily smiles at him.

EMILY

I have to get back to work now. I'll talk to you later, okay?

KENT

Okay.

Kent walks back

UPSTAIRS

And starts getting ready for the dance.

While combing his hair, he stops.

Hesitates a moment.

And pulls out his phone.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Dean, Hope, and the other volunteers, minus June, put the finishing touches on setting up for the dance. It's themed to look like a cruise ship.

Dean is on a lift, working on the lights on the ceiling.

He points one light, labelled A5, towards the auditorium's entrance.

HOPE

Oh. Dean! That one's pointing the wrong way!

Dean hurriedly finishes setting up the light. He pulls on a wire too hard and it FRAYS.

DEAN

What? Sorry, can't hear you!

He lowers the lift until he gets to the ground.

DEAN

All done with the lights! What were you saying?

HOPE

Just that- well, it's not a big deal, I guess.

Dean walks over to a control panel for the lights. He finds the switch labeled A5.

Dean's phone rings. He holds it up to his ear.

DEAN

Hello?

KENT (V.O.)

I've reconsidered. You have your truce.

DEAN

Wait, really?

KENT (V.O.)

It's only temporary. And stay out of my way.

DEAN

Fine.

Kent hangs up.

Dean thinks this over for a minute. He looks skeptical.

Hope walks over.

HOPE

Who was that? Was it Kent? Did he agree to the truce?

Dean reluctantly nods.

HOPE

He did?! Oh my gosh! I'll call June! We don't have much time!

Hope dials June and holds the phone up to her ear.

HOPE

June! Guess what, Dean and Kent actually called a truce!

JUNE (V.O.)

So?

HOPE

So? So you can come to the dance after all!

JUNE (V.O.)

I told you, I don't want to go anymore.

HOPE

I thought you said- if Dean and Kent weren't fighting anymore, that-

JUNE (V.O.)

This whole thing is just awkward and horrible. I just want it out of my system, okay?

HOPE

June, please! I've been working all day so that-

INT. JUNE'S HOUSE - JUNE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

June sits on the couch.

JUNE

Look, I didn't ask for *any* of this. I'm sorry, Hope.

June hangs up.

She looks down at the ground sadly.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Hope sits down on a bench on the side of the auditorium. Dean walks up and sits next to her.

DEAN
She's not coming?

Hope nods.

DEAN
I'm sorry.

Dean shifts in his seat.

DEAN
So, uh, can I still not dress like
a fish?

Hope sighs and smiles.

HOPE
Yes, you're fine. You did your
best. Thank you for that.

The music starts, and guests start arriving.

DEAN
Why did you care so much, anyway?

Hope looks at him.

HOPE
I just couldn't stand seeing you
two so lonely.

DEAN
What? Seriously? That's it?

HOPE
(defensive)
What?

DEAN
Nothing. Your friend, I get. But
it's stupid to care so much about
some guy you pretty much just met.

They sit in silence for a moment, then-

HOPE DEAN
Well, good to know you think I'm stupid. Do you want to dance?

Hope looks at Dean, surprised.

He holds out his hand.

She looks him in the eyes, smiles, and takes it.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Father Leon's car pulls up and Mr. Normand leaps out.

MR. NORMAND
It's here! It's here! I- where did
I put my phone? Did I drop it? I-
you look in there, I'll look out
here. It has to be... I just had
it...

Mr. Normand looks around outside the car.

Father Leon notices Mr. Normand's phone on the seat next to him.

He's about to call out to Mr. Normand-

When he sees the Stranger watching from the trees nearby.

Father Leon looks back at the phone.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The crowd parts around the entryway.

June walks between them, wearing a modest and beautiful red dress.

A greeter with a fish-themed T-Shirt puts a lei over June's head as she walks past him.

She nervously looks at the ground as she walks between couples who are also entering.

She walks out of the entering crowd, looking around for Dean.

She catches sight of the dance floor.

Hope and Dean dance together as a slow, romantic song hits the chorus.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

June walks out quickly, throwing the lei in a trash can.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Father Leon looks at the phone.

He looks at the Stranger, still watching him.

He looks at his shabby car.

And he looks at Mr. Normand, frantically searching for the phone high and low around the car.

Father Leon grabs the phone.

FATHER LEON
I found it, Mr. Normand!

Father Leon steps out of the car and hands Mr. Normand his phone.

MR. NORMAND
Oh, thank you, thank you so much!
You're amazing, Father. Now we have
to hurry, hurry, hurry . . .

Mr. Normand dashes off towards the school, looking at his phone.

Father Leon looks back towards the trees.

The Stranger is gone.

Father Leon follows Mr. Normand.

