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Total Wreck

Bianca Arroyave
Loyola Marymount University

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FINAL THESIS
FEATURE SCREENPLAY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Student Name: Bianca Arroyave

Thesis Logline: No one's ever dared fuck with the mean teen queen of Meadow Valley until she almost dies in a targeted car chase. Rebranded the social pariah in a wheelchair and still being taunted by the mysterious driver, she recruits her sister and the son of the dismissive detective to find out whodunit so she can get back to her old life.

Total Wreck

Title

A teleplay written and produced and presented to the faculty of
the Writing for the Screen MFA Program in the School of Film &
Television at Loyola Marymount University of
Los Angeles, California

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

Master of Fine Arts

Writing for the Screen

By

Bianca Arroyave

Student Name



Bianca Arroyave (Apr 27, 2022 17:20 PDT)

Student Signature

APPROVAL TO ADVANCE TO CANDIDACY

The following student has met all the criteria to advance to candidacy for an M.F.A. in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Writing for the Screen:

Bianca Arroyave

Student Name _____

Apr 27, 2022

Date _____

SCWR 690 Instructor Signature _____

SCWR 691 Instructor Signature _____

Patricia K. Meyer

[Patricia K. Meyer \(Apr 27, 2022 17:32 PDT\)](#)

Graduate Director Signature _____

Total Wreck

by

Bianca Arroyave

A thesis presented to the

Faculty of the Department of
School of Film and Television
Loyola Marymount University

In partial fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Writing for the Screen

May 5, 2022

TOTAL WRECK

Written by

Bianca Arroyave

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

SOPHIE JAMES (17), The mean teen queen, Student Council President and brutally honest beauty, studies her Color Guard and their matching sparkle fatigued full-body unitards. *
*
*

SOPHIE

Now, which one of you split-end
secret coke whores did it?

Sophie shoves a ring light at frenemy, EMMA MADDEN (17).

EMMA

Who has coke and didn't share?

Sophie grabs and swings a saber with emphasizing purpose.

SOPHIE

It was special, one of a kind and
now it's missing. Who stole it?

FARREN (16), the shy sophomore raises her hand.

FARREN

Um, maybe you left it in your
locker for safe keeping. Possibly.

Sophie SLAMS open her locker behind her. Empty.

SOPHIE

I'm not blind, Farren.

Farren shrinks away.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I will let your asses rot in jail.

Sophie turns on hothead, JADE (17).

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Jail wouldn't look too good for
someone without papers, right?

Jade glares and balls her fist.

JADE

I wouldn't know I'm from Santa Fe.

SOPHIE

Riiiiight.

KIERSTEN (17), Emma's dimwitted lackey best friend speaks up.

KIERSTEN

As an empath, I'm getting the vibe
that you are majorly upset.

Sophie crosses Kiersten's name off her roster of suspects.

MARISOL (17), the honest stoner chimes in.

MARISOL

I don't feel bad, whatever it was.

*

SOPHIE

I'll be sure to have Security keep
an eye on you at my birthday then
you rank twat.

*

*

*

DANI (17), Sophie Council VP and consummate overachiever
opens every locker.

*

*

DANI

I can find it. I'm sure.

*

*

RORY (16), the kiss-ass has a turn.

RORY

Okay, enough. Whoever stooped so
low as steal from Sophie, when she
has worked so hard on our show and
given 120% of herself, fess up.

The Team stare at one another.

RORY (CONT'D)

(whisper to Sophie)

It was probably Jade.

Jade launches herself at Rory and Sophie.

JACOB GIACOBBI (17), the socially awkward yearbook
photographer sneaks in. Jacob snaps a photo of saber welding
Sophie. The SHUTTER sends the girls screaming and scrambling.

*

*

*

SOPHIE

No one's naked you idiots!

JACOB

I--uh need the ring light back.

Sophie shoves the light at Jacob.

SOPHIE

Perv.

NIKKI JAMES (16), Sophie's brainiac sister, rushes in the door, a custom printed helmet in hand. *

NIKKI
Don't you need this for photos? *

Sophie SQUEALS and hugs Nikki. She's saved the day. *

SOPHIE
Must have forgotten I took it home. *

Sophie and Nikki walk out together. The Guard follows. *

SOPHIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Our yearbook photo awaits.

EMMA
(mumbled under breath)
Crazy bitch.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

The Guard pose for the camera. Sophie, front and center. Jacob fiddles with the settings and raises his lens.

JACOB
Ready? One, two, three.

Sophie shoves Emma out of frame last second. Emma SHRIEKS.

SOPHIE
(through smile)
Everything's Perfect. *

FLASH.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - MEADOW VALLEY, CALIFORNIA - NIGHT

Perfectly manicured McMansions line the street. 12:01 AM. Officially Sophie James' 18th birthday.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sophie MOANS. The Homecoming crowns above the bed RATTLE. Sophie and Vance have FaceTime sex. It's quite a performance.

SOPHIE
Tell me you love me.

VANCE
I love you. So much. *

SOPHIE
Tell me you need me.

VANCE
I need you, baby.

Vance groans. Sophie's birthday crown stays put on her head. *

SOPHIE
Tell me you'll never leave me.

VANCE
Feels good. I'd never--

CLANG.

SOPHIE
Vance, what was that?

His phone shifts and reveals: Dumbbells.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
You're seriously lifting weights?
It's minutes into my birthday.

VANCE
I need an extra pump in before bed.

SOPHIE
I just wanted the perfect start to
my birthday! *

Sophie scowls and rights her rumpled pajamas. *

VANCE
Coach has us doing two-a-days! I
Love you. Happy Birthday. *

Vance hangs up. Frustrated, Sophie dons a sleep mask and
turns out the light. Sophie sleeps soundly as her phone
lights up with tons of messages. *

INT. JAMES HOUSE - SOPHIE'S ROOM - DAY

Sophie reads the backlog of birthday wishes on her social
media. She opens a Snap from Vance. A Tiffany blue box. Vance
sends a second Snap. Sophie's smile turns sultry. Def NSFW. *

Sophie climbs out of bed, not a hair or crown out of place.
She saunters out of the room, smiling.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - HALLWAY OUTSIDE KITCHEN - DAY

Sophie sneaks down the stairs. The BUSTLE of family below.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

GREYSON (47), successful tech titan and unsuccessful father sits at the breakfast table drawing components on letterhead.

Step-mom, KAREN (40), a razor sharp attorney and try-hard parent, organizes files. Sophie checks the rest of the kitchen, there's no birthday surprise. Sophie's smile fades.

Nikki texts away on her phone, none the wiser. Sophie sneaks up on Nikki to read over her shoulder but Nikki is too quick. *

SOPHIE *

One of these days you have to
introduce me to this secret
boyfriend of yours. *

NIKKI *

Happy-- *

Sophie stops Nikki and glares at Greyson. Karen smiles wide. *

KAREN

Sophie, my goodness, Happy--

Sophie gestures to shush Karen. Greyson won't look up.

GREYSON

Morning.

Sophie sits. Nikki moves her plate of fruit to share. Sophie winks at Nikki and pops a grape in her mouth.

SOPHIE

Any special plans today, dad? *

Nikki opens her mouth but Sophie nods "no". Sophie pours a cup of coffee. Still no eye contact from Greyson.

NIKKI

Dad.

GREYSON

I'm in the middle of expansion for
our GPS programs.

SOPHIE

Riveting. What else?

GREYSON

I have an investors meeting.

KAREN

Honey, don't be coy. Remember--

SOPHIE

Karen, I'm speaking.

(to greyson)

What else?

*
*
*

GREYSON

Some beta satellite testing.

SOPHIE

Fantastic.

NIKKI

C'mon dad. Jeffrey's--

SOPHIE

Nikki, please? I am trying to hear more about Greyson's busy day.

GREYSON

What about Jeffrey's?

Greyson looks up and sees Sophie's birthday crown.

*

KAREN

Tonight is Sophie's birthday dinner. 6 O' clock. Your assistant put it on the calendar.

Karen and Nikki lean over Greyson and pinch him.

GREYSON

Happy birthday.

Karen brings over a breakfast muffin with a birthday candle

KAREN

Happy birthday to you--

SOPHIE

I've got practice.

Sophie abandons the pathetic muffin and tips her coffee on Greyson's drawing. Nikki glares at her dad as she leaves.

NIKKI

Seriously?

Nikki leaves. Greyson mops up the coffee.

KAREN
(to Greyson)
You're going to that dinner.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - SOPHIE'S ROOM - DAY

Dressed in designer chic, Sophie takes off her tiara.

A gentle KNOCK interrupts. Nikki slips inside.

NIKKI
Put it back on.

SOPHIE
No one cares. *

NIKKI
I care. Put it on. *

SOPHIE
You're my sister, it's different.

NIKKI
Wear this with pride. People would
kill to be you. *

Nikki puts the tiara back on Sophie. *

NIKKI (CONT'D)
Follow me. *

Nikki drags Sophie out of the room.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - NIKKI'S ROOM - DAY

The sisters stumble into Nikki's dark academia style bedroom. *

SOPHIE
I really do have practice.

NIKKI
Present first.

Nikki opens a drawer and gives Sophie a bag. Sophie pulls out a bedazzled whistle.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
For you, to whip the Guard into
shape. Show them who's boss.

SOPHIE
 You should come to practice, watch
 me test it out.

*
 *
 *

NIKKI
 Can I?

*
 *

The Sisters hug as Sophie puts the whistle to her lips.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Sophie BLOWS the whistle. Rifles spin in time. Sabers cut the
 air. Nikki watches from afar as Sophie stands atop a riser.

*
 *

SOPHIE
 Much better, ladies.

The flag line miss their cue. Emma glares at Sophie as she
 BLOWS the whistle again.

EMMA
 I'll skewer you with Farren's
 saber. Blow that whistle again.

*
 *

FARREN
 To clarify, Emma was the one that
 said that, because I would never.

Sophie BLOWS the whistle again. Emma snatches Farren's saber.

SOPHIE
 The flags comes in on what count?

EMMA
 Who cares what count if the
 transition's fucking awful?

SOPHIE
 I care! None of you have vision.
 It's social commentary--

*

Sophie lines up a wooden rifle and pretends to shoot Emma.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
 On casualties of war. Mess up the
 senior pep rally and I will make
 you a casualty. Reset!

*

They start over. Flag feature starts and the whistle BLOWS.

EMMA
 Sophie, I want to kill you. Please
 change the transition. Love you.

*
 *

FARREN (O.S)
Emma's right. Possibly. Maybe.

All eyes turn on Farren.

SOPHIE
Speak up! I can't hear you.

FARREN
It's just that none of us have been
able to do that section clean--yet.

RORY
So we try again. Sophie's the best.

Sophie eyes Rory. Rory beams.

JADE
Is she? She never leaves the riser.

Offended, Sophie climbs off the riser. Rory hands her a flag. *
Sophie shoves the Guard away from her performance space. *

SOPHIE
One, two, three, four.

Sophie presents the flag and transitions into v-spins. Pop
tosses. A flawless combination.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
On the eight you throw the flag as
hard as you can.

She launches the flag into a quad-toss and does a double
pirouette. She catches the flag and spins the pole on her
back then presents the flag again.

Rory erupts into applause.

KIERSTEN
She caught that quad. She's not
even warmed up. Amazing.

The Guard showers Sophie in praise when she drops the flag.

SOPHIE
Not hard, you all just suck. *
Shower. I'll see you for lunch. *

RORY
Everyone, bring your presents! *

Sophie's scowl turns to fake gratitude before she BLOWS the
whistle and walks off. *

EMMA
(to kiersten)
We should strangle her with that
whistle.

Kiersten laughs and finds Nikki's stare. She heard them.
Nikki follows Sophie.

SOPHIE
(mutters to Nikki)
Ungrateful bitches.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY

The class bell RINGS. STUDENTS spill into the hall. Emma,
Jade, and Kiersten move together to class. *

EMMA
One quad-toss and it's like she
invented the sport. Just wait until
she catches one with her face.

