

In Winter

In Winter

Thesis Title

Vic Snow

Author's Name

December 1, 2020

Date

Jackson College of Graduate Studies at the University of Central Oklahoma

A THESIS APPROVED FOR

Master of Arts in Creative Writing

By

Rebecca Quoss-
Moore

Digitally signed by Rebecca
Quoss-Moore
Date: 2020.12.01 16:40:30 -06'00'

Committee Chairperson

Jesse Williams, Jr.,
Ph.D.

Digitally signed by Jesse
Williams, Jr., Ph.D.
Date: 2020.12.02 09:53:17 -06'00'

Committee Member



Committee Member

Committee Member

IN WINTER

Written by

v.c.snow

FADE IN:

EXT. TYLER, TEXAS - SUNNY HILLS MENTAL HOSPITAL - ENTRANCE - DAY

Dreary. Dead grass, a chain-linked fence wrapped around the facility, a downer. BILLIE WINTERS, eighteen and overweight, wears men's clothes and blue hospital socks. Smokes a joint, her bag of belongings beside her.

BILLIE

About damn time.

A beat-up 1990s SEDAN, windows rolled down, pulls up to the side of the road. Parks with perfect precision.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

You're late.

NICOLE GONZALEZ, around Billie's age, gets out of the passenger side, wearing a shirt with a cat on it and massive high-heels on her feet.

NICOLE

They insisted on driving.

WALTER JONES, also eighteen, dressed in more black than Avril Lavigne in 2006, gets out of the driver side.

WALTER

We would've wrecked had you driven us, Nicole.

Billie slings the bag in the backseat of the car.

WALTER (CONT'D)

They let you keep a joint?

BILLIE

You get to know people after spending six months with them.

NICOLE

It's good to see you, Billie. Can I get a hug?

BILLIE

Thanks for asking.

INT. PAULA'S COUNTRY DINER

General store vibes. Waitresses dressed in navy. Billie, Nicole, and Walter sit in a booth surrounded by senior patrons.

WALTER

Spill it.

NICOLE

We don't have to talk about it.

WALTER

Yes, the hell we do. I must know, Billie, what living in a mental hospital is like.

BILLIE

They took out my piercings.

NICOLE

Even the tongue?

BILLIE

All of them. How am I supposed to hurt myself with a tongue piercing?

CUTE WAITRESS, a teenaged country gal, arrives with a pen and paper.

NICOLE

I cleaned your room for you.

CUTE WAITRESS

Can I get y'all something to drink?

BILLIE

You know I don't like people touching my stuff.

NICOLE

I thought it'd be better if I did it instead of your mom.

BILLIE

We both know my mom wouldn't have bothered.

Digs her nails into her arm.

CUTE WAITRESS

What can I get y'all to drink?

NICOLE
Billie?

BILLIE
Oh, um, three Dr Peppers.

WALTER
Actually, I'll have water.

BILLIE
Since when?

WALTER
Since I learned it prevents wrinkles.

CUTE WAITRESS
I'll be right back.

Rests her hand on Billie's shoulder.

CUTE WAITRESS (CONT'D)
You let me know if you need anything!

Cute Waitress saunters off.

NICOLE
She's pretty.

WALTER
(surveys the menu)
They have strawberry lemonade,
perfect for quenching thirst.

Billie kicks Walter. Hard.

WALTER (CONT'D)
Rude. I'd do her, but she seems
like more your type.

BILLIE
You're gay.

WALTER
Queer, dear. All genders are
spectacular.

BILLIE
That's new.

Cute Waitress comes back to the table with a tray full of drinks, passes them out, leaves.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Did Charlotte ask about me?

NICOLE
(hides behind menu)
Once.

WALTER
She's still a bitch.

BILLIE
Tell me.

NICOLE
It doesn't matter.

Billie plays with her unopened straw.

BILLIE
Don't do that shit.

NICOLE
Trust us.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Seedy. Lights from a single light on. A bong and alcohol bottles clutter the floor. Billie stops inside. LYLA, mid-forties, snores while lying atop the torn-up couch with a lit cigarette in her hand.

BILLIE
Hi, Momma.

LYLA
Billie?

Billie grabs the cigarette and puts it out, placing a blanket over Lyla and kissing her forehead.

INT. BILLIE'S ROOM

Depressing. Billie flips on the light switch and throws the bag onto the bed, her skateboard propped up in the corner. She walks to the messy desk and picks up a pill bottle.

PILL BOTTLE

"Billie Winters. Zoloft. Take once daily."

RESUME ACTION: Billie puts the pill bottle down.

BILLIE

At least she didn't go through my stuff.

Billie trudges towards the bed and finds a BLOOD-STAINED RAZOR behind the trashcan.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Dammit.

EXT. ROAD - EARLY MORNING

Heavy traffic on the main road. Billie skateboards with no helmet on the sidewalk. Rides by a gas-station.

GAS-STATION SIGN

"Grand Opening!"

RESUME ACTION: Billie keeps riding through a red light and A into the intersection. Tires SCREECH and HONK at Billie.

IMAGINATION

The car PLOWS into Billie. She lies lifeless on the road, her broken skateboard beside her.

RESUME ACTION: Billie continues riding down the street and gets back on the sidewalk.

BILLIE

Fuck you too, asshole!

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Stuffed. Shitty lighting. School activity posters on the walls. Billie crams her skateboard into her locker, digs into her backpack, and hides a pack of razor-blades inside the locker. Nicole approaches.

NICOLE

How are you?

BILLIE

You don't have to ask me that every five seconds.

NICOLE
You don't have to be a dick.

BILLIE
Sorry.

NICOLE
It's fine. You haven't seen --

BILLIE
Don't you two ride together?

NICOLE
They're probably in the bathroom
fixing their makeup. Found a zit
this morning. It was a whole thing.

Billie slams the locker door shut. Walter struts toward
Billie and Nicole.

WALTER
Your favorite Indigenous queer is
here, beautiful as ever!

BILLIE
I thought I was the favorite queer.

WALTER
Honey, you wish.

BILLIE
Your pimple's oozing.

Walter gives Billie the finger.

INT. CAFETERIA - LUNCH

Overcrowded. Billie sits at a table. CHARLOTTE BANKS, the
high school version of Naomi Campbell, sits at a full table
beside SAM, a seventeen-year-old skaterboy type with an artsy
flare.

SAM
Hey, guys.

Charlotte kisses Sam, tongue and all.

CHARLOTTE
Hey, baby.

BILLIE'S TABLE

Billie grips the table.

BILLIE

Of course. Of course Charlotte's
still seeing him.

Walter and Nicole sit down next to Billie with trays of food.

NICOLE

I forgot how long the lunch line
takes. All for some shitty chicken
nuggets.

BEGIN INTERCUT

Charlotte and Sam full-on make out.

NICOLE

(takes Billie's hand)
Look at me.

Billie pulls away and storms off.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Billie, wait.

With her tray, Billie marches toward Charlotte's table as
Charlotte and Sam come up for air.

END INTERCUT

Charlotte caresses Sam's shoulder.

SAM

The dyke is out of the looney-bin.

BILLIE

It's not 1950; homophobia doesn't
make you hot shit.

SAM

Screwing your mom at Night Trips
does.

BILLIE

She told me how small your dick
was.

Sam's friends laugh. He pounds his fist on the table. Writhes
his shoulder free from Charlotte's hands and stands.

SAM

Normally, I wouldn't hit a girl,
but you don't look like one, so...

BILLIE

Transphobia, too? You found
yourself a real winner here,
Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Enough, both of you.

BILLIE

You heard your wife. You better sit
down or else you won't get head
later.

SAM

She does what I tell her to!

BILLIE

How charming!

Charlotte rises, rushes between Billie and Sam. Nicole
sprints toward Billie.

CHARLOTTE

The SRO is on his way over here.

Nicole arrives.

NICOLE

(grabs Billie's hand)
Let's go.

Billie retracts her hand as Sam takes a seat.

SAM

I wouldn't hit a mental case
anyway.

Charlotte takes Billie's wrist.

CHARLOTTE

Just go, Billie.

Sits down next to Sam as Billie walks away.

SAM

Unbalanced Billie, that's what I'll
call you.

Billie turns back, and "trips". The food on the tray lands
all over Sam's crisp white t-shirt.

SAM (CONT'D)
Are you serious right now?

BILLIE
My bad.

CHARLOTTE
God, what a psycho.

INT. WOMEN'S RESTROOM

Grungy. Graffiti covers the walls. Billie sobs in front of the mirror. She lifts her sleeves, revealing FRESH SCARS on her wrists and arms. She unzips her backpack, takes out a new razor-blade, and puts it back inside the backpack.

INT. HALLWAY

Billie opens her locker door, finds a picture with a note on the back.

PICTURE

Charlotte laughing as Billie kisses her on the cheek.

RESUME ACTION: Billie flips the picture over.

BACK OF THE PICTURE

"I never stopped caring about you."

RESUME ACTION: Billie slams the locker door closed and takes the picture at each top corner to tear it. She stops. Folds it with care. Slips it inside her shirt pocket.

EXT. LAKE ROBINSON - PARKING AREA - SHORE - NIGHT

Calm. Weeds and overgrown plants extend into the water. Billie, Nicole, and Walter sit on a blanket covering pebbles. Billie sips a beer as Walter pulls another one out of a cooler. A couple make out across the lot.

WALTER
Think we can ask them for some
weed? They seem nice.

BILLIE
I think they're a little
preoccupied.

WALTER
That's unfortunate.

Walter and Billie belly laugh. Nicole puts a different fuzzy blanket across her lap.

NICOLE
I met this guy the other day in my
psychology class.

WALTER
I bet he's not better looking than
me.

Billie chugs the rest of her beer.

WALTER (CONT'D)
Are you dating?

NICOLE
Just texting right now.

BILLIE
I hope he's not an ass. Seriously.

NICOLE
I think you guys would like him.

They all lie down next to each other.