INT. TYLER'S POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Tyler and Emily sit in silence as they patrol around.

TYLER
So, how did it go?

EMILY
That's none of your business.

TYLER
What's with the attitude? I just
helped you out there.

EMILY

So what? Because of you, I'm still probably going to get fired.

TYLER

Hey, you kissed me just as much as I kissed you.

EMILY

It was your idea.

TYLER

So the one time you break the rules, you blame someone else, huh?

EMILY

Shut up.

TYLER

I guess your high ideals don't apply when it comes to judging yourself, do they?

EMILY

Shut up!

TYLER

You're just like your brother. You entitled rich brats think you can get away with anything as long as your dad throws his money in the right places.

EMILY

SHUT UP!!

Their radio goes off.

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)

Robbery. 10-31.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Dean and Hope are still dancing.

Dean glances over his shoulder and sees Kent standing in the crowded entryway.

Kent moves his finger over his throat. He mouths *You're dead*.

Dean's eyes widen.

HOPE

Ow!

Dean jumps.

DEAN

What?!

HOPE

Nothing, just that you stepped on my foot.

DEAN

Sorry. Hope, I have to go do something right now. Do you want to get us some drinks or something?

HOPE

Actually, I really should be checking up on how everything is running.

DEAN

Sure, do that. See you soon.

Dean walks off into the crowd, not waiting for a response.

Dean doesn't see that as Kent walks into the auditorium, ANOTHER KENT walks up behind him, arm-in-arm with a SARAH (18)- the model.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Mr. Normand runs in, with Father Leon following behind.

Father Leon stop briefly to talk to the greeter and those nearby.

FATHER LEON

Sorry, kids, it's a bit of an emergency.

He walks into auditorium and joins Mr. Normand in the crowd.

Mr. Normand looks at his phone closely.

MR. NORMAND

The thief is in this room.

FATHER LEON

Don't worry, I called the police to help us.

MR. NORMAND

Wait, you were the one who called
the police earlier, didn't you?

FATHER LEON

They're on our side. Trust me.

Dean stands next to the light controls.

He looks at Kent and Sarah, who are still standing by the
entrance.

Dean catches Sarah's eye and nods.

Sarah abruptly pushes Kent away from her.

KENT

What the-

SARAH

That's it!

An opening in the crowd forms around Kent and Sarah.

SARAH

I've had enough of you, Kent. It's
time to expose you for who you
really are.

KENT

(loudly)

I have no idea what you're talking
about, Sarah.

(quietly)

Let's talk about whatever this is
outside.

SARAH

You know exactly what I'm talking
about.

Dean hits the light. A bright spotlight shines on Kent and
Sarah.

The whole room goes near silent, listening to them.

Kent holds up his hand, blinded.

KENT

Hey! Who's doing that?

SARAH

I want you all to know that Kent
and I aren't dating. He's paying me
to be here. With this.

She holds up a bag of white powder.

KENT

This is absolute bullshit.

People start jeering and laughing at Kent.

Dean smiles at the look on Kent's face.

He turns and sees Hope standing nearby in the crowd. She
isn't smiling.

Dean's smile fades.

Father Leon and Mr. Normand are the only ones not listening
to the scene.

Mr. Normand glances between his phone and the only person
still moving through the crowd.

MR. NORMAND

It's him!

Father Leon turns and looks-

It's the Stranger.

He moves through the crowd, aiming for a side exit.

MR. NORMAND

Catch him!

Mr. Normand and Father Leon hurry after the Stranger.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NEARBY HALLWAY - NIGHT

The Stranger bursts through the door and runs to the end of
the hall.

Father Leon and Mr. Normand run into the hall too.

FATHER LEON

He's headed outside, I'll cut him
off!

Father Leon runs outside through a different door.

Mr. Normand chases the Stranger directly down the hall.

As soon as Father Leon is outside, the Stranger stop running and turns around.

Mr. Normand's step falters.

The Stranger runs directly at Mr. Normand.

MR. NORMAND
Help! Help!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

The deafening sounds of jeering, booing, and loud talking about Kent drown out Mr. Normand's cries.

Tyler and Emily run inside the auditorium.

EMILY
Hey, what's going on here?

She struggles through the crowd until she gets to Kent and Sarah. Tyler follows.

EMILY
Kent?

Kent sees Emily and looks at the ground angrily.

She sees the bag Sarah is holding. Sarah points at Kent.

SARAH
He gave it to me.

Emily takes the bag.

EMILY
This is flour.

SARAH
He didn't even have the nerve to
give me the real thing!

People close enough to hear over the noise laugh at Kent.

TYLER
(realizing)
This isn't the robbery.