JADE
We could always blindfold her and
toss her off the riser.

A COUGH grabs the girls attention. Nikki makes her way
through the sea of Students. She's heard everything. Again. *

NIKKI
Let's see what my sister has to say
about that, as you seem to be a
pretty negligible imitation of her. *

Nikki stomps away.

KIERSTEN
What's negligible mean?

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

Emma, Jade, and Kiersten sit with Sophie and Vance. The
Students open their books. Sophie and Vance make-out.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - CAFETERIA - DAY

The Color Guard decorate their lunch table. Rory poses the
cake. Farren and Dani pass out noise makers to the rest of
the STUDENT COUNCIL. *

DANI

Who did you vote for as Student
Council President, Farren?

*
*

Farren uncomfortably smiles and moves on. Confetti canons go to the DANCE TEAM, SOCCER TEAM, FOOTBALL TEAM.

Farren turns away and bumps into STEPHEN KELLY (18), the musician. Quiet and creative type.

FARREN

Sorry, Stephen.

He grabs a noise maker from the box.

STEPHEN

All hail Sophie James.

He BLOWS the noise maker and flashes a sweet smile. The doors CREAK open and in walks Sophie and Vance.

EVERYONE

Happy Birthday!

The chaos of confetti and noisemakers fill the cafeteria and spray over the lunches. Sophie beams.

Emma, Kiersten and Rory pull Sophie to the table. Farren, Dani, Jade, and Marisol welcome her with air kisses.

*

SOPHIE

This is so sweet. I love you guys.

EMMA

We had to celebrate our Captain.

SOPHIE

It's perfect.

*

RORY

The cake was my idea.

*

*

Sophie winks at Rory

*

MARISOL

I've seen better.

*

DANI

I'd have to agree.

*

*

Rory cuts the first slice as FRAN BELLO (35), the guidance counselor, a mousy lady in matronly clothes scurries behind Sophie and wraps her in a tight squeeze.

FRAN
How's my favorite student?

Sophie shakes out of the hold.

FRAN (CONT'D)
Just wanted to stop in and say
happy birthday.

Nikki slips inside and up to the table as Fran leaves

*

NIKKI
Soph, I have to tell you something.

EMMA
We're a little busy here?

*

NIKKI
Weren't too busy in the hall, Emma.

Sophie zeros in on Nikki.

SOPHIE
Rory, trade seats with my sister.

Rory gets up and Nikki takes her seat.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
What happened in the hallway?

NIKKI
Emma hates you, said you should
take a quad to the face.

SOPHIE
That's specific.

NIKKI
Jade said, push you off the risers.

KIERSTEN
Toss. She said toss her off.

NIKKI
Thank you, Kiersten.

Sophie glares at Emma and Jade, then bursts into laughter.

SOPHIE
That's it?

Nikki stays silent. Sophie climbs atop the table and the cafeteria goes quiet.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I hate you! Do I mean it?

EVERYONE
No!

SOPHIE
When my besties say they hate me,
do they mean it?

EVERYONE
No!

Sophie climbs down from the table and passes out more cake.

SOPHIE
See? What's weird is how you wanted
to throw my besties under the bus.

EMMA
Yeah Nikki, how mean.

Emma smiles. Embarrassed Nikki slink away. *

Jacob takes Nikki's picture as she hesitates in the entrance. *

JACOB
The candid ones come out the best.

SOPHIE (O.S.)
Perv, come take our picture.

Sophie waves him over. Jacob shrugs at Nikki.

JACOB
Duty calls.

Sophie and Friends pose for photos as Vance slips a necklace
on Sophie. Nikki leaves the cafeteria for good.

Vance cops a feel and lifts Sophie for one last photo.

VANCE
After school...our special spot?

SOPHIE
Absolutely.

The bell RINGS. A wave of Students. Sophie and Vance knock
Jacob over. He drops his camera. Ruined. *

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
SD card should be okay though.

Sophie leaves Jacob mourning the loss.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASS - DAY

HISTORY TEACHER sits at his desk. Sophie stands at the podium for an oral presentation Stephen watches with heart eyes. The clock reads 4:55.

SOPHIE

All you need to know is that nazi's
are bad and we kicked Axis Power
butt in the second World War.

The class claps as Sophie retakes her seat.

STEPHEN

A history buff, that's surprising.

SOPHIE

I've got a thing for war. *

Stephen's all smiles as the bell RINGS. Sophie rushes out.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Fresh from shower sex, Vance watches Sophie dress. *

SOPHIE

Finally.

VANCE

All good things, babe.

Sophie pulls Vance in for a kiss. They share air.

SOPHIE

You ever leave me in the middle of
phone sex again, I'll kill you.

Sophie grabs Vance's wrist to check the time.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Oh, fuck.

Sophie rushes to dress and leaves Vance behind. 5:48 PM.

VANCE

But it's okay for you to leave
during actual sex?! *

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - PARKING LOT - DAY

Sophie folds herself into her convertible and takes off.

INT. SOPHIE'S CAR - MOVING - EVENING

Text to Greyson: **I'm on my way. Got caught up at school.**

Sophie leans into the gas, willing the red lights, green.

SOPHIE

Come on.

Sophie tries Dad again as she speeds up.

INT. JEFFERY'S - EVENING

Sophie's guests start to arrive. Karen shoves Greyson's pinging phone in her purse.

*
*

INT. SOPHIE'S CAR - MOVING - EVENING

A text to Nikki: **10 mins. away. Be there as soon as I can.**

Sophie switches lanes on the deserted street and a cobalt SUV does the same. Sophie switches lanes again and the SUV follows. Sophie turns down the radio to concentrate as she speeds up. SUV speeds up. Sophie's eyes dart to the rearview.

SOPHIE

The fuck?

The DRIVER'S face remains obscured by the setting sun and they're hat and sunglass combo.

INT. JEFFREY'S - EVENING

Greyson leans into Nikki as she puts her phone away.

GREYSON

Where is your sister?

KAREN

No rush, Emma's not even here yet.

*

NIKKI

She's probably just making an entrance. She always does.

*
*
*

INT. SOPHIE'S CAR - MOVING - EVENING

Sophie grips the wheel hard and veers into the canyon roads . *
 The SUV follows. Sophie floors it. Climbing to 80 mph. The *
 SUV keeps pace. Sophie panics and drives faster. 95 mph.

Scared, the canyon roads seem to get smaller. The SUV gets *
 closer and taps her bumper. She lurches but keeps the car
 steady.

Sophie wipes a tear and watches as the speedometer hits 100.
 Driver taps the bumper again. Sophie's car veers slightly,
 but gets a handle on it.

The SUV revs up for a third hit, Sophie knows what to expect *
 now. With her eyes in the rear view, Sophie times it *
 perfectly, just as the SUV is about to make contact, Sophie *
 switches lanes except she didn't see the hairpin turn. *

Sophie watches The SUV slow as her car loses control. Sophie *
 knows she's going to crash.

Everything blurs as the car spins and mangles the guard *
 rails. SILENCE. *

INT. SOPHIE'S CAR - LATER

The SUV leaves the accident behind. Sophie slumps over the *
 steering wheel in the mangled car. Blood drips on her face. *
 Still as a corpse. The CAR HORN, constant as SIRENS approach. *

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Nikki races in the entrance, leading Karen and Greyson. *

A distraught beats on the poor registration bell. The nurse *
 flags down SECURITY when Nikki throws the bell. *

Nikki tries to fight security when they step up to her. *

A surgeon walks up and Nikki immediately de-escalates. *

SURGEON *

Your Sophie James' family? *

Greyson nods. The surgeon relays Sophie's condition. The *
 unheard conversation has us on baited breath. *

Suddenly Nikki bursts into sobs. Karen takes her in her arms *
 for a moment before Nikki flees down the hallway. The surgeon *
 escorts Karen and Greyson back. *

INT. HOSPITAL - SOPHIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

The hospital bed swallows Sophie's sleeping frame. Nikki cries, draped in her sister's lap. Greyson takes Sophie's hand. His stoic expression wavers before locking back up.

*
*

LATER

Sophie wakes to bright lights and a steady BEEP of her heart monitor. Greyson, Nikki and Karen surround her bedside.

NIKKI

Hey, Soph. You scared us so much.

Greyson looks pissed.

SOPHIE

Ouch.

NIKKI

You had an accident. You're out of surgery. Broke both your ankles. You had a pretty bad tibia fracture. There's some soft tissue damage on your arms and face from the broken glass and airbags, but you'll be okay.

SOPHIE

What happened?

NIKKI

You don't remember?

Sophie shakes her head.

GREYSON

Car's totaled.

KAREN

Honey, now is not the time.

NIKKI

Paramedics said you were by yourself. Did you hit something?

*

Sophie tries to remember, her heart monitor BEEPS wildly.

KAREN

Relax. Take slow, deep breaths.

Sophie searches for Greyson's hand as she panics. A DOCTOR rushes in and doses Sophie with a sedative. Sophie goes limp. Karen holds a crying Nikki.

INT. HOSPITAL - SOPHIE'S ROOM - DAY

Sophie jolts awake from a nightmare. She's all alone.

DETECTIVE MICHAEL KELLY (46), a lazy badge enters the room.

DETECTIVE KELLY

Ms. James. Hello. I'm Detective
Kelly. I was hoping I could talk to
you about your accident.

Sophie hesitates but nods yes.

SOPHIE

It all fuzzy still. Is my dad here?

DETECTIVE KELLY

Just me, Ms. James. Start wherever.

SOPHIE

I was on my way to dinner. I think
I was running late.

DETECTIVE KELLY

So you were speeding?

SOPHIE

I don't think I was speeding.

DETECTIVE KELLY

But you're not sure?

Sophie fidgets in distress.

DETECTIVE KELLY (CONT'D)

Where were you headed?

SOPHIE

Jeffrey's Bistro.

DETECTIVE KELLY

Fancy.

SOPHIE

It was my birthday.

DETECTIVE KELLY

Happy belated birthday.

PING. A text from Nikki: **School was lame. Be there soon.**

Sophie checks the message and finds the text thread to Nikki and Greyson.

SOPHIE

Detective, I'm kind of tired. Can we do this some other time?

DETECTIVE KELLY

Of course.

Detective Kelly leaves. Sophie tries to remember.

INT. SOPHIE'S CAR - EVENING - FLASHBACK

The hat and glasses come searing back. No facial features. *

INT. HOSPITAL - SOPHIE'S ROOM - DAY

Sophie fans herself as her heart monitor beeps. Nikki rushes into the room with arms full of flowers.

NIKKI

Hey, hey, it's okay. Breathe.

Nikki drops the flowers as she comforts Sophie.

SOPHIE

Do I look okay to you?

INT. HOSPITAL - REHAB FLOOR - MONTAGE

--Sophie struggles to use a transfer board to maneuver out of her wheelchair.

SOPHIE

This is stupid.

-- Nikki follows along to some leg extension exercises.

NIKKI

These aren't too bad.

SOPHIE

Break a bunch of your bones and then tell me it's easy--sorry.

--Sophie uses adaptive equipment to help her dress.

--Sophie transfers back into her wheelchair with ease. Nikki claps. Sophie runs over Nikki's foot.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

You can keep the pity praise.

--Nikki and Sophie race each other through the hospital mandated obstacle course. Sophie wins.

NIKKI

See you at home tomorrow, champ.

Sophie holds Nikki's hand and they share a sweet smile.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Students crowd Nikki as she heads to class. Rory speaks up.

RORY

Did you tell her we miss her?

NIKKI

You could tell her yourself.

RORY

But she knows we miss her?

NIKKI

Look, Sophie is doing great. She happy to be home.

The students look relieved not to have to go to the hospital. *

Nikki glides away when they all disperse. *

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIBRARY - EVENING

The converted space, a lousy bedroom.

