

36 Steps on a Curved Road

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FADE IN

A series of blurry shots, fleeting impressions, the camera moves rapidly over people, crowds. We hear laughter and chatter coming in and out. Gusts of wind slam the microphone. We glance, if only for a split second at details of eyes and lips talking. During this interval a whole variety of sounds emerge in and out - office phones, traffic...

DAVID40 (V.O.)

In the beginning it's all a blur, a lovely blur that delights, that wins your heart. We're pushed here and there, people come from every direction, paths get mixed up, friends arrive by the dozen, and vanish. It's all like falling, falling into life.

In the beginning every step forward is tainted by everything that came before. You feel carried by its motion, like a great tide leading you anywhere it wants. Everything you're going to love, you're going to think, you're going to taste, stamped with the mark of your past. You feel like you'll be forever caught in its hazy cloud. But then something invariably happens.

We quickly see, for a fraction of a second, a face, straight on - hers. Fast. Then it all gets white, there is too much light in the frame.

THE BEACH

We gradually see DAVID20 approaching, arm raised, hand in front of his face, blocking the sun. He's trying to block the rays to make out what's in front of him. He casts some furtive glances at the sky. He's not quite sure that he likes the idea of being on this beach, it's all too crisp and hard for him. He hears laughter. He recovers a bit and looks at the young woman that is with him. MEGAN20 is shaking a blanket, trying to set it on the ground in as

flat a way as possible. It's not as easy as it seems. He grabs the two corners nearest him and gives her a hand. We see her face, she's happy, happy that he's helping, but mainly that they're here and that they're together. They flick the blanket in the air and we are in the entrance.

HOUSE70 - ENTRANCE

THEY70 are all dressed up on their way to some event. DAVID70 looks out of the window into the distance, an expectant look on his face. Like how a parent looks at a child learning to ride a bike. Like looking at a young couple learning how to live. MEGAN70 is nearby primping her hair and outfit. She comes over to David70

MEGAN70

Tell me what you think?

She straightens out his tie and steps back. She puts on a pair of very stylish, rather large sunglasses.

MEGAN70

With or without?

DAVID70

It's nighttime, why do you need sunglasses?

MEGAN70

It's about fun, not if I can see or not. I'll take them off when the performance starts.

A car horn is heard outside.

MEGAN70

Taxi's here.

THE BEACH (CONT'D)

We see the grandeur of the landscape, it's huge, infinite and quite loud. The couple is a small presence in the great scheme. We see that the couple has settled on their blanket, she is animated, alive, she appears to be telling him a story, she moves her hands, her face glows, smiles at him. He listens. Every now and then he squints at the

light, or has a smile for her. He loves her and her intensity. But it's all so new he's not quite sure how to handle it. So he sits back and is a spectator of her narrative.

MEGAN20

Did you ever have these thoughts?
More than thoughts really. Like a memory, but you can't place it. Part of you says it's got to be a dream, it can't possibly be. But everything about it is so clear and vivid.

Short pause

So I was in the woods, kind of like a clearing, it wasn't cold or warm, the trees had leaves. I couldn't help myself thinking that these were special trees! It sounds ridiculous but they felt extra beautiful.

She takes a pause

I was just overcome with emotion, there by myself. There wasn't anybody else around. I started running. It was like my body was part of the scenery, part of the forest, part of these extra special trees. And I'm running and it just feels great. I'm not getting out of breath at all, everything is just clicking, and then I realize that I'm flying...

40s KITCHEN

A couple in their late thirties or forties in their kitchen. They are preparing things, putting food away, they move around, glasses and cutlery in hand, twirling by each other, circling here and there, crisscrossing space, they cast some glances at each other. Kiss each other in passing. Like a perfectly timed choreography, a table gets set.

MEGAN20 (V.O.)

...just flying over the trees. I can feel the wind on my face, I'm totally in the moment, the trees are whizzing

MEGAN20 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

under me, I feel like I can do anything, I feel strong. It's really intense, I feel like I'm good and I fit perfectly. If want to go faster, I go faster, if want to go higher, I go higher.