Tyler searches the crowd. Then he heads towards the door.

Emily doesn't hear him. She looks at Kent.

EMILY

You couldn't last one night without getting in trouble?

Kent glares at her.

KENT

I would explain it. But what's the point? You're biased against me, just like mom and dad.

He storms out through the crowd.

Emily turns to Sarah, but she's gone.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NEARBY HALLWAY - NIGHT

Father Leon runs back inside.

He sees Mr. Normand lying on the ground.

FATHER LEON

Mr. Normand!

Father Leon runs up to him.

Mr. Normand sits up.

MR. NORMAND

He took my phone . . . now we'll never find him. He has my invention, he-

Tyler runs up from the other side of the hallway.

TYLER

Is everything okay?

FATHER LEON

Someone stole his phone! He has a grey hoodie, sunglasses, and a bandana over his mouth.

TYLER

I'll search the area.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Sarah squeezes through the crowd and gets to Dean.

She stands next to Dean casually.

Dean hands her a wad of cash.

Hope sees the exchange through the crowd.

Sarah sneaks away through the crowd.

Hope storms up to Dean.

HOPE
You lied.

DEAN
What?

HOPE
You agreed to a truce with Kent,
and then you broke it.

DEAN
You think I had something to do
with that?

HOPE
Dean, I saw you pay the model. And
she was an actress too, wasn't she?

Dean shifts uncomfortably.

HOPE
Was that what the loan was really
for?

DEAN
It's none of your business.

HOPE
Then I'm glad June didn't come. The
less people who know Dean Valdez,
the less people will get hurt.

Hope walks away.

DEAN
Hope. Wait. Hope!

She ignores him.

Dean slams his fist against the wall.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM

Hope texts June. [*texts in italics*]

HOPE (TEXT)
*Dean is a liar. It's a good thing
you didn't come.*

JUNE (TEXT)
You're the liar.

Hope looks at June's text, shocked.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

June stands outside, leaning against the wall. She puts her phone down, not waiting for Hope's response.

Kent bursts out of a door and leans against the wall too, sulking.

June looks at him.

Kent catches her glance.

KENT
Judge someone else, okay? I've had
enough tonight.

June looks away.

JUNE
Me too.

They keep standing far apart.

They look at the sky together.

Then they look at each other.

Then they look away.

INT. TYLER'S POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Emily and Tyler get into the car.

EMILY
So where'd you go?

TYLER
We were called here about a
robbery, remember?

EMILY
I thought Sarah had stolen- or Kent
had- Crap, that wasn't the call?

TYLER

Well, the real call wasn't really worth mentioning. Another supposed thief supposedly stole something without a trace from the same mentally ill man without any witnesses.

The radio goes off.

CHIEF ANDREWS (V.O.)

You guys on a call?

TYLER

No, we just finished one.

CHIEF ANDREWS (V.O.)

Well, your shift is pretty much over. I'm going home early, so- I bet you guys are wondering what the consequences are going to be.

EMILY

Sir, I think I can explain-

CHIEF ANDREWS (V.O.)

No explanation necessary. I know exactly what you two are up to.

Tyler looks at Emily quizzically.

CHIEF ANDREWS (V.O.)

Obviously, you're trying to split up by pretending to have a relationship.

EMILY

Wait, so we're not going to be punished?

CHIEF ANDREWS (V.O.)

No, you will definitely be punished. You will both be docked a week's pay for insubordination. I'm the one who decides who works together, not you. Got it?

A beat.

CHIEF ANDREWS (V.O.)

Got it?!

TYLER

Yes, Chief.

EMILY

Yes, sir.

CHIEF ANDREWS (V.O.)

Good. See you early tomorrow.

Goodnight.

Tyler looks at Emily.

TYLER

I'm sorry for what I said about you
and your brother. That was out of
line.

EMILY

Yes, it was.

They sit in uncomfortable silence for a moment.

Finally, Emily turns to Tyler and smiles.

EMILY

Okay, let's get this car back to
the station.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Mr. Norman, tired and defeated, gets in Father Leon's car.

Father Leon is about to get in the driver's seat when his
phone rings.

He answers.

FATHER LEON

Hello?

STRANGER (V.O.)

You didn't do as I asked.

FATHER LEON

Look, I'll return the money. I
don't want it.

STRANGER (V.O.)

I want you to know it didn't have
to happen this way. This is your
fault.

FATHER LEON

What is?

STRANGER (V.O.)
Turn around.

Father Leon slowly turns around to see-
FLAMES licking the roof of the auditorium.
And he begins to hear people SCREAMING.

END OF ACT FOUR

FADE TO BLACK.