Text to Vance: **I miss you.** It's left on **Read.**

Emma sends Sophie a Snap of the Guard: **Wish you were here.**

Sophie tosses her phone. It nearly hits Stephen as he enters.

STEPHEN

Your dad let me in.

SOPHIE

What are you doing here?

STEPHEN

Homework.

Stephen presents the stack of makeup work. *

SOPHIE
You didn't have to do that.

*
*

STEPHEN
I wanted to.

*
*

Stephen tries to hide his shy smile. Sophie sees it. She invites him to sit on the bed.

*
*

SOPHIE
So, be honest. Has the school
fallen apart without me?

STEPHEN
Into disrepair.

Stephen smiles. Sophie appreciates the white lie. Sophie grows frustrated when her heart monitor BEEPS.

*
*

SOPHIE
I'm sorry.

Sophie tries to calm down. Stephen puts his AirPods in Sophie's ears. He plays a song. It's anthemic but soothing.

*
*

STEPHEN
Can you hear the beeping?

Sophie shakes her head "NO". She settles. The BEEPS stop. Stephen lets the song play. Sophie hears something.

SOPHIE
Wait, is this you playing?

*

STEPHEN
I swear it's not shameless self-
promotion. It's jus the song that
shuffled on.

SOPHIE
It's not awful.

STEPHEN
I'll take that as a compliment.

Sophie smiles but her eyes leave Stephen's. He takes that as his cue to leave. Stephen puts on a beanie from his pocket and gathers his things.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
See you in history.

Stephen sheepishly waves goodbye and backs out of the room.

*

INT. SOPHIE'S CAR - EVENING - FLASHBACK

The green hatted Driver isn't wearing a beanie. Relieved. The car still gains on her. She crashes. *

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIBRARY - EVENING

Nikki slinks in. Nikki sees that Sophie is frazzled so she climbs into bed and soothes Sophie. *

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIBRARY - DAY

Nikki grabs her backpack.

NIKKI

When I get back we can talk more.

Sophie nods. Nikki leaves. Karen brings in a breakfast tray.

KAREN

How are we feeling?

Sophie pops the top off percocets and swallows a couple. *

SOPHIE

As it turns out, having someone drill into your bones after someone tries to kill you sucks.

KAREN

What?

Sophie rummages for Detective Kelly's card and calls him. Sophie takes a sip of orange juice.

KAREN (CONT'D)

It wasn't an accident?

LATER

Detective Kelly fidgets in a too soft reading chair.

SOPHIE

I'd like to amend my statement.

DETECTIVE KELLY

How so?

SOPHIE

I was only speeding because someone ran me off the road.

Detective Kelly's taken aback.

DETECTIVE KELLY

Say again.

SOPHIE

I was running late to my birthday dinner but I wasn't speeding until a car tried to play IRL bumper cars. That's why I crashed. Someone tried to kill me.

DETECTIVE KELLY

That's quite an amendment.

SOPHIE

It's the truth.

DETECTIVE KELLY

That's not what my investigation turned up. Phone records indicate texts went out within minutes of the crash. You, yourself admit you were running late. You want me to believe you weren't speeding because you were running late but because your life was in danger?

SOPHIE

Exactly.

DETECTIVE KELLY

You have a history of overinflated calls to the department. Destruction of property over a pin sized dent. Suspicious activity on kids walking home at night.

SOPHIE

I'd never seen them before.

DETECTIVE KELLY

Theft on a missing performance helmet you left at home.

SOPHIE

Someone left me for dead out there.

Sophie almost chokes on the truth. Her eyes water

*

DETECTIVE KELLY

Or you were speeding because you were late, you texted your family and lost control of the car. That's what I'm putting in my report.

SOPHIE

Wait a minute--

DETECTIVE KELLY

Have a good day Ms. James.

Detective Kelly leaves. Sophie's heart monitor BEEPS. Frustrated, Sophie throws back percocets and falls asleep.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIBRARY - EARLY MORNING

Sophie bolts up in bed. Another nightmare Sophie looks over and sees Nikki in bed with her.

NIKKI

Another nightmare?

Sophie nods.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

At least you go back to school today.

Sophie groans, upset.

QUICK CUTS:

-- Nikki combs Sophie's hair and hastily covers her bruises.

-- Sophie frantically shave around the casts.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Karen offers a mountain full of muffins. They each take one.

GREYSON

I'll be working late.

Sophie's not the least bit surprised.

KAREN

If you need anything, call me.

SOPHIE

There's still time to homeschool.

Karen laughs. Nikki wheels her sister away.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

Nikki parks. A number of cobalt colored cars fill the lot.

MEMORY FLASH--Sophie checks the rearview mirror, a cobalt car fills the space. The faceless hat and beanie clear. *

Nikki grabs the wheelchair. The MURMURS and LAUGHS grow louder as Sophie transfers out of the car and sinks low in the wheelchair, wanting to disappear.

NIKKI

It's the only accessible entrance.

The whole school watches Sophie.

SOPHIE

We can try again tomorrow.

Sophie turns to find Stephen. He turns her back and wheels her up the ramp. Nikki behind. The LAUGHS turn to BOOS.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Emma and Dani appear as the mob of Students fill the hall.

SOPHIE

Who told you about the cobalt car?

EMMA

Sophie, thank god you're alright.
What cars?

Dani hugs Sophie tight?

DANI

New trend?

EMMA

Any similarities between some new wrap jobs and a witness statement is purely coincidence.

DANI

Purely coincidence.

EMMA

I'll take good care of the Guard since you can't get on the field, let alone the riser.

SOPHIE

Put it to a vote. It's only fair.

Sophie gets more dirty looks from the Students. Emma's smile hides distain.

DANI

Student council is in good hands.
Line of succession and all that.

*
*

Sophie's face twists into a grimace.

*

EMMA

We should tell you, you inspired a
new school campaign.

*

Dani and Emma move back to reveal walls lined in NO TEXTING
WHILE DRIVING and SPEED KILLS posters.

STUDENT (O.S)

Serves her right. She could have
killed someone.

Sophie eyes Dani and Emma.

SOPHIE

What is this?

DANI

Texting and driving is so reckless.

EMMA

So we're making an example of you.

DANI

Shame is a powerful teaching tool.

SOPHIE

It wasn't my fault. Someone tried
to kill me. Run me off the road.

EMMA

Riiight.

Emma and Dani walk away. The Students all laugh and sneer.
Sophie wheels out of Stephen's grasp.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - ENGLISH CLASS - DAY

Sophie enters to find Vance in a seat across the room. Sophie
deflates as her boyfriend ignores her. Sophie's eyes water.

*

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - CAFETERIA - DAY

Sophie wheels in, the cafeteria goes silent, all eyes on her. Rory slowly approaches.

RORY
Your concealer's coming off.

Rory rubs under Sophie's eye. Sophie smiles in thanks.

EMMA (O.S.)
Rory, get over here.

Rory skitters away. Sophie wheels over to Vance.

SOPHIE
Can we talk.

VANCE
Maybe some other time.

SOPHIE
I need you.

VANCE
I'll come by after school.

Vance turns away. Sophie's embarrassment turns to anger.

SOPHIE
Like you *came by* when I was in the hospital? *

Sophie's voice grows louder.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Or how about when I came home? Wait a minute that's right--YOU NEVER SHOWED.

Vance scoffs. The entire cafeteria watches them.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
You are a coward! A phony.

VANCE
Hey!

SOPHIE
You don't just abandon people! *
They're not ghosts. *

Shame flutters across Vance's face.

VANCE

Babe, calm down.

Stephen stands and tries to wheel Sophie away from the audience. She screams and smacks Vance.

SOPHIE

Screw you. I am not your babe. We are done. I deserve someone who will show up. I deserve someone who cares to give me their undivided attention. I deserve someone doesn't pass off gold-filled for the real thing.

*

Sophie throws her birthday necklace at him. The cafeteria fills with muffled laughs.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I hope you enjoy your inevitable male-pattern baldness. You are one tackle away from the start of how you tell people you peaked in high school.

Sophie wheels away.

VANCE

I didn't want to date someone so irresponsible anyway!

*

*

Sophie stops short. She's an island all alone--until Stephen places his lunch in Sophie's lap.

*

STEPHEN

Hold on to that for me, will you?

They glide out the cafeteria.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - COURTYARD - DAY

Passing the school fountain...

SOPHIE

Technically this is kidnapping.

STEPHEN

My dad's a cop. It's fine.

SOPHIE

That's what scares me.

STEPHEN

Nothing should scare you. That was badass.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - THEATRE - DAY

Stephen pushes Sophie up to the back entrance.

STEPHEN

Trust me?

Sophie nods. His earnest expression eases the anxiety.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - THEATRE - CONTINUOUS

Stephen turns on a light. They're on stage. Nikki has a picnic set out for the three of them.

NIKKI

We thought you'd appreciate lunch without the audience.

Stephen gestures to the empty house seats. They eat in comfortable silence.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - THEATRE - LATER

The lunch finished, Sophie pushes back and forth on her wheels trying to pop a wheelie. Nikki eyes her sister.

NIKKI

We're sorry about the posters. *

SOPHIE

Don't worry, I have a plan. *

Sophie wheels over to the costume racks in the wings. She dons a motorcycle helmet. Stephen flips up the visor.

STEPHEN

What plan?

SOPHIE

To save my reputation. If I pull it off I won't be public enemy number one. Everything will go back to the way it was before. I just have to find who tried to kill me. *

Stephen and Nikki share a concerned look. *

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

If your dad can do it so can I.

*
*

Stephen looks admonished.

*

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

He called me a liar.

*
*

Stephen winces at the thought but smiles in support.

NIKKI

Where would you even start?

SOPHIE

The cobalt blue cars. I'll need your help.

NIKKI

I hate to ask this Soph, but how can you be sure the car that hit you was cobalt? Memories are unreliable in the best of cases. The new wraps could just be coincidence.

SOPHIE

And I could almost believe that except for the fact I specifically mentioned the cobalt color in my statement.

STEPHEN

You think someone has hacked police records?

NIKKI

It's really not that hard. The computer club uses the firewall to practice codebreaking all the time.

STEPHEN

The entire computer club routinely hacks the police department for fun?

Nikki nods.

SOPHIE

As I was saying, Dani practically spelled it out earlier. What I need to figure out now is if Dani was the mastermind or just another lemming.

*

STEPHEN

What can we do.

SOPHIE

Get me the list of students with
the new cars.

NIKKI

What are you gonna do?

SOPHIE

Oversee democracy.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Sophie wheels up to the edge of the field to Watch practice.

PRACTICE TARP

Emma leads discussion.

EMMA

Clearly Sophie will have to extend
her leave of absence from the team.

*

RORY

Temporarily.

EMMA

Of course.

SOPHIE (O.S.)

Make sure you let them vote. They
get to choose.

WITH SOPHIE

She leans as far over the field fence as she can to scream.

PRACTICE TARP

Emma rolls her eyes.

EMMA

Sophie's one request is that we put
the new captain--interim captain to
a vote. She does not want to pick
although I am sure you all will
come to the right decision.

Emma hands out note cards and pens to cast their ballots.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT

Stephen and Nikki hide behind cars. Together they watch students get into the cobalt blue cars and drive away.

NIKKI

Oh my god.

Stephen's eyes find what Nikki sees. Vance getting into a cobalt car.

STEPHEN

I highly doubt Vance would try and kill his girlfriend.

NIKKI

Half of all female homicide is committed by a romantic partner.

Vance drives away. They watch as Fran takes the first cobalt car out.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Write her down. *

STEPHEN

She's a guidance counselor.

NIKKI

Yeah, a guidance counselor who she basically told to fuck off. *

Stephen takes down the name and they watch as more and more students claim cobalt cars.

Jacob slips by his car-driving peers to mount his bike. *
MONICA (18), head of the Honor Board and uptight pain the ass gets in another.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Oh my god that would make sense. Monica and Sophie are always at each other's throats.