BEACH (CONT'D)

THEY20 are sitting on the blanket. MEGAN20 continues telling her story. DAVID20 listens.

MEGAN20 (V.O.)

I have no idea when or where this happened, just this super clear memory, not a dream, I was there. It's a perfect moment.

HOUSE40 - KITCHEN (CONT'D)

THEY40 sit at their kitchen table. The mood is romantic, flirty. DAVID40 pours some wine in their glasses.

MEGAN40

I thought I'd make these for you. They used to be my favorite growing up. They remind me of summer vacation.

DAVID40 (with a smile)

Mmm.

MEGAN40

I know that they're not your favorite but nobody's ever made them like this for you. Try them.

DAVID40

You think so?

MEGAN40

Everybody overcooks them, I think

that you'll like them this way.

He picks up a thin slice of beet between her fingers and looks at it.

DAVID40

Summer.

She nods, He takes a bite.

DAVID40

I like it, it's good. You're right,
you know me better than I do.

MEGAN40

You're not just saying that?

DAVID40

I'm not. I'm absolutely serious Mrs.
Adams.

MEGAN40

I like that you're serious, Mr.
Adams.

THE BEACH (CONT'D)

THEY20 are now lying down on the blanket, side-by-side, quiet. She quietly plays with his hair. We can see the stuff that they brought with them. Their shoes are off and placed to the side along with a bag, some glasses, a book, the kind of book one reads in one's twenties, Neruda, or Kundera. A book that feels immense, that feels like it contains the breath of human experience, a book one wants to talk about, share. Their faces are happy, alert, they stare at nothing.

A QUIET ROAD

DAVID20 and MEGAN20 are on their bicycles. The street is deserted, they ride in the middle, crisscross side by side, pass each other. She especially likes it, the wind, the motion. He's a little looser than before, he whistles away. She thinks it's pretty funny.

THE 70s HOUSE - BATHROOM AND BEDROOM

In the bathroom, DAVID70 stands in front of a mirror. He observes himself for a second, he whistles a bit, he's always done this when he's happy, he's pretty good at it. It's a happy sound. He puts something on his face, some sort of after shave perhaps. With a towel he rubs his head. He goes on whistling as he wraps the towel on his head like some sort of turban, he becomes Van Eyck's "Man with the Red Turban". In another room MEGAN70 sits in bed in her nightclothes, she is surrounded by the elegant clothing she's just taken off. She is taking off some earrings. There are various papers on the night table next to her. She looks at some tickets that she's pulling out an envelope, she can hear him whistle, she stops what she's doing for a second, turns her head, listens.

DAVID70 (V.O.)

I whistle. She likes it. She didn't always like it. She liked it, then she didn't. For years she didn't. Like the tide - you're not sure if it's going to suck you in or spit you out.

I wonder why I never stopped when I knew she didn't like it?

A couple in love is a passionately violent thing. I'm going to shape you and you're going to shape me. I'll give you the keys, the passwords, I'll entrust you with everything that's me. Before you know it you're eating beets. Before you know it, you love Italian opera. Violent. Like a quiet ocean, come and swim, come and swim.

DAVID70 leaves his spot by the mirror and exits the bathroom.

SIDE OF A CITY STREET

DAVID20 walks into the frame. He's by a car, MEGAN20, is on the other side, she stands with her arms on the roof. He positions a heavy bag on his shoulder. There's some

lipstick on the side of his mouth.

DAVID20

Write to me.

MEGAN20

I will.

DAVID20

I love your letters.

MEGAN20 (with a smile)

I know.

There is a short pause

Three more weeks.

DAVID20

Three more weeks.

He walks away, bag on shoulder, eyes cast down. She doesn't move, doesn't get back in her car, she can only look as he walks. She shouts and waves.

MEGAN20

See you soon!

He turns to her, he says nothing, he's heartbroken.

DAVID20's PARENTS' HOUSE - STAIRS

We see DAVID20 going down a set of stairs, there is no light at the bottom, as he proceeds he is engulfed by darkness.

