

THE END

by

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FADE IN:

INT. OREGON COAST - CAVE (SEPTEMBER, 1999) - DAWN

Flashlight beams bounce off the jagged edges of the grotto. Two men navigate the cave: all-American cop, NATHAN WADE, 40, and REN HARBIN, 29, a detective with weathered sex appeal.

OFFICER WADE

These rescue missions are a near-death experience.

The men squat-walk, hands groping the slick black walls.

DETECTIVE HARBIN

Here I was hoping for a near-life experience.

Wade laughs. The rising tide PUSHES water past them. They hold steady. Deep in the cave, they see a petite figure. Flashlights illuminate MR. LUNA, 50s, clinging to the wall.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)

Luna, I'm Detective Harbin.

Luna turns to them, a face filled with despair and purpose.

GROWLING waves punch through, knocking Officer Wade to his knees. His flashlight CLATTERS away.

OFFICER WADE

Shit.

DETECTIVE HARBIN

Go, Nate. I'll stay with Luna.

Officer Wade stalls.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)

You got family.

Officer Wade nods and scurries out. The detective advances.

EXT. BEACH - DAWN

Waves roll into low lying caves carved into the cliff. The wind HOWLS. A search party of TOWNIES huddle on boulders.

Officer Wade emerges. A burly MR. MARSH, 50, extends a hand full of rings to pull Wade to safety. Wade bends to breathe.

A long shadow falls over the locals, making them look up.

EXT. CLIFF - DAWN

Beside a large stone memorial is ADOM CARL, 18. He's sinewy, and eerily handsome, with tousled dark hair, and a look that says, *Gothic Gymnast*.

Adom does an odd Tai Chi-type tumbling ritual. He steps and turns. He pushes his hands together as if to pray... or dive.

EXT. BEACH - DAWN

Parents glower. An elder-jock, MR. BANKS, 45, side spits.

MR. BANKS  
She's in there, alright.

The parents gasp when Adom launches into a handstand on the cliff. Dust and small rocks SCATTER down the 100-foot drop.

EXT. CLIFF - DAWN

Adom's muscle's quake. His face, conflicted: *life or death?*

The memorial reads, "THE EDGE IS THE HIGHEST POINT OF EROSION ON THE OREGON COAST, LOSING .9 METERS A YEAR. THE TOWNS OF BAYHARBOR AND SAFTEEL HAVE VANISHED INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN. IS THE TOWN OF ENDPORT NEXT?"

INT. CAVE - DAWN

Salt water GUSHES past Detective Harbin as he nears Luna.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Luna.

Harbin follows Luna's gaze down to a tide pool. The dead pewter irises of BETH LUNA, 18, gaze up at them. White-blond hair sweeps their boots. The detective heeds a father's loss.

Pounding WAVES merge with the piano intro of a tragic teen anthem like, "LEADER OF THE PACK," by The Shangri-Las.

EXT. CLIFF - DAWN

Adom, in a handstand, weakens. He falls out of harm's way.

EXT. BEACH - DAWN

The parents exhale, glaring up at the boy with disdain.

EXT. BEACH (LATER) - DAY

Low tide. Pulleys extract Beth's corpse from the cave.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

The chiseled and chilly face of MARLA PHISH, 49, monitors the recovery. Behind her, the opulent town of Endport awakens.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Restored classic cars PUTTER past bougie shops. Trophy wives push designer strollers.

EXT. ENDPORH HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

On high ground sits Endport High, a lavish compound.

A flier crosses a football field that borders the cemetery. Wind pins it to the goal post. It reads, "BETH LUNA - MISSING 9/1/99." In the photo, Beth wears a rosary tied into a noose.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Beth's Funeral. FATHER DAMICO, 55, addresses ATTENDEES.

FATHER DAMICO  
A small town is a large family...

Detective Harbin pans the locals. He lands on COACH, MARK JEWEL, 26, a tanned manboy in tight shorts.

The Lunas grieve at Beth's casket. The search party townies, Marla Phish, and Officer Wade mourn at a safe distance.

The YTV news station populars stand opposite their parents, whispering. Press passes reinforce their names:

LORI PHISH, 17, is polished and prudish. She takes notes. Her mom, Marla, directs her to correct her posture. She stiffens.

JASON BANKS, 17, is an Adonis in a fencing Lane'. A hoop ear-ring hints at something fabulous.

Jason's twin, RUSTY BANKS, hides a gaunt physique in baggy pants and a hoodie with a Krylon spraypaint logo.

JASON BANKS  
(to Rusty)  
Finish the memorial by sixth?

RUSTY BANKS  
(beatboxing a turntable)  
Shoopa-shoopa-sure thing, bro.

Quarterback, RHINO MARSH, 17, straddles a grave, boom mic in hand. He breaks from Mr. Marsh's gaze to nudge suave nerd, RIP HAUSEN, 17. Rip mans a camcorder while playing Gameboy.

RHINO MARSH

Get a close-up of Coach's shorts.

RIP HAUSEN

Jewwel's jewels. Got it.

Rip zooms in on Coach's bulge and returns to his video game.

Cheer Captain, MICHELLE WADE, 17, wears adult-film makeup. She pulls White-Out from a cosmetology bag, opens it, and huffs it. Her dad, Officer Wade averts his eyes.

EDIE TOLL, 17, is a supermodel waif with huge painful eyes. Her shirt reads, "GYM T.A." She paws Rip's arm.

FATHER DAMICO (O.S.)

...Beth was a devout Catholic...

Rip shakes Edie off. Edie pouts.

MICHELLE WADE

The city detective's hot. Think he'd be in my porno reel?

LORI PHISH

You know he killed a kid, right?

Michelle shrugs.

EDIE TOLL

Probably an accident.

Michelle scoffs. She looks toward a nearby gravestone with a pink bow. It reads, "TIA WADE, LOVING WIFE & MOTHER. 1962-1997." Michelle hoists her cleavage and lights a cigarette.

Father Damico falls silent. All eyes turn. Rip films someone traversing the field. It's Adom in tights and a trench-coat.

Adom pulls a noose-shaped rosary from his pocket. He yanks it apart, freeing beads that CLATTER onto Beth's casket.

RHINO

Isn't that a curse or something?

Adom shoves the broken rosary into Mr. Luna's grasp. Adom turns and addresses the crowd.

ADOM

Who will pick up the check for our deceased guest?

Mr. Marsh twists his rings.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
 (to the parents)  
 You?  
 (to the populars)  
 You?

FATHER DAMICO  
 Adom.

ADOM  
 NO!

Adom pans the crowd. The locals avoid eye contact.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
 Is it me?

Adom palms something in his coat. Detective Harbin touches his Glock, easing the safety off.

Adom withdraws an index finger and thumb shaped into a gun. Detective Harbin instinctively draws on Adom. Locals stiffen.

Adom travels his finger-gun through the rigid crowd before moving it to his chin. Adom and the detective lock eyes.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 Sorry for your loss--

Adom lifts the finger-gun to his lips, interrupting Harbin.

ADOM  
 --Shhhh.

The detective motions for Adom to leave. Adom raises his hands in a sarcastic surrender. He passes, bumping Harbin.

RUSTY  
 Jesus.

Adom looks at Lori, a glimpse of reckless passion and devastation. Lori staggers a breath. Edie stares doe-eyed.

MICHELLE  
 Juicy.

Lori forces composure. Michelle smirks, while Edie gazes on.

INT. ENDPOR T HIGH (LATER) - DAY

Posh School. Adom passes YTVE monitors, mounted, and angled to face the student body. Kids watch programming, transfixed.

JOCKS and CHEERLEADERS circle Rhino and Michelle. HIP ACADEMICS trail Rip and Lori. FASHIONISTAS accessorize Jason and Edie. Rusty blends. YTVE INTERNS wear badges.

Adom passes a poster for the Endfest dance and RIPS it down.

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - LOCKERS - DAY

Adom SCRAWLS something on the face of his open locker. Inside, there are photos of Beth and the band, The Cure.

Adom caps the marker, throws it in his locker, and SLAMS it.

He staggers away, down the hall, disappearing into the girl's locker room. His trespasses bring a flurry of screams.

Teens crowd Adom's locker, curiously concerned over his cryptic message: "THE END."

Mounted above Adom's locker is a monitor broadcasting YTVE.

YTVE MONITOR

YTVE has cheeky fast-paced MTV-like programming. Onscreen, the station ID introduces staff in gender-specific t-shirts that read, "1ST AMMENDMENT" or "1ST WOMANDMENT."

LORI (ON MONITOR)  
Youth Televoice Endport, in support  
of free speech.

MICHELLE (ON MONITOR)  
Practice what you preach.

RIP (ON MONITOR)  
Oregon's first youth news station.

RHINO (ON MONITOR)  
Serious issues for serious  
students. The voice of our school.

JASON (ON MONITOR)                      RUSTY (ON MONITOR)  
The power of youth in groups.      The power of youth in groups.

EDIE (ON MONITOR)  
From Endport High to The Edge.

LORI (ON MONITOR)  
YTVE, talking rock.

YTVE POPULARS (ON MONITOR)  
YTVE, rocking talk.

INT. GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Half-dressed girls scurry out of Adom's way as he searches. He finds the locker for "BETH LUNA," kicks off the lock, and takes her gym clothes. Adom turns, but something stops him.

Lori stands before him wet from a shower, vulnerable. And in a flap of his coat, Adom is gone.

A YTVE monitor plays above her.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Edie Toll reports outside the natatorium.

EDIE (ON MONITOR)  
Students attended Monday's council meeting with a proposal to convert the shuttered pool building into campus child care...

EDIE'S SEGMENT OVER A SERIES OF SCENES

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Rosary beads surround fresh earth. GEARS lower Beth's casket into her grave. It ROCKS back and forth, a macabre cradle.

EDIE (V.O.)  
...The pool's been empty since the 1988 suicide of two lifeguards...

INT. ENDPORTE HIGH - LIBRARY - DAY

YTVE monitors hang in the state-of-the-art library.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, the segment continues. Edie is closed captioned: "...THE PROPOSAL WAS CRUSHED WITHOUT A SINGLE TEACHER'S SUPPORT. THE BUILDING STANDS, A GUTTED TRIBUTE TO LOSS..."

INT. MADDIE CARL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Humble apartment. MADDIE CARL, 20s, lowers her sleeping toddler into a rocking cradle. Maddie is lithe and beautiful.

EDIE (V.O.)  
...Every year, EHS loses three to five girls to teen pregnancy...

INT. ENDPORTE HIGH - CAFETERIA - DAY

Lunchtime. Teens feast in groups. Adom eats tater tots alone.



YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Edie interviews Marla Phish in YTVE's studio.

MARLA (ON MONITOR)  
Youth is impressionable. A campus  
child care condones teen preg-  
nancies. My Lori's remained a virg-

Onscreen, the segment cuts to an aerial view of the Virgin Islands, lampooning Lori's virginity. Tropical MUSIC.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Adom looks from the screen to a nearby Heimlich Maneuver ad. He studies the illustration of a choking man.

Adom pops a tater-tot into his mouth. With a dramatic inhale, Adom lodges it in his airway. Red-faced, he chokes....

...until an involuntary cough dislodges the tot, projecting it into a white Rastafarian girl's dreadlocks, unseen by her.

Adom grins, saliva dripping from his mouth.

END SERIES OF SCENES

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The chalkboard reads, "6th PERIOD ENGLISH." Rhino gives a presentation, unheard. MRS. HAUSEN, 30, studies ring-shaped cuts on his face.

Adom slouches in a desk he's turned to face an empty seat. He whisper-sings "THE PERFECT GIRL" by The Cure. TEENS giggle.

ADOM  
*"You're such a strange girl, I  
wanna be with you..."*

The fragile sound of a young girl's voice echoes out.

BETH (V.O.)  
My name is Bethlehem Maria Luna. My  
favorite band is The Cure...

Adom's ears perk. He stands.

MRS. HAUSEN  
Wait for the bell, please.

Adom ignores the teacher and strides toward the exit.

BETH (V.O.)  
The ones inside see the lip of a  
town, pulls the unsuspecting down.

Adom follows Beth's voice out of the room. Mrs. Hausen rises.

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - HALL - DAY

Adom trails Beth's voice to a nearby monitor.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Beth's memorial premiers. Her face in a close-up is clownish. Birth and death dates scroll in the lower-thirds.

BETH (ON MONITOR)  
Hours are short in Endport sport.

INT. HALL - DAY

Adom fawns. He kisses two fingers and touches her lips.

ADOM  
Shhhh.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Beth continues.

BETH (ON MONITOR)  
Rudders, water. Here comes a flood.

INT. HALL - DAY

Adom finds a chair to stand on. He puts his cheek to Beth's.

BELL RINGS. Teens rush the hall. They crowd the monitors. Adom jumps down and pushes them away. They fill back in, gawking, and laughing.

The YTVE crew arrive on scene to gloat. Rip films Adom.

BETH (V.O.)  
The human body is 60% water. All  
things, if not fair, are fluid.

Students step back when Adom grabs the chair and SMASHES a screen. The monitor goes black.

TEACHERS rush the halls. Coach Jewwel sees Adom and retreats. Adom darts for another monitor.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, the memorial continues. JOCKS shoot hoops in the gym. Beth dances to music in her head. Boys circle her. One boy dances dirty against her. Adom bursts in to extract her.

INT. HALL - DAY

Adom grabs a nearby stool and SMASHES another monitor.

Marla Phish steps from an office labeled, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.

Officer Wade and Detective Harbin part the crowd. They try to tackle Adom, but he evades them as Beth's memorial plays on.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Beth wets her pants outside the girl's bathroom.

BETH (CONT'D V.O.)  
Adom's smile sweeps the ocean,  
weaving black hair into a fleet.

Onscreen, Adom and Beth walk the halls hand-in-hand with a combined confidence. Beth looks back but Adom tugs her along.

INT. HALL - DAY

Cops box Adom in. PRINCIPAL PHOAM, 40, lanky, skids from the break room in a tissue-bib. Marla's eyes question his delay.

PRINCIPAL PHOAM  
Staggered lunches.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, the memorial shows Adom at the funeral breaking Beth's rosary. It looks like he's shaming her grave.