WALTER
My parents told me that they're not
going to pay for college. None of
it. Not even my textbooks.

BILLIE
Parents suck.

WALTER
"You know, son, getting a spot on
Broadway is impossible. We're not
paying for a useless degree."

NICOLE
That's ridiculous. You're their
child.

WALTER

I'm their son that's trying to be edgy by using gender-neutral pronouns.

BILLIE

Screw them. They don't know shit about you.

Billie grabs another beer, opens it, offers it to Nicole. Nicole refuses. Billie takes a sip.

WALTER

Not only do I need to get into an arts school, but I also need a scholarship.

BILLIE

Here.

Billie takes out a rolled joint from her jacket pocket and hands it to Walter. Billie's jacket sleeve rolls up a little bit, revealing scars.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

I was going to be selfish and smoke it later, but it seems like you need it more.

WALTER

You're my bestest friend in the whole wide world.

NICOLE

We love you, Billie. You know that, right?

Billie rolls the sleeve down.

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Grimy. Charlotte, DANA, a senior with 1995 Alicia Silverstone hair, and PRISCILLA, a seventeen-year-old basic-bitch, stand by the showers, in the midst of talking shit. Billie walks in.

DANA

I don't know why she bothers with finishing school.

Billie changes into her gym clothes.

PRISCILLA

It takes a lot of strength after
being in a mental hospital.

CHARLOTTE

I worry, you know?

PRISCILLA

She has, like, a crush on you or
something.

DANA

Oh, I noticed in Algebra last year.

CHARLOTTE

I don't know how to let her down
easy without sending her into a
mental ward again.

Billie slams the gym locker door shut.

BILLIE

What can I say? Fake-ass gay girls
are my kink.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - LUNCH - Billie
sits with Walter and Nicole. A group of students hang up fall
decorations. Walter and Nicole talk, MOS. Charlotte and Sam
make out. Billie digs a pencil into her thigh.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - BILLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT - Billie jolts
awake. Screams into her pillow, MOS.

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY - Students
decorate the hall for Halloween. Billie walks by Charlotte.
They say nothing to each other. Billie digs her nails into
her arm.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - Billie and Lyla sit
on the couch, watching a movie. Billie on her phone.

PHONE SCREEN - INSTAGRAM POST

Charlotte and Sam pose together in front of a restaurant. The
caption reads, "So happy to spend time with this handsome
man".

RESUME ACTION: Billie storms off.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - BILLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT - Billie startles awake in a sweat. She grabs a razor from under her pillow.

END MONTAGE

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Cramped. Bell RINGS. Billie trudges down the hallway through the mass of students. Walter hurries towards her.

WALTER
There's a Halloween party at
Charlotte's lake house on Saturday.

BILLIE
Yeah.

WALTER
I totally understand if you don't
want to go.

BILLIE
Nicole isn't?

Billie and Walter dodge incoming traffic of sweaty high schoolers.

WALTER
She's going with that boy of hers.

BILLIE
I doubt Charlotte would want me
there.

WALTER
Everyone can come.

BILLIE
Here's the thing, I don't want to
go.

Billie approaches the classroom door. The next bell RINGS.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
I'm going to class.

WALTER
Don't make me go alone.

INT. LAKE ROBINSON - CHARLOTTE'S LAKE HOUSE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Grand. Lakefront view. RAP MUSIC blares over the speakers. High school students drink liquor and smoke weed. Billie and Walter enter, both dressed as cartoon characters.

WALTER
Let's find the drinks.

Dana approaches.

DANA
Who are you two supposed to be?

BILLIE
Zuko and Katara. Obviously.

DANA
From the kid's show?

BILLIE
I thought I saw that stick up your ass. Can you be useful and tell us where the alcohol is?

DANA
Kitchen. Don't break anything. Charlotte's parents can't know about this party.

BILLIE
Whatever.

Billie shoves Dana aside as she and Walter head towards the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Lavish. Appliances seem untouched. Beer, liquor, red plastic cups, and plastic shot glasses decorate the table. Billie pours vodka into two shot glasses and hands one to Walter.

BILLIE
This is about to be ass.

WALTER
Just shoot it back.

BILLIE
Count of three.

Walter shoots it back with ease and pours themselves another.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Damn it, Walter!

Billie shoots it back, coughs, gags.

WALTER
What a baddie.

INT. FAMILY ROOM

Smoky. Big TV, nice couches, a karaoke machine set up. Students take turns SINGING. Billie plops down on an open couch, the same one as KYLE, an eighteen-year-old nerdy hipster.

KYLE
Hey, someone's sitting there.

BILLIE
There's a seat in the middle.

KYLE
Yeah, but we want the whole couch.

BILLIE
I guess it sucks to suck, huh?

KYLE
You don't need to be such a --

BILLIE
(squares up while seated)
Finish that sentence, I dare you.

Nicole arrives with two plastic cups in her hand. Sits between Billie and Kyle.

NICOLE
You guys met!

BILLIE
You're the boy?

NICOLE
His name's Kyle.

BILLIE
I'm Billie. You know, the best friend since elementary.

NICOLE

(waves)

Leslie! I'm going to go say hi. Be right back.

Nicole rises, crawls over Kyle. Kyle slaps her ass. Nicole looks uncomfortable.

KYLE

Sorry about earlier. I didn't mean to be a douchebag.

BILLIE

It's whatever.

KYLE

Think I can meet Walter when he comes back?

BILLIE

They.

KYLE

What?

BILLIE

Walter uses they/them pronouns.

KYLE

(takes a sip of his drink)
Funny.

BILLIE

I guess I missed the joke.

Nicole returns and sits next to Kyle. He puts his arm around her shoulders.

NICOLE

I'll introduce you to Walter later.

BILLIE

You might wanna hold off on that.

Walter comes up to the three of them. Holds a shot glass full of liquor. Throws it back.

WALTER

Y'all better cheer my ass on.

NICOLE

Naturally.

KYLE

I'm Kyle. It's nice to finally meet you.

WALTER

Prepare to be blown by Native excellence.

Walter struts to the karaoke machine. Grabs the microphone. INTRO MUSIC PLAYS. Walter begins to SING. Gorgeous, as good as a professional singer. Everyone in the audience SINGS with them. Billie and Nicole CHEER and SCREAM. Walter dances.

BILLIE

Get it, you nasty bitch!

KYLE

Gotta admit, he can sing.

NICOLE

It's they, babe.

KYLE

Oh, I didn't know.

Billie storms off.

NICOLE

Where are you going?

BILLIE

(walking away)
To take a piss.

Kyle pulls Nicole in for a lingering kiss.

EXT. PORCH

Chilly. Fancy decorations. Teens surround a fire pit. Billie holds a red plastic cup and sits on a lawn chair. Charlotte comes outside through the sliding glass door.

CHARLOTTE

Billie. It's good to see you.

BILLIE

(stands)
I don't want anyone to think I'm stalking you.

CHARLOTTE

Please, don't act like this.

Charlotte sits on an outdoor futon.

BILLIE

I'm not drunk enough for this shit.

Walks away.

CHARLOTTE

I didn't think you would come.

BILLIE

I'm leaving.

Charlotte grabs Billie's arm.

CHARLOTTE

Don't. Please. Can we go somewhere
and talk?

Walter arrives via the sliding door.

WALTER

Do you ever check your phone?

BILLIE

When I feel like it.

WALTER

Something happened.

CHARLOTTE

(sashaying away)
I'll wait over by the pool.

BILLIE

Not a good time, Walter.

WALTER

Can we please go?

BILLIE

I can't right now.

WALTER

Please!

BILLIE

I'm sorry that someone used the
wrong pronoun for the millionth
time, but I have some real shit I
need to deal with.

Billie leaves a silent Walter by themselves.

EXT. POOL

In ground with clear blue water made bluer by shining pool lights. Charlotte sits cross-legged on the pool's edge. Billie kicks off her shoes, rolls up her pant legs, and dips her feet into the pool.

CHARLOTTE

My friends confronted me about you.
I didn't know what to say.

BILLIE

How about the truth?

CHARLOTTE

It's not that easy.

BILLIE

Because you're a straight girl who experimented? So terrifying.

CHARLOTTE

You really don't know anything.

BILLIE

Am I wrong?

Silence.

CHARLOTTE

I was worried about you.

BILLIE

Congratulations. Better?

CHARLOTTE

Why are you always an asshole when things get tough?

Billie pulls out her vape from her pant pocket and takes a hit.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I don't know why I care.

BILLIE

Hooking up with Sam behind my back really says you care.

CHARLOTTE

Let's not do this right now.

Billie extracts her feet from the pool, splashing water on Charlotte.

BILLIE
Let's never.

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Overcrowded. Nicole rushes toward Billie while dodging other teenagers, almost slamming into her.

NICOLE
Are you okay?

BILLIE
Yeah. Where's Walter?

NICOLE
They said they were still hungover.

BILLIE
That hasn't stopped them before.

NICOLE
You haven't seen Trina's Snapchat story from the party.

BILLIE
No?

Billie takes out her phone from her denim jacket pocket.

NICOLE
Don't.

PHONE SCREEN - TRINA'S STORY

A drunken Charlotte gives a lap dance to a guy not named Sam, chugging vodka straight from the bottle. Dances with another guy, laughs, takes off her blouse and begins to unfasten her bra.

RESUME ACTION: Billie slips her phone back into her jacket pocket.

BILLIE
Guess I left too soon.

NICOLE
You're not upset?

BILLIE
She can do whatever she wants.

Charlotte passes by. Arrives at her locker. Opens it. Students glance at Charlotte. Whisper, MOS. Sam marches toward Charlotte. Slams the locker door shut. Traps her against the locker with his body.

SAM
You wanna explain?

CHARLOTTE
It was just a party.

Charlotte tries to walk away. Sam nudges her back with his shoulder.

SAM
Looked like it was more than that.

Students form around the couple.

CHARLOTTE
I was drunk and just having fun.
Jesus Christ, Sam.