DAVID20's PARENTS' HOUSE - BEDROOM

DAVID20 sits on a bed. He listens to the muffled sound of a television, of other voices, presumably those of his parents taking from another room. He's lost, not knowing what to do, he can only let time do it's thing before he can get out of there again.

MEGAN20's PARENTS' HOUSE - BEDROOM

MEGAN20 is in her room, she paces back and forth. There is an impatience in her movement, a get-me-out-of-here. Her hands don't know how to occupy themselves, her gaze doesn't have anything to settle on. It's a bit of a moment of vertigo, a realization that she belongs elsewhere.

DAVID20's PARENTS' HOUSE - KITCHEN

In the family kitchen DAVID20 sits immobile at the table, His mother is there moving about, she is a font of advice! She never stops to listen for the answers to her barrage of questions.

DAVID's MOTHER - ELIZABETH

David, do you know what classes you're going to take this semester? 'Cos for the last few semesters you've been taking it a bit lightly if you ask me, you've got to push yourself, how are you going to ever get a good job if you always try to get by on the bare minimum. This is the time where you've got to push, this is your senior year, that's it after that, don't go floating by, this is a chance that you only get once, take it seriously and apply yourself.

How are things with that Megan girl anyway? Was it nice to visit her? What's her Major anyway? I bet she takes school seriously, with all the letters you're getting I can tell at least she's not lazy...

He's not interested in what she's saying, he tunes it out, all he sees are her hands moving about, the dish rag, her long fingers over the counter tidying things up, her wedding band and the sounds it makes on the laminate counter.

HOUSE40 - KITCHEN

We cut to another pair of hands, these also tidying things up on a counter, these also leave little wedding-band pinging sounds on the counter.

DAVID40 stops for a second, and looks at his hand, He's not too thrilled at the connection with his mother. He resumes what he's doing - he quickly wipes a counter while MEGAN40 passes in front holding a cardboard box, she drops it off in front of him and walks off. He begins to open it while we see her passing behind him holding another box. They are obviously moving in. There are a few cartons here and there, some trash bags and bunches of crumpled paper towels too. He opens the box and pauses for a second, smiling. He pulls out a few letters, they are ornate, drawn, multi-paged things. He glances towards her, she pays no attention, busy doing her thing. She is holding a bottle of blue stuff, she too rummages in a box.

MEGAN40 (O.C.)

I think that I'll put some of my things in that nook over there. Use it like a kind of mini office.

Pause

Do you think I should put these up?

He looks in her direction

DAVID40

Of course, it's proof that you're a badass, put all your awards up.

He spends a few seconds going through some of the contents of the box - more letters, papers... He pulls out a book (the Neruda/Kundera), flips rapidly through the pages, gives it one last unceremonious glance and chucks it into the rubbish pile next to the open garbage bag, the dust pan and brush.

BEDROOM40 + BEDROOM20

THEY40 are in bed, obviously the mood is romantic, but it is the kind of solid romance devoid of the flutter of those getting to know each other. They're obviously in love with each other, no one has any doubts, everyone is happy, happy like a quiet ocean.

THEY40 kiss, nuzzle and caress. We see MEGAN40's happy face then cut to MEGAN20 in a similar state, but this one has more tension, her neck is perhaps more outstretched, less

like swimming more like drowning. We cut back to the 40s they are laughing, comfortable with the whole picture then cut back to DAVID20 he can't help feeling that things however good they are are on the edge of careening to some place he's unsure about, He can't help marvel at how beautiful she is, he stares, like a man who first sees the light of love, like a deer in headlights. MEGAN20 is 'gone', floating away in the ever-changing light. (Look at Polke's photo)

The young couple lies in bed and listens to the sounds of the room. Just a few eyes looking here and there as the creaking house shows itself.

HOUSE70 - HALLWAY + BEDROOM + KITCHEN

It is dark, we catch hints here and there of where we are. A bit of a frame, a bit of a wall switch. We see MEGAN70 walking in the nighttime house. She is holding a candle, she is perhaps checking on things, perhaps she simply doesn't feel like being in bed. In the bedroom we see that DAVID70 is lying there covered in sheets. The effect is quite different than seeing those younger folk in love. He is completely still, he looks all alone, a study in wrinkles. In the kitchen, she takes a small plastic container, and pulls out a pill (or three!), she takes it. As she returns to the bed the light in the room changes as a car goes by, an arc of light is drawn in addition to her candle. She sits on the bed, and looks at him.