STEPHEN

Sophie just wanted the list.

NIKKI

Have a little imagination.

Stephen taps Nikki's shoulder.

STEPHEN

Heads up.

Dani maneuvers the lot, she claims the last cobalt car. *

NIKKI

That bitch.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Sophie uses her camera to zoom in on the impromptu election.

PRACTICE TARP

Nikki picks up the first ballot.

EMMA

First vote goes to...Kiersten?

KIERSTEN

Shut up, no way.

Emma picks up the second ballot.

EMMA

Kiersten.

Emma grows angrier. One by one, all the votes read kiersten except for one lonely vote for Emma. Her own.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Congratulations Kiersten.

KIERSTEN

I just want to say thank you for--

EMMA

Your Captaincy doesn't start until tomorrow, lets not get ahead of ourselves. Practice dismissed. *

With one final clap the Guard disperses. Sophie watches as the team congratulates Kiersten. Nikki and Stephen join Sophie as she claps for Kiersten. She looks so proud. *

SOPHIE

Dani skipped practice? *

NIKKI

She's on the list. *

EMMA

Good. Lets go home.

Stephen stays behind. Sophie turns back.

SOPHIE

I meant you too. I have an idea.

Stephen follows.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Stephen's Camaro trails Nikki's car as they leave. *

SOPHIE (V.O.)

But we need to stop by the craft store really fast.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIBRARY - EVENING

Stephen and Nikki drop the supplies on the bed.

NIKKI

What is all this for?

SOPHIE

If sixteen seasons of Criminal Minds has taught me anything, it's to always start with a murder board. Dani is on the suspect list. All we have to do now is find the motive. If we can connect the profile and deduce the plan-- BAM case solved. *

Sophie grabs an old yearbook and tears out a picture of Dani.

NIKKI

Sounds a little like confirmation bias but okay.

SOPHIE

Who's side are you on?!

NIKKI

It is!

SOPHIE

Just put this stupid photo at the top of the board--please?

Sophie tears out photos of the rest of the list.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

We gather the puzzle pieces.

Together, they gather the puzzle pieces. Suspects. A list of auto paint shops in the town. A list of motives. A map to Jeffrey's restaurant.

*
*

LATER

The three little detectives stare at the board.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

It's got to be Dani, right?

*

STEPHEN

All you have connecting her is the car.

SOPHIE

But she called it a trend. She wouldn't call attention to it if she didn't want me to know.

NIKKI

She apparently asked Farren if she voted for her for President.

*
*

SOPHIE

See!

NIKKI

If I had to guess, I would say she ran you off the road so that she could be President. Even if it's a temporary title it would make her look good to colleges.

STEPHEN

How are you so sure it's about the council president position. Maybe she wanted captain.

*
*
*
*

SOPHIE

Then she would have shown up.

*
*

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - EVENING

Kiersten climbs out of the showers. She dances to music as she dresses. She talks to herself in the mirror.

KIERSTEN

Captain Kiersten reporting for duty. I'm Kiersten, Captain of the Color Guard. I'm Kiersten the newly elected Captain, nice to meet you.

Kiersten hears the shutter of a camera and a locker close.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

Dani was always a jealous prat.

KIERSTEN

Hello, is someone there?

NIKKI (V.O.)

My question is, why go through all that trouble to run you off the road when she could have "Nancy Kerrigan-ed" you any other way.

Kiersten tip toes out into the lockers.

KIERSTEN

Come out now or I'll scream.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

It's a fair question. She could have been injured in the crash so why choose a variable like a car? What does she gain from it?

Kiersten slides around corners to find the noise. Her breath gets fast. She clings her towel closer to her body. *

UNKNOWN POV

They send a Snap message. It's a photo of Sophie's locker. Her helmet and whistle along with the message: **democracy is overrated.**

SOPHIE (V.O.)

A successful anti-text campaign.

Kiersten moves closer. The voyeur rushes past Kiersten when her back is turned. They shove her to the ground. She lands on her wrist and cries out in pain. *

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIBRARY

Stephen, Nikki and Sophie all stare at each other as the Snap chime rings out. Sophie opens the message.

SOPHIE

Holy shit. Can we meet with your dad tomorrow. It's not Dani.

INT. POLICE STATION - DETECTIVE KELLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Detective Kelly and Sophie glare at each other.

SOPHIE

What do you mean you won't reopen
the case?

DETECTIVE KELLY

Exactly that.

NIKKI

But the message--

DETECTIVE KELLY

It disappeared.

STEPHEN

Dad, come on.

DETECTIVE KELLY

I cannot reopen a case based off of
an unconfirmed threat. *

Sophie holds her ground. *

DETECTIVE KELLY (CONT'D) *

Until I have concrete proof to tell
me otherwise, you are still at
fault for the accident. *

Sophie taps Detective Kelly's badge. *

SOPHIE

Serve and protect--what a joke. *

Frustrated, Sophie leaves with Nikki. Detective Kelly pulls
Michael aside. *

DETECTIVE KELLY *

Listen son, I want you to stay away
from that girl. She is trouble. *
People like her are users. She'll *
use you until there is nothing *
left. I won't have that. *

Steven wrestles out of his dad's grip. *

STEPHEN *

You don't know anything. *

Steven rushes out. *

EXT. JAMES HOUSE - EVENING

Stephen's Camaro sits in the drive way. He helps Sophie transfer into her wheelchair. She takes his hand.

SOPHIE

Come on, we have to make some changes to thee murder board.

STEPHEN

Whatever you need.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIBRARY - DAY

The trio stare up at the murder board.

NIKKI

Tell us again what the message said.

SOPHIE

It was a picture of my helmet for the show ad my whistle. The only thing it said was Democracy is overrated.

STEPHEN

Everyone knew the team was picking a new captain yesterday.

NIKKI

Yeah, thanks to Emma.

SOPHIE

But they also knew which locker was mine and that I hadn't moved my whistle or helmet since picture day which means...

NIKKI/SOPHIE/STEPHEN

The driver is someone on the team.

Stephen moves the suspect photos around on the board. Nikki tears out individual photos of the Team and adds it to the collage.

SOPHIE

Okay so who on the team is also on the car list.

Stephen double checks.

STEPHEN
It's just Dani. *

SOPHIE
What kind of car does Emma drive? *

NIKKI
I'm pretty positive she drives a
jaguar. *

STEPHEN
Has thought of the possibility that
maybe the car. that hit you was
borrowed *

SOPHIE
I asked you guys for help. I swear
I can never depend on anyone to
help me when it counts. *

STEPHEN
What do you call this?

SOPHIE
The bare minimum.

STEPHEN
You know what I'm pretty sure I'm
late for band practice.

Stephen leaves. Nikki deflates. Sophie stares at photos of
her team. *

NIKKI
I'm sorry, Soph.

SOPHIE
That's okay. I have a way you can
make it up to me.

NIKKI
Name it.

SOPHIE
Join the Color Guard.

NIKKI
What?

SOPHIE
It will be perfect. With me gone
they need someone to fill in for
the senior showcase.

(MORE)

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

You could fill that spot. Be my eyes on the inside.

NIKKI

I don't know where I would even start to be good enough to make the team.

SOPHIE

That's where I step in--wheel in-- to teach you. With my coaching you'll definitely get the spot.

*

NIKKI

I'm going to regret this.

SOPHIE

In the meantime we have to slowly move your social orbit closer to the team. If you become friends with them then they wont suspect a thing. Lets start with Marisol.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - GYM - EVENING

Sophie and Nikki ride stationary bikes side by side.

SOPHIE

Marisol is about as relaxed as they come...on account of all the drugs. She'll be easiest to befriend because she lacks any true judgement. If you tell her about how you know how to make chemically comparable drugs in theory--she'll open up easy. Once you get her talking see if she holds any grudges big enough to want to kill me.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - CHEMISTRY CLASS - DAY

Nikki and Marisol share this class.

NIKKI

Hey Marisol, question.

MARISOL

Aren't you sixteen?

NIKKI

I am.

MARISOL

What are you doing in a senior class?

NIKKI

I'm a senior.

MARISOL

But you're sixteen.

NIKKI

Skipped two grades.

MARISOL

So you and Sophie are twins?

Frustrated, Nikki gives up

NIKKI

Something like that. Did you know chemistry is the science behind creating drugs.

MARISOL

I'm all natural. Like my stuff organic.

NIKKI

Sure until pollution and global warming make that impossible.

MARISOL

Oh my god you're right.

NIKKI

Hypothetically, I could show you a thing or two about synthetic formulation.

Marisol smiles.

MARISOL

You are very much the cooler twin.

NIKKI

Speaking of Sophie, bummer what happened huh?

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASS - DAY

Stephen ignores Sophie as he walks on by. She turns around and gives him with a little green army man. Stephen smiles.

SOPHIE

I was a jerk. I may have a thing
for war but I don't like fighting
with you.

The eye contact lingers. It feels intimate.

STEPHEN

You're forgiven.

(beat)

Would you actually want to hang out
later?

SOPHIE

Yeah that's actually perfect
because I'm training Nikki for
Guard try-outs. We could brainstorm
more motive.

STEPHEN

I meant just the two of us.

SOPHIE

Oh.

Stephen cant take the awkward.

STEPHEN

But I will definitely come by. This
investigative trio is kind of fun.

SOPHIE

Great.

The final bell rings and Sophie and Stephen move through the
halls. Jacob interrupts them.

JACOB

Sophie, I was wondering if you
wanted to do a--

SOPHIE

Fuck off, Jacob I'm busy.

Stephen gives Sophie a look but they keep moving.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I said I didn't like fighting with
you. I never said anything about
Jacob.

EXT. JAMES HOUSE - EVENING

Stephen hooks his phone up to a speaker. Nikki looks at Sophie's Guard equipment, skittish.

SOPHIE

You've seen me do this a thousand times, it will be a piece of cake. Now pick up the rifle.

NIKKI

I've decided on a quid pro quo. *

SOPHIE

I'm listening.

NIKKI

Every time I practice you have to do some rehab.

SOPHIE

I rehab.

NIKKI

Not enough.

STEPHEN

I vote with Nikki.

SOPHIE

Who said you get a vote?

Stephen waits her out.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Fine.

Nikki lays out a yoga mat and some resistance bands in the dirt. Sophie rehabs.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Now grab the rifle.

Nikki grabs the rifle.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Repeat after me. This is my rifle, there are many like it but this one is mine...well it's mine but you get what I mean.

NIKKI

I'm not saying that.

SOPHIE

Never mind. We'll circle back
later. Let's see some drop spins.

Nikki looks unsure.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Push down on the butt while you
flick your wrist hard. When your
hand is parallel to the ground, let
go and catch it again.

Nikki does as she said and she completes the spin. Nikki
looks surprised. Sophie stops her rehab.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Keep going.

QUICK CUTS:

-- Nikki tries harder tosses. Doubles. Triples. Quads. She
doesn't drop one. Sophie switches to a kneeling exercise.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Kiersten is the one you have to
suck up to next. Rory will vouch
for you regardless. She's loyal
like that. Jade will follow
whatever Kiersten does.

-- Sophie runs Nikki through choreography, gently correcting
her form.

NIKKI

What about Emma?

SOPHIE

You're dead in the water there.
Emma's going to take out her lost
captaincy out on you. There is no
point in trying to win her over

*
*
*

-- Stephen brings over the saber and Sophie mimics some
flourishes. Nikki is just as good. Stephen helps Sophie with
her range of motion.

*

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Kiersten is easily persuadable but
you'll have to talk slow and use
small words. If you gas her up now
that she's captain she'll fall in
love with you.

*
*

NIKKI

Be nice. Small words. I can do that.

-- Flag work starts and the executions are clean. Stephen helps Sophie into a standing position but accidentally drops her hand. She's shaking but she's standing. Sophie beams with pride as she watches Nikki work the flags.