SAM
Clearly.

Charlotte tries to shove Sam aside. Sam snatches her wrist.

CHARLOTTE
Can we not do this here?

SAM
You should've thought of that
before whoring around.

SAM
spits on Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE
slaps Sam.

ADULT
makes his way through the crowd.

SAM
releases Charlotte's wrist.

SAM (CONT'D)
We'll talk about this later.

CHARLOTTE
Fuck you.

Charlotte storms away, the crowd dispersing. Billie follows the emerging path. Catches up with Charlotte.

BILLIE
Are you okay?

CHARLOTTE
Don't ever think you can talk to me, Unbalanced Billie.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - FOOD COURT - DAY

50s theme. Booths shaped like classic American cars. Billie meets Nicole. They sit across each other inside a knockoff Ford Mustang booth.

BILLIE
I wish Walter came. That bitch.

NICOLE
Something seems off with them.

Kyle walks towards them.

BILLIE
I thought it was just supposed to be us.

NICOLE
He insisted.

BILLIE
Do you do everything he wants?

Kyle takes a seat beside Nicole.

KYLE
Nice to see you again, Billie.

BILLIE
A pleasure.

Billie leaves.

NICOLE
Where are you going?

BILLIE (O.S.)
To take a piss.

INT. CLOTHING STORE

Hipster employees stock shelves. Billie and Nicole explore the clearance rack.

NICOLE
Walter doesn't ride with me to school anymore.

BILLIE
What happened?

NICOLE
I didn't really have time for watching them sing, if you know what I mean.

BILLIE
Unfortunately.

Nicole picks out a crop-top and puts it up against her chest. Stands in front of a mirror. Looks at the price tag. Puts it back on the rack.

NICOLE
Dad is donating plasma to pay for the electric.

BILLIE
(grabbing the top)
I'll get it.

NICOLE
You don't have to do that.

BILLIE
I got fifty dollars from a freshman for a paper last week.

Nicole gives Billie a side hug. Billie brushes her off, patting Nicole's shoulder instead. Kyle arrives, modeling basic-looking Vans.

KYLE
Babe, what do you think?

BILLIE
They match your boring white boy personality.

Nicole cackles.

NICOLE
(embracing his neck)
They're great, babe.

Kyle ducks out of Nicole's arms.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
That's just Billie. It means she
likes you.

BILLIE
Yeah, that's it.

KYLE
Cool. Whatever.

Kyle takes the shoes off and puts his shoes back on.

NICOLE
Look at this cute top I got.

Kyle takes the price tag into his hands.

KYLE
You can't afford that, babe.

BILLIE
I'm getting it for her, but thanks
for the input no one asked for.

Snatches the shirt from Nicole.

NICOLE
(whispers)
Billie.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - Billie on her phone.

BILLIE
Walter! Did you change your number
or some shit?

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT - Billie sits outside her house, makes
a call.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Can you text me at least? Please.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY - The phone on the table beside uneaten fast-food.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
I miss you.

END MONTAGE

INT. PAULA'S COUNTRY DINER - DAY

Lunch rush. Billie and Nicole sit in a booth eating breakfast food.

NICOLE
Too bad that she isn't here today.

BILLIE
Such a shame.

NICOLE
Maybe you should start dating again.

BILLIE
I'm good.

NICOLE
There's more out there besides Charlotte.

Billie jabs her fork into her eggs.

BILLIE
I don't need someone to be happy.

NICOLE
Don't lie to me.

BILLIE
I'm not.

Billie eats faster.

NICOLE
Wait, was that supposed to mean something?

Billie scarfs down food.

BILLIE
(gulping down a mouthful)
Sorry.

NICOLE
This isn't about me and Kyle.

BILLIE
He's such a pussy.

NICOLE
I like him.

BILLIE
You can do better.

NICOLE
So can you.

Billie has no comeback.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Anyway, I haven't checked in on you
in a while.

BILLIE
You don't have to.

NICOLE
You only see your therapist once a
week.

BILLIE
I don't need my best friend to
pretend I'm a client.

Billie continues to eat her food in an aggressive manner.

NICOLE
That's not fair.

Silence.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
Can I ask one thing? Are you
hurting yourself again?

BILLIE
No.

NICOLE
Promise me.

BILLIE
I haven't.

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Loud. Billie puts her skateboard into her locker, unloads books from her backpack, and then stuffs them into the locker. Walter approaches.

WALTER
Hey, bitch.

BILLIE
You've been dodging me for weeks.

WALTER
My phone was being weird. Sorry.

Billie closes the locker door and zips up the backpack.

BILLIE
That's your excuse?

WALTER
Let's go to Paula's later.

BILLIE
Fine. I'll ask Nicole in a bit.

Nicole and Kyle argue across the hallway, MOS.

WALTER (V.O.)
Yesterday he said her shirt was too low-cut.

BILLIE (V.O.)
What?

WALTER (V.O.)
She changed it during lunch.

RESUME ACTION: Charlotte walks the halls, alone.

WALTER (V.O.)
Look who lost her bitches.

BILLIE (V.O.)
I've never seen her not around people.

WALTER (V.O.)
Welcome back to the hive.

RESUME ACTION: A student bumps into Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

Watch where you're going, you dumb bitch.

WALTER (V.O.)

Queen bee's sting is nastier than ever.

INT. AP ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Chill. MS. JAMES, mid-twenties, sits at her desk, working on a laptop. Students work on laptops. Billie types an essay. Charlotte sits two rows behind her with Dana and NEDDY GIRL, an eighteen-year-old with braces. They all whisper.

NEDDY GIRL

I can't stand them honestly.

CHARLOTTE

It's bullshit that Walter got into that program.

DANA

Oklahoma City probably just waitlisted you.

NEDDY GIRL

Definitely. You're the smartest girl in this school.

CHARLOTTE

Their ACT scores were nowhere near as high as mine.

Billie pops out an earbud.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Do they need anymore non-binary attention seekers like them anyway? What about us normal people?

Billie slams the laptop lid closed. Pops out the other earbud.

BILLIE

The hell did you just say?

CHARLOTTE

Do y'all hear something? Sounds like a screeching noise that's making my ears bleed.

BILLIE

Stand up.

Ms. James rushes to the scene.

MS. JAMES

Ladies?

CHARLOTTE

I'm just trying to work on my
essay, Ms. James.

BILLIE

Stand up, Charlotte.

Charlotte doesn't budge.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Don't ever talk shit on my best
friend.

MS. JAMES

Billie, sit down.

CHARLOTTE

Like you're going to do anything
about it.

Billie balls her hand into a tight fist.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Dyke.

Billie swings. Charlotte flinches. Billie changes direction,
punching the wall. CRUNCH. Billie HOWLS in pain. Billie
rushes out of the classroom.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Billie --

MS. JAMES

Get your ass out of my classroom!
Now.

CHARLOTTE

But --

MS. JAMES

No one talks like that in here.
Out!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Somber. Lyla talks with PRINCIPAL, male, forties.

PRINCIPAL

I'm aware of the situation that took place last semester, Ms. Winters, but we have a zero tolerance policy on violence.

LYLA

It won't happen again. The razors weren't intended to hurt anyone else.

PRINCIPAL

She's had referrals in the past.

LYLA

She's been going through such a hard time.

Principal says nothing.

LYLA (CONT'D)

This is the best district in the area.

PRINCIPAL

Which is why we have such high standards. But I'm afraid your daughter can't keep using her mental health as an excuse.

LYLA

How dare you!

PRINCIPAL

Ms. Winters --

LYLA

My daughter has never used her depression as an excuse for anything! She admitted fault.

PRINCIPAL

She needs to go to anger management and two therapy sessions a week. I need proof, in writing, that this is occurring.

Lyla exits the office.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE WAITING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Billie sits outside the office, surrounded by cheesy positive affirmation posters on the walls.

LYLA

Let's go.

BILLIE

Momma --

LYLA

I don't want to hear it.

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

Dirty. Laundry piled on a chair. Billie sits on her bed, ices her hand. KNOCK on the door.

BILLIE

I'm asleep.

NICOLE

(opens door)

It's not even six.

BILLIE

I thought you were my mother.

NICOLE

She's angry.

BILLIE

Disappointed.

NICOLE

I'm glad you didn't hit Charlotte.

BILLIE

It would've saved my fist.

Nicole sits on the bed across from Billie. Billie puts the pack of ice on the nightstand.

NICOLE

You left your wallet in my car yesterday.

Nicole takes the wallet out of her back pocket, sets it on the nightstand next to the pack of ice.

BILLIE
You didn't have to drive all the
way over here. I could've gotten --

NICOLE
It fell out.

Nicole digs into her jacket pocket. Retrieves the top piece
of a RAZOR.

BILLIE
It's old.

NICOLE
Let me see your arm.

Nicole reaches out to grab Billie's arm. Billie pulls away.

BILLIE
I don't have to show you shit!

NICOLE
You lied to me.

BILLIE
I'm perfectly fine.

NICOLE
Then show me your arm.

BILLIE
I don't have to prove anything to
you.

NICOLE
You promised.

BILLIE
You're overreacting. As usual.

NICOLE
Don't you dare gaslight me!

BILLIE
It's what your boyfriend does!

NICOLE
This has nothing to do with Kyle.

BILLIE
He treats you like --

NICOLE
You do!

BILLIE
I didn't want you to worry.

NICOLE
You should've told me you were
struggling.

BILLIE
I thought I could be okay.

NICOLE
I don't want to see you on the
floor again covered in blood,
goddammit!

Nicole backs away from Billie.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
I can't do this again.

BILLIE
Don't, please.

NICOLE
I won't do this again.

A dejected Nicole exits. Billie slides opens the nightstand
drawer.

INSIDE NIGHTSTAND DRAWER

A fresh pack of razors.

RESUME ACTION: Billie takes a razor and presses it on her
skin. Hesitates. Takes the drawer out from the nightstand and
dumps the razors into the trashcan. Sobs.