BETH (V.O.)  
Bible says, "Women learn in silence  
with submission," Timothy 2:11.

Yearbook photos show the decline of Beth's appearance.

INT. HALL - DAY

Adom scoops up a piece of monitor glass. The cops jump back.

Adom slices his arm. Detective Harbin seizes his wrist and shakes the glass from his hand.

FRESHMAN, GRUNGE, GEEK, and GOTH kids creep forward to watch. On their faces, an admiration for this romantic rogue grows.

FRESHMAN #1  
He's fearless.

BAND GEEK  
What's that like?

GOTH GIRL  
It's dangerously sexy.

Detective Harbin forces Adom's hands behind his back.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
I've heard a lot about you, Adom.

ADOM  
Then what's the buzz, fuzz?

GRUNGE BOY  
Yeah, what's the buzz, fuzz?

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Beth's eyes grow more disoriented.

BETH (ON MONITOR)  
Lips, teeth, the tip-of-the town.

INT. HALL - DAY

Detective Harbin and Officer Wade direct Adom to the exit.  
The jocks taunt Adom. He GROWLS and bites at them.

ADOM  
Save a seat. The end is sweet!

LORI  
(into a microphone)  
Adom, any words for YTVE?

ADOM  
Shhhhhh.

Adom spins out of Wade's grasp and bolts out the exit. The  
cops start after him, but Adom's gone. Marla throws her arms.

The outcasts linger. With Adom gone, they face the monitors.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Beth and Adom lie in each other's arms in the grass  
behind the school. Wind blows trash past them. Adom caresses  
Beth and sings to her, "THE PERFECT GIRL," by The Cure.

ADOM (ON MONITOR) (CONT'D)  
*"...You're such a strange girl. I  
 really don't understand a word. I  
 think I'm falling..."*

Onscreen, the clip dissolves to Adom doing the strange Tai Chi tumbling ritual, the routine from the cliff.

ADOM (V.O.)  
 (singing)  
*"...in love with you, with you."*

INT. HALL - DAY

Adom's baffling ritual mesmerizes the teens.

JASON  
 It's mental.

LORI  
 Mental gymnastics.

Teens mirror Adom's hand motions. Detective Harbin cocks his head, intrigued. The BELL rings.

PRINCIPAL PHOAM  
 Next class, all of you.

Kids clear the halls. That's when Detective Harbin and Officer Wade see the message on Adom's locker.

OFFICER WADE  
 A threat?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 Graffiti. Get the janitor.

Detective Harbin's troubled gaze travels from the teens, to the screens, to the apocalyptic message on Adom's locker.

EXT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

A low-rent chapel at the foot of the hill leading to EHS.

INT. CHURCH - FATHER DAMICO'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Edie sneaks into an office decorated in gray whale souvenirs. She searches the desk and finds a key labelled, "APT."

INT. ADOM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Edie lets herself into Adom's small studio. Walls are blanketed with The Cure posters. Gymnastics equipment is

graffitied with the words, "LUST, LOSS, MATH, METH, MENSES , Y2K, YTVE, VIRGINITY, and PUBERTY."

Edie steps over two chalk outlines to study Beth's shrine.

INT. ENDPOR T HIGH - CONFERENCE ROOM (LATER) - DAY

Officer Wade and Detective Harbin eat takeout. Lori enters.

LORI  
You want to see me?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Lori, hi. I'm Detective Harbin.

Harbin licks his fingers before shaking her hand. She BALKS.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)  
Northwestern, I heard. Congrats.

LORI  
Say hello to the next Barbara Walters.

The detective nods supportively.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Lori, we're doing informal interviews regarding Beth. Do you mind being recorded?

LORI  
I prefer it.

He produces a tape recorder from his coat and presses play.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Start at the end and tell me the last time you saw Beth Luna?

LORI  
I can do better. I can show you.

INT. YTVE EDITING SUITE - DAY

A slick studio with a sound booth behind glass. An oversized mural of the crew showcases Lori cutting the ribbon at the station's 1996 launch. VHS tapes line shelves.

Rip and Rusty scrub through footage of Adom's outburst.

RIP  
Dad making you hunt this year?

Rusty binge eats chips and Dunkaroos. He nods with defeat.

RIP (CONT'D)  
Aren't you a vegetarian?

Rusty exhales. Rip shakes his head. Jason enters and sits.

EDITING MONITOR

Onscreen, Adom SMASHES a monitor. Rusty pauses the tape, catching Adom in a dumb face.

INT. YTVE EDITING SUITE - DAY

The boys GIGGLE. Lori and Detective Harbin enter. Rip stands.

LORI  
Detective Harbin, meet class  
president, Richard "Rip" Hausen.

Rip salutes. He drapes his arm on Lori. She glares him off.

LORI (CONT'D)  
(pointing out the twins)  
Rusty and Jason Banks.

RUSTY  
Separated at birth but never in a  
sentence.

Jason laughs and high-fives his brother.

LORI  
Rusty's editor. Jason's wardrobe.

Rusty slinks out of the room. Jason's concerned eyes follow.

Detective Harbin approaches a shelf of VHS tapes labelled,  
"FOOTBALL," "ENDFEST," "XMAS YAWN," "THEATER," "LIT SHIT."  
Lori points at a nearby wall of tapes titled, "LOCAL ALIENS."

LORI (CONT'D)  
Here's where we keep our sad sack  
Sid and Nancy. A few other weirdos,  
but mostly Beth and Adom.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
The whole wall?

RIP  
I got their first date in sixth  
grade, the year I got my camera.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Six years, wow. I'll need them all.

Rusty slips back in, hunched, eyes puffy, wiping his mouth.

INT. ADOM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Adom arrives home with a paper sack. He sheds his coat and plugs a tape into a stereo. The churchy chords of "LOVESONG" by The Cure fill the room. Adom doesn't see Edie hiding.

Adom moves Beth's gym shirt to his nose. Closes his eyes.

FLASHBACK. INT. ENDPORT HIGH - GYM - DAY

The girls stretch on mats while the boys circle the gym. Adom runs lazy laps, falling behind.

COACH JEWEL  
Pick up the pace, children.

Beth fidgets on her mat. Adom breaks off, beelining to her.

ADOM  
What's wrong?

BETH  
Twisting makes my spine snakey.

Adom puts his head to hers, leading her in mental gymnastics.

Girls watch shocked. Boys snicker, but Coach coaxes them on.

COACH JEWEL  
Does this concern you? Move.

END FLASHBACK

INT. ADOM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Deep in memory, Adom does mental gymnastics with someone who's no longer there. One hand reaches for the brown bag.

Edie slips from her hiding place to a nearby bookshelf.

Adom pulls an anti-freeze bottle from the bag. He spins the top off and raises the poison to his lips.

ADOM  
I'm coming.

Edie intentionally DROPS a book. Adom jolts, tipping the poison. He's quick to rage.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Who let you in here?

Edie looks at Beth's shrine.



ADOM (CONT'D)  
Don't look at her.

EDIE  
I'm sorry.

Adom OVERTURNS the table between them, TUMBLING the shrine.

EDIE (CONT'D)  
You're scaring me.

ADOM  
You're Jewwel's assistant, right?  
Are you spying for him? Leave!

Adom KICKS things out of his way, closing in, backing her into a corner. Edie cries openly.

EDIE  
I can't.

INT. POLICE STATION - DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Tiny office with a TV/VCR. Detective Harbin sits with case-work, VHS tapes, his recorder, and a newspaper with a headline that reads, "EL NIÑO TEMPS SUPERCHARGE COASTAL WATERS."

The detective pushes a VHS tape dated, "2-11-93" into the VCR. He presses play on a remote and unwraps a pastry.

TV MONITOR

Onscreen, a church service is being filmed from the pews. Father Damico speaks from the pulpit, but the only audible voices are Rip's parents whisper-arguing, unseen.

MRS. HAUSEN (O.S.)  
Why'd you let him bring the camera?

MR. HAUSEN (O.S.)  
It's good practice.

Rip pans the congregation. His camera focuses in. A small face peeks from behind the pulpit. It is 12-year-old Adom.

In the front row sits a towheaded Beth Luna, eleven years old. When she sees boy-Adom, she smiles. Their eyes meet.

INTERCUT BETWEEN ADOM'S APARTMENT AND THE DETECTIVE'S OFFICE

INT. ADOM'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Adom TEARS down posters, destroying things.

EDIE  
Nobody knows I'm here.

Adom's violence is tempered by confusion. Edie approaches carefully, touching him.

ADOM  
Don't touch me.

EDIE  
Tell me about Beth.

Adom turns Edie Toll towards the exit.

ADOM  
Get out!

Edie turns back to him. She tries to hug Adom. He backs away.

EDIE  
Pretend I'm her.

Adom pivots, not sure what to do. Edie unbuttons her jeans and slides them off her hips. Her thin arms reach out.

EDIE (CONT'D)  
Please...

Edie backs him into a wall. She strokes him over his jeans. He shudders and forces his eyes closed, compressing tears.

EDIE (CONT'D)  
I wanna know what it's like to be  
loved like that.

Edie presses her mouth onto his. Adom pauses, then relents.

INT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Detective Harbin is engrossed in the "1993" VHS tape.

BIG SCREEN MONITOR

Onscreen, the church service is over. Parents bottleneck exits, socializing. Rip films from a confessional.

Beth searches the pulpit. Unable to find the boy, she sits.

Adom's head pops up behind hers. He touches her hair. Beth smiles and snatches his hand. He's too shocked to withdraw.

BETH  
Light and beauty surround you.  
(no reply)  
I'm Beth.

The boy looks at her with wild eyes.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Do you live in the church?

The boy nods.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Alone?

The boy nods.

BETH (CONT'D)  
You'll never be alone again.

She presses her lips to his. Adom's fingers tighten around her hand.

INT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Detective Harbin's fingers tighten around the remote.

Suddenly the video ends, jarring him back to the real world.

Harbin rifles through papers to find crime scene photos of Beth and a document labeled, "TOXICOLOGY REPORT."

He starts his tape recorder. Edie Toll's interview plays.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (V.O.)  
State your name and grade.

EDIE (V.O.)  
Edie Toll, senior.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (V.O.)  
When's the last time you saw Beth?

Detective Harbin produces a small shopping bag. Inside, he finds a multicolored C.D. titled, "THE CURE, DISINTEGRATION."

EDIE (V.O.)  
Last day of 11th grade English, we watched Romeo and Juliet. Adom took Beth out during the suicide part.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (V.O.)  
Out? Why?

EDIE (V.O.)  
Beats me. Suicide's the best part.

Detective Harbin unwraps the C.D. from it's cellophane.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (V.O.)  
So you're not afraid of death?

Detective Harbin puts the C.D. in the player.

EDIE (V.O.)  
My dad's the Endport coroner. We  
live in a funeral home. Death's  
like my life.

Detective Harbin pauses the interview to start the CD player.  
"PLAINSONG" by The Cure shocks him with its crashing intro.

Detective Harbin fingers an evidence bag containing a water-logged suicide note. Scrawled text reads, "ADOM WILL BE UPSAD BY MY DECIDE. HIS BETTERNESS WILL BE HOMED BY MADDIE ANGEL. SHE LOVES HER BROTHER TO LIFE. ADOM READS MY SICKNESS WELL, WITHOUT IT, HAPPYMASS RETURNS TO HIM LIKE WATER. BETH"

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Maddie angel?

The Detective slips a tape labeled, "BETH'S MEMORIAL" into the VCR. Hits play. On mute, Beth looks like she's singing.

BETH/THE CURE  
(singing)  
"...it's the end of the world, you  
said. And it's so cold, like the  
cold if you were dead."

A KNOCK. The detective looks up to see Officer Wade in the doorway. He turns the music down.

OFFICER WADE  
Wanted you to know, I got the boy.

END INTERCUT

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Two work trucks park at the office of "COASTAL GEOLOGIST, TAD HAUSEN." Truck logos reads, "BANKS EROSION SOLUTIONS," and "MARSH TRANSPORT & SECURITY." Mr. Marsh and Mr. Banks exit their trucks and cross the street to enter "PHISH REALTY."

INT. PHISH REALTY - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

A large room with chairs. Mr. Marsh and Mr. Banks sit. The hoard of PARENTS hush when Marla takes the podium.

MARLA  
Thank you for coming to this  
emergency meeting. I think I speak  
(MORE)

MARLA (CONT'D)  
for us all when I say we have a  
time bomb ticking here in Endport.

INT. POLICE STATION - HALL - NIGHT

Detective Harbin and Officer Wade travel the long hall.

OFFICER WADE  
You see Coroner Toll's report?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Multiple injuries. Could be a  
struggle or a fall. Doctor  
prescribed her Thorazine.

OFFICER WADE  
An antipsychotic?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Tox found nothing in her system.

OFFICER WADE  
Doubt the Luna's filled the  
prescription. God's will and all.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
I wanna talk to Adom's parents?

OFFICER WADE  
His folks died in a plane crash  
right after the family moved here.  
Adom lives behind Damico's church.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Outcast and orphan.

OFFICER WADE  
And straight-A student.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Nate, I think this was a suicide.

Officer Wade hands Detective Harbin another evidence bag.

OFFICER WADE  
Double trouble.

Inside is an unfinished suicide note on matching stationary.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Detective Harbin enters. Adom sits, his cut bandaged.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Hi Adom. I'm Detective, Ren Harbin.

Adom watches the two-way mirror, silent. Detective Harbin pulls his recorder out and starts it.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)  
I'd like to talk to you about Beth.  
(no response)  
Adom?  
(no response)  
You understand?

ADOM  
I can handstand. Son of Sam, I am.

Detective Harbin slides Adom's suicide note and a photo of his vandalized locker in front of him.

Adom rolls from his chair into a handstand. Circles the room.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Adom, what's "The End?"

ADOM  
Nosey pirate, seek and ye shall find.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
I am interested in the events leading to the death of Beth Luna.

Adom falls at the mention of her name.

ADOM  
Gymnast cannot maintain styroform, Detective, Rorschach Harbin.

Adom sits.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Do you know what Thorazine is for?

ADOM  
Moon-angel-mercy was sent to warn of a plague. Understand? The End is coming with a fiddle and a band.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Adom, was Beth schizophrenic?