MONTAGE ENDS

Nikki drops the flag.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Oh my god, this is gonna work. *

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Sophie, now with a walker, stands beside Stephen and Nikki. They run into Vance and Emma, her hands all over him. *

VANCE

Sophie, look at you.

STEPHEN

You two are dating, now?

EMMA

We fuck occasionally.

VANCE

I was going to tell you.

Sophie, on instinct, grabs Stephen's hand. *

SOPHIE

Don't worry about it.

Stephen loves the way Sophie's hand fits in his.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Gotta go. We'll see you at try-outs.

Emma looks confused at Sophie's retreating hobbled form.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

Kiersten, Jade, and Nikki share gym class. Volleyball. *

NIKKI

I nominate Kiersten as captain.

JADE

I'm actually always captain during volleyball.

NIKKI

Sometimes a good leader is a good follower.

Nikki hands Kiersten the ball.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

And sometimes a good leader is a good leader. If she's good enough to be Color Guard captain, she's good enough to captain a volleyball team.

*

Kiersten is honored.

KIERSTEN

Thank you Nikki.

Kiersten serves makes it over the net. The ball volleys back and forth with the other team. Nikki gives Kiersten plenty of assists.

KIERSTEN (CONT'D)

I thought you were a book nerd. How did you get good at sports?

NIKKI

I'm trying to diversify my--

Kiersten looks confused.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I needed a change. It's easy to be talented under your leadership though. You're a natural.

Kiersten swoons over the compliments.

KIERSTEN

You should come to try-outs after school today.

*

*

NIKKI

I would love to. I Probably won't be as good but I can try.

*

*

KIERSTEN

A good leader is also a good teacher.

NIKKI
You are so right.

Jade fumes as Nikki and Kiersten dominate the game and block Jade from any real gameplay.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - THEATRE - DAY

Two empty lunch trays sit abandoned. Nikki sits at the edge of the stage while Stephen helps Sophie rehab her balance.

NIKKI
I can't keep skipping class.

SOPHIE
Please, everyone knows you could just stop going to class for the rest of the year and still be valedictorian.

Stephen gently pushes Sophie back and forth as she finds her center.

NIKKI
We have a weight room for that.

*

SOPHIE
And have them watch me? No thanks.
Any progress with Kiersten.

Stephen backs up and watches Sophie walk a straight line heel to toe. Not perfect but not bad.

NIKKI
Got a personal invite to try-out this afternoon.

Sophie almost collapses.

SOPHIE
I am such a genius.

Stephen catches her and moves her to a bench. He holds her hand. Nikki clocks the gesture and Sophie pulls her hand away under the guise of massaging her knee.

*

STEPHEN
It hurts?

SOPHIE
Just a little.

STEPHEN
I'll grab ice. Be right back.

Stephen leaves the theatre.

NIKKI
What was that?

SOPHIE
I honestly don't know.

Nikki laughs gently at her sister. A comfortable silence fills the theatre.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Thank you for doing this. I'm
getting really tired of waking up
drenched in sweat. *

NIKKI
You're still having nightmares? *

SOPHIE
One nightmare. The same one. Over
and over.

NIKKI
I got you.

The sweet moment ends when Stephen returns with ice. *

NIKKI (CONT'D)
I have to get back to class. *

Nikki walks backward toward the exit making kissy faces at
Sophie as Stephen fawns over her. *

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Plenty show for the try-outs. Stephen and Sophie wait in the
bleachers. Jacob takes photos with a dinky camera. *

Music stops and restarts as different groups run through the
choreography. Kiersten pulls the bad AUDITIONERS away. *

STEPHEN
I'm going to move up closer. Check
how things are going.

Sophie nods. Jacob moves toward Sophie.

SOPHIE

Has anyone ever told you that you are always just *there*. It's weird.

JACOB

Before you interrupt, I want to ask if I could highlight your recovery for the yearbook.

Sophie gets up so she's face to face with Jacob.

SOPHIE

You want to do a full spread on my accident--

JACOB

Yeah.

SOPHIE

The worst thing that's ever happened to me?

JACOB

Oh.

SOPHIE

Listen clearly Jacob, I do not want to immortalize this time in my life with any pictures, witty headlines, or sob stories. I would rather eat glass. I am sure you are smart enough to grasp that, yes?

*
*

Jacob nods.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Good, now fuck off.

Sophie stands and maneuvers her walker down to where Stephen watches.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

How is she doing?

STEPHEN

She looks strong. I think I may have seen Emma's jaw drop a little.

Sophie laughs. They continue to watch the try-out until Fran approaches.

FRAN

I heard you're going through a rough time. Want to talk about it?

*
*

Sophie makes eye contact with Jacob. *

SOPHIE
That pervy little narc. I'm good *

FRAN
I'll wait in case you change your
mind. *

The Auditioners break. Nikki walks over, blank.

NIKKI
I got it.

Nikki and Sophie hug.

SOPHIE
I knew it.

Emma and Vance walks by.

VANCE
Hey, Sophie.

SOPHIE
Suck on your dumbbells, Vance. *

Fran looks disappointed at Sophie as she beckons her. NOW *

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
My sister is my ride home. *

NIKKI
I'm gonna take a quick shower. You
have time for a quick meeting. *

Sophie's backed into a corner, She deflates as Fran leads. *

STEPHEN
I can wait around. *

Stephen gives Sophie a departing kiss on the cheek. *

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Kiersten shows her to an empty locker. Next to Sophie's.

KIERSTEN
This one is officially yours. The
locks are over here.

Kiersten grabs a lock from the box and has trouble spinning the dial with her wrist cast. *

NIKKI

You okay?

KIERSTEN

Oh, yeah. Landed on my wrist a few weeks ago playing that volleyball game kind of aggravated it. *

Nikki looks sympathetic. She waits for Kiersten to continue. *

KIERSTEN (CONT'D) *

I'll leave you to it. *

Kiersten leaves and Nikki heads for the showers. *

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GUIDANCE OFFICE - DAY

Sophie sits with her walker at the ready.

FRAN

Frankly I'm shocked you haven't reached out to me sooner. *

SOPHIE *

I plead the fifth. *

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Nikki rinses her hair and pulls back the curtain.

UNKNOWN POV

They watch Nikki turn her back and towel off. Snap.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GUIDANCE OFFICE - DAY

Sophie's Snap tone RINGS.

FRAN

This isn't a criminal line of questioning.

SOPHIE

Step-mom's a lawyer. I know that.

FRAN

This is a safe space.

Sophie opens the message and finds Nikki's picture.

SOPHIE

Oh my god.

Sophie stands and drags her walker halfway out the door.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Nikki, still sopping wet, tries a towel turban just when the Attacker shoves Nikki back into the shower. Nikki fights back, scratching. She heads for the locks.

INTERCUT SOPHIE

Sophie does her best to get down the hall. Her pace has slowed considerably.

One by one, Nikki throws locks at the masked attacker.

Stephen finds Sophie "running" and just follows.

The Attacker grabs Nikki. She tries to shove him by kicking off the lockers. He's strong. Nikki tries to scream. He covers her mouth and squeezes until she passes out.

The attacker binds her hands, eyes, and feet with duct tape. He pulls out a sharpie.

LATER

Stephen and Sophie race into the locker room and find Nikki

SOPHIE

Oh my god. Nikki!

(to stephen)

Find me some scissors.

Sophie maneuvers the walker to Nikki and gently shakes her awake. She whimpers in fear.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

It's okay. Nikki, it's me.

Nikki settles as Sophie tries to pull at the tape. It doesn't budge much. Stephen hands off some scissors and Sophie gently cuts around her eyes, hands, and feet.

Nikki pulls her sister into a crushing hug.

STEPHEN

Did you see who it was?

NIKKI

They were wearing a mask. I
couldn't tell.

STEPHEN

Can you stand?

*

Nikki nods. She stands.

NIKKI

Let me just get my keys.

Nikki walks around to the new locker out of Stephen and
Sophie's eye line. Sophie sinks into Stephen's embrace.

*

STEPHEN

You okay?

NIKKI (O.S)

Soph.

*

The tremor in Nikki's voice puts them on edge. Stephen and
Sophie walk over. On Nikki's locker are individual photos of
the rest of the Color Guard with a message: **I'm coming for
you all.**

SOPHIE

What the fuck!

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - LATER

*

Detective Kelly questions Sophie and Nikki. Stephen waits.

*

SOPHIE

I just want to say--I told you so.

DETECTIVE KELLY

You didn't see anyone else in here
when you arrived?

SOPHIE

Actually, he introduced himself as
he was running out of here. I was
holding out on you?

DETECTIVE KELLY

He?

*

NIKKI

By the way he threw me around--it
was a man.

*

*

SOPHIE

Does this mean you will actually investigate?

*
*

NIKKI

This isn't exactly the most pristine crime scene.

*
*

DETECTIVE KELLY

We'll follow our procedures.

*

Detective Kelly looks at Stephen.

DETECTIVE KELLY (CONT'D)

You're coming home with me.

The paramedic packs up and Detective Kelly ushers everyone out.

SOPHIE

We gotta talk to dad.

NIKKI

We gotta warn the team.

Sophie takes threatening poster off her locker, as she hobbles away her locker creaks open. EMPTY.

*
*

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT -DAY

Sophie and her walker keep pace Nikki.

INT. NIKKI'S CAR - MOVING

Sophie sends out a group text to the team: **Emergency meeting at my house. 1 hour.**

*

NIKKI

Did you tell your boyfriend you're okay?

*
*
*

Nikki subtly nods.

*

INT. JAMES HOUSE - EVENING

*

Sophie tries to rush past Nikki.

*

SOPHIE

Dad!

*
*

Sophie keeps pushing along in the search for her father.

*

INT. JAMES HOUSE - GREYSON'S OFFICE - EVENING

Greyson works behind his desk. He doesn't react to her entry.

SOPHIE

Dad, we have a life and death
problem on our hands. We need your
help. Who do we know in security?
I'm talking big, hulking, kill you
with floss kind of people...

GREYSON

Hang on just oneee second.

Greyson keeps focus on his computer screens.

SOPHIE

I'm talking 24 hours. The best
money could buy.

Nikki straddles the doorway. Greyson, still keyed in.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Dad! Look at me!

GREYSON

Don't be so dramatic, Soph--

Greyson's eyes glance at Sophie before falling on Nikki.

GREYSON (CONT'D)

What happened?

Greyson jumps out of his seat and checks over Nikki gingerly.
It irks Sophie.

NIKKI

Sophie's telling the truth. The
Color Guard is in danger. We Think
whoever caused her car crash--
attacked me in the showers.

GREYSON

But you're alright?

Sophie watches as Greyson waits on baited breath, concern
fills his eyes.

GREYSON (CONT'D)

You'll have a bodyguard. Of course.

Rage overtakes Sophie.

She moves toward the desk and tosses computer components across the room. She topples hardware. Greyson stops her. *

GREYSON (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea what you've done?

SOPHIE *

Do I finally have your attention?

Sophie advances on Greyson.

GREYSON

You ruined it months of work.

Greyson picks up the remnants of his hardware from his desk. Nikki watches the fight in silence. *

SOPHIE

Sue me then.

Sophie tosses what she can get her hands on.

GREYSON

What do you want?

SOPHIE

Your help! This psychopath wants to kill me. I almost die and it's like you cant even be bothered. Nikki gets a few bumps and you're ready to burn the town down.

NIKKI

Sophie that's not fair.

Sophie throws a paper weight at Nikki. Concern for Nikki flashes on Greyson's face, Sophie catches it.

SOPHIE

You want to talk fair? His wife dies and he remarries like it's nothing. His daughter almost dies and ends up in a stupid wheelchair with an even stupider walker and I get a bed in the library. What's not fair is the fact that Dad would rather go to your academic decathlon competitions over any one of the Guard performances. Although, I am sure he'll come now that you're on the team.