EXT. WALTER'S HOUSE - PORCH - LATER

Cloudy. Fancy. Landscaped. Billie KNOCKS on the door. A
disheveled mess. Walter answers the door. Steps outside.

BILLIE
(skateboard in hand)
Are you busy?

Walter says nothing.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Nicole called you.

WALTER
You should go.

BILLIE
Please. I need --

WALTER
I needed you at the party, but you didn't care.

BILLIE
That's what this is about?

WALTER
I had to get over it because Nicole said you were upset. As always, your problems are the only ones that matter.

BILLIE
I'm sorry, alright? I'm sorry that I tried to kill myself. I'm sorry that I'm a shitty person.

WALTER
When are you going to stop making everything about you?

Walter steps back inside. Closes the door in Billie's face.

EXT. CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE - PORCH - LATE

Pitch black. A downpour of rain begins. A Victorian-like house, watered garden out front. Billie walks up the steps, throws the skateboard to the side, BANGS on the door. Charlotte answers.

CHARLOTTE
Billie? What're you doing here?
You're soaking wet.

BILLIE
Are your parents home?

CHARLOTTE
They're asleep. Why?

Billie shoves Charlotte into --

INT. FOYER

Nice. Chandelier hangs down from the ceiling.

BILLIE

Tell me not to kiss you and I
won't.

Charlotte says nothing. Billie clenches Charlotte's throat,
pushes her against the wall, kisses her. Charlotte kisses
back.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S ROOM - DAY

Morning. Huge. Pinks and pastels. Queen-sized bed. Billie and
Charlotte cuddle in Charlotte's bed.

BILLIE

Should I be surprised that we
didn't get caught by your parents?

CHARLOTTE

Mom's too busy cheating to care.

BILLIE

You never told me that.

CHARLOTTE

You never asked.

Billie gets up. Goes to the drawings on the wall above
Charlotte's desk.

BILLIE

They're gorgeous.

CHARLOTTE

Thanks. It's what I'm trying to go
to school for, if you can believe
it.

Billie finds a drawing hidden behind another one.

DRAWING

Sleeping Billie with longer hair and smudged makeup.

RESUME ACTION: Charlotte throws on an oversized shirt.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

That was after Homecoming.

BILLIE
Our first time?

CHARLOTTE
It was.

BILLIE
I don't want to be your experiment.
Not anymore.

CHARLOTTE
You're not.

BILLIE
But Sam --

CHARLOTTE
I'm bi.

BILLIE
You never told me that, either.

CHARLOTTE
I've been trying to understand it
myself.

Silence.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
You were never an experiment.

Billie sits down on the bed beside her.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
It doesn't make how I treated you
okay. I know that.

BILLIE
But nothing's going to change, is
it?

CHARLOTTE
Why did you come last night?

BILLIE
I needed to be okay. Even if it was
just for a while.

CHARLOTTE
I guess we both have our ways of
protecting ourselves.

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Crowded. Billie saunters down the hallway. Students laugh. Billie keeps walking. Nicole and Walter walk by her. Sam approaches with his friends.

SAM

Unbalanced Billie looking even worse than usual. Didn't think it was possible.

BILLIE

Today is not the day.

SAM

What're you going to do?

Sam SHOVES Billie. Billie avoids him.

SAM (CONT'D)

Fucking loser.

INT. WOMEN'S RESTROOM

Grungy. Billie barges in, out of breath. Stands before her reflection in the mirror. Hyperventilates. Bows her head, takes control of her breathing.

IMAGINATION

Billie sits with her back against the wall, DEAD, a bloody razor-blade beside her.

BILLIE'S CORPSE

You have no one.

RESUME ACTION: Billie wipes her tears with the sleeves of her sweater and leaves.

EXT. SKATEPARK - DAY

Sunny. Grass surrounds the skatepark. Ramps covered in graffiti. Teens skateboard, some rollerblading. Billie skateboards on one of the ramps. Charlotte approaches.

CHARLOTTE

You're supposed to wear a helmet.

Billie stops the board with her foot.

BILLIE
How'd you find me?

CHARLOTTE
Snap Maps.

BILLIE
I guess I should make my location
private.

CHARLOTTE
You look cute in those shorts.

BILLIE
You don't have to do that.

CHARLOTTE
Do what?

BILLIE
(under her breath)
Pretend you actually like me.

Starts to skate again. Rides up the ramp.

CHARLOTTE
I didn't know you were practicing
again.

Billie does a trick.

BILLIE
My therapist suggested it as a way
to cope or whatever.

CHARLOTTE
I wanted to talk to you.

Billie comes back down, stops, gets off the skateboard.

BILLIE
We don't have to do this. The other
night was a one-time thing.

CHARLOTTE
I don't want it to be.

BILLIE
I can't do the whole "Let's have
sex in private but never talk in
real life" thing. Not again.

CHARLOTTE

Which is why I wanted to ask you out, like officially.

BILLIE

What's the catch?

CHARLOTTE

You have to watch a show with me. It's fancy.

BILLIE

Just this once, right? To make yourself feel better.

CHARLOTTE

Billie, I want to do things right this time.

Awkward silence.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Show me how this works.

BILLIE

You want to learn how to skateboard?

CHARLOTTE

I've always wanted to.

Billie helps Charlotte stand on the board.

BILLIE

You have to kick your feet and trust yourself.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dirty. Dishes piled high. Outdated appliances. Billie trudges into the kitchen. Grabs a snack. A MALE VOICE BOOMS from the living room.

INT. HALLWAY

Dark. Pictures of Billie and her parents through the years line the wall. Billie hides behind the wall.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Disgusting. Lyla and a HUNKY EXECUTIVE, thirties, snort POWDERED COCAINE off the coffee table. They giggle. Lyla wears skimpy pajamas.

HUNKY EXECUTIVE
(dusts off nose)
I better get going.

Hunky Executive slides his suit jacket on. Lyla slips on a bathrobe.

LYLA
Let me walk you out.

HUNKY EXECUTIVE
No need.

Hunky Executive walks to the door. Lyla follows. He hands her a wad of money on the way out, closing the door behind him.

HUNKY EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)
I'll call you.

Lyla collapses onto the door. Sobs.

EXT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Dusk. Charlotte pulls onto the side of street in a nice car. Parks. Gets out of the car. Wears a gorgeous dress. Billie comes out of her house wearing a suit.

CHARLOTTE
That's hot.

BILLIE
Shut up.

CHARLOTTE
I mean it.

BILLIE
Whatever. You're beautiful.

CHARLOTTE
I know we are.

INT. WARNER THEATER - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Magnificent. Busy. Billie and Charlotte enter the auditorium and sit towards the front.

BILLIE
This is a musical, right?

Charlotte says nothing, takes Billie's hand.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Kill me.

EXT. PARK

Late. Oak trees. Playground. Grass. Moonlight. Charlotte holds Billie's hand.

BILLIE
What if someone sees?

CHARLOTTE
I want one night out of the closet.

Billie and Charlotte stop walking, approach a swing-set. Charlotte sits on one. Billie sits on the swing next to it.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry for being awful.

BILLIE
I'm an ass sometimes, too.

Charlotte swings faster.

CHARLOTTE
I told Dana and Priscilla. About the other night.

Billie's taken aback.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
They just want me to be happy.

BILLIE
They don't like me.

CHARLOTTE
They'll get over it.

Billie matches Charlotte's speed.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
What're you doing?

BILLIE
I bet you've never jumped off a swing.

CHARLOTTE
You'd be right.

BILLIE
Jump with me.

CHARLOTTE
I don't know.

BILLIE
It'll be fun. Trust yourself.

Charlotte swings even faster.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Ready?

CHARLOTTE
No!

BILLIE
Jump!

Billie and Charlotte propel themselves off of the swing. Billie lands on her feet. Charlotte lands on the grass. Falls on her face. Billie runs toward her.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
You okay?

Charlotte cackles, pulls Billie down onto the ground beside her. They kiss.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE

Lights off. Shoes and laundry strewn on the floor. Billie and Charlotte enter the house, making out. A STACK OF CASH on the table by the front door.

CHARLOTTE
(whispers)
Is your mom home?

A door to the left of the entrance. Smoke streams through the crack of the door. Lyla SCREAMS. Hunky Executive MOANS.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
Oh, shit.

Charlotte kisses her again and pulls her away from the door.

INT. BILLIE'S ROOM - DAY

Morning. Sunlight shines into the bedroom. Charlotte snuggles up to Billie's chest, asleep. Billie's awake. Kisses Charlotte's forehead. Grabs her phone. Types.

TEXT MESSAGE TO NICOLE

"Charlotte and I went on a date last night. A real one."

RESUME ACTION: Billie sets the phone on her chest. Picks it back up.

TEXT MESSAGE TO NICOLE

Billie deletes the message.

RESUME ACTION: Billie puts the phone on the nightstand.

INT. SUNNY HILLS MENTAL HOSPITAL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Drab. Wood paneling, wood floors, folding chairs positioned in a circle. Teens and Billie sit on the chairs. JACK, fifteen with an acne covered face, rubs his hands on his legs.

JACK

I've learned to take myself out of stressful situations when I can.

DR. DRIVER, fifties, folds his hands on his lap.

DR. DRIVER

That's great, Jack. Thank you for sharing.

Billie snickers.

DR. DRIVER (CONT'D)

Why don't you share, Billie?

No response.

DR. DRIVER (CONT'D)

It's been a couple of weeks and we've heard from the rest of the group.

BILLIE
That's great for them.

Slumps in her chair.

JACK
You can't get better if you don't
try.

BILLIE
Oh, look, a white guy with an
unwashed ass has an opinion.

DR. DRIVER
Billie, I think it would help if
you talked about your anger.

BILLIE
There's nothing wrong with me.

DR. DRIVER
You're right. Anger is a perfectly
healthy emotion.

BILLIE
It's how we deal with it.

DR. DRIVER
Exactly.

BILLIE
I guess punching walls when I'm
pissed doesn't classify as positive
control of my emotions.

