Total Wreck

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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

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

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:

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Apr 27, 2022
Date

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Patricia K. Meyer
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
Riiiight.

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? *(to greyson)*

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 come 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: \textit{I’m on my way. Got caught up at school.}
Sophie leans into the gas, willing the red lights, green.

\textbf{SOPHIE}
\textit{Come on.}
Sophie tries Dad again as she speeds up.

INT. JEFFERY’S - EVENING
Sophie’s guests start to arrive. Karen shoves Greyson’s ping in her purse.

INT. SOPHIE’S CAR - MOVING - EVENING
A text to Nikki: \textit{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.

\textbf{SOPHIE}
\textit{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.

\textbf{GREYSON}
\textit{Where is your sister?}

\textbf{KAREN}
\textit{No rush, Emma’s not even here yet.}

\textbf{NIKKI}
\textit{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.


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 backpercocets 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 won’t suspect a thing. Let’s 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 can’t 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 dingy 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 NIKKI
We gotta talk to dad. 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 oneeee 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 can’t 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)
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.

Why her and not me?

Greyson’s eyes pierce Sophie’s.

That’s not true.

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.

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.

I can’t get up.

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

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 cliche 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 Stepheńs 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
    Can’t 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?

Crickets. 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. Let’s 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 our 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 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...stoooop

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-revolution 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 as 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 (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 *