(MORE)

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

What's not fair is that I have to schedule birthdays with his assistant for the opportunity to spend it together. What's not fair is that he wants to keep you safe and not me. What's not fair is that you have a mom and not me. He wants to keep you safe and not me.

Sophie's eyes find a photo on Greyson's desk. A picture of Young Nikki and Greyson.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Why her and not me?

Greyson's eyes pierce Sophie's.

GREYSON

That's not true.

SOPHIE

Not a lie either.

Sophie slaps Greyson. Again and again. She tires herself out as she keeps pushing. Greyson gives her a peck on the forehead. Cold.

GREYSON

You look just like her.

Greyson walks out and Sophie collapses. Sophie sobs for only a moment before she locks the feeling away. Nikki watches as Sophie puts herself back together again. *

Sophie picks up the unbroken decor piece by piece. By the time the office is clean she has calmed down and the doorbell RINGS. Nikki goes to answer it. *

Sophie tries to lift herself and fails. *

Nikki returns and finds Sophie still on the floor. *

SOPHIE

I can't get up. *

Nikki lifts Sophie in an loving hold. Sophie doesn't let go. *

NIKKI

I know.

Nikki acknowledges Sophie's broken-hearted tears. Together, they find their team. *

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIBRARY - EVENING

The Color Guard stare at Sophie and Nikki with awed expressions.

EMMA

Run that by us one more time.

NIKKI

We are on the short list to be murdered by a psychopath.

No one looks impressed.

*
*

SOPHIE

With the clear threat made on the team, it is my duty as captain to protect you guys. It started with the car crash and now Nikki's attack in the showers.

EMMA

This all feels a bit ridiculous to me.

*
*
*

JADE

Speak for yourself. I am so sorry we didn't believe you.

*

KIERSTEN

I lied.

The team turn to kiersten.

KIERSTEN (CONT'D)

I didn't hurt my wrist playing volleyball. Someone shoved me in the locker rooms when I was getting dressed. I landed on my wrist weird.

NIKKI

Why didn't you say anything?

KIERSTEN

I was scared and I don't even know what I saw to be honest. I happened so fast. I think I spooked them.

MARISOL

I am never getting in the showers again.

Emma sours.

EMMA

That's definitely an overreaction. *

SOPHIE *

How are we supposed to react? Tell me what the proportional response is to finding out there is a murder plot against you. *

EMMA *

Your dramatics are exhausting. As much as I love the camaraderie, or whatever, I'll sit this one out. *

NIKKI *

For those still participating, I need your fresh eyes. *

Sophie gestures to her meticulous murder board.

Nikki gets a text.

SOPHIE

We can whittle the selection down to the male population at Meadow Valley.

Nikki strokes the bruises that are starting to form.

NIKKI

Most definitely.

Nikki smiles back down at her phone. Emma catches the gesture and Sophie follows suit. Sophie clears her throat.

SOPHIE

Tell secret boyfriend you're okay. We are in investigation mode. *

Emma smirks as she reads over Nikki's shoulder. *

KIERSTEN

Wait a minute. Who took these?

Kiersten point to the portraits used in the group threat.

RORY

They look almost professional.

KIERSTEN

When I was attacked could have sworn I heard a camera shutter.

EMMA

The only kid with professional
enough equipment and who has had
access to the locker rooms is--

Sophie tapes up Jacob's yearbook photo in the center of the
board.

NIKKI

This is all circumstantial though.
You can't prove Jacob did anything.

*

SOPHIE

So we'll find some proof. In the
meantime, everyone be careful.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Sophie and Nikki show the team out.

SOPHIE

Call if you need anything.

The door shuts with a finality.

NIKKI

I've gotta study. I'll see you in
the morning.

SOPHIE

You have to come with a better
euphemism than "studying".

Nikki rolls her eyes and slinks away, all smiles.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sophie pushes her walker into the kitchen and finds Karen
sitting at the island.

SOPHIE

Just the person I wanted to see.

A hopeful smile graces Karen's face.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

You ever falsify evidence?

The smile turns sour.

KAREN

I'm a better lawyer than that.

*

SOPHIE

Never?

KAREN

When I get stuck on burden of proof
I go back to the beginning and
rework the evidence in hand.

SOPHIE

I'll remember that.

The silence goes stale.

KAREN

Your dad told me what happened in
the office.

SOPHIE

I bet he did. Mad that I broke his
little toys.

KAREN

He shouldn't have said what he
said. I'm sorry.

SOPHIE

It's the first truthful thing he's
said to me in years.

KAREN

You know, I never meant to break up
your family. I never knew your dad
was married until we were too far
down the road to turn back.

SOPHIE

How much of a cliché would I be if
I blamed the mistress. No thanks.

Karen winces at "mistress".

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I didn't mean it like that.

KAREN

It's the least I deserve.

SOPHIE

You didn't kill her, Karen. Come
off it.

Sophie squirms at the emotional conversation.

KAREN

No but she got in that car because of me. Because of what your father and I did. I own that part.

Sophie's eyes well with tears.

KAREN (CONT'D)

I am sorry for what happened to your mom. It is so unfair that you don't get to have her with you. I never wanted to take her place. I just wanted to lessen the void she may have left.

Sophie takes in the earnest statement.

SOPHIE

You could start by trying a different muffin recipe. They're kinda dry.

*
*
*

Karen chuckles

*

KAREN

I can do that.

*

Sophie cracks a smile.

SOPHIE

On that note. I think I'm going to head to bed.

KAREN

Yeah. Of course.

Sophie leaves but hides in the entry to the kitchen and looks back. Karen smiles to herself proud

*

First, Sophie heads for the library but changes course and heads toward the stairs. She leaves her walker at the bottom as she pulls herself up the stair case.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - SOPHIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Just being in the room makes Sophie feel more like her old self. Sophie uses the wall and various furniture to pull herself to bed but when she lands on her plush sheets the effort is worth it.

*

LATER

Lights out. Sophie's still awake. Sophie Opens her phone. The blue light bathes her face. She composes a text to Stephen: Wouldn't mind a little swim. He quickly responds: I'll be out front in 10. *

Sophie smiles. *

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT *

UNKNOWN POV-- They watch as Emma roams the halls of the closed school. In her hands, the locker info for Jacob. She finds it and searches his locker. It doesn't feel like anything spectacularly revealing about him until she finds one of the textbooks have false binding. *

Emma rips it open and finds a shocking sight. *

INT. JAMES HOUSE - SOPHIE'S ROOM - NIGHT *

Sophie watches from the window as Stephen's car pulls up, no lights or radio. A true stealth mission. She takes the stairs slow so they don't creak. She's about to head for the door when she hears the wheels on her walker squeak. She hobbles to get a stashed cane. *

EXT. JAMES HOUSE - NIGHT *

The slightly hilled driveway is harder for Sophie than she thinks. Stephen meets her halfway down the hill to help her. *

EXT. EMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT *

UNKNOWN POV -- They watch Emma enter her house and track her by the picture windows through the home to her room. We wait.

EXT. STEPHEN'S HOUSE - POOL - NIGHT

Stephen holds Sophie on her back to help her float.

SOPHIE

I can float by myself.

STEPHEN

Maybe I just want to hold you.

The Pair float peacefully in the water.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
Couldn't sleep?

SOPHIE
It's been a long day.

Comfortable silence fills the air.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Stephen, do you think I'm too crazy
to love?

STEPHEN
What?

SOPHIE
I kind of exploded at my dad today.
I freaked out on Vance, I know I
snap at Nikki a lot, and now with
my dad, I'm starting to wonder if
it's a pattern.

STEPHEN
Gentle isn't really your style
though, is it?

SOPHIE
What do you mean?

STEPHEN
I mean your personality can be
abrasive--

SOPHIE
Ouch.

STEPHEN
I just mean you're a woman who
knows what they want. Headstrong.
Relentless. Passionate. It's very
sexy. You like things done a
certain way and I can't fault you
for wanting perfection. I
understand that completely.

Sophie pulls Stephen in for a kiss. The kiss goes from sweet
to sensual as Sophie wraps herself around Stephen's waist.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
What do you want?

SOPHIE
Gentle.

INT. EMMA'S HOUSE - EMMA'S ROOM - EVENING

Emma changes into a sultry house robe, clueless to her voyeur.

INT. KELLY HOUSE - STEPHEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Stephen drops onto his bed with Sophie in his lap. The kisses continue. Sophie tries to put weight on her knee but winces.

STEPHEN

Let me.

Stephen lays Sophie down and tenderly undresses her.

INT. EMMA'S HOUSE - EMMA'S ROOM - NIGHT

UNKNOWN POV--They push open Emma's door to find her journaling in bed as she drinks from a large glass of wine .

EMMA

What are you doing here? Get out!

Emma reaches for her cell and tries to call Sophie. Their steps stride into the room. They pick up Emma's rifle.

EMMA (CONT'D)

I think you should leave.

They raise the rifle butt up and knock Emma unconscious. The phone falls away.

INT. KELLY HOUSE - STEPHEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sophie and Stephens fingers interlock as they share kisses and moans. Sophie's phone lay forgotten in the chaos.

INTERCUTTING QUICK CUTS:

-- The attacker strangles Emma. Life drains slowly from her eyes.

--Sophie and Stephen role in the sheets.

-- The attacker slings the rope over the chandelier that hangs above the bed.

-- Sophie and Stephen share deep eye contact. More bliss.

-- The attacker fashions a noose and hoists Emma's body up.

-- Sophie and Stephen cuddle.

INT. EMMA'S HOUSE - EMMA'S ROOM - NIGHT

The attacker gulps down the rest of the wine and leaves.

INT. STEPHEN'S HOUSE - STEPHEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Sophie's breaths match Stephen's. It's a sweet moment.

STEPHEN

I think I'm falling in love with
you.

Sophie's phone DINGS. She can't help but go rigid. She pushes *
up in bed, scanning the floor. *

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

Did I say too much?

SOPHIE

That's my phone, do you see it *
anywhere? *

STEPHEN

I just figured with the *
conversation in the pool-- *

SOPHIE

It could be important. *

STEPHEN

You're avoiding.

Sophie hears it tangled in the sheets. Sophie almost falls as *
she tries to find her phone. The sheets are a tangled mess. *

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

Soph? *

Sophie sets her phone free. *

SOPHIE

Got it! *

She has 3 voicemails from Emma. *

STEPHEN

Do you want me to take it back?

Sophie shushes Stephen and listens to the voicemail and her face drops. *

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
Because I don't think I can.

SOPHIE
We have to go. NOW.

She quickly dresses and hobbles out of the room, snatching Stephen's keys on the way out.

STEPHEN
And how come you didn't bring your walker?!

EXT. EMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sophie and Stephen pull up to the house. The light of Emma's room leaks onto the street. A SHADOWED FIGURE runs away.

SOPHIE
You see that?

Sophie climbs out of the car and Stephen follows. He knocks.

STEPHEN
What happened?

Sophie opens the door.

INT. EMMA'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Sophie hobbles inside and falls. Stephen helps her up.

SOPHIE
Emma!

No answer. Sophie heads for the stairs, overexerted.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
I will never complain about cardio ever again.

INT. EMMA'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sophie leans her bodyweight on the wall. She drags her feet.

STEPHEN
Sophie, what happened?

The door swings open revealing Emma's dead body hanging from the chandelier.

She wears the custom helmet. The bedazzled whistle hangs around her bruised neck.

Sophie screams and collapses into Stephen. Stephen makes a call.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
(stuttered)
Dad, we need your help.

DETECTIVE KELLY
What's up kiddo?

STEPHEN
Emma. She's dead. We need whoever you guys send for that sort of thing. Now.

Something clicks.

SOPHIE
Holy shit, it's a setup.

Stephen hangs up.

STEPHEN
What?

SOPHIE
Cant you see? Jacob is setting me up. But he didn't count on me showing up here with you as a witness. Oh fuck the helmet. My DNA. He was going to put me in prison. I can't go to prison, Stephen. The hard water is poison.