DR. DRIVER
Tell the group why you're here.
Start with that.

BILLIE
I punched a wall in my classroom.
Broke my hand. Shit still hurts.

DR. DRIVER
The real reason.

BILLIE
I don't know.

DR. DRIVER
What makes you angry?

BILLIE

Being forced to go to this. Shit,
what else? My mom can't afford it.

DR. DRIVER

What does she do?

Billie says nothing.

BILLIE

She busts her ass for my therapy,
okay? She thinks I don't know how
she gets the money.

Brandishes her bandaged hand.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

I shouldn't have to do this. I
could've beat Charlotte's ass. I
would've.

DR. DRIVER

Why didn't you?

BILLIE

I don't want to be that person.

DR. DRIVER

What person?

BILLIE

Angry and bitter and sad when I
have no reason to be! Jesus, I
don't have a reason to be
depressed. To hate myself.

Silence.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

My mom cares about me. I have
friends who've done nothing but put
me first. I can go to college and
make something out of my life.

DR. DRIVER

Then why are you angry?

BILLIE

Because I don't know how to deal
with it. Because I don't know why
I'm so fucked up. I don't know why
I tried to kill myself.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dirty. Lyla sits on the couch. Empty pill bottles and a bong on the coffee table. Holds a framed family picture.

FAMILY PICTURE

Billie, Lyla, and CHARLIE, thirties, smiling.

RESUME ACTION: Lyla puts the picture down on the coffee table.

LYLA
I miss you, Charlie.

Billie enters the front door.

LYLA (CONT'D)
How was therapy?

BILLIE
Fine.

Stops in her tracks.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Six years ago today.

LYLA
I'm actually glad you forgot, for once.

Billie sits next to Lyla.

BILLIE
I miss him.

LYLA
I can't lose you, too.

No reply.

LYLA (CONT'D)
These therapy sessions need to work. Promise me that they're working.

BILLIE
Momma.

LYLA
Promise me.

BILLIE

I'm hanging out with Charlotte tonight, by the way. Might be back late.

LYLA

I don't want you to see her anymore.

BILLIE

Mom.

LYLA

She's not good for you.

BILLIE

I can make my own decisions.

LYLA

Billie, listen to me.

BILLIE

(storming off)

I don't think I should take dating advice from someone who sleeps with assholes.

EXT. LAKE ROBINSON - SHORE - DAY

Windy. Billie and Charlotte walk along the shore, holding hands. Water splashes on their feet.

CHARLOTTE

Let's get out of here.

BILLIE

What?

CHARLOTTE

As soon as we graduate. Let's go to New York or Rome or anywhere but here.

BILLIE

Together?

CHARLOTTE

Doesn't that sound nice? To be away from this shitty town? Somewhere where being with a woman doesn't matter.

BILLIE

I don't think your parents would be okay with you skipping college.

CHARLOTTE

I like to dream that their opinions don't matter, either.

BILLIE

But you want to be an artist.

CHARLOTTE

You've never said what you wanted to be.

BILLIE

Alive?

CHARLOTTE

Do you always have to be morbid?

BILLIE

Sorry. I just can't picture it. Having a life.

CHARLOTTE

What about us having a life together?

INT. DANA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Small. Old furniture. A few teenagers drink beer and smoke weed. Billie enters, surveys the scene. Pulls out her phone. Dana approaches her with a red plastic cup in her hand.

DANA

Charlotte told me you were coming.

BILLIE

Have you seen her?

DANA

She'll be here in a minute. I got you a drink.

BILLIE

That's oddly nice of you.

DANA

I want to be a good host.

BILLIE

Surprising.

Billie accepts the drink. Takes a sip of it.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
What's in this?

DANA
The good stuff from my dad's
cabinet.

Takes Billie's hand. Walks her to the couch.

DANA (CONT'D)
I know about you and Charlotte.

BILLIE
(pulling away)
And?

DANA
I just want Charlotte to be happy.

BILLIE
Me too.

Dana puts her hand on Billie's and tries to get her to drink more. Billie does.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
God, what's your issue?

DANA
You'll need it.

BILLIE
I won't stay long. I just came to
see Charlotte.

DANA
Don't leave. Listen to me.

Billie settles in.

DANA (CONT'D)
Charlotte can be happy, but not
with you.

BILLIE
You don't know me.

DANA
Think about it for a sec, 'kay? She
can't come out. It would ruin her.

BILLIE
I'm not asking her to.

DANA
If you were to... date, or
whatever... she cares about you.
She knows you don't want to be a
secret.

BILLIE
None of this is your business.

DANA
You know I'm right. And don't take
this the wrong way, but you're bad
for her.

BILLIE
Stop acting like you know who I am.

DANA
You weren't here after --

BILLIE
After what?

DANA
-- what you did. Last semester. It
messed her up. Priscilla and I had
to pick up the pieces.

BILLIE
I - I didn't know.

DANA
Charlotte can't go through that
again. I know you care for her like
we do.

Dana grabs a bottle of whiskey from the shelf behind the
couch and hands it to Billie.

DANA (CONT'D)
It's yours.

EXT. BACKYARD

Overgrown weeds. Teens smoke outside. Wear coats. Sit in lawn
chairs. Billie opens the sliding door and walks through.
Stumbling.

BILLIE
Dana, finally.

Dana smokes a blunt.

DANA
Oh, shit.

BILLIE
What did you put in my drink?

DANA
It's just a little bit of LSD. Or a
lot of LSD. Maybe something else? I
got a good deal on it.

HALLUCINATION

Dana's head enlarges. Eyes almost bulge out of her head.
Rainbows appear behind her.

RESUME ACTION: Dana still sits in the lawn chair.

BILLIE
You drugged me.

DANA
So you could have some fun. You're
welcome.

Dana takes a hit of the blunt.

BILLIE
But you don't like me.

DANA
I knew you weren't going to like
our conversation.

BILLIE
I'm on antidepressants.

DANA
Quit worrying. Just go back in and
let the trip take its course.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Vibrant. Teens have a chugging contest, including Sam. He
wins the round and crushes each can of beer. Billie leans on
the wall.

SAM
There she is, Unbalanced Billie.

BILLIE
I highly doubt Dana invited you.

SAM
It's a party. Everyone's invited.

Sam takes a beer from the cooler and opens it.

SAM (CONT'D)
You look blasted.

BILLIE
Never better.

Sam hands her the beer.

SAM
I know you can't outdrink me.

Sam grabs his own beer. Sam and Billie try to outdrink each other. A crowd forms. Teens CHEER. Billie finishes her can first.

BILLIE
Again.

Sam throws her another. This time, Sam beats her.

SAM
Vodka this time.

Another teen gives them each a cup. Billie and Sam race each other, chugging it down. Billie wins, dropping the cup and leaning against the couch.

SAM (CONT'D)
Shit, she's gone.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
Billie!

Billie tries to follow the voice.

HALLUCINATION

The living room turns into Billie's living room. The teens disappear. A MAN'S DEAD BODY lies face down in the middle of the floor, surrounded by pill bottles. TWELVE-YEAR-OLD BILLIE stands over the body. A younger Lyla dashes towards him.

LYLA
Charlie!

Lyla hovers over him and flips him over.

LYLA (CONT'D)
Don't just stand there! Call the
ambulance!

Billie freezes.

LYLA (CONT'D)
Useless.

RESUME ACTION: Billie stands upright.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)
Come upstairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS - HALLWAY

Tight. Bare walls. Billie feels the walls as she walks. Struggles to stay upright. Charlotte walks up the stairs, stumbling.

CHARLOTTE
There you are.

BILLIE
Didn't you call me up here?

CHARLOTTE
What? No. I've been looking
everywhere for you.

BILLIE
You're drunk.

CHARLOTTE
Very.

Charlotte pushes Billie into the wall, kisses her. Sloppy. Charlotte takes Billie's hand. Guides her to Dana's room.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
She won't mind.

INT. DANA'S ROOM

Cute. Tiny. Boy band posters adorn the walls alternating with pictures of friends. A stuffed rabbit sits on the bed. Charlotte shoves Billie down on the bed, kisses her hard.

HALLUCINATION

Charlotte and Sam make out on Charlotte's bed. Hot and heavy. Sam unbuttons his shirt.

RESUME ACTION: Charlotte's on top of Billie, straddling her. She unbuttons Billie's shirt.

HALLUCINATION

Charlotte tongue-fucks Sam. Charlotte and Sam fade away. CHARLIE, thirties and wearing a flannel, fades in Charlotte's place, with a SEVEN-YEAR-OLD BILLIE beneath him.

CHARLIE

This will be our little secret,
okay?

RESUME ACTION: Billie fights off Charlotte.

BILLIE

Stop! Dad, you're hurting me.

Stunned silence.

CHARLOTTE

(puts her shirt on)
I'm sorry.

BILLIE

It's not real.

CHARLOTTE

Billie.

Billie storms out.

INT. HALLWAY

Walls enclose. Billie slams into the wall.

BILLIE

It's not real.

HALLUCINATION

An open casket. Twelve-year-old Billie does not cry. Lyla sobs next to her.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
It's not real.

RESUME ACTION: Charlotte rushes into the hallway. Reaches for Billie. Trips and falls face-first into a baseboard.

CHARLOTTE
I didn't mean to hurt you.

BILLIE
It's what you do.

Billie gags and opens the door to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dim lights. Dirty mirror. Lighthouse-themed decorations.
Billie wretches above the sink.

HALLUCINATION

Almost a corpse. Billie lies on the floor. Wild long hair.
Bloody razor-blades in the corner.

NICOLE (O.S.)
Billie!

BILLIE
It's not real!

RESUME ACTION: Billie vomits in the sink.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS - ENTRANCE

Spacious. Coat rack near the door. Dana grabs her jacket off the hook. Billie rushes down the steps, fall on her ass and down the last half of the stairs.

DANA
You should probably lie down.

BILLIE
Charlotte fell upstairs.