Adom reaches across and hits the stop button on the recorder, coming face to face with Detective Harbin.

INT. YTVE EDITING SUITE - NIGHT

An editing screen shows a freeze frame of "THE END" on Adom's locker. Rusty, Jason, Rhino, Lori, and Rip reflect on it.

RIP  
One thing's clear, he wants an audience.

RHINO  
Why else put it on your locker?

JASON  
It's clearly a threat, but to who?

RUSTY  
Himself, right? To harm himself?

LORI  
Well, if he wants an audience...

Rip and Lori lock eyes.

RIP  
...let's give him one.

RUSTY  
You're not proposing we film a suicide?!

RIP  
No, silly. I wanna produce it.

Rusty coughs. Rhino snorts. Lori's eyes flicker with opportunity.

LORI  
Remember how we said we'd tell stories others feared?

RHINO  
Rocking talk.

LORI  
Think about it. Brasler Prize? Pacemaker Award? We'd be infamous.

JASON  
Northwestern's Brat Pack.

LORI  
Course, it has to be handled delicately.

RUSTY  
Wait. He doesn't trust us.

RHINO  
There must be something he wants.

RUSTY  
I don't have the stomach to edit  
snuff film...

RIP  
I'll edit the money shot.

Rusty looks to Jason. He nods. Rusty swallows his complaints.

JASON  
We need to massage his image if  
I'm... if he's going to be in the  
spotlight.

RIP  
He needs a moniker, a handle.

RHINO  
Serial killer stylist. Sweet.

The group contemplate this.

LORI  
The Edge.

RIP  
That's my girl.

RHINO  
So, when's it going down?

RIP  
Anyone know his birthday? How cool  
would it be to bookend your birth  
date with your death date? Birth,  
death, birth, death...

JASON  
Pure poetry.

Michelle enters in a huff. She grabs her cosmetology bag.

MICHELLE  
Adom's in jail. Get this, the  
freaks and geeks are picketing.

The YTVE populars grab their gear and follow Michelle out.

INT. POLICE STATION - OBSERVATION ROOM - DAWN

A haggard Harbin joins Officer Wade behind the glass.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
I can't get a sane word out of him.



In the background interrogation room, Adom disrobes, unseen.

OFFICER WADE  
The Tolls reported Edie missing.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Second girl?

OFFICER WADE  
Want coffee? Gonna be a long one.  
(exiting)  
Oh, Adom's sister is here.

INT. POLICE STATION - LOBBY - DAWN

Detective Harbin exits double doors into the lobby. One look at Maddie and he's smitten.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
(to himself)  
Maddie angel.  
(to Maddie)  
Hi, I'm Detective Harbin.

MADDIE  
Maddie Carl. You kept my brother, a  
minor, in jail overnight?!

The detective opens the doors and Maddie blasts past him.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAWN

Entering the room, Maddie sees Adom naked and hanging from the ceiling vent by his trench-coat belt, his body twitching.

MADDIE  
ADOM!

Maddie and the detective rush to release him. Adom lands, choking. Maddie grabs Adom's pants and dresses her brother.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
Why do you punish yourself, Adom?

ADOM  
(hoarse)  
I see you met Detective Rorschach.

Detective Harbin hands Adom's shoe to Maddie. She snatches it and HITS him. He shields his head, laughing reflexively.

MADDIE  
It's not funny!

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 (still laughing)  
 I'm not laughing.

ADOM  
 My throat hurts.

MADDIE  
 Come on.

Maddie drags her half-dressed brother out the door.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 If he gnaws through his restraints,  
 don't hesitate to call.

MADDIE (O.S.)  
 Eat shit, Detective.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

BAND GEEKS, THICK GIRLS, MINORITIES, SPECIAL KIDS, EMO, ART,  
 and GRUNGE KIDS wave "FREE ADOM" signs. Maddie directs Adom  
 through the rejoicing rejects. YTV films it.

LORI  
 Adom is released. Sister, and EPH  
 alumni, Maddie Carl is with us.

MADDIE  
 Get that camera out of my face,  
 Lori, before I smash it.

Adom eats up the attention as Maddie pushes him into the car.

INT. MADDIE'S CAR (TRAVELING) - DAY

Maddie SPEEDS down the freeway lining the ocean cliffs.

MADDIE  
 I had to leave Sydney with the  
 neighbor.

Adom is in his own world, mumble-singing.

ADOM  
*"Again, I used to know a girl..."*

MADDIE  
 What happened?!

ADOM  
*"...falling. I catch her name."*

MADDIE  
I'm taking you to my house.

ADOM  
Too far. Take me to school.

Adom puts a tape in the cassette player. The playful love song, "CATCH" by The Cure starts.

MADDIE  
Talk to me.

ADOM  
You said if anything happened to  
your baby, you couldn't go on?

Maddie hard-swallows. Adom stares out the window. The highway is missing chunks of road, eroded off into the ocean.

THE CURE  
*"Girl was always falling again..."*

Adom sings along. Tears well in Maddie's eyes.

ADOM  
(singing)  
*"Used to sometimes try to catch  
her... never even caught her name."*

EXT. ENDPORT HIGH - STEPS - DAY

Lunch. Kids lounge. Lori interviews Coach Jewwel while Rip and Rhino film.

LORI  
There's a growing number of non-  
traditional students in colleges.  
Child-care centers accommodate  
this, why not high school?

COACH JEWWEL  
Different ball game altogether.

Maddie's car stops to let Adom out. When she sees Coach Jewell, she SCREECHES off.

Heads turn as Adom approaches.

Rhino approaches Adom, clapping slow. Michelle wears a shirt that reads, "I'M NOT POPULAR, I'M A SLUT." Only the word, "SLUT" is obscured by an "HONOR STUDENT" pin.

RHINO  
Hey Edge, we're cutting seventh.  
You should come.

Michelle points and shoots her finger. She blows smoke off the tip of her gun, but it looks more like a kiss.

ADOM

Edge?

Rip offers a dramatic bow. Adom scowls at him.

INT. LOCKERS - DAY

Adom passes a YTVE booth where interns sell "I SUPPORT EPH CHILD CARE" merch. Edie models a shirt, hat, and tote bag.

Adom grabs a marker from his locker and writes "THE TIME IS NOW" on its face.

Above him, the monitor broadcasts Lori.

YTVE MONITOR

Lori stands on the beach near the caves.

LORI (ON MONITOR)

Endport is preparing for its annual  
Endfest. Headlining this year is...

Adom eyes Lori angrily, but also hungrily.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Sixth period English. In addition to Beth's seat being empty, so is Adom and Edie's. Lori gives a presentation. Rip films.

Lori circles the class, putting condoms on student's desks. She puts one on the eye piece of Rip's camera.

Jason and Rusty pour their condoms onto Michelle's desk.

MICHELLE

Hey!

LORI

Sexual liberation is the acceptance  
of your unique sexual responses as  
an intimate expression of yourself.

RHINO

(whispering to Rip)  
Why virgins always talk about sex?

Rip laughs. A group of kids pass the doorway, chanting.

STUDENT BODY

Fight! Fight! Fight!



STUDENT BODY  
UPENDED! UPENDED! UPENDED!

YTVE interns, cheerleaders, female fashionistas, and lady academics trample YTVE to become Adom's entourage.

MICHELLE  
What the hell?

RIP  
Hey, watch the camera!

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - FAÇADE - DAY

The YTVE populars skulk to the window. They hiss at their entourage who follow Officer Wade and Adom down the steps.

EXT. ENDPORT HIGH - PARKING LOT - DAY

Officer Wade pushes Adom to his car, just as Detective Harbin's car arrives with a sullen Edie in the back seat.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
(out the window to Wade)  
Now what?

OFFICER WADE  
He decked a teacher. Suspended.

Upended! ADOM

OFFICER WADE  
Shutup.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Shutup.

Wade shifts his gaze to the wilted girl in the back.

OFFICER WADE (CONT'D)  
Hi Edie.

No response. Edie gazes longingly at Adom.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Wade, take Edie. I'll bring Adom.

Detective Harbin takes Adom. Edie steps into Wade's grasp. Edie and Adom cross briefly.

EDIE  
Adom. Adom!

ADOM  
Adeiu, Adeiu.

No! EDIE

Edie fights against Officer Wade.

EDIE (CONT'D)  
LET ME GO, FUCKER! YOU SHIT FUCKER.

Officer Wade hustles Edie under control.

Harbin tucks Adom into the back of the car and they pull out.

EXT. ENDPORIT HIGH - FAÇADE - DAY

At the windows, Edie's friends watch in disbelief.

RUSTY  
I've never heard her cuss.

LORI  
Let alone yell.

INT. DETECTIVE HARBIN'S CAR (TRAVELING) - DAY

Detective Harbin and Adom drive away from the school.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
You got a way with women.

ADOM  
Shame dead guys don't date.

INT. ENDPORIT HIGH - HALL - DAY

Edie bolts from Officer Wade. Lori catches her and rushes her into the video suite.

INT. DETECTIVE HARBIN'S CAR (TRAVELING) - DAY

Detective Harbin drives Adom to the station.

ADOM  
Need Rorschach be remindified that  
repeat defenders broadcast videvil!

Adom hits his head on the window, punctuating each word.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Death, vein, hit, pain, hit, pain!

Detective Harbin turns up the MUSIC as Adom gets louder.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Groups blink blind, erode, unkind.

Detective Harbin reaches into the jockey box. He retrieves a piece of pound cake, unwraps it, and eats it loudly.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 Know why I love pound cake? It's  
 straightforward. It says what it  
 is, what it does. It doesn't lie.

ADOM  
 You got something to say, say it.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 I think you want to live.

ADOM  
 What do you know about anything?

The Detective unrolls his sleeves to show ruts on his wrists.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 Just don't think you can run around  
 town doing whatever you want.

ADOM  
 What are you gonna do to stop me?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 I'm taking you to your sister's.  
 You can still call me Rorschach,  
 though.

The silence between them softens the detective.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)  
 Look, I know you're hurting. You  
 want an easy out and I get it.

ADOM  
 An easy out of THIS CAR!

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 Suicide's no solution, Adom. Do you  
 want your sister to inherit your  
 pain? She won't get over it...  
 wondering why you didn't love her  
 enough to not leave her like that.

ADOM  
 I love my sister.

They pass cliffs where erosion rip-rap is being installed.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 You're not a psychic; you can't see  
 how things will turn out. Sometimes  
 we need help seeing hope in an  
 uncertain future. I wanna help you.

Adom sits silent like maybe something's registered.



INT. ENDPORIT HIGH - YTVE STUDIO SOUND BOOTH - DAY

Lori interviews Edie. Michelle touches up Edie's makeup and moves to eavesdrop behind the glass. Rusty films

EDIE  
No one's ever made me feel so  
inside my body.

LORI  
What happened, Edie?

EDIE  
We came together in a warm  
explosion.

Rip slips in to stand with Michelle, just out of sight.

MICHELLE  
(whispering)  
This shit's delicious.

Rip chews his fingernails.

EDIE (O.S.)  
Warm velvet radiating, waves  
rolling over my eyes, our bodies in  
synchronicity. My heart pounding  
fiercely. His mouth was ecstasy.

MICHELLE  
Her first orgasm?

Michelle looks to Rip for confirmation.

RIP  
How'm I supposed to know?!

Michelle shakes her head at him.

RIP (CONT'D)  
Adom boinked Beth for six years,  
he's got expertise in the field!

EDIE (O.S.)  
It's everything we were promised in  
the movies.

Rip exits, flustered.

INT. YTVE EDITING SUITE (LATER) - DAY

Lori joins Rusty and Michelle behind the glass.

MICHELLE  
 (whispering)  
 We have to do something with this.

Rusty and Lori look to one another and nod enthusiastically.  
 Behind the glass, Edie does Mental Gymnastics.

INT. YMCA GYMNASIUM - DAY

Detective Harbin and Adom enter to Maddie teaching gymnastics to GRADE-SCHOOLERS at a set of uneven parallel bars.

Adom gestures his cuffs toward the detective.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 Sorry, right.

Detective Harbin uncuffs Adom. All eyes on Maddie as she mounts the bar, spins on a second bar, then gracefully lands.

MADDIE  
 That routine is called the Hetch.

Harbin claps and whistles, getting everyone's attention.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
 Potty break kids. Get water.

Maddie steps into sweat-pants and approaches.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 I live life on The Hetch.

She ignores the detective's dad joke.

MADDIE  
 What are you doing here?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 I thought I'd bring our little  
 suicide super-star to your door.

Maddie scowls at him. She touches the blood on Adom's shirt.

ADOM  
 Don't worry, it's Jewwel's blood.

Maddie covers her smirk in front of Detective Harbin.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
 I got suspended.

MADDIE  
 Adom, why did YTVE call for you?

Adom shrugs away to do tumbling maneuvers with the kids. He mounts a balance beam.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
He's quite a gymnast.

MADDIE  
He had a future in it once.

INT. INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

A windowed office. Detective Harbin lifts a photo of parents, 35; Maddie, 11; and, Adom, 8, holding Olympic medals.

MADDIE  
Jewel won't press charges.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Can he lay low here? The Tolls are saying he raped Edie.

MADDIE  
What!? I'll try, but he won't stay. He lives with the Father to be near school. Our parents stressed the importance of an education. It's all he has left of them.

Detective Harbin studies Adom. He grins long at Maddie.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
Don't.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
What?

MADDIE  
Don't ask me out. Please.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
O.K.

MADDIE  
Thanks.

Returning their gaze to the gym, they see that Adom is gone.

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - HALL - DAY

The populars swarm Adom as he enters the school. Girls hover.

RUSTY  
Nice one you laid on coach.

FRESHMAN #2

Hey, Edge.

Adom is surrounded. Kids touch him. He spins, confused.

RHINO

Show me your pass and I'll show you mine.

Adom balks at his perverse popularity. Above him, YTVE plays.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, a commercial for "SEXTEEN CHAPEL" airs, portraying Adom as a sexy Christ figure dubbed "EDGE." Clips show him persecuted in the halls and bleeding while cops seize him.

EDIE (V.O.)

It's everything we were promised in the movies.