STEPHEN
What do you mean Jacob?

Sophie goes to sit but Stephen keeps her up. *

STEPHEN (CONT'D)
They'll want a pristine crime scene. *

EXT. EMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT *

Sophie and Stephen wait on the curb. *

STEPHEN *
What do you mean Jacob? *

SOPHIE *
What do you mean that you're *
falling for me? *

STEPHEN *
I didn't think it needed an *
explanation. *

SOPHIE *
Yeah, well, maybe it does! *

STEPHEN *
You're angry with me? *

SOPHIE *
As a matter of fact, I am. *

STEPHEN *
How? *

SOPHIE *
Look at where we are *

Stephen's confused. *

SOPHIE (CONT'D) *
I could have helped Emma if I was *
able to leave when I want. *

STEPHEN *
No one was holding you hostage. *

SOPHIE *
But I am not as able bodies as you *
might think. *

Red and Blue lights roll up the street. Detective Kelly jumps *
out. *

DETECTIVE KELLY *
Start from the beginning. *

INT. EMMA'S HOUSE - EMMA'S BEDROOM NIGHT *

The CSI UNIT combs the bedroom for clues. The coroner lowers *
Emma's corpse and bags her. *

*

STEPHEN (V.O.)

I took Sophie here. Ever since the threat she's been worried sick.

The FLASH of the cameras capture every inch of the bedroom. The whistle and helmet get tagged as evidence.

STEPHEN (V.O.)

When we came to check on her, this is what we found.

A UNIT MEMBER grabs a sample of blood from the rifle.

DETECTIVE KELLY (V.O.)

Did you see anything out of the ordinary?

SOPHIE (V.O.)

Actually--

STEPHEN (V.O.)

Not at all.

EXT. EMMA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Stephen stops Sophie from answering.

STEPHEN

If it's alright with you dad. I think I'm just going to take Sophie home.

DETECTIVE KELLY

I know where to find you.

INT. STEPHEN'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Sophie radiates frustration.

SOPHIE

What the hell was that? You know I saw Jacob.

STEPHEN

No. You saw something. You Don't know it was Jacob. I barely understand how Jacob is involved in this. And If it is Jacob, do you think dropping his name with police is going to make you any safer?

SOPHIE
I am not a liar.

STEPHEN
Trust me, I got a dose of that
earlier. It's fine to not be a
liar. You also don't have any
proof.

SOPHIE
I can prove it.

STEPHEN
How, Sophie?

SOPHIE
I need access to your dad's police
files.

INT. KELLY HOUSE - OFFICE - MORNING

Stephen accesses the police database.

STEPHEN
Lying is off the table but stealing
records is fine?

SOPHIE
Karen told me that when you get
stuck on the burden of proof you
look again at the beginning.

Stephen doesn't follow.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
The beginning of this whole thing
is my accident and the blue car.

STEPHEN
We looked into all the kids with
blue cars.

SOPHIE
But what if they aren't the owner?

ON MONITOR: Stephen pulls up the DMV database and pulls up
the blue registered cars in Meadow Valley.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Now filter out any smaller sedans.
It had to be a newer model so
nothing older than 3 years.

Stephen furiously types. It's a relatively small list.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Now cross reference any relatives
of students who go to our school.

It's only one name. WILLOW GIACOBBE. Jacob's cousin.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I told you I could prove it.

STEPHEN

You found a possible coincidence.

SOPHIE

Why are you being a dick?

STEPHEN

Do you regret sleeping with me?

SOPHIE

Don't be ridiculous.

STEPHEN

I don't think communication is
ridiculous. I told you I'm falling
for you. I don't regret it.

SOPHIE

I have to go.

STEPHEN

You are running away.

SOPHIE

I have a memorial to plan.

Sophie prints Willow's file and hobbles away.

STEPHEN

Sophie.

She doesn't even stop.

INT. KIERSTEN'S HOUSE - MORNING

The Color Guard huddle around Kiersten. Sophie lets herself
in. Sophie sees Kiersten's tear-soaked face for the first
time. She's dressed like a grieving widow.

SOPHIE

Guys I got it.

Sophie waves the file around. They all pour over the contents.

MARISOL
Not cool, dude.

NIKKI
How did you get this.

SOPHIE
This is a new development, but
Stephen's in love with me.

NIKKI
I'm trying to wrap my head around
the fact that you're telling me
Stephen loves you when your best
friend just died. I don't know how
I'm supposed to feel for you.

SOPHIE
Me neither.

RORY
So we go to the police.

SOPHIE
As Stephen Kelly pointed out to me
earlier. It's no smoking gun, so
not much will come from it but I
have an idea.

KIERSTEN
As interim captain I'd love to hear
it.

SOPHIE
The senior rally.

Sophie wedges in next to Kiersten and re-choreographs the show number on a napkin.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Imagine--

NIKKI
That looks ambitious.

Sophie whispers in Kiersten's ear.

KIERSTEN
I love it.

QUICK CUTS:

- Sophie helps the color Guard repaint their flag silks. They're angry.
- Sophie gets mobile on a cane.
- The team practice a new routine. Sophie's got her spark back. Jacob hangs around taking photos.
- Prom announcements go up. The voting ballots get put out.
- Stephen can't look at Sophie in class.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - HALLWAY

The bell RINGS and a sea of Students fill the halls. They're all headed to the gym.

Nikki stops at her locker to drop off books. Jacob approaches.

JACOB

Hey.

Nikki looks around, nervous.

NIKKI

Jacob, hey. Sophie hasn't changed her mind about the yearbook thing.

JACOB

I actually just came over here to give you this.

Jacob hands her a black and white rendition of the photo candid photo he took of her. It's beautiful.

Sophie, Rory and Kiersten walk arm in arm down the hall and see the exchange. Kiersten bursts into tears. Rory freezes. Sophie's pissed.

She walks over with grace and whacks Jacob in the shins absolutely on purpose.

SOPHIE

Fuck off, Jacob.

JACOB

Nikki and I were just talking.

And if looks could kill...

SOPHIE

Not anymore. Go near her or any of my team again and I will beat you to a bloody pulp.

She whirls her cane.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I've gotten pretty good hang of this.

Sophie drags Nikki away.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM

Students spill into the bleachers. Emma's parents, DON (50), a brick wall in a suit, and CAROLYN (45), a pinched face trophy wife, stand behind the podium in the middle of the floor.

Kiersten drags the Color Guard to sit in the front bleachers.

NIKKI

(whispers to Sophie)
What's happening.

SOPHIE

I had to call them.

The students settle and Carolyn taps the mic.

CAROLYN

As you all know, our daughter, Emma was tragically murdered last week. I want to thank you for your well wishes. We are heartbroken.

Sophie watches Carolyn. Her face, devoid of emotion. Carolyn steps back from the mic and Don steps in.

DON

We will not rest until the murderer has been found. And preferably tortured. Only never to be seen again.

Don clears his throat.

DON (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Fran takes over.

FRAN

Thank you, Mr. And Mrs. Madden.
Now, shall we move onto the senior
rally!

(she smiles nervously)

In honor of the dearly departed
Emma, may she rest in peace. Dani?

The Maddens take a seat in the bleachers. Dani's up next..

DANI

What's up lions! How you feeling?

Cricket. Detective Kelly steps into the gym.

DANI (CONT'D)

Before we get to the entertainment
I do believe it's time to announce
the prom court.

Roars of cheers.

DANI (CONT'D)

The queen court ladies are...Sophie
James, Kiersten Turset, Rory McVay,
and--Nicole James.

Sophie's thrown by the announcement but she's happy for her
sister.

SOPHIE

It's on, sis.

They hug. The court wave in jest to the students.

DANI

The king court gentlemen are...
Vance

DANI (CONT'D)

Help me welcome the Meadow Valley
dance team to the floor.

Dani claps alone.

The Dance Team performs to a Vivaldi trance remix. The
Students slowly get into it until the crowd goes nuts. Jacob
takes photos from every angle.

SOPHIE

How is this to honor Emma?

MARISOL

The music is kind of a vibe though.

FARREN

The thought counts for something.

Sophie cuts a glare to Farren.

FARREN (CONT'D)

I suppose. But you did find her body so that has to be devastating. I mean talk about trauma. What am I saying. Shutting up now. Sorry.

Nikki loops her arm with Sophie's.

FARREN (CONT'D)

Keep in mind this is the show you put together.

Nikki and the rest of the Color Guard run off to change. Confused, Sophie watches Dani usher the dancers off the floor.

DANI

Very moving. Four seasons is very reminiscing of Emma and her personalities am I right? We're going too pivot a little with some live music. Welcome Stephen Kelly's band, Stephen and Sons!

Stephen and his Band take the floor.

STEPHEN

Song's called *Girl with a Gun*.

Sophie tries to catch his eye. The performance starts. Loud electric guitars fill the gym. It's fun. It's catchy. It's an angry love song. Crowd goes wild. With the last chorus, Stephen glares at Sophie.

Finished, Stephen and the Band walk past Sophie as the Guard preps their floor.

SOPHIE

Stephen, please talk to me.

Stephen shakes her off.

STEPHEN

Can't. Too busy being pathetic.

The FLASH of Jacob's camera captures the heartbreak. Sophie glares at Jacob before her eyes fall on Nikki as she sets up her rifle and flag at the corner of the floor. Sophie sits back down.

The Guard take their places and begin the WWII show in a ripple of pirouettes atop a fake wall. The "battle" begins and drop spins turn to quad-tosses. They all leap across the floor. Bodies drop and play dead, then pick up swing flags. It's a choreographed chaos.

Sophie marks the steps from her seat. The Jocks love the violence, Monica, not so much. The final flag feature goes off without a hitch. They're in the closing sequence.

Sophie watches as Nikki climbs atop the false wall, takes off her helmet, and raises a white flag. She tugs on the silk and rips away the white fabric. Nikki's left proudly waving a black flag. No surrender.

The music fades.

KIERSTEN

We love you, Emma.

The Students rush the floor. Sophie tries to get to Stephen in the sea of Students. No luck. She spots the microphone. Sophie clears her throat and the celebration stops. She hangs her cane on the edge of the podium.

SOPHIE

I have something to say.

Everyone waits on baited breath.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

I'm a bitch.

Carolyn gasps.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Most of the time I try and make it charming but sometimes I'm just a bitch. I own that. This past week I outdid myself by hurting someone who has just been trying to help me ever since I got hurt. They deserve an apology. Stephen, I'm sorry. Will you forgive me? And maybe go to prom with me?

Sophie waits. Uncomfortable. The students watch with fervor.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Stephen?

The cane falls. Stephen looks up.

STEPHEN

No.

He walks out of the gym. Sophie's been rejected. Dani takes the mic.

DANI

Not the ending to the pep rally we were expecting, that's for sure. Lets all thank Nikki for putting the pep rally together--except for that last part.

The gym erupts into applause. Sophie sits back down.

DANI (CONT'D)

And now some parting words from out guidance counselor, Ms. Bello.

*

FRAN

My office will be open at any point should any of you want to talk through your feelings, given Emma's passing. I have cookies.

Fran cuts the volume to the Mic and students file out of the gym.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Sophie walks the opposite direction of her classmates.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GUIDANCE OFFICE - DAY

Fran's door sits wide open. She holds a tray of cookies Sophie takes a cookie and seat.

FRAN

How can I help you Ms. James?

SOPHIE

My life sucks. I want to die.

Fran panics.

FRAN

Oh my.

SOPHIE

I mean not actually, but like emotionally, I'm dead. Do you understand me?

FRAN
Why do you say that?

SOPHIE
You mean aside from being rejected
in front of the whole school?

FRAN
That made me very sad for you.

SOPHIE
All my friends hate me and blame
for Emma's death.

FRAN
Did you kill Emma.

SOPHIE
Of course not.