Dana hangs the jacket back up.

DANA
Of course, she did.

HALLUCINATION

Walter's face warps. Sinister. Their voice distorts.

WALTER

Everything always has to be about
you.

Nicole appears. She glows.

NICOLE

I'm tired of picking up your
messes.

RESUME ACTION: Billie wraps her arms around her chest.

BILLIE

I want to be better.

HALLUCINATION

Walter and Nicole's faces begin to melt revealing skulls underneath.

WALTER

We don't want you.

NICOLE

No one does.

Walter and Nicole's skulls blur.

WALTER

No one cares what happens to
you.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

No one cares what happens to
you.

RESUME ACTION: Dana grips Billie's shoulders. Shakes her.

DANA

Snap out of it.

Billie shakes free of Dana. Jerks open the front door and storms out without her coat.

EXT. FRONT PORCH

Snow covers dead grass. Billie collapses on the grass, face up.

BILLIE

No one cares what happens to you.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S ROOM - DAY

A breeze blows through the open window. Billie tucked in Charlotte's bed. Charlotte walks in with a tray of bacon and eggs. Sets it down on the nightstand. Billie wakes up.

CHARLOTTE

I made you extra bacon. I know it's your favorite.

BILLIE

My head.

CHARLOTTE

I brought you some painkillers.

Charlotte takes two pills from the tray and hands them to Billie, along with a glass of water.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

You had quite the trip last night. I guess we both did.

BILLIE

I don't remember.

Billie pops the pills, chasing them with a drink of water.

CHARLOTTE

Priscilla found you in the grass nearly frozen to death.

BILLIE

Maybe that would've been for the best.

CHARLOTTE

Don't talk like that. Ever.

No comeback.

BILLIE

Your parents are cool with me being here?

CHARLOTTE

It's not the first time I've come home drunk.

BILLIE

First time actually bringing a girl
home and not sneaking her in?

CHARLOTTE

It seems so.

Billie sits up. Charlotte sits next to Billie and places her
hand on Billie's chest.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I really am sorry for last night.

BILLIE

What?

CHARLOTTE

We made out in Dana's room. You got
upset.

BILLIE

It's all a blur.

CHARLOTTE

You said something. About your dad.

BILLIE

I don't remember.

CHARLOTTE

Remember last night?

BILLIE

I don't want to remember.

CHARLOTTE

Your dad raped you, Billie.

BILLIE

Don't say shit you know nothing
about!

Charlotte picks up Billie's phone. Unplugs it from the
charger. Tosses it at Billie.

CHARLOTTE

Your mom called.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE

Spotless.

BILLIE
It hasn't been this clean since Dad
died.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Just as clean. Lyla looks put together.

BILLIE
You're dressed nice.

LYLA
I have a date coming over tonight.

BILLIE
A date.

LYLA
Where have you been?

BILLIE
You care? That's a first.

LYLA
You didn't come home last night.

BILLIE
I don't come home a lot of nights.

LYLA
That was before you almost got
kicked out of school.

Billie stomps away. Lyla follows.

LYLA (CONT'D)
We are not done.

BILLIE
I'm done listening.

LYLA
Don't pull this angsty teenage
bullshit on me.

Billie stops. Faces her mother.

BILLIE
It's not even a real date tonight.

LYLA
Please.

BILLIE
Don't you think I know that you're
sneaking in men and fucking them
for money?

Lyla SLAPS Billie.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
What would Dad think of you?

LYLA
He's not here, Billie. I am. I'm
the one who has to make sure you
don't kill yourself, too.

BILLIE
You don't get to be a parent now.

LYLA
I have always cared about you.

BILLIE
Then where were you when Dad raped
me for all those years?

Lyla stunned silent.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
You knew.

Billie rushes up the stairs.

LYLA
Wait, Billie! Please!

INT. BILLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Messy. Billie sits at her desk. Writes an essay. Phone
BUZZES. A text message.

TEXT MESSAGE FROM DANA

"Check your Twitter."

RESUME ACTION: Billie opens Twitter on her laptop.

TWITTER POST

Billie and Charlotte kissing in Dana's bedroom. The caption reads, "I always knew Charlotte was into girls, but unbalanced billie? Lmfao."

RESUME ACTION: Billie picks up her phone, presses some keys, holds it to her ear.

BILLIE
I'm coming over.

Billie gets out of her chair. Grabs her backpack. Digs through her hamper.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Charlotte lies on her bed, crying.

CHARLOTTE
(through tears)
Don't.

BEGIN INTERCUT

Billie picks out a flannel and jeans and stuffs them into her backpack.

BILLIE
I'm not letting you go through this alone.

CHARLOTTE
Dana and Priscilla are on their way over.

BILLIE
Sam's just an asshole. I'm going to report the post.

Billie stops packing. Rushes to the laptop. Clicks on the tweet.

CHARLOTTE
Everyone's already seen it.

BILLIE
We'll fix it.

CHARLOTTE
I can't do this.

Charlotte hangs up.

END INTERCUT

Billie hurls the backpack across the room and throws the phone onto her bed.

BILLIE
Goddammit!

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

An abundance of Christmas decorations. Students buzzing. Billie walks down the hall. Sam stands by his locker with his friends.

SAM
Charlotte must've been desperate.

Sam and his friends laugh. A weary Charlotte walks down the hall with Dana and Priscilla beside her. Billie walks by her, but Charlotte ignores her. Billie digs her nails into her arm, leaving fresh marks.

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

Dreary. Billie sits at her desk, scrolling on her phone.

PHONE SCREEN - TWITTER FEED

Tons of posts tweeted at Charlotte.

RESUME ACTION: Billie clicks on Charlotte's Twitter profile.

CHARLOTTE'S PROFILE

"@charlottebby blocked you. You are blocked from following @charlottebby and viewing @charlottebby's Tweets."

RESUME ACTION: Billie throws her phone down.

BILLIE
Fuck!

EXT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

Old. Overgrown grass. Billie holds her skateboard as she approaches the front door. KNOCKS.

BILLIE

Shit.

Billie gets on her skateboard. Nicole answers the door.

NICOLE

Billie?

Billie skateboards down the driveway and leaves.

EXT. LAKE ROBINSON - PARKING AREA - SHORE - DAY

Foggy. Billie skateboards. Gets off. Puts the skateboard near the shoreline. She sits down on the grass and takes out a rolled joint from her jacket pocket. Lights it. Takes a hit.

IMAGINATION

Billie floats face down on the body of water.

RESUME ACTION: Billie takes another hit of the joint. Stands. Takes off her jacket. Pulls her phone and wallet out of her pockets and sets them on the ground. Puts out the joint. Takes off her shoes. Steps into the lake.

IMAGINATION

Walter and Nicole wait at the shore.

NICOLE

You're insane! It's way too cold to be out there.

RESUME ACTION: Billie swims further out into the lake.

IMAGINATION

Walter undresses and runs into the water.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Freeze to death, then!

WALTER

A little icy water won't kill you!

NICOLE

Don't come at me when you two get sick!

Walter swims next to Billie.

RESUME ACTION: Billie stops. Submerges.

UNDER THE WATER

Green and nasty. Billie looks around, holding her breath. Trash floats by her and fish swim around her.

IMAGINATION

Charlotte floats next to her beneath the water. Appears lifeless. Awakens. Billie tries to grab her hand. It reaches through Charlotte's like a ghost.

RESUME ACTION: Billie swims toward the surface.

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

Cold. Billie, clothes soaked, throws the skateboard down. She undresses and changes. Pulls out her phone and puts it up to her ear.

BILLIE

She blocked me on everything.

INT. CHARLOTTE'S HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Messy. Dana and Charlotte sit on Charlotte's bed.

DANA

You shouldn't have called me.

CHARLOTTE

Is that Billie?

Charlotte reaches for the phone.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Let me talk to her.

Dana fights her off.

BEGIN INTERCUT

Billie sits on her bed.

BILLIE
I miss her.

DANA
That's not my problem.

BILLIE
This isn't my fault.

DANA
I know. I'm sorry. But you can't
just call me out of nowhere.

CHARLOTTE
Let me talk to her. Please.

DANA
Charlotte, no.

BILLIE
Charlotte's there?

DANA
Billie, I have to go.

BILLIE
Wait.

Dana gets off of the bed.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Let's talk tomorrow. At school.

DANA
There's nothing you can do to fix
this.

BILLIE
Just hear me out. Locker room
during lunch.

Dana hangs up.

END INTERCUT

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Empty. Musty. Billie and Dana talk.

DANA
That'll ruin you.

BILLIE
I guess I don't care.

DANA
But Charlotte does.

BILLIE
I have to make this right.

DANA
Don't you get that the best thing
you can do now is leave her alone?

BILLIE
I can make this go away. You know
it'll work.

DANA
And if doesn't?

BILLIE
We both know what she wants.

DANA
You're throwing yourself into a
snake pit. You realize that?

BILLIE
I know.

DANA
You really do care about her, huh?

BILLIE
I do.

Dana walks toward the locker room entrance.

DANA
I take back what I said.
(walking away)
You're not bad for her.
(exiting)
I'd root for you two if things were
different.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - BILLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT
Clean. Billie sits at her desk on her phone.

PHONE SCREEN - SNAPCHAT STORY

A video of herself.

RESUME ACTION: Billie types on her phone.

TEXT MESSAGE TO DANA

"It's posted."

RESUME ACTION: A new message appears.

TEXT MESSAGE FROM DANA

"Are you sure you want me to do this?"

INT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - AP ENGLISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Students glued to their phones. Quiet. Still. With earbuds in her ears, Charlotte's glued to hers, too.

PHONE SCREEN - BILLIE'S SNAPCHAT STORY

Billie's camera is in selfie mode. She looks like a wreck.

BILLIE

I know Charlotte's getting a lot of
shit. Not just for kissing a girl,
but for kissing me.

RESUME ACTION: Billie gets up. Approaches Ms. James.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Can I go to the bathroom?