MEGAN70 (V.O.)

There's no shame in being a little broken, a little chipped. I tell myself it lets the light in, and it lets me see where I'm going. I was always the one who would feel the strongest, who would get excited at all that life had to offer. I would be off at the slightest thing. Ready to go as fast and as high as I could. And for a long long while I just went - without seeing it seems. Not realizing what I was bumping in, what I was leaving behind.

Isn't it funny how such happiness,

and intensity, can hold back those around you that you love, it's almost like it prevents them from seeing it themselves. It's as if my great love of the world, my wanting to fly had the seed of my falling deep within it.

HOUSE40 - BEDROOM

The alarm clock rings. In the bed MEGAN40 stirs and taps the clock to make it stop. She then moves towards DAVID40 next to her. She talks softly to him, kissing him on the ear.

MEGAN40

It's time to get up.

DAVID40

It's still dark.

MEGAN40

It's December. It's dark in December.

DAVID40

Fucjknfvsvkjbbnmfg

She thinks it's funny and sweet. Like a grown boy would act. She pulls off the covers and swivels to get out of the bed.

DAVID40

Noooo, come on. Just a little longer.

MEGAN40

What about your work?

DAVID40

I hate my job, They can kiss my ass.

MEGAN40

Alright then.

She thinks it's funny

MEGAN40 (CON'T)

Well I like my job,

She picks up her cell phone, as she does so it begins a series of beeps, to which David40 reacts with some plaintive sounds. After a little while he turns on his back, emits a long sigh while looking at her.

MEGAN40 (sweetly)
Good morning sunshine

She rubs his t-shirt

DAVID40
Good lord, you got to be joking.

She gets up and leaves the room. As he watches her go he rubs his head and mutters to himself. She heads out with mischief and happiness in her eyes.

DAVID20 APARTMENT

Nighttime in the apartment. A few lights are on here and there, illuminating the happy people hanging out. They talk, drink and chill. They are all in their twenties, probably they all go to college together. The apartment itself is rather sparsely furnished. There is a couch in the back where we can see DAVID20 hanging out with a few friends. MEGAN20 is with a different group, more upfront, and is busy telling them, with her usual intensity some kind of story. Her two friends listen and smile. By the couch things are also going well, everyone is comfortable with each other, there is some of the usual banter of friends getting together, absurd silliness. Someone walks by handing some beers to our fine couch folk. DAVID20 drinks happily, vaguely concerned, but not really, about the smiling boy by MEGAN20. He is ever so mildly annoyed that, once more, she is launching into another of her stories...

MEGAN20
...it's really cool, I don't just get the coffee, they treat their interns like professionals, I get to do all sorts of stuff, just last week we were working on this project where we need to double the subscriber base for this publisher, so we took over

this huge conference room and literally plastered it with all of our ideas. It was really impressive, and the directors really loved it! They even said that they were going to move forward with some of our ideas! I'm actually going to see some of my ideas in print on a huge scale! It's going to be a couple of months or so but...

We fade out of her monologue into the V.O.

DAVID20 (V.O.)

More and more I'm realizing that the world is big and vast, and she thinks that it's all for her. And somehow she wants to share it with me. She wants me to jump in with her, and that together we can fly like in her silly dream. She thinks that I'm meant for flying. I'm not so sure.

She dreams of great heights and makes up stories of great adventure. And it all seems so clear to her, every step of the way. I like the idea of the top of the mountain just as much as anybody else. It's the side of the mountain I'm not so sure about.

(MORE)

HOUSE40 - SOME FLOOR - BEDROOM

DAVID40 and MEGAN40 are sitting not quite back to back on the floor, there is a pile of clothes around them - laundry. They sit and quietly pick up items, fold them, and place them in piles. Some of the items are minuscule children's t-shirts and other disturbingly small pieces of clothing. Every now and then we hear some beep, some chime.