Adom does a 360. The horny student body ogle him.

INT. HALL - DAY

Students watch for his reaction. Adom's speechless.

Principal Phoam leans out of his office, holding a phone.

PRINCIPAL PHOAM

OFF CAMPUS, ADOM!

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Adom walks home. A car containing the populars, sans Edie, slows behind Adom. The window rolls down to reveal Lori.

LORI

Adom.

ADOM

I can't believe you people. What do you want?

LORI

Can we talk.

ADOM

Drive away.

RHINO

Hear us out. What do you have to lose?

ADOM  
Screw you.

LORI  
Please, Adom. It's important what  
you're doing. We can help you.

ADOM  
Your help is the last thing I need.

LORI  
Beth was sensitive. No one's to  
blame.

ADOM  
You believe that don't you?

LORI  
If you need to hear sorry, we're  
sorry.  
(no response)  
Adom, we're sorry.

Adom peers into the car to see six poker faces.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Just give us two minutes.

Adom ducks into the vehicle.

INT. RHINO'S CAR (TRAVELING) - DAY

Uncomfortable silence.

RHINO  
How about some music?

Rhino presses a tape into the deck. "NUMB" by The Cure plays.

RHINO (CONT'D)  
You like this depressing shit,  
right?

Lori gives Rhino a dirty look.

RHINO (CONT'D)  
What?

RIP  
We respect what you're doing, Adom.

RUSTY  
Least we can do is help.

ADOM  
Help yourself. I'll be gone.

RIP  
We know you have the balls to go  
through with it.

JASON  
And though you have raw talent, you  
lack production quality.

LORI  
You're the star, Adom. It's clear  
now. But why go supernova in a tiny  
town --

MICHELLE  
-- when your message can reach  
millions.

JASON  
The world, your final stage.

ADOM  
I have no use for YTVE.

RHINO  
If it's broadcast, think of losers  
like you --

RUSTY  
-- they'll finally have a voice.

MICHELLE  
You'll be vindicated.

LORI  
The camera loves you and you call  
the shots. Use YTVE for justice.

Adom's eyes meet Lori's. Their gaze locks. Rip turns away.

LORI (CONT'D)  
What would it take?

ADOM  
I want YTVE off the air. Destroy  
the tapes and close the station.

Rhino, Rip, and Jason laugh.

ADOM.  
Let me out.

The car SCREECHES to stop. Lori holds up her hand.

LORI  
Harbin took the tapes. I don't know  
if we'll get them back. Counter-  
offer. We make a public apology.

RIP  
Uh, Lori?

Jason pulls Rip and Rhino into a deceptive gaze.

ADOM  
Speak it into your camera. Say  
you'll make a public apology and  
destroy the Local Aliens and  
Sixteen Chapel tapes. No mention of  
Beth or myself ever again. Say it.

The guys hold back. Lori presses the record button.

LORI  
I, Lori Phish, the head of YTVE  
will make a public apology and  
destroy the tapes with Adom and  
Beth, ending Sixteen Chapel and the  
Local Aliens series forever.

ADOM  
Now give me the tape.

Adom carefully pockets the tape.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Let your bullshit end with me.

LORI  
Will that right the wrong?

ADOM  
We'll see.

The crew try to contain their glee.

JASON  
No time to lose. Let's get  
planning.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Rhino's car ZIPS past with the populars inside. Adom's there,  
but distant. Rhino hands him a jug of vodka and he chugs it.

JASON  
It has to be theatrical. You have  
to take into consideration props.

Adom takes another swig and hands it off.

RIP  
I see people. I see music. I see a  
wide-open place.

JASON  
Endfest, great idea.

RIP  
Do you think he needs a manifesto?

LORI  
I just got Corel WordPerfect Office  
2000. It has a template.

RHINO  
We're gonna make national news.

Adom takes another swig. The pressure's as thick as fog.

JASON  
You'll be canonized.

MICHELLE  
Forever young...

Lori touches his shoulder.

LORI  
It'll be like you were never apart.

Adom takes another swig.

ADOM  
Then let the countdown begin.

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - HALL - DAY

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, a PSA filmed in a roller rink plays. Reporter,  
Michelle Wade wears skates and a tiny Disco outfit.

MICHELLE (ON MONITOR)  
Is your boyfriend negative? Does he  
keep you from homework and friends?  
Do you follow him around, scared?

Michelle bends, arches her back, and strings her skates.

INTERCUT BETWEEN BULLYING PSA AND ADOM'S POPULARITY

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - HALL - DAY

Students attend class. TV INSTALLERS replace broken monitors.  
Once activated, YTVE programming FLICKERS back to life.



YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Rip and Jason work the rink's concession stand. Rip hands popcorn to a ROLLER-COUPLE.

After the girl pays, the boy yanks the bag away and skates off, leaving her to sulk.

JASON (ON MONITOR)  
That girl has low self esteem or  
she'd never let him treat her like  
that.

Rip gives her a wink. She smiles, reassured.

MICHELLE (ON MONITOR)  
Teens are separating from their  
parents and want to seem indepen-  
dent. They're embarrassed, so they  
hide the abuse.

Michelle links arms with the girl and pulls her to the rink.

JASON (ON MONITOR)  
With little experience, they take  
jealousy and control as love.

Jason, Rip, and Rhino skate up to greet the girls.

INT. MALL - CLOTHING STORE - DAY

The populars take Adom shopping. Lori and Edie lay clothing out. Adom lounges, disinterested. Rusty devours a Lunchable.

MICHELLE (V.O.)  
They perform acts they don't enjoy.

Adom sets his lighter to a price tag, igniting it. Michelle lights her cigarette on the flame. Rusty panics and slaps out the fire with his cheese square.

Jason models a Marilyn Monroe dress for his friends.

JASON (V.O.)  
They feel trapped.

EXT. ENDPORST HOSPITAL - DAY

The regal medical facility faces a freeway cliff overlook.

Rhino's Nova spins donuts in the ER parking lot with Adom and the YTVE populars inside. Adom is adrenalized.

MICHELLE (V.O.)  
If this is you, don't suffer in  
silence. Speak out. Tell a friend.

SIRENS sound. The Nova speeds off, cop car in pursuit.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Officer Wade tickets Rhino. Flash-lighting the backseat, Wade sees Adom. He looks puzzled.

Michelle snatches the ticket from her dad's hand.

MICHELLE (V.O.)  
Tell a family member.

As the Nova PEELS OUT, Michelle crumples the ticket and throws it out the window. Officer Wade's brow furrows.

INT. ENDPORCH HIGH - DAY

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, the populars circle the roller rink with the girl. She beams with belonging. Officer Wade skates into frame.

OFFICER WADE (ON MONITOR)  
Tell the police.

He smiles a golden smile before wiping out on his skates.

END INTERCUT

EXT. SHIP YARD - NIGHT

Moored ships bob in the black ocean. On the desolate docks, Adom and the populars, sans Lori, trip on Ecstasy. Beside them is a baggie filled with colorful pills.

Adom lifts the camcorder and tries his hand at filming.

Rip gropes Edie, but she's preoccupied with posing for Adom.

Michelle goes down on Rhino. Jason molds neon play-dough into a penis. Rusty sits with Adom.

RUSTY  
I got you something.

Rusty reaches into his backpack to retrieve a crumpled potato chip bag. From the bag's greasy depths, he pulls out a gun.

RUSTY (CONT'D)  
 It's never been dad's favorite.  
 Doubt he'd even miss it.

Rusty hands it to Adom. Adom puts down the camcorder to handle it, allowing it to get comfortable in his hands.

ADOM  
 She was everything pure and good.

They share a moment in the foreground of Edie's wanting eyes.

INT. POLICE STATION - DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Detective Harbin watches YTV tapes, strung out. Coffee cups and coffee cakes crowd him. The man needs romance. He grabs the phone directory and flips to the header, "FLOWERS."

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Maddie answers the door to a DELIVERY MAN with roses. She sighs, opens the card, and reads, "I'M NOT INVITING YOU TO DINNER FRIDAY, 7pm AT TOMMY'S. SINCERELY, R. HARBIN."

INT. ADOM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Adom sits in a tousled bed with a video-camera and stage lights facing him.

A showered and made up Michelle exits the bathroom. She ejects the DV tape from the camera and packs her equipment.

Before leaving, she offers an awkward...

MICHELLE  
 Thanks.

Michelle CLOSES Adom's door behind her.

Adom stews. He stands and rifles through concert tickets and party paraphernalia. In the clutter, he finds Beth's curled photo. He strokes her face, singing "LOVE SONG" by The Cure.

ADOM  
*"Whatever words I say, I will  
 always love you."*

Adom lifts his mattress, revealing the gun and a stockpile of bullets. He loads, not one bullet, but the whole chamber.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Tall waves caress the cliff, causing boulders to loosen.

The ground erodes, sending rocks CRASHING into the ocean.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Signs all over town promote, "ENDFEST."

INT. TOMMY'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Detective Harbin waits in the white-tablecloth restaurant. Checks his watch. He raises his hand to ask for the check.

INT. RIP'S PARENT'S ESTATE - NIGHT

Rip's room is an ode to technology. Edie sits next to Rip. He ignores her, playing a Sega game.

EDIE

Can I play?

He throws the other control at her.

RIP

You'll just kill yourself.

Edie holds the control tightly in both hands, studying it.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Detective Harbin pushes a grocery cart through the baked goods aisle. He has two dozen roses in his basket.

He spots Marla Phish. She sees him and approaches.

MARLA

Detective.

DETECTIVE HARBIN

Marla.

MARLA

I heard you ruled Beth's death a suicide?

DETECTIVE HARBIN

Guess we're going right into it.

MARLA

You don't think he pushed her?

DETECTIVE HARBIN

There's no evidence to support it.

MARLA

So, what, he's just free?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Insurance replaced your monitors.

MARLA  
That's beside the point, Detective.  
Adom's dangerous and needs to be  
expelled, institutionalized, to  
protect himself and the others.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Those so called, "innocent others."

MARLA  
You're wrapped around his finger.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
And you're under YTVE's thumb.

Game on.

MARLA  
I know all about you, Ren Harbin.  
Disgraced. Divorced. Hospitalized  
over that kid you shot.

All charm has left Detective Harbin's face.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Just try to wash Adom out to sea.

MARLA  
Not all young people are innocent,  
Mr. Harbin, but you know that.

Marla glides her cart away. The detective tears open a  
cheesecake and angrily devours it.

INT. ENDPORIT HIGH - GYM - DAY

Coach Jewwel addresses gym students at the foot of ceiling-  
mounted gymnast rings. Whispering girls watch the door.

EDIE  
Where's Adom?

MICHELLE  
He's off suspension.

LORI  
I know. Mom's so pissed.

COACH JEWWEL  
In gymnastics, these rings show  
strength, agility, and control. To  
mount them can take months, years.

RHINO

Sounds like someone else we know.

Rip grins. Lori rolls her eyes. Rip sidles up to Lori.

RIP

Jokes aside, be my date to Endfest.

Edie's head snaps towards Rip. He shrugs at her. Adom enters.

LORI

Edge.

Adom.

EDIE

Adom does roundoffs past the coach and up to the rings. He springs up, grips them, and does the position of the cross.

Adom pulls himself upside-down and spins, returning to the first position before dismounting.

Adom cartwheels to the basketball hoop. He jumps up, clasps it, and pulls himself into a handstand on top of the hoop.

Kids cheer. Lori passes Rip in the direction of Adom.

LORI (CONT'D)

(to Rip)

I have a date.

Upset, Edie strides from the gym.

INT. TOLL FUNERAL HOME - EDIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The drumline of "CLOSEDOWN" by the Cure is a tribal dirge. Edie faces a digital clock, crying.

THE CURE

*"I'm running out of time. I'm out  
of step and closing down..."*

She jerks the plug out of the wall and the room goes black.

INT. PHISH ESTATE - NIGHT

Lori exits her dark house dressed sexy for the dance. Adom waits on her step, dressed like James Dean. Lori smirks.

In the background, Maddie sits stiffly in her IDLING car.

INT. END STOP CAFE (LATER) - NIGHT

A greasy spoon cafe overlooking the beach. Detective Harbin waits with coffee.

Maddie enters. She sees him and approaches with a smile.

MADDIE  
Hello, Detective.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Please, call me Ren. You drop Adom  
at the dance?

MADDIE  
Adom and Lori, actually.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Worst idea ever.

Maddie rolls her eyes in agreement.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)  
Sit, please. Let's talk.

Maddie looks guarded even as she sits.

MADDIE  
Do I need a lawyer present?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
"Shhh," right, just like Adom.

MADDIE  
That was our dad's code for  
perfection: "shhh." A professional  
gymnast can complete a hard routine  
without making a sound. There's  
safety in silence.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Thought you should know, we closed  
Beth's case as suicide. No evidence  
of foul play. Adom's cleared.

MADDIE  
Guess you'll be leaving us then?

No response. A WAITRESS approaches with their food.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Look, our food at the same time.

Maddie opens her take-out. They ordered the same dish.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)  
It's a sign. Don't say stop sign.

Maddie laughs and starts to rise.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)  
It'd mean so much if you stayed.

Maddie considers it. She unbuttons her coat.

MADDIE  
Until Endfest traffic lets up.

She opens her food and pushes it around with a plastic fork.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
What were you like in high school?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
My 10 year's coming up, wow. Um,  
me? Loner. Hated school. Little  
nostalgic for it now.

MADDIE  
Loner? That why you like my  
brother?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
In '96, I was investigating a high  
school dealer that OD'd a teen.  
Left her for dead in a phone booth.

MADDIE  
My God.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
After that, I became obsessed with  
him. Abandoned my marriage, working  
round the clock to catch him.

MADDIE  
What happened?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
He thought he was bulletproof.

MADDIE  
I'm guessing he wasn't.

Detective Harbin averts his eyes and wrings his hands.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
Are you gonna kill my brother or  
save him?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
What I did was wrong. It's easy to  
become the thing you fear. I wanna  
help Adom.

Maddie smiles, relieved. She digs into her food.



MADDIE

I though I hated high school, now I romanticize those years. Everything so fresh. The future, so fucking hopeful.