Billie tries to wipe tears from her face.

MS. JAMES

Are you okay?

Billie rushes out of the room.

INT. WOMEN'S RESTROOM

Depressing. Billie cries harder. Wipes her tears. Turns on the faucet. Splashes water on her face.

IMAGINATION

The sink fills with water. Billie submerges her head. DROWNS herself.

RESUME ACTION: Billie turns off the faucet. Takes a deep breath. Tries to smile. Sobs.

INT. ALGEBRA CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Packed like sardines. Teacher drones on, MOS. Students pay no attention. Walter can't turn away from their phone.

PHONE SCREEN - BILLIE'S SNAPCHAT STORY

Camera is still in selfie mode.

BILLIE

Truth is, I've liked Charlotte Banks for a long time. And I kissed her.

INT. PSYCHOLOGY CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

RESUME ACTION: Small. Students have textbooks open. Teacher gives a lesson, MOS. Nicole on her phone.

PHONE SCREEN - BILLIE'S SNAPCHAT STORY

Selfie mode. The camera angle shifts to reveal a RAZOR on the nightstand behind Billie.

BILLIE

She's nice, so she kissed me back. That's all there is to it. Drop it because this shit is old.

INT. AP ENGLISH CLASSROOM

RESUME ACTION: Bell RINGS. Students pack their backpacks. Charlotte still watching.

PHONE SCREEN - DANA'S SNAPCHAT STORY

Dana sits in her car, her camera facing her.

DANA

Y'all, I always knew Unbalanced
Billie was obsessed with her.
Charlotte probably had to wash out
her mouth with soap after.

RESUME ACTION: Charlotte puts her phone down.

INT. HALLWAY

Cramped. Packed with gossiping students. Walter and Nicole talk on the other side of the hallway, MOS. Billie walks by them and digs her fingernails into her scratched up bare arm.

WALTER

Can we talk to you?

Billie keeps walking.

INT. LOCKER ROOM

Run-down. Billie sits on one of the benches. Charlotte enters.

CHARLOTTE

What the hell was that?

BILLIE

I had to do something.

CHARLOTTE

That wasn't your choice to make.

BILLIE

I was just trying to help.

CHARLOTTE

Coming out was the one thing I had
control over, and it's gone.

BILLIE

That's why I talked to Dana. She
knew it would work.

CHARLOTTE

I'm tired of people making
decisions for me.

BILLIE
But I thought you wanted --

CHARLOTTE
Everyone thinks they do.

EXT. FRONT ENTRANCE

Wide, double doors and pavement. Students leave the campus in a hurry. Billie exits. She carries her skateboard and puts it down. Sam picks it up.

SAM
I didn't think I would feel bad for
a slut like Charlotte, but even
she's too good for you.

BILLIE
Give me my skateboard.

SAM
This piece of shit?

Sam sets the board down, leans it against a part of the sidewalk, jumps in the center of it, snaps the board in half. He tears it apart the rest of the way and gives it back to her.

BILLIE
You done?

SAM
I bet you could only dream about
sleeping with a girl like
Charlotte.

BILLIE
Stop talking.

SAM
She begged for me to fuck her.
Multiple times.

Billie holds the broken skateboard. Marches away.

SAM (CONT'D)
Unbalanced Billie, right there.
You're such a freak!

BILLIE

catapults into Sam. Straddles on top of him. Beats the shit out of him with the pieces of her broken skateboard.

SAM (CONT'D)

Stop! Stop!

SAM

tries to fight her off while coughing up blood.

OTHER STUDENTS

gather around. No one calls for help.

BILLIE

punches him, her knuckles becoming bloody.

SAM

no longer resists.

BILLIE

Look at your friends!

SAM'S FRIENDS

don't move.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

No one cares what happens to you.

With a face resembling rotted meat, Sam bawls.

SAM

Please.

Billie stands. His friends surround him. Other students watch in awe and make a path for her as she walks backward away from the scene.

EXT. BILLIE'S NEIGHBORHOOD - STREET - DAY

A few cars drive by. Billie walks home. She sways. Her hand shaking, dried blood on her face and clothes. Her body jolts, her eyes glazing over.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE

Tighter. Billie stumbles in sliding her backpack off of her shoulders. She BANGS her head against the front door.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Cold. Dishes, drugs, beer, and trash clutter the coffee table. The room seems to collapse. Billie hurls dishes across the room. They SHATTER.

INT. LYLA'S ROOM

Messy. Men's clothes folded on the dresser. A picture of Charlie and Lyla together on the nightstand. An unmade bed. Empty pill bottles next to the picture. Billie grabs one of Charlie's flannels from the closet and slips it on.

IMAGINATION

Charlie sits on the bed and picks up the full pill bottles. Walks out of the bedroom.

RESUME ACTION: Billie stumbles back into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Messy. Billie stands in the corner.

IMAGINATION

Charlie sets the pill bottles down on the coffee table. Opens them. Swallows a handful. Washes them down with alcohol.

CHARLIE
I'm sorry, Billie.

Twelve-year-old Billie walks into the living room.

BILLIE
Daddy, what're you doing?

CHARLIE
Go to your room and don't come back
out until your mom gets home, okay?

Twelve-year-old Billie doesn't move.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Do what I say!

RESUME ACTION: Billie takes off the flannel. Tears off the sleeves, SCREAMING.

INT. KITCHEN

Billie opens a drawer, takes out a pen and paper, writes a note. Takes her phone out of her pocket.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - CASHIER REGISTER - SAME TIME

Updated. Not busy. Nicole stands at the register. She checks to see if her boss is watching.

NICOLE
Billie, thank God. We're worried
about you.

BEGIN INTERCUT

Billie opens the dishwasher. Takes out a CUTTING KNIFE. She collapses onto the tile floor, clutching the knife.

BILLIE
I'm crazy, aren't I? Everyone's
tired of me and my problems.

NICOLE
No one could ever be tired of you.

BILLIE
You are. Charlotte is. I'm a waste
of space.

NICOLE
Where are you?

BILLIE
I lied to you.

Nicole leaves the register.

NICOLE
Tell me where you are.

BILLIE
I told you I was okay. I'm not.

NICOLE
Where are you?

BILLIE
It's my fault that Dad is dead,
right? He killed himself because of
me.

NICOLE
Billie, please!

BILLIE
I should've told someone. I
should've told someone what he did.

Billie holds the knife against her stomach.

NICOLE
I'm on my way to find you.

BILLIE
No one cares what happens to me.

Billie hangs up the phone.

END INTERCUT

INT. SUNNY HILLS MENTAL HOSPITAL - BILLIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM -
NIGHT

Foreign. A twin bed that resembles a mix between an air
mattress and water bed, and one chair in the corner. Billie
sits on the bed, knees up to her chest. DR. SANDERSON, mid-
fiftiess, enters the room and looks at her chart.

DR. SANDERSON
I'm glad you checked yourself in.
That takes a lot of strength.

BILLIE
I didn't want to.

DR. SANDERSON
What made you?

BILLIE
I can't do this anymore.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Blinding yellow walls, yellow floors. Surrounded by other mental patients. Some wearing scrubs and others wearing sweats. Billie struggles to eat a cheeseburger. She takes a couple of bites and raises her hand.

BILLIE

I need to go to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

Clean. Empty. Billie sticks her fingers down her throat and vomits.

INT. BILLIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Sterile. Billie SCREAMS into her pillow. Bangs her fist against the bed. A nurse storms in. Shines a bright light into Billie's eyes.

BILLIE

Stop hurting me, Dad. Please!

Billie jolts in her bed. Violent. The nurse attempts to hold her down.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Get off of me!

Billie fights off the nurse. More staff dart into the room and hold Billie down before shoving a needle into her arm.

INT. FOYER - EARLY MORNING

Small. A chair and a tray of medications set out. A nurse looks at the list and gives Billie three different medications. She takes all of them. Shows the nurse her tongue. Billie resembles a corpse.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Uninviting. Dr. Sanderson sits across from Billie.

DR. SANDERSON

The nurses told me that you've been having nightmares.

BILLIE

About of a lot of things.

DR. SANDERSON

Humor me.

BILLIE

My dad. Mom. My friends. Charlotte.

DR. SANDERSON

Tell me about Charlotte.

BILLIE

She hates me. They all do.

DR. SANDERSON

These thoughts scream at you, don't they?

BILLIE

I don't how to get them to stop.

INT. VISITOR'S ROOM - THREE MONTHS LATER

Round tables with benches. Not many other patients have visitors. Nicole enters.

BILLIE

Walter couldn't make it?

NICOLE

I thought it may be better if it was just me tonight.

Nicole sits across from Billie. Billie's bare arms show healing scars.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

How are you?

BILLIE

Turns out, trying to get better is a lot harder than serving a sentence.

NICOLE

You going to all of your therapy sessions? They pay attention to that.

BILLIE

I am.

Awkward silence.

NICOLE
Why did you call me? After school
that day, I mean.

BILLIE
I didn't want to die. Not like
that. Not alone.

NICOLE
I'm sorry.

BILLIE
You didn't do anything wrong.

NICOLE
I should've done something.

BILLIE
You were there. That's enough.

Billie stands. Wraps her arms around Nicole in a hug. Nicole
begins to cry.

NICOLE
Goddammit.

BILLIE
Pull yourself together.

NICOLE
I'm trying.

Billie releases the hug. Sits back down.

NICOLE (CONT'D)
I broke up with Kyle, by the way.

BILLIE
Why?

NICOLE
After everything, I just - I don't
know. Maybe I deserve more?

BILLIE
You do.

NICOLE
I've missed you.

INT. FOYER - DAY

A landline phone rests on the main desk in the foyer. A call list next to it. Billie walks up to the desk, picks up the phone, dials a number.

BILLIE

Hey, it's me again. I'm supposed to get out in a few days. My therapist says I'm ready. I hope that's true.

Billie plays with the phone cord.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

I guess I should probably stop calling. I hope you're well. Goodbye, Charlotte.