FRAN
Then don't worry about it. Another
cookie?

SOPHIE
I don't feel counseled.

FRAN
Sophie, would it make you feel
better if I told you that you won
prom queen? You're not supposed to
know but you look like you could
use the pick me up.

Frustrated, Sophie tips the tub of cookies and storms out.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Sophie gets a Snap message: **Awww is little Sophie sad she got
rejected? Don't worry, I'll dance with you. On your grave.**

SOPHIE
(to herself)
Okay, no more playing nice.

Sophie slams her locker and walks away. Slamming her cane
with every step.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - SOPHIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sophie pages through her senior yearbook. Nikki walks in.

NIKKI

It's good to see you back in your room.

SOPHIE

The stairs don't kill so bad anymore.

NIKKI

That's good.

(beat)

I'm sorry about the pep rally.

SOPHIE

Not your fault.

Nikki looks at her sad sister. Nikki gets down on one knee and--

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing.

NIKKI

Shh. I'm promposing. Sophie, do you want to go to prom with me? Sister solidarity.

SOPHIE

If I say yes will you get off the floor?

NIKKI

Perhaps.

SOPHIE

Then I accept.

Nikki stands and goes to leave.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Hey Nik.

Nikki glances over.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

NIKKI

You shouldn't. I mainly just wanted to car pool.

Nikki CACKLES. Sophie throws a pillow at the door.

QUICK CUTS:

--Sophie and Nikki go prom dress shopping.

--They run into Kiersten who gives them the stink eye the entire time they peruse the racks.

--Farren follows Kiersten around, holding a stack of dresses.

--Sophie and Nikki try on so many gowns. Frilly gowns. Plain gowns. Conservative. Risqué. It's actually kind of sweet.

--Sophie and Nikki run into Rory in a new store, only she runs away.

--The last store. The girls come out of their dressing rooms. The gowns are perfect. They wait in line to purchase when Sophie sees Jacob trying to hide from her.

--Sophie rushes Nikki out of the store.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sophie stands on the couch ottoman as Karen pins the hem of the dress.

KAREN

I thought you said the dress was perfect.

SOPHIE

Being vertically challenged is a lifelong struggle.

(beat)

Where did you learn to sew. You're a lawyer.

KAREN

I am a lawyer who took a home ec. Class or two.

SOPHIE

Who knew you were layered?

INT. JAMES HOUSE - SOPHIE'S ROOM - DAY

Sophie and Nikki get ready for prom. Sophie walks the short distance to help Nikki put on her dress, leaving her cane.

Karen bursts into the room.

KAREN

How exciting. I remember my prom.

Karen hastily takes photos of the Girls. Sophie blocks the shots she tries to take of her.

SOPHIE
Karen...stooooop

Sophie holds several non-pose poses.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Ok. I'm done.

Sophie turns Karen's lens on Nikki.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Go nuts.

Greyson wanders into her room.

KAREN
Oh, honey, don't the girls look stunning.

GREYSON
Stunning.

SOPHIE
If you'd look at me then maybe I'd believe that.

Sophie laughs as she passes Greyson out of the room.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Come on, Nik.

Nikki follows after Sophie, flashing her parents a sheepish smile.

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH - EVENING

The parade of limos drop the teens off. Sophie watches Nikki giggle at her phone. The boyfriend again.

INT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - EVENING

Sophie and Nikki walk into the transformed gym.

The room has transformed into Marie Antoinette's France. Decadent pastries surround the gym. Dandy dress. Definitely not what she wanted. There is even a guillotine.

SOPHIE
What the hell was Dani thinking?

NIKKI

I kind of like it.

Nikki passes a waiter dressed for the french court. They walk to any empty table. A parent CHAPERONE, unaware of Sophie's attuned ears walks by. *

CHAPERONE *

I brought protection, can never be too careful, given what happened to Emma. These kids are my responsibility tonight. *

Interesting.

NIKKI

Shall we dance?

SOPHIE *

I want to find Dani first. *

Sophie maneuvers through the throngs of people, using her cane to keep the people from touching her. She finds her. *

SOPHIE (CONT'D) *

Dani what the hell. We had decided on a one night in Paris theme. *

DANI *

There was a small hiccup. *

Sophie waits. *

DANI (CONT'D) *

There is a sex tape titled one night in Paris. Honor board wouldn't let it fly. *

SOPHIE *

So you picked pre-revoluton France? *

DANI *

Yes. Enjoy the guillotine. *

It felt like a big F-U. *

Sophie returns to the table. *

NIKKI *

Feel better now? *

SOPHIE *

I do. *

NIKKI

You sure you don't want to dance?

SOPHIE

No. I'm good. But don't hold back
on my account.

Nikki lights up.

NIKKI

Okay, man the table.

Nikki slips into the dense pack of dancers. Nikki's left her
bag behind. Now is Sophie's chance.

She finds Nikki's phone and starts going through text
threads. She opens the latest message thread, she just wants
to see what he looks like.

She scrolls and scrolls until she finds one, finally! Nikki's
boyfriend is Jacob.

Rage builds in Sophie as all the pieces come together. She
has to tell Stephen. She rushes to the stage where Stephen's
band plays except Dani interrupts.

Dani clamors to the mic on stage.

DANI

Who's ready to crown the prom king
and queen?

SOPHIE

What the F--

DANI

Great. Her we go.

The crowd cheers. Dani opens the first envelope.

DANI (CONT'D)

And Meadow valley's senior prom
king is...

Dani imitates a drum roll.

DANI (CONT'D)

Vance Becker.

The Crowd parts as Vance accepts the crown in the most
obnoxious way.

DANI (CONT'D)

Now, Meadow Valley's prom queen
is...

A collective squeal fills the gym. Nikki looks for Sophie.
Dani opens the envelope.

DANI (CONT'D)

Sophie James.
(muttering to herself)
Seriously?

Sophie stands next to Vance on stage. Sophie takes off the
crown and approaches the mic. *

SOPHIE *

I cannot accept this crown. *
Meadow Valley has brought me a lot *
of memories in these four years. *
Some of which, I'll cherish. All of *
which I'll never forget. *

Sophie eyes Vance. *

SOPHIE (CONT'D) *

Like Vance. He and I were together *
for three years. I'll never forget *
having to finish myself off after *
every time we had sex. You really *
have to lay off the steroids. It's *
not doing great things for your *
package. *

The Students laugh. Sophie turns her sights on Kiersten. *

SOPHIE (CONT'D) *

Such a pretty girl you are Kiersten *
but no one can forget that you're *
not a natural blonde. Own it. *

Kiersten cries. Rory's laugh breaks through. *

SOPHIE (CONT'D) *

Rory, I want to thank you for *
sticking by me... even though we *
both know it's because you don't *
have an original thought in that *
little head of yours. A good little *
lemming. *

Rory stops laughing. *

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

All of you are actually awful people. Except for Stephen. Stephen cares for people and not just for what people can give him. He's genuinely that kind.

Sophie locks onto Stephen.

One person out of a four hundred person class--well, three hundred and ninety eight since Emma kicked the bucket and Jacob's in jail but still--shit odds. We're supposed to represent Meadow Valley values. What are our values anyway? You all pretended to be my friend, when the truth is you all hated me. None of you had the guts to be honest to my face

Sophie looks to Nikki.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Not her, me.

Principal Lemon walks up to the mic.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Uh-uh. You wouldn't want to rush a crippled girl of stage. That's ableist.

He backs down.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Which brings me to my sister, Nikki. Nikki, come up here a minute!

Sophie is all smiles an Nikki walks through the crowd. Nikki makes it to the stage and Sophie puts the crown on her. They hug and before sophie pulls away she seethes in her ear.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Wear this with pride because people would kill to be you.

With a death grip on Nikki, she continues.

What I admire most about Nikki is her determination.

(MORE)

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

She gets an idea in her head and
she sees it through. It's how she
got the grades to be
valedictorian... It's how she
almost killed me.

An eerie silence fills the room.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Nikki had seduced Jacob into
running me off the road so I could
die just like my mother did.
Desperate to be an only child
somebody was playing the long con.
Isn't that right, Nikki?

NIKKI

Soph, I would never.

SOPHIE

Oh shut up. Tell the truth. You so
desperately want to be me but the
truth is you'll always be the
bastard love child. No amount of
murder could cover up that stain,
could it?

NIKKI

You bitch--

Nikki attacks Sophie. Sophie goes for the Chaperone's gun.
Nikki chases Sophie, chaos ensues. Stephen calls his dad.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

You're always in the way, Sophie.
No one else can ever have anything
as long as you're around. Now I'll
get to have it all.

SOPHIE

High school is over, I think you'll
want bigger dreams than Color Guard
captain.

NIKKI

You know, it was almost easier to
try and kill you with Jacob's car?

SOPHIE

Doesn't make this any less
pathetic.

Sophie tackles the chaperone but instead of a gun he finds
pepper spray.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Are you kidding?

CHAPERONE
I would have never brought a gun to
school are you crazy?

The Girls get into a nasty catfight mixed with pepper spray
Stephen tries to get between them.

NIKKI
My god, she doesn't love you.
Sophie is still the same self-
centered witch she's always been.
You'll never have a real
relationship.

STEPHEN
I'll take my chances.

NIKKI
Sophie, Sophie, Sophie. It was one
teensy little sororicide attempt.

Nikki stand and coughs, powering through the pepper spray.
Nikki clicks her teeth.

Sophie tries to keep Nikki at bay with the pepper spray. It
doesn't stop her. Nikki smacks the canister from her hand.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
Would you stop that!

Nikki gets Sophie in strangle. The students stand by too
afraid to do anything.

Nikki drags Sophie's body toward a table and holds her down.

NIKKI (CONT'D)
You're always in the way, Sophie.
No one else can ever have anything
as long as you're around. Now I'll
get to have it all.

SOPHIE
High school is over, I think you'll
want bigger dreams than Color Guard
captain.

Sophie slips a knife from the table and impales the knife
into the table through Nikki's hand. She rips the knife out.

NIKKI

I intend to live my best life. That
life doesn't include you.
Who's pathetic now?

*
*

Stephen tosses Sophie his guitar. She knocks Nikki out cold.

*

SOPHIE

Still you.

*

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

*

Adrenaline fading Sophie stumbles. Stephen catches her and
carries her outside.

*

EXT. MEADOW VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

A PARAMEDIC wraps Sophie's arm.

SOPHIE

Thank you.

PARAMEDIC

I'll be back with a sling.

Stephen carries the forgotten prom queen crown and approaches
Sophie. Kiersten and the Color Guard get there first.

KIERSTEN

Oh my god, Sophie we're so sorry
this happened to you.

Sophie flashes a fake smile.

RORY

I knew we should have never let her
on the team.

FARREN

That was crazy. It was like a
movie. Watching it, I mean. Being
on the receiving end of that must
have been so scary though.

JADE

A decent fight. 7/10.

MARISOL

I have some killer CBD drops for
the pain if you want them.

KIERSTEN

Come to the after party with us.
You deserve to have a fun prom. All
things considered.

RORY

What do you say?

SOPHIE

I think I'll have to pass. I've had
enough excitement for a lifetime.

KIERSTEN

If you change your mind. Call me.

SOPHIE

I won't.

KIERSTEN

But if you do...

The Color Guard walk away and pile into a limo.

Stephen approaches, still clutching the crown.

STEPHEN

I don't know about the high school
prom queen line of succession but I
am pretty sure this belongs to you.

Stephen places the crown on her head.

Sophie grabs for Stephen's hand. His other caresses her face.
Their shared silence speaks volumes.

The Color Guard's limo pulls up closer. The sounds of popped
bottles and laughs float over to the couple.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

You sure you don't want to go?

Sophie takes off the crown and pulls Stephen in for a soul-
binding, earth shattering, most perfect kiss.

Sophie pulls back.

SOPHIE

I'm sure.

Stephen's soft smirk is everything.

FADE OUT

*