DETECTIVE HARBIN

High school hope, that's it. That's what I miss.

Detective Harbin directs an earnest face of intent at her.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)

I want it back.

The electricity in the detective's eyes confounds Maddie.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The cliffs are a dark presence over Endfest. Waves CRASH apocalyptically. The live BAND is wind whipped. The populars huddle, sans Edie.

LORI

(projecting to Rip)

I said, have you seen Edie?

Rip shrugs. Rusty tails Adom, sneaking sips from his flask.

EXT. TOLL FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT

In the window is the blue flicker of a TV screen.

INT. TOLL FUNERAL HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Edie descends the stairs in a cocktail dress. EDIE'S DAD and MOM, 50, copy Lotto numbers off of the TV. Edie kisses them.

EDIE'S DAD

You look beautiful, honey.

EDIE

Lori's late. I'll wait outside. I love you guys.

Edie leaves with one last look at her preoccupied parents.

EXT. ENDFEST - NIGHT

Beach festival. A BAND PLAYS. Teens move in a compact crowd. Jason wears a sarong and earrings. Rusty breakdances.

Rhino rips off his shirt to start a mosh pit. Tattoos of pin-up girls, cars, and Americana Route 66 shit mask his bruises.

Adom climbs onto the stage and sits. In the back of his pants is the outline of the gun. In each pocket, a box of bullets.

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

Endfest ECHOES in the distance. Edie climbs a guardrail past a sign reading, "DANGER, LOOSE GRAVEL."

INTERCUT BETWEEN ENDFEST AND EDIE'S CLIFF

EXT. ENDFEST - NIGHT

The BAND plays a fast song. When the DRUMS kick in, KIDS go wild. Lori approaches Adom who fidgets.

LORI  
Are you scared?  
(no answer)  
Drunk?  
(No answer)  
You can do it. We'll be right here.

At the foot of the stage, Rhino extends the boom mic. Rip, on camera, gives the thumbs up to Lori. She nods.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Last dance with me?

ADOM  
I don't dance.

LORI  
Then I'll dance for you.

Lori dances seductively for him, trying anyway. He watches.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Wait, I have just the parting gift.

Lori leaves Adom to go talk to Jason, Rusty, and Michelle. She leads her crew through the dancing crowd to the front.

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

Music PLAYS. Edie eyes the cliff, but sees a runway instead.

EXT. ENDFEST - NIGHT

As the song heightens, Lori, Jason, Rusty, and Michelle perform Beth and Adom's dance. Others join in until the entire beach is doing Mental Gymnastics.

Adom sweat-palms the box of bullets and gun in his belt.

His eyes dart. The populars spur him on from the crowd.

JASON  
The time is now.

RHINO  
The time is now.

Adom hesitates. The clock ticks.

LORI  
The time is now.

RIP  
The time is now.

The crowd below Adom is a shooting gallery, but their stupid faces adore him. It's for his pleasure they perform.

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

The concert strobes appear to Edie, a photo shoot. She pauses. She poses.

EDIE  
Edie, out.

Edie takes her final walk.

EXT. ENDFEST - NIGHT

Adom chooses life. At the stage's edge, he does a handstand.

STUDENT BODY  
Edge! Edge! Edge!

Adom lets his body fall back into the audience to crowd surf.

EXT. CLIFF - NIGHT

Edie releases her body from the jagged cliff.

It's a long fall to the rocky bed. Death on impact.

Waves LAP her wounds, then roll her corpse into the water.

EXT. ENDFEST - NIGHT

Adom's sprawled body floats on a wave of hands. YTVE's livid.

RIP  
What the fuck?

RHINO  
He bitched out.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The waves carry Edie's sprawled body toward the beach.

EXT. ENDFEST - NIGHT

The crowd drops Adom onto his feet. He avoids eye-contact. With YTVÉ watching, Adom strides away from Endfest.

END INTERCUT

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Adom throws the bullet boxes into the water as he retreats.

He opens the gun's chamber and lets all but one bullet fall to the wet sand. Adom faces Endfest, gun at his head.

He does a double take when he sees Edie floating face-down. He pulls her from the surf and clears blood from her mouth.

ADOM

No, Edie!

He gives her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but she's gone.

Adom cradles Edie. Her blood seeps up his wet white shirt.

He grips the gun and shoves the barrel into his mouth. Adom chokes on the metal and withdraws it.

Adom smacks himself in the head with the gun, drawing blood.

ADOM (CONT'D)

DO IT!

Adom sticks the gun into his mouth again.

This time he pulls the trigger. CLICK. Wrong chamber. Adom is saved, sadly.

EXT. ENDFEST - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Adom carries Edie's body through rows of cars. He see the populars smoking pot. Rip is sloppy wasted.

Adom lays Edie down at their feet.

ADOM

What you wanted.

The group recoil. Rusty drops to check Edie's pulse, then stumbles back when he registers her cold skin.

MICHELLE

What happened?!

Rhino pulls Michelle into a protective hug. Lori's in shock.

RIP  
She killed herself, of course.

Rip takes a step and projectile vomits. Lori studies Edie.

LORI  
So peaceful.

Adom backs away.

RHINO  
Where do you think you're going?

Adom bolts.

JASON  
Adom!

INT. ENDSTOP CAFE - NIGHT

Maddie and Detective Harbin eat together, laughing.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
So that thing they did was like  
sign language?

MADDIE  
Like a safeguard against evil.

Detective Harbin studies Maddie's eyes.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Maddie, where's Sidney's dad?

Maddie collects her things.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)  
None of my business.

The detective touches her hand. She pulls away.

MADDIE  
This is stupid, all this flirting  
making me feel like a teenager.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Good.

MADDIE  
I'm not.

Maddie leaves. Harbin throws cash down and follows her out.

EXT. ENDSTOP CAFE - NIGHT

Detective Harbin slips his hand into Maddie's and pulls her to him.

He lifts and kisses her, traveling her to the car where he gently pins her.

The detective strokes Maddie's face and hair the way Adom cared for Beth in the memorial video. Maddie doesn't hate it.

Adom climbs up from the beach. He stops in his tracks when he sees the detective and Maddie making out.

MADDIE

Oh God, Adom.

DETECTIVE HARBIN

Adom, wait!

Adom sprints.

EXT. LUNA RESIDENCE - NIGHT

A mailbox outside of the modest residence reads, "LUNA." Empty driveway. The house is dark.

Adom steals through the yard to a side window. He pushes it open in one thrust.

INT. LUNA RESIDENCE - BETH'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Pink bathroom. Adom wiggles through the window, falling in.

Adom opens Beth's medicine cabinet and finds a shaver. He breaks the razor out of the plastic.

Adom fills the tub with water and submerges himself, clothed. The shower curtain has pink and yellow kittens that conceal Adom as he runs a razor down his wrists.

EXT. ENDFEST - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Jason's letterman jacket cover's Edie's face. Rhino throws fists in anger. Michelle chain-smokes, crying.

MICHELLE

I want my dad.

Rip comforts a dissociated Lori. Rusty leans into Jason. Rhino swigs the last of a beer bottle and SMASHES it.

RHINO

I'll kill that fucking tease.

JASON  
Someone needs to talk to Adom.

MICHELLE  
Lori's too distraught. I'll go.

RHINO  
Not alone you won't.

JASON  
I'll do it.

INT. LUNA RESIDENCE - BETH'S BATHROOM (LATER) - NIGHT

Adom is still, his eyes studying the shower curtain. Under the water, bloody flowers bloom.

Maybe it's the pastel cats, Adom is uninspired. He stands dripping and exits the tub.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Adom lays curled on Beth's grave, shivering. The gun rests on the chip bag beside him. Bloody bandages cover his wrists.

ADOM  
I know you wait, Beth.

LORI (V.O.)  
Suicide is the third leading cause  
of death in people aged 15-19.

INT. ENDPORCH HIGH - DAY

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Lori delivers the suicide PSA from the cemetery.

LORI (ON MONITOR)  
Symptoms include recklessness, loss  
of appetite, bingeing, substance  
abuse, negativity, poor hygiene,  
obsession with death, withdrawal,  
aches, fatigue...

INTERCUT BETWEEN ADOM, YTVE SUICIDE PSA, AND MOBILIZED TEENS

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAWN

Adom walks toward the church, the sunrise at his back.

LORI (V.O.)  
...Recognize these nonverbal  
warning signs. Ask direct  
questions. Listen, don't argue...

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - DAY

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Lori continues in front of the boarded natatorium.

LORI (ON MONITOR)  
...Do they have the plans and  
means? Have they made attempts?...

EXT. RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD (TRAVELING) - NIGHT

A procession of teens travel the streets with conviction.

LORI (V.O.)  
...Don't ask why. Let them know you  
care, that they're not alone...

Their numbers grow, the closer they get to downtown.

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - DAY

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Lori continues down the steps of the hospital.

LORI (ON MONITOR)  
...Suggest treatment. Drive them...

EXT. PHISH REALTY - NIGHT

The mob of teens duck across the street to join classmates  
eavesdropping outside the windows of the council meeting.

LORI (V.O.)  
...Remove drugs, sharp objects,  
guns from the area. Monitor them...

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - DAY

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, Lori walks along The Edge.

LORI (ON MONITOR)  
...Depression is treatable. Don't  
give up. A life depends on it.



END INTERCUT

INT. PHISH REALTY - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

The council meeting is mid-debate. The whole town is there, including Officer Wade. Detective Harbin stands with Maddie.

MARLA

The daughters of Endport are being preyed upon, poisoned by one sex-crazed boy.

MADDIE

My brother's no seducer or whatever. YTVE's the one with the influence!

MARLA

YTVE's not the one on trial here.

EDIE'S DAD

We moved to Oregon so our children would be safe from certain ideas.

MR. BANKS

What's safety teetering on an eroding cliff?

MADDIE

I'm so sorry for your loss, Mr. and Mrs. Toll, but Adom didn't do this.

MR. MARSH

You can't move a mountain, but you can move a boy who's on his way out, anyway.

EDIE'S DAD

I can't do my job for Edie. I can't even work on my own girl.

Parents join Edie's mom in comforting Edie's dad.

MARLA

Then we're agreed. Remove Adom.

MADDIE

He has no one else. He'll be homeless.

MARLA

There must be some place he can go.

MADDIE

YTVE's the instigator. Shut it down!

MR. HAUSEN  
Our kids' scholarships, their  
futures are hinged on YTV.

MADDIE  
What about Adom's future?

MARLA  
If you don't make arrangements,  
Adom will be apprehended and  
institutionalized.

MADDIE  
Over my dead body.

Detective Harbin comforts Maddie. Coach Jewwel leers.

OFFICER WADE  
What if we imposed a curfew?

MR. MARSH  
What's that going to do?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Give us time to call some centers.

MADDIE  
No, Ren.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
--Trust me, please.  
(to Marla)  
We'll make arrangements. Until  
then, hands off.

MARLA  
You have 48 hours.

MR. MARSH  
Then it's open season.

EXT. PHISH REALTY - NIGHT

Outside, the mob of teens pass the news along, silently  
mouthing, "48 hours," and "open season" to one another.

EXT. CHURCH - DAWN

Jason parks his Porsche 914 convertible outside the church.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Jason enters the church. Adom is there, balancing on pews.  
Jason claps. Adom falls into a forward roll as Jason sits.

JASON  
Haven't been here since dad's ball cancer. Guess the whole family's faith rested on one man's testicle.

ADOM  
...And you've lost faith in me.

JASON  
We all have crosses to bear. I'm a jock for my dad. If he knew what I was really into, I'd be dead to him.

ADOM  
Relax, I'll be dead soon enough.  
(pregnant pause)  
Are we through here?

JASON  
Yes... No...  
(vulnerable ask)  
Wanna see what I'm into?

INT. CHURCH (LATER) - DAY

Father Damico enters and touches holy water to his head.

He sees Adom seemingly alone in the pews and approaches.

Father Damico touches Adom's shoulder. That's when he sees it. In the pew before him, Jason is going down on Adom.

FATHER DAMICO  
Adom!

Adom jerks away, pulling up his pants. He scrambles out of the church. Jason wipes his mouth and smiles.

FATHER DAMICO (CONT'D)  
Jason, what's gotten into you!

Jason laughs at the priest's choice of words.

FATHER DAMICO (CONT'D)  
Stay here, I'm calling your dad.

The color drains from Jason's face. He bolts for the door.

EXT. ENDPORST STREET - DAY

Adom sprints. Coach Jewwel pulls his car alongside him.

COACH JEWWEL  
Get in, Adom.

ADOM  
Fuck off back where you came from.

COACH JEWWEL  
Get in.

SIRENS. A police car passes in the direction of the church.  
Adom ducks down next to Coach's car.

INT. COACH JEWWEL'S CAR (TRAVELING) - DAY

Adom gets in. Coach Jewwel ACCELERATES.

When another cop passes, Jewwel pushes Adom's head down. Adom jerks away.

COACH JEWWEL  
You want them to see you?

ADOM  
Just don't take your fantasies out  
on me because I'm underage, perv.

They pass a phone pole with a sign posted, "CURFEW, 8 P.M.  
MINORS WILL BE ARRESTED."

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

The doorbell RINGS and Maddie opens the front door to Adom.

MADDIE  
Where've you been? Hurry, get in.

Adom slips in. Maddie spies Coach Jewwel on the steps.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
What's he doing here?!

COACH JEWWEL  
Can I see my daughter?

Jewwel enters sheepishly. He spots Harbin's roses on display.

MADDIE  
Leave or I'll call the cops.

Adom laughs and retreats to the laundry room set up with a cot and stereo. He props the door open to monitor Jewwel with his sister. Adom cranks The Cure's yearning song, "2 LATE."

THE CURE  
*"So I'll wait for you where I  
always wait, behind the signs that  
sell the news..."*

MADDIE  
Turn it down, Adom!

Adom SLAMS the door. Jewwel's eyes search the apartment.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
Eighteen months, Mark. Not a word.

COACH JEWWEL  
I sent you money.

MADDIE  
I spent it.

Coach Jewwel's smile fades.

COACH JEWWEL  
There were questions about us.

There's a THUMP. The nursery door opens. Sidney toddles out.

Maddie sweeps Sidney up. Coach Jewwel grins ear to ear.