INT. LIVING AREA - DAY

The TV plays a game show. Patients work on their collages. Billie eats a snack and writes in her journal. RECEPTIONIST, thirties, walks into the living area with a clipboard in hand.

RECEPTIONIST

Billie, you have another visitor.

INT. VISITOR'S ROOM

Bright. Billie walks in. A disheveled Charlotte sits at a back table.

CHARLOTTE

Hi.

Billie sits across from her.

BILLIE

You're here.

CHARLOTTE

I'm sorry for ghosting you.

BILLIE

I get it.

CHARLOTTE

I needed to get my shit together.

Awkward silence.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I wanted to call back, but I didn't
know what to say.

BILLIE
It wasn't your fault.

CHARLOTTE
I'm coming to terms with that.

Billie puts her hand on the table. Her knuckles almost
healed. Charlotte puts her hand in Billie's.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I'm in love with you.

BILLIE
Charlotte?

CHARLOTTE
I don't know how to deal with that.
Or how to reconcile or how to cope.

BILLIE
Can I say something?

CHARLOTTE
Don't tell me that you love me,
too.

BILLIE
Why?

CHARLOTTE
Because that makes it real, and I
don't know if I'm ready for that.

EXT. SUNNY HILLS MENTAL HOSPITAL - ENTRANCE - EARLY MORNING

Cloudy. Billie waits outside, shivering, holding a full brown
grocery bag with her belongings. Nicole and Walter pull up in
Nicole's car.

BILLIE
About damn time.

Nicole gets out of the passenger seat.

NICOLE
Walter is the slowest driver.

Walter gets out of the driver seat, slamming the door.

WALTER
You would've killed us on the way
over here.

NICOLE
Permission to hug?

BILLIE
Alright.

Nicole and Walter hug Billie. Billie hugs them back.

INT. PAULA'S COUNTRY DINER

Busy. Full of senior patrons. Billie, Walter, and Nicole sit
in a booth.

NICOLE
I have some news.

WALTER
You're pregnant, or worse, you're
gay?

Nicole hits their arm. They hit Nicole's harder.

NICOLE
I got in to Michigan.

BILLIE
Oh.

NICOLE
One of the best psychology programs
in the country.

BILLIE
I'm happy for you.

NICOLE
Shit, I'm sorry.

BILLIE
Life didn't stop for you guys. It's
okay.

NICOLE
What're you doing for school?

BILLIE
I don't know. I never thought I
would live this long.

WALTER

Too soon!

Billie and Nicole laugh.

NICOLE

I'm kind of surprised Sam didn't press charges.

BILLIE

My mom talked to his parents and worked something out.

NICOLE

He hasn't said anything about you. Surprisingly.

WALTER

I doubt he wants to admit that a woman beat his ass.

NICOLE

We love it when fragile masculinity saves the day.

WALTER

I have to prepare for the spring showcase. Oklahoma City University has scholarship recruiters going to watch.

NICOLE

Your voice is amazing. They'd be idiots to turn you away.

WALTER

I know. And Billie, you'll be happy to know that Charlotte also got in.

Walter takes a sip of their water.

WALTER (CONT'D)

There's no escaping her.

NICOLE

Did you two work things out?

EXT. PAULA'S COUNTRY DINER - PARKING LOT

City. Nicole and Walter lead Billie to Nicole's car. Nicole struggles to open the trunk.

BILLIE

I got it.

Billie gets the trunk open, looks inside to see a new skateboard. Nicole picks it up and turns it over.

BACK OF THE SKATEBOARD

A drawing of Billie, Walter, and Nicole facing a sunset and body of water.

RESUME ACTION: Billie touches the drawing.

WALTER

Charlotte drew it.

BILLIE

It's beautiful.

NICOLE

Just try not to beat anyone up with this one.

BILLIE

No promises.

EXT. SKATEPARK - SUNSET

Empty except for a few stoners in the corner. Billie skateboards with earbuds in. She skates to the top of the ramp and stops on the top of it, looking at the sunset. Her phone RINGS.

WALTER (V.O.)

Wanna meet at the lake later?

BILLIE

Sure. I'll text Nicole.

WALTER (V.O.)

Just us.

EXT. LAKE ROBINSON - PARKING AREA - SHORE - NIGHT

Calm. Greenish-blue water splashes on pebbles. Billie and Walter share a blanket wrapped around both of their shoulders. Billie pulls her hoodie to cover her ears.

BILLIE

We should've stayed in the car.

WALTER
I like the cold.

Walter digs in their pocket, pulls out a rolled joint, lights it.

BILLIE
So why couldn't Nicole be here?

WALTER
I have secrets, too.

Walter hits the joint and hands it to Billie.

WALTER (CONT'D)
I shouldn't have blown up on you.

BILLIE
I kind of deserved it.

She hits the joint. Passes it to Walter.

WALTER
I should've been honest with you at the party.

Walter takes another hit and returns it to Billie.

WALTER (CONT'D)
During karaoke, Kyle had his tongue down Nicole's throat, and shit, it was just a lot.

BILLIE
You like her?

WALTER
You're surprised?

BILLIE
You did a good job at hiding it.

WALTER
Don't be an ass.

BILLIE
Maybe I'm more oblivious than I realized.

WALTER
I'll get over it. Eventually. I - I just really needed you.

Billie takes a hit of the joint and passes it back.

BILLIE
I do make everything about me.

WALTER
I shouldn't have said that.

BILLIE
Are you okay now?

WALTER
I was sad for a while, but then I realized who the fuck I am and got over it.

BILLIE
Oklahoma City University, huh? I feel like a proud mom.

WALTER
I would say that was the highlight of my year, but pissing off Charlotte by getting in before her was orgasmic.

Silence.

WALTER (CONT'D)
You're in love with her.

INT. BILLIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A real mess. Lyla sleeps on the couch wrapped in a blanket. The TV plays a rom-com. Billie turns off the TV and tucks her in.

BILLIE
Hi, Momma.

Billie kisses her forehead.

EXT. SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY - ONE MONTH LATER

Graduation. Packed. Graduates walk across the stage. Nicole crosses and accepts her diploma. Walter gets called, MOS, and gives the finger to the audience as they cross.

AUDIENCE

claps.

BILLIE
(applauding)
Yes, bitch!

EXT. PARKING LOT

Graduates flood the parking lot. Nicole and Walter stand by Nicole's car. Billie approaches.

NICOLE
I hate that they didn't let you
walk.

BILLIE
Summer school is about to suck
balls.

WALTER
Please tell me you got my gesture
on camera.

BILLIE
My mom recorded the whole thing.

WALTER
Bless her.

Charlotte stands in a cap and gown across the lot with her parents. Charlotte and Billie wave at each other.

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

Serene. Billie lies on her bed and does homework on her laptop. KNOCK on the door.

BILLIE
Come in, Momma!

Charlotte opens the door.

CHARLOTTE
Your mom let me in.

Billie closes the laptop.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)
I wanted to see you.

Charlotte sits on the bed.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I came out. Like officially. I know you don't have social media right now and I thought you should know.

BILLIE

That's amazing. I'm proud of you.

CHARLOTTE

Thank you. That means a lot.

BILLIE

Your parents? How did they take it?

CHARLOTTE

Not well.

BILLIE

I'm sorry.

CHARLOTTE

I wanted to give you this.

Charlotte digs into her bag and pulls out a drawing.

DRAWING

A sketch version of the picture Charlotte gave Billie.

RESUME ACTION: Billie flips the drawing over.

BACK OF THE DRAWING

"I will never stop caring about you."

RESUME ACTION: Charlotte touches Billie's hand.

BILLIE

You didn't let me say this when you visited me in the hospital.

CHARLOTTE

Billie.

Billie holds Charlotte's hand.

BILLIE

I love you. More than I've wanted to admit.

CHARLOTTE

Billie, I'm leaving next week for school.

BILLIE

But there's still the whole summer.

CHARLOTTE

I got accepted into one of their summer art programs.

BILLIE

We can text and I'll get a job so that I can fly out and visit you.

CHARLOTTE

I need you to listen to me.

Charlotte touches Billie's cheek, crying.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I want you to find everything you deserve.

BILLIE

Why does it sound like you're saying goodbye?

CHARLOTTE

We're not good for each other. You must know that.

Billie kisses Charlotte's hand.

BILLIE

Pretending is easier.

CHARLOTTE

Can we have this one night? For us?

Billie says nothing.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Tell me not to kiss you and I won't.

Charlotte kisses Billie. Billie kisses her back.

BILLIE

Don't go.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Small. Travelers enter the security checkpoint. Billie holds Charlotte's hand and carries Charlotte's carry-on suitcase with the other.

CHARLOTTE

I've got to go.

Billie gives Charlotte the carry-on. Charlotte kisses Billie on the cheek.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Billie.

Charlotte gets in line. She waves at Billie. Billie waves back.

BILLIE

Bye, Charlotte.

INT. PAULA'S COUNTRY DINER - DAY

Busy. Billie, Nicole, and Walter eat lunch. Billie works on her laptop and eats.

WALTER

I swear, it was the worst hookup of my life.

NICOLE

Can't be worse than that date I had last weekend.

WALTER

You're right. Bible thumper takes the cake on that one.

BILLIE

And the last assignment has been turned in.

WALTER

We need to celebrate. Get really high. I have shrooms.

Cute Waitress approaches the table and leaves the check. Billie writes her phone number on the back.

WALTER (CONT'D)

You thirsty bitch.

BILLIE
Don't make it a thing.

EXT. LAKE ROBINSON - PARKING AREA - SHORE - NIGHT

A few cars parked. Billie, Nicole, and Walter sit on a blanket near the water.

WALTER
I love you guys.

Walter lays their head on Nicole's lap.

NICOLE
That's enough drugs for you.

WALTER
Bitch.

NICOLE
You okay, Billie?

BILLIE
(takes her hand)
I will be.

FADE OUT.

THE END