MADDIE  
Escape artist, just like you.

Sidney squirms out of her mother's grasp and waddles away.

COACH JEWWEL  
I deserve that.

Sidney gets her mother's purse, pulls out a tampon, and hands it to Jewwel. He laughs and takes it.

Maddie retrieves it from Jewwel and their hands touch.

COACH JEWWEL (CONT'D)  
She's beautiful, Mads. She gets  
that from you.

Sidney leans into Coach Jewwel. He smooths his baby's hair.

COACH JEWWEL (CONT'D)  
What if we had a second chance?

The tears of a weak man roll down Jewwel's cheeks.

COACH JEWWEL (CONT'D)  
Marry me, Maddie Mae Carl.

Jewwel drops to his knees. He hugs Maddie's legs, making Sidney fuss.

MADDIE  
You're scaring her.

COACH JEWEL  
 Lets give our daughter a name.

MADDIE  
 She has a name. She needs a father.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Adom lies on a cot, humming, "2 LATE." He yawns. Adom EJECTS the tape and inserts another. It's the song that the Endfest crowd did Mental Gymnastics to.

INT. RHINO'S CAR (TRAVELING) - DAY

The populars speed toward the outskirts of town in the Nova. They're stiff, drinking in silence. Rusty fidgets.

EXT. GHOST TOWN - DAY

Rhino parks in an eroded Endport suburb. Rusty climbs over Lori to get out. Rip, Jason, Michelle, and Rhino trail him.

RUSTY  
 (yelling)  
 Jason! Brother!

MICHELLE  
 Our old neighborhood.

It's a haunting landscape. The group split up to search wind-stripped skeletons of houses.

RHINO  
 Jason!

Rusty follows train tracks that disappear off the cliff.

He sees something. Rusty's slow moans pierce the air.

RUSTY (O.S.)  
 NOOOOO! BROTHER!

Rhino, Lori, Rip, and Michelle run to Rusty. They peer down. What they see devastates them. Rusty drops to his knees.

RHINO (O.S.)  
 No man, no, no man! JASON!

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

The phone RINGS, waking Coach Jewel and Maddie from post-coital slumber. Maddie answers the phone on the nightstand.

Maddie turns away from Coach Jewel.

MADDIE

Hold on.

Maddie gets up. She extends the phone cord to exit.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Maddie gazes at Adom's empty cot. A waking baby cries.

MADDIE

Adom's gone.

Coach Jewwel joins Maddie, rocking Sidney. He mouths "Who's that?" She doesn't answer.

EXT. GHOST TOWN - CLIFF - DAY

Rain clouds. Detective Harbin stands on the cliff, cell-phone to his ear. He watches a scene unfold on the beach below.

DETECTIVE HARBIN

(into the phone)

Maddie, Jason Banks is dead.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

High tide. A sheet covers a body. Rusty and his dad argue in HEAVY WINDS. RESCUE WORKERS wait out their altercation.

Rusty throws the sheet away, uncovering Jason.

RUSTY

Look at him!

Jason, dressed in the Marilyn Monroe dress, rests on a fencing blade. Mr. Banks burns with shame. He lurches forward to cover him.

MR. BANKS

That's not my son.

EXT. GHOST TOWN - CLIFF - DAY

Behind Detective Harbin, Marla and her gun-toting townies load into an SUV. Rifles protrude from its windows. A bumper sticker reads, "MY CHILD IS AN HONOR STUDENT AT EHS."

MADDIE (V.O.)

He'll try to go to school. Don't do anything till I get there.

The SUV SPRAYS gravel as it passes. Officer Wade approaches.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
 (into the phone)  
 Hurry, Maddie. We got PTA with  
 guns.

Detective Harbin hangs up. He and Officer Wade jump into the  
 cop car, hit the SIRENS, and PEEL out.

EXT. MAIN STREET - (TRAVELING) - DAY

THUNDER. Cop cars SPEED toward the high school. The jumbled  
 drum intro to The Cure's song, "WHY CAN'T I BE YOU?" plays.

EXT. ENDPORCH HIGH - STEPS - DAY

RAIN. Adom sneaks on campus. Parents and ZEALOTS picket the  
 school with signs that read, "SUICIDE IS SIN" and "EXPEL  
 ADOM." Cops and police barricades block all entrances.

EXT. ENDPORCH HIGH - FAÇADE - DAY

Students throw office supplies at picketers from windows.

ART STUDENTS feed a streamer between two second-story windows  
 and pull it taut to display their message, "FEEL THE EDGE."

EXT. ENDPORCH HIGH - STEPS - DAY

Rip films Lori.

LORI  
 EPH is mayhem, awaiting The Edge's  
 return to classes. Question is,  
 will he follow through with his  
 Beth-wish?

When Marla and her muscle arrive, Adom ducks behind a  
 sandwich board that reads, "BEWARE THE KISS OF BETH."

THE CURE  
*"You're so gorgeous, I'd do any-  
 thing..."*

Adom vaults over a barricade. Rip spots Adom slipping into a  
 window. He nudges Lori. Marla sees this and directs her  
 cronies to tail them.

EXT. ENDPORCH HIGH - PARKING LOT

Lights and SIRENS announce the entrance of Harbin and Wade.





Adom's eyes beg for escape. Lori meets his primal gaze. She falls back, under his spell, motioning for Adom to follow.

FRESHMAN #1

Run, Edge!

Adom jumps up, hooks a monitor, and swings over the mob. He does a layout dive roll to Lori. They bolt. Kids aid their escape. Detective Harbin follows, but loses sight of them.

Teens, parents, and teachers converge. BAND GEEK DAD, 35, spansks his teen.

BAND GEEK DAD

You're grounded.

BAND GEEK

I'll kill myself if I'm grounded.

The Principal grabs grunge boy by his Kurt Cobain t-shirt.

PRINCIPAL PHOAM

You're suspended.

GRUNGE BOY

Let me go or I'll kill myself.

FRESHMAN #2's mom, (40s) smacks her.

FRESHMAN #2

I'll kill myself, too.

GOTH GIRL MOM, 40, wipes black makeup from Goth Girl's face.

GOTH GIRL MOM

That's not funny.

GOTH GIRL

It's not a joke.

The cops advance, separating kids from parents. Rip forces his camera further into the riot as teens take the school.

STUDENT BODY

(chanting)

Edge! Edge! Edge!

Maddie enters with Coach Jewwel holding Sidney. They rush Detective Harbin.

MADDIE

Where is he?

The detective looks from Coach Jewell to Maddie to Sidney.

MADDIE (CONT'D)  
(to Coach Jewwel)  
Mark, can you give us a minute.

Coach Jewwel studies Harbin, then takes a walk with Sidney.

INT. NATATORIUM - DAY

Adom and Lori sneak through the derelict building. They pass a Olympic-sized swimming pool, filled in with concrete.

Lori finds a broken window for them to view the mayhem below.

Cops direct handcuffed parents and teens toward cop cars. Marla is there, pointing, yelling, and micromanaging it all.

LORI  
(sarcastically)  
Go, Marla.

ADOM  
Don't you want to be just like her?

LORI  
So that's what you think of me.

ADOM  
No worse than what you think of me.

LORI  
I've never met anyone like you.

Coach Jewwel chances upon Adom and Lori from another entrance. He rocks Sidney and listens.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Remember when they closed this? Mom told me it was to prevent a suicide epidemic—try a gay epidemic.

ADOM  
The lifeguards were lovers.

LORI  
If we helped Jason hide it, does that make us complicit?

ADOM  
Hiding from something doesn't make it go away. Lunas taught me that.

Adom and Lori watch kids and parents being hauled off.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
 Yet I hide. A coward. Worse, I let  
 you pressure me.

Coach Jewwel shifts his weight, nervous over their exchange.

LORI  
 Cut the shit. It wasn't a haiku you  
 wrote on your locker, it was *The*  
*End*. Or was that false advertising?

ADOM  
 You're right. My cliff awaits. Know  
 this, I'm not doing it for you.

Adom side-vaults out of the broken window.

Lori turns to leave and runs into Jewwel. She passes him.

LORI  
 Creeper.

Alone, Jewwel studies the facility, stroking Sidney's hair.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Marla stands with Officer Wade. Lori wordlessly passes them.

MARLA  
 There you are, thank God.

OFFICER WADE  
 Lori, did you see Michelle?

She ignores them. Lori strides off campus into a GALE.

EXT. BANKS HOME - DAY

STORM. The Banks home is a hunting lodge. Deer antlers hang.  
 A NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY flag flutters on the front lawn.

Mr. Hausen drops Mr. Banks off. Rip's sister, 8, is in back.

MR. BANKS  
 Thanks, man.

MR. HAUSEN  
 Get some rest. Tell your wife I'm  
 so sorry about Jason. Just give  
 Rusty some time, he'll come home.

Mr. Banks smiles at his friend as he gets out. Mr. Hausen  
 pulls off.

INT. BANKS HOME - FOYER - DAY

A rain-soaked Mr. Banks enters his rich, yet rustic home.  
He drops his keys and hits "PLAY" on his answering machine.

ANSWERING MACHINE (V.O.)  
You have new messages.

MRS. BANKS (V.O.)  
Rusty called. He's coming home...

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Animal-skin rugs and taxidermized game fill the room. It's where Mr. Banks sees his gun safe, open. He panics.

MRS. BANKS (CONT'D V.O.)  
...I'll stop for a frozen lasagna,  
Rusty's favorite, and breadsticks.

INT. RUSTY'S ROOM - DAY

Mr. Banks rushes in. Rusty's room is decorated with posters of "TUPAC," "NOTORIOUS BIG," and "EAZY-E."

On the bed is Rusty, in camo, but shirtless showing a chest caved and emaciated from bulimia. Half-eaten leftovers surround him. Rusty's shot himself with a hunting rifle.

Mr. Banks drops to his knees.

MR. BANKS  
MY BABY BOY, NO!

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Rain TORRENTS down, weakening the soil beneath the memorial.

The stone marker GROANS.

The memorial becomes unfixed.

It shifts and falls down the hill, SPLASHING into the ocean.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Adom halts his approach when he see's his apartment being searched by the cops.

Father Damico and Maddie have an animated dispute, unheard.  
News media wait out the rain in IDLING vans.

Adom retreats unseen.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Adom jogs, unable to see through sheets of rain.

When a car approaches, Adom hides behind a tree.

SIRENS. Adom backtracks and slips into a commercial dumpster.

EXT. PHISH ESTATE - NIGHT

In the bushes, Adom searches the windows for Lori. She and Marla fight, unheard.

Adom throws pebbles at the glass when Marla's back is turned, getting Lori's attention. Lori points to the window above.

INT. PHISH ESTATE - LORI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lori helps Adom into her window. Her room is decorated in NWU shwag. There's a signed Barbara Walters headshot in a frame.

LORI  
You're soaked.

Adom shivers uncontrollably.

LORI (CONT'D)  
There's the bathroom. I'll get a towel.

Adom enters her bathroom, removes his shirt, and washes up. Lori watches him. She exits, closing her door behind her.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Lori picks a towel from the closet. Marla ascends the stairs.

LORI  
Checking on me?

MARLA  
I have to leave for a town meeting.

LORI  
They're like a drug aren't they?

MARLA  
Jason's brother shot himself.

Lori grips the wall for support.

LORI  
Martyrs, everywhere.

MARLA  
We can talk when I get back.

Lori turns into her room, shutting the door in Marla's face.  
Marla descends the stairs with a look back at Lori's door.

INT. LORI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Lori sits on her bed. She hands Adom the towel.

LORI  
Rusty, Jason's brother.

Adom's breath quickens.

ADOM  
...everything I touch.

LORI  
We've been friends since grade  
school. Why don't I feel anything?

ADOM  
Were they everything to you?

Adom rolls the towel into a pillow to sleep on the floor.

LORI  
Come up here.

Adom moves to lay next to Lori. He stares at the ceiling.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Your pants reek.

Adom slips under the sheet and takes off his pants. The  
silhouette suggests that he's not wearing underwear.

Lori lays on her back, eyes on the ceiling. Adom turns to  
face her. She doesn't dare return his gaze.

Adom sings "CATCH," by The Cure to her.

ADOM  
*"You know, I even think that she  
smiled like you. She used to just  
stand there and smile."*

A tear runs down Adom's face.

LORI  
I lost my dad to a guy named  
Marion.

They laugh. Adom slips his hand into hers.

LORI (CONT'D)  
I don't know why you like me, Adom.  
I'm not a good person.

ADOM  
Beneath your sociopathic ambitions  
and beauty, maybe you are.

They share another LAUGH. She faces him.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
I lied. I'd do it for you.

Adom's eyes hold the quiet acceptance of what's expected.

LORI  
Shhh.

Lori strokes his hair. She rolls him onto his back. Adom embraces her, guiding her. She moves against him hesitantly, then steady into their lovemaking.

INT. PHISH REALTY - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

The town is present. Parents sit stiffly, vacillating between fear and rage. The police, including Officer Wade, stand by. Father Damico struggles to set up a PowerPoint presentation.

MARLA  
We have an unprecedented situation. Teens are missing, and, sadly, some are no longer with us. A full lockdown is now in place. On your chair, you'll find a pamphlet with tips on how to monitor your teens. To that end, Potter's Mercantile is offering two-for-one baby monitors while supplies last. Father Damico has a PowerPoint presentation...

Marla checks on him. Technology 1, Father Damico 0. Marla continues.

MARLA (CONT'D)  
We've imported cops from neighboring towns to escort school drop offs and pickups. Bus systems are suspended. Afterschool activities are halted. Know where your teens are at all times! Any questions?

Parents raise hands and talk over one another, inaudibly.



EXT. MARSH HOME - GARAGE - NIGHT

LIGHTNING pierces the sky. Mr. Marsh parks in front of a giant modern home with a garage condo.

He accordions the garage door up.

An exhaust plume assaults him. The Nova IDLES.

Mr. Marsh lumbers forward through the haze.

He's met with the empty eyes of his son, dead of carbon monoxide poisoning. Next to him is Michelle, also dead.

MR. MARSH  
GEORGE, not George. NOT MY GEORGE!

The couple are dressed for a game. Scrawled in motor oil on Rhino's jersey are the words, "OUT OF GAS."

Michelle's cheer uniform has the word, "WHORE" written in lipstick. She wasn't poisoned, Rhino beat her to death.

Mr. Marsh DRAGS his boy from the car to cradle him.

INT. A HOUSE IN ENDPORT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A microwave blinks with an apocalyptic message, "END."

INT. PHISH ESTATE - LORI'S BEDROOM - DAWN

The rain has stopped. Adom wakes with Lori in his arms. He rises and exits her window without waking her.

EXT. ENDPORT HIGH - DAY

Major Oregon NEWS CREWS report outside the school, unheard.

INT. ENDPORT HIGH - HALL - DAY

The student body is depleted and transformed. Every girl has pale blonde hair. Every boy has tousled black hair. Kids wear bandages on their wrists as a fashion statement.

YTVE MONITOR

The three freshman girls are interviewed for Sixteen Chapel.

FRESHMAN #1 (ON MONITOR)  
Being with The Edge was a rebirth.

FRESHMAN #2 (ON MONITOR)  
He was so gentle with my... uh...  
inexperience --

FRESHMAN #1 (ON MONITOR)  
 -- But also pushed us to try new  
 things.

FRESHMAN #2 (ON MONITOR)  
 Yeah.

FRESHMAN #3 (ON MONITOR)  
 Totally.

The girls nod to one another, their ruse complete.

INT. LOCKERS - DAY

Lori enters the school. Someone waits at her locker, head  
 down, hair dyed black like Adom. Lori smiles.

When the boy turns, she sees it's Rip. She hides her dismay.

RIP  
 Like my hair?

LORI  
 When's the last time you combed it?

RIP  
 When's the last time you combed  
 yours?

They share a tired laugh.

RIP (CONT'D)  
 You see the news crews? We've been  
 scooped. Adom got what he wanted.  
 This memorial's our last broadcast.

Rip points to the monitor playing a memorial clip montage.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, a memorial shows Beth, Edie, Rusty, Jason, and a  
 multitude of others, with scrolling birth and death dates.

INT. HALL - DAY

RIP  
 Video immortalizes us all.

Students walk by, glaring at Rip and Lori.

LORI  
 We're the outcasts now.

Lori returns her gaze to the memorial.

YTVE MONITOR

Onscreen, she sees the recently deceased, Rhino and Michelle.

INT. HALL - DAY

LORI  
Rhino and Michelle?!

RIP  
You know our boy had anger issues.  
He found out she screwed Adom.

LORI  
For her reel.

RIP  
For her reel.

Lori turns in time to witness a dour Officer Wade cleaning out Michelle's locker. He places her cosmetology bag, NWU binder, and pom poms into a trash bag.

Wade withdraws a bulk box of White-Out. He studies it. Seeing Lana watching, he releases a tiny smile and shows it to her. Lori averts her eyes.

RIP (CONT'D)  
Lori?

Lori backs off, shaking her head. Her walk breaks into a run.

EXT. ENDPOR T HIGH - DAY

Lori flees campus. Missing posters and funeral programs flutter past. Cop and ambulance SIRENS assault her.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Lori is boxed in by an endless funeral procession. Hearses motor past, followed by makeshift hearses - trucks and station wagons - with coffins jutting out their backs.

Lori clasps her ears as a nightmare of her making closes in.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

The wind HOWLS. Lori runs along the cliffs, searching.

LORI  
Adom! Adom!

Lori stops when she sees three girly backpacks. Half-drunk energy drinks hold in place, three suicide notes.

Lori nears an abandoned new-build condo clinging to the cliff.

LORI (CONT'D)  
Adom! I know you're in there!

INT. TOPPLING CONDO - DAY

The building MOANS as Lori navigates it.

Lori finds Adom perched on a twisted balcony dangling over a hungry ocean. The potato chip bag sticks out of his pocket.

ADOM  
Don't come any closer.

LORI  
Michelle and Rhino are dead.

Long pause.

ADOM  
I told her filming it was ill-advised.

The ocean spits water up the incline. Lori fidgets.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
He's gone. She's gone. A century from now, we'll all be gone, with little evidence we existed at all.

LORI  
I can barely hear you. Come out.

ADOM  
I'm obliged to watch over.

Lori looks over the ledge to see the disfigured bodies of the three freshman girls, bobbing in the waves.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Idiots.

Lori stumbles away, gagging.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Yet in death, they are beloved.

LORI  
Pretty soon, they'll all be dead!

The house CREEKS. Lori braces herself.

ADOM  
Without your viewfinder, see how blind you've been.

LORI  
Use YTVÉ. If you talk, they'll  
listen.

ADOM  
People hear what they want.

LORI  
Who can listen when you don't talk,  
or, or, you talk in riddles!

ADOM  
Too late.

LORI  
I don't want you to die. I love  
you.

Adom releases a dry laugh.

ADOM  
And now I have value? Not when she  
loved me. IT'S HER LOVE I WANTED!  
IT'S HER LOVE I STILL WANT!

Adom hides frustrated tears. Lori cries openly.

LORI  
Choose me, you fucking weirdo,  
because I'm not dead. I'm alive and  
I love you.

ADOM  
Getting laid is not love, Lori. If  
you're not going to help die, then  
kick rocks.

The building SHIFTS. Boards DROP into the water below. Lori  
watches horrified as Adom lets his body tumble forward.

Lori loses footing and slips towards Adom. Only then does he  
try to save himself, in an effort to save Lori.

Adom latches Lori's waist to secure her. The building GROANS  
as Adom hoists their bodies up.

They grasp at walls to climb out of the toppling house.

Wood SPLINTERS and CHUNKS away beneath them as they escape.

EXT. TOPPLING CONDO - DAY

Adom and Lori tumble out onto safe ground. Lori reaches out.  
Adom climbs into a run into the road to evade her.

LORI

Adom!

SCREECHING BRAKES. Detective Harbin's car PLOWS into Adom. The boy rolls over the hood and onto the ground below.

Lori runs to him. Adom's motionless.

LORI (CONT'D)

Adom!

Adom slowly comes to. He scowls, annoyed to be alive. Lori covers him in kisses.

Detective Harbin rushes to Adom to check him for injuries.

DETECTIVE HARBIN

Jesus, you came out of nowhere!

Adom writhes in pain. Harbin stands him up.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)

You're coming with me.

ADOM

What, why?

Detective Harbin puts Adom in the back of the car.

LORI

What's happening?

DETECTIVE HARBIN

Go home, Lori. Marla's worried.

Detective Harbin SPEEDS off, leaving Lori alone and confused.

EXT. GREYHOUND STATION - NIGHT

Adom and Detective Harbin wait outside for a bus.

DETECTIVE HARBIN

You'll like Portland.

ADOM

I've been there.

Detective Harbin hands Adom an envelope. Adom opens it: \$450.

ADOM (CONT'D)

Your whole pay check?

Detective Harbin glares at Adom. Adom laughs.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
A safe-house's arranged. There's a  
doctor there who helped my head.

Harbin points out a number written on the envelope.

DETECTIVE HARBIN (CONT'D)  
Call that number, they'll get you.

ADOM  
What about my sister?

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Don't worry, I'll check in on her.

ADOM  
Tell her I'm sorry.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Look, things could have been easier  
for you two. If it saves anything,  
I think you're a good kid.

A bus pulls up with "PORTLAND" posted as its destination.

ADOM  
Thanks Rorschach. If it saves any-  
thing, I think you're a good cop.

Adom pushes the potato chip bag into Harbin's hand and gets  
on the bus.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
Don't lose your edge!

Adom flips Detective Harbin the bird as his bus pulls away.

Detective Harbin opens the bag to find Rusty's gun.

INT. ENDPOR HIGH - HALLS - DAY

What's left of the student body move zombie-like in winter  
clothes. A Beth and Adom look-a-like walk arm-in-arm. It's  
Rip and Lori with her hair bleached. Teachers clear the way.

Every YTV monitor BUZZES with post-apocalyptic snow.

MARLA (V.O.)  
Lori, you grow more of a stranger  
everyday. I've been patient with  
this morbid phase of yours.

INT. PHISH ESTATE - KITCHEN - DAY

Dining table. Lori grips an opened envelope and official-looking letter on "NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY" letterhead.

MARLA

You were such a beautiful girl. I  
still can't believe your hair.

Lori shrinks away from her mother's touch.

LORI

What about graduation?

MARLA

You'll do senior year over.

LORI

Rip needs me.

MARLA

Richard Hausen will be fine. He  
called while you were napping.

LORI

Why didn't you tell me?

MARLA

Lower your voice, Lori. Your dad  
will be here day after tomorrow.  
Pack or I'll pack for you.

LORI

So, ship me off the second I'm no  
longer you!

Lori moves away, her meal untouched. She climbs the stairs.

MARLA (O.S.)

Lori, come back here and eat.

Doorbell RINGS. Lori returns to see Marla in the doorway  
whispering to Rip. He holds a matching envelope from NWU.

MARLA (CONT'D)

She's sleeping. I'll say you came.

RIP

She didn't call back. I worried.

MARLA

She's been packing.

RIP

Packing?



Lori breaks between Marla and Rip.

LORI  
I can't believe this. Rip, come on.

She pulls him upstairs.

INT. LORI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rip and Lori sit on the bed.

RIP  
What will I do without you, Lori?  
You know my birthday's Friday?

Lori looks away guiltily.

RIP (CONT'D)  
You totally forgot.

LORI  
I'm sorry. I've been so depressed,  
and now with my dad coming...

RIP  
Maybe I should bookend my birthdate  
with my death date. Birth, death...  
(remembering Jason)  
Pure poetry.

LORI  
Don't you dare.

RIP  
Last night, I watched a documentary  
on near-death-experiences. Heaven's  
way more forgiving than high  
school.

They share a tired laugh.

RIP (CONT'D)  
I won't graduate without you, Lori.  
We've been friends since Pre-K. And  
now to not go to college together?

LORI  
They said we can reapply when all  
this death dies down.

RIP  
Don't you think about it, though,  
like all the time?

LORI  
How'd I have the energy for  
anything else... Popularity?  
Perfection? What an addiction.

RIP  
Perfection?! My parents treat me  
like I have a disease. They won't  
even let me near my sister.

LORI  
I always forget you're not an only  
child.

RIP  
They're right, though. I am sick.  
I'll never recover from this.

LORI  
Me neither. I miss them. And Adom.

RIP  
Right, Adom.

Rip strokes her cheek. She turns away.

RIP (CONT'D)  
Never forget, I loved you first.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

Rip lies in a coma, hooked to machines, a noose burn circling  
his neck. Birthday cards and balloons fill his room. Lori  
holds his hand. The Hausens mourn in the hallway.

LORI  
Don't leave me, Rip.

Marla Phish speaks to the Hausens before entering.

MARLA  
Lori, come home. Get some sleep.

LORI  
He won't go so long as I'm here.

MARLA  
Rip's brain dead. They can't do  
anything but keep his heart  
pumping, cruelly.

LORI  
He's more alive than you are.

MARLA  
The family has decided.

## SERIES OF SCENES

INT. PORTLAND SAFE-HOUSE - DAY

Cozy room. Adom sits across from an academic-looking PSYCHIATRIST, 50. Adom stares out the window at falling snow.

ADOM

Each snowflake is unique and pure,  
then it's gone. What's the point?

PSYCHIATRIST

It's what they do while they are  
here that matters. Snow replenishes  
rivers. It keeps the ground warm,  
protecting trees and vegetation in  
winter. Snow gives children happy  
memories.

Adom watches his breath against the glass dissipate.

INT. MADDIE'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - DAY

Maddie sits across from Coach Jewwel, picking at her food.

EXT. OFFICER WADE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Detective Harbin RINGS a doorbell, scotch bottle in hand.

Nathan Wade answers the door sullen, but in a Hawaiian shirt.  
Behind him, moving boxes overflow. Detective Harbin enters.

END SERIES OF SCENES

INT. PHISH RESIDENCE - LORI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lori cries, listening to "A LETTER TO ELISE" by The Cure. She rises to lock her bedroom door.

Lori pulls a bottle of Valium out of her bra. She opens it and dumps it on the bed.

She goes through drawers, pulling out stashes of pills.

Lori dumps out a piggy bank to reveal more. She digs in a doll to get the last pills and swallows them with tap-water.

INT. LORI'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lori fills the tub with water. She plugs her hair dryer and curling iron in. She cues them up in the sink and gets in.

## THE CURE

*"...And every time I try to pick it  
up like falling sand. As fast as I  
pick it up, it runs away through my  
clutching hand..."*

She reaches for the hair dryer and iron and STARTS them. When she pulls them to the water, they unplug.

Marla bursts in to witness Lori's failed suicide attempt.

MARLA

Lori!

LORI

Bitch, I know you have more Valium!

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Adom enters the Endport ER. He's clean cut with short hair. It's chaos. An ambulance unloads a teen, coughing up blood. Panic-struck parents are everywhere.

Maddie stands to greet Adom.

MADDIE

Your hair.

ADOM

Yeah.

Maddie hugs Adom hard. They spot a "CHAPEL" down the hall.

MADDIE

I know why you're here. Marla's  
with her right now. Come on, before  
someone recognizes you.

Adom and Maddie walk to the chapel.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

They settle into cozy pews.

MADDIE

It's in the middle school now. I  
lost a kid from my class. Families  
are leaving town.

Father Damico passes. He sees Adom and stops at the door.

ADOM

It's my fault.

MADDIE

YTVE distorted Beth's death. They used you. Doesn't make it your fault.

ADOM

Would the truth save anything?

MADDIE

Secrets are slivers that need to come out if there's ever to be healing. Speak your truth, then let it burn, that's what I say.

ADOM

How'd you get to be so cool.

They hug.

MADDIE

I'll see if it's clear.

Father Damico enters, passing Maddie. Adom looks up guiltily.

ADOM

Father.

FATHER DAMICO

Good to see you, kid.

Father Damico sits.

FATHER DAMICO (CONT'D)

I usually counsel teens to take responsibility. This thing, though, it's bigger than you and Beth.

(beat)

A wise man once said, "an Atom is only the smallest part of a thing." That man? Preacher, Jonathan Edwards.

ADOM

Uh, OK.

FATHER DAMICO

Salvation is God's job, Adom. Save yourself... or what my shrink calls, "self care."

Adom looks at Father Damico, surprised. Damico nods.

ADOM

I don't feel young anymore.

FATHER DAMICO  
I'm not going to tell you that  
youth isn't doomed, Adom. You're  
doomed to grow up, to die.

ADOM  
Great pep talk, Father.

FATHER DAMICO  
All the more reason to grab this  
time. This is your time. Make the  
most of your beautiful in-between.

ADOM  
Show me something beautiful that's  
not also broken.

Father Damico thinks, then summons Adom to follow him.

EXT. HOSPITAL - CLIFF OVERLOOK - DAWN

Father Damico directs Adom to the ocean overlook. Adom stares  
past The Edge to Beth's cave. The Cure's heavy instrumental  
intro to "HOMESICK" plays.

ADOM  
I don't wanna look at that.

FATHER DAMICO  
Patience. Life'll surprise you.

Adom takes a deep breath and shifts his vantage point to the  
ocean's horizon -- a flatline, dividing sky and sea.

He waits... and waits.

Adom's brow creases. Something's there, moving beneath the  
surface, swimming for them. Adom squints to make it out.

It's a gray whale. From it's blowhole, a plume EXPLODES  
upward, splintering the line between water and sky.

FATHER DAMICO (CONT'D)  
The whale's destiny is in his DNA,  
to migrate thousands of miles to  
find his mate.

The whale releases another vertical SPRAY. It's curved back  
surfaces, glistening in the sun. His torso submerges. A giant  
fluke whips upward. Surprise laughter escapes Adom's lips.

FATHER DAMICO (CONT'D)  
What destiny is in your DNA, Adom?

Suddenly, the whale's massive body SPRINGS from the water.

It turns, breaching mid air. Adom cheers. Emotion washes over the boy as an unapologetic life force inspires him to tears.

INT. HOSPITAL - LORI'S ROOM - NIGHT

The song carries over. When Lori wakes, groggy, Adom's there.

LORI  
Am I dead?

ADOM  
You're really bad at dying.

LORI  
I dreamt that you'd come. I'm ready, Adom. I'm not scared.

ADOM  
You're not dying. You're going to graduate, go to college, have your own kids to ruin.

LORI  
Ugh, sounds exhausting.

THE CURE  
*"...So just one more. Just one more go. Inspire in me, the desire in me to never go home..."*

LORI  
It's not safe for you here.

ADOM  
I'm not going anywhere. No more running.

Lori closes her eyes. Adom presses his forehead to hers.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
You've experienced the end. Now's our beginning. We're a sand-wall.

Adom turns to see Detective Harbin in the doorway.

EXT. ENDPOR T HIGH - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Lori sits in the area designated for graduates. Surrounding her, empty seats hold memorial graduation caps decorated with the faces of the deceased seniors, including her friends.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - BAND SECTION - DAY

Chairs hold the instruments of deceased band students. The few remaining musicians play along to a recording of a song like, "LEADER OF THE PACK."

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - BLEACHERS - DAY

In a sea of grieving parents, Maddie sits with Detective Harbin. He eats mini carrots from a bag.

Marla, the Hausens, the Banks, the Lunas, and Mr. Marsh sit nearby. A concealed firearm protrudes from Mr. Banks' jacket.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

NBC, CNN, ABC and other California, Nevada, and Washington news channels post up with Oregon crews, covering the event.

PORTLAND REPORTER

It's a sad day in the coastal town of Endport, rocked with the largest cluster suicide epidemic Oregon has ever seen...

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - PODIUM - DAY

Lori takes the podium slowly.

LORI

I stand here as valedictorian, but also as a survivor, influenced by a sweep of suicides that began with a classmate, Beth Luna, and her boyfriend, Adom. I put their struggles on display, filler for my news station... and my enjoyment.

The paparazzi ease forward to film and PHOTOGRAPH Lori.

LORI (CONT'D)

We bullied Beth... even after she killed herself. Lunas, forgive me.

Lori swallows hard.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

The Lunas crumble into one another.



EXT. PODIUM - DAY

LORI  
I've lost all my friends.  
(choking up)  
As teenagers living on the edge of  
a vast ocean, slight movements cost  
us our lives... our futures.

Adom walks into frame and steps up to the podium.

ADOM  
I'm Adom. Beth was my girlfriend.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

The crowd of locals gasp. Maddie looks nervous.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

News crews rush the stage with their equipment.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

Adom takes Lori's hand.

ADOM  
Nine months ago, the beads of a  
rosary hit a casket sending Endport  
into a scatter. I failed as Beth's  
caregiver. I thought I could repent  
with my death. Yet, here I stand.  
They say the truth can set you  
free, so here goes. Beth was  
Catholic. Sorry Lunas, not a cure.  
You see, Beth was schizophrenic.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

The Lunas stand. The Cure's, "JUST LIKE HEAVEN" begins.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

ADOM  
I'm glad you're standing.  
Hopefully, before I go to jail,  
we'll all be standing.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Mr. Marsh taps Detective Harbin's shoulder.

MR. MARSH  
Do something, Harbin.

MADDIE  
He's off duty.

DETECTIVE HARBIN  
What she said.

Maddie and Detective Harbin smile at one another.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

ADOM  
Nine months ago, Beth's blood hit  
the ocean, poisoning our tap water.

FLASHBACK. EXT. CLIFF - DUSK

The sound of WAVES CRASHING. Adom and Beth are on a blanket writing their suicide notes. Adom struggles with his.

Finished, Beth stands and spins with her note.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Sit. Please. Beth.

Adom stops writing his note to soothe a hyperactive Beth.

BETH  
We're beautiful.

ADOM  
You're beautiful.

BETH  
You have mind with brave spine. I'm  
crazy as a shit-house mouse.

THE CURE  
*"Show me, show me, show me, how you  
do that trick, the one that makes  
me scream, she said..."*

Adom uses all of his strength to ease Beth onto the blanket.

ADOM  
We're seniors, one more year and we  
can leave this town. Start over. We  
don't have to do this.

BETH  
No, my moldy head, unkind. Death is  
breath.

Beth tucks her suicide note into her pants and springs up.  
She begins to spin again, kicking dust up into Adom's eyes.

ADOM  
I'm not ready. Please, honey.

BETH  
Let me go.

ADOM  
You're all I have.

Adom rubs dust from his eyes. When he opens them, she's gone.  
Adom scrambles to his knees to peer over the Edge.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
(yelling down)  
BETH!

Beth rises slow from the dust. Adom can't gauge her injuries.

FLASHBACK. EXT. BEACH - DUSK

On fractured legs, Beth shakily stands and labors to walk.

BETH  
(to herself)  
Heaven have us, you crooked half-  
moon place. We'll make love as our  
planet parents turn their face.

FLASHBACK. EXT. CLIFF - DUSK

Adom struggles trying to find a safe place to climb down.

ADOM (V.O.)  
Her advanced schizophrenia allowed  
her to carry on without pain.

Adom tries to descend the cliff, but it's too steep.

He scurries along the cliff to keep sight of her.

FLASHBACK. EXT. BEACH - DUSK

Beth stumbles. Blood from her mouth drips onto the sand.

She flings herself into the water and splashes around. In the  
distance, Adom can be heard yelling.

ADOM (O.S.)  
Beth. BETH!

BETH  
Water, water, wash the lies.

She weakens, but still continues to play.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Cancer's my love, increasing in  
size.

Beth loses consciousness, submerging to her last breath.  
Her limp body sweeps away with the tide toward the caves.

FLASHBACK. EXT. THE BEACH (LATER) - NIGHT

Adom runs along the beach, looking for her.

ADOM  
BETH!

ADOM (V.O.)  
In a small town, every whisper,  
every gesture causes a ripple.

INTERCUT BETWEEN PODIUM AND BLEACHERS

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

Adom cries, childlike and unattractive -- with snot bubbles -  
- irreparably shattering his coolness, breaking the spell.

ADOM  
(sobbing)  
Beth was a puzzle piece left in the  
rain. She chose peace through  
death. But I choose life, Endport,  
to live and love with clarity.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

A YOUNG STUDENT starts a weak chorus from the stands.

YOUNG STUDENT  
Shhhh.

Pretty soon, others follow.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

Lori grabs the microphone.

LORI  
Knock it off!

The "shhh" stops abruptly.

LORI (CONT'D)  
For nine months, you thrived on the  
silence of a stranger. Imagine,  
with words, what we could  
accomplish.

ADOM  
Teens aren't your projects, we're  
people. Our pain's as real as  
yours. My sister, Maddie says,  
parenting is like gymnastics. It  
requires patience, agility,  
flexibility, balance, and strength.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Coach Jewwel stands and approaches Maddie. Detective Harbin  
offers Jewwel a sarcastic grin.

MADDIE  
What are you doing, Mark?

COACH JEWWEL  
Trust me. I don't deserve it.

Coach Jewwel takes Sidney and moves towards the podium.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

Adom steps to the side for him to take the mic.

COACH JEWWEL  
Endport, this is my daughter.

The faculty, students, and parents collectively gasp.

COACH JEWWEL (CONT'D)  
My first year teaching, I met a  
beautiful, bright girl, coping with  
the death of her parents.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Maddie watches, tears welling in her eyes.

COACH JEWWEL (V.O.)  
I fell in love with Maddie Carl,  
lost track of my good intentions,  
(MORE)

COACH JEWEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
and derailed her future. She  
dropped out to avoid shame.

Marla stands. She squeezes Maddie's hand before descending  
the bleachers. One by one, parents trail Marla to the podium.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

Coach Jewwel looks to the student body.

COACH JEWEL  
Kids, for your child care facility,  
I give support.  
(to Principal Phoam)  
You know, until I'm fired.  
(to the students)  
We owe it to the ones that remain.

As Marla nears the podium, Principal Phoam seizes the mic.

PRINCIPAL PHOAM  
(to Coach Jewell)  
You're most definitely fired.  
(to the bleachers)  
Also, I quit. Teenagers suck.

Principal Phoam attempts a mic drop. Marla catches the mic  
before it hits the ground.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Rusty, Jason, and Rip's parents start down the bleachers.

MR. MARSH  
(to his friends)  
Where are you going?

MR. HAUSEN  
It's over, man. We got to be on the  
same side as our children.

MR. MARSH  
What children! The boy's an  
abscess. Back me up, Banks!

MR. BANKS  
Hunting season's over, man.

MR. MARSH  
Our kids were kids together, our  
Rhino, Rusty, Jason. We need to do  
right by them.

Mr. Marsh blocks Mr. Hausen from leaving.

MR. MARSH (CONT'D)  
Who's going to avenge our boys?!

Mr. Banks pushes himself between Mr. Marsh and Mr. Hausen.

MR. BANKS  
(choking out the words)  
You...hurt...your boy.

This leaves Mr. Marsh reeling. He hits Banks. Banks recovers.  
Mr. Marsh hits him again. The men stop when Marla speaks.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

Marla holds the mic. Adom slips his hand into Lori's.

MARLA  
I was spared a hard lesson. Lori,  
since your dad left us for that  
comptroller, I've tried to control  
everything. It hardened me. It  
forced you away. Honey, I'm sorry.

Lori dives into Marla's arms. Marla offers Adom a truce nod.

Lori's brow furrows as she notices hubbub in the bleachers.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Detective Harbin follows Lori's concerned gaze. He sees the  
reanimated dispute between Mr. Banks and Mr. Marsh.

Mr. Marsh reaches into Mr. Banks' holster and draws his gun.

LORI (V.O.)  
Look out, look out, look out!

Mr. Marsh FIRES.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

Adom looks up in time to take a bullet.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

Detective Harbin leaps across the bleachers.

Maddie runs towards the podium.

Detective Harbin wrestles the gun away from Mr. Marsh.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

The paparazzi push forward, tripping over one-another to SNAP photos, film, and feverishly document Adom's demise.

LORI  
(to paparazzi)  
Get away from him!

Lori pushes the reporters back. She knocks mics from hands. She opens cameras, exposing film, and smashes viewfinders.

EXT. BLEACHERS - DAY

The detective shoves Mr. Marsh into handcuffs and fights him out of the crowd.

EXT. PODIUM - DAY

On the ground, Adom pulls bloody hands from his chest. Marla, Maddie, reporters, and rubberneckers crowd him.

Adom sees Beth's angelic figure spinning through the crowd.

ADOM  
Beth.

Beth falls to his side. Her hands circle him in Mental Gymnastics as the world blurs. Adom fights to stay conscious.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Beth, no. Enough, now. Let me go.

Beth releases Adom and fades from view, a bittersweet exit.

Adom grips Maddie's arm, terrified, panting from the pain.

ADOM (CONT'D)  
Help. Don't let me die.

MADDIE  
SOMEONE GET AN AMBULANCE!

END INTERCUT

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHURCH - DAY

CLICK... CLICK... A rickety figure enters the dark church on a cane. He nears a row of unlit candles atop the dusty altar.

Lighting a candle reveals the face of Adom.



He reaches into his trench coat and retrieves the final bead from Beth's rosary. Adom drops it into the flame. The bead melts into the wax.

ADOM

The only cure for life is life. The  
only cure for grief is grief. My  
love, my Beth, rest in peace.

Adom blows the candle out with a "Shhh."

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

"In Between Days" by The Cure plays, following Adom into the street where caution tape cordons off, not only the church, but all of Endport.

A faultline splits Main Street in two, with one side eroded into the ocean. Only a sign remains of the tide-eaten Endport Hospital.

Two U-hauls idle at a safe distance, one with Detective Harbin, Maddie, and Sidney in it, the other with Lori in the passenger seat.

Adom gazes up the hill past "NO TRESPASSING" signs, past the boarded remnants of Endport High School, and the overgrown football field, toward a modest cemetery.

Adom pushes his hands together as if to pray... or dive.

Adom parts his hands to flip Endport High the double-bird.

THE CURE

*"It couldn't be me and be her in  
between without you."*

Adom climbs into his U-haul and puts it into drive as bulldozers, backhoes, and excavators raze Endport.

FADE OUT.

THE END