DAVID20 (V.O.) (CON'T)

I've made up different stories than she has. My stories are a bit murkier, a bit darker, like a sort of

fairytale that's meant to scare. They quietly whisper: "stop, don't take that next step - you'll go nowhere."

MEGAN40 ultimately gives in and gets her cell phone, checks it, and begins to type up some response. He turns his head slightly annoyed, but continues nonetheless.

MEGAN40
It's my job, I've got to reply

DAVID40
mmm

MEGAN40
We're just busy.

She keeps typing away. We see her face in the light of her device. After a while DAVID40 gives up on the clothes, he looks in her direction for a bit, she pays no attention to him. He's not upset, on one hand he understands on the other he doesn't want to do the folding by himself. After a bit of uncertainty David40 gets up heads towards the door, he changes his mind and comes back near the window at a loss for what to do. After a few seconds, we hear their son, COREY, calling in the other room. David40 closes his eyes, and slowly leaves the room to see what's up.

DAVID40 (O.C.)
I'm coming Corey.

HOUSE70 - KITCHEN

We cut to DAVID70 looking out into space. For a few seconds his gaze just stays there. He then returns to the work at hand, he is standing at the kitchen counter, bag of flour, mixing bowls at the ready. A young man crosses the frame in the very close foreground; it is their son COREY. Corey puts a few extra items on the counter, baking powder, sugar.

DAVID70
Corey...
Pause

Could you grab the milk?

COREY (O.C.)

Sure.

DAVID70

I'm glad you could stop over.

COREY

It's no problem, I don't see you guys enough anymore.

DAVID70

I'm making your favorite pancakes. Well they're no different than any other pancakes.

COREY30

That's not true, They're awesome, You load them with butter.

DAVID70

I don't think it's the butter. I think that it's what you remember of them that makes them great. Your nostalgia for when you were a kid.

COREY

I had a pretty good childhood.

HOUSE40 - SOME FLOOR - BEDROOM (CONT'D)

MEGAN40 looks up from her phone. DAVID40 is not there anymore. We can hear him trying to soothe the child from the other room.

She stands alone in the middle of the room surrounded by the stacks of folded clothes, arms at her side, cell phone dangling, useless. She strains to hear what her husband and son are saying but she can't quite put it together.

MEGAN40 (V.O.)

Everyone thinks that I'm so strong. That everything is easy for me. I'm so successful, I've got such a nice

family. And it's true I've got all those things. I can see that with time...

(MORE)

HOUSE70 - KITCHEN (CONT'D)

MEGAN70 comes into the kitchen, as she walks behind DAVID70 her hand touches his back, she opens a little box and gets a sugar cube out of it. She walks at the edge of the room, away from the cooking to a nearby small table with vase of flowers She gently rearranges some of the wild flowers.

MEGAN40 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...I could fool myself and think it's all been easy, that everything has just come to me. That for some reason my choices were always the right ones. Listen to me - I don't feel strong, not all the time, and neither do you sitting in front of your flowers. You're making up stories, stories of the past.

(MORE)

She pauses to look at her work and then moves her face into the flowers, she feels them on her cheeks, soft.

FOREST

A field or a forest with wild flowers growing here and there, it's a beautiful day, the light shines on and nature is in its usual glory. A tiny couple can be seen in the distance, THEY20 walk some distance from one another, they are not really there, certainly not there together. They have preoccupied looks on their faces, when one turns in the other's direction the other shifts to remain distant, far. As DAVID20 walks he touches the various flowers and stalks around him, every now and then he'll tug a bit, rip one out of the earth. He looks at them intermittently. Plucking some leaves off as he goes.

MEGAN40 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You tell yourself, "I didn't fuck

up", "I made the right choices"
 Stories written over decades. An
 awesome achievement slowly changing
 and rearranging everything. Please
 don't change what happened, you are
 changing me, that's not who I was, I
 was young and alive and made a ton of
 bad decisions, we both did. Even
 though they're gone, that they've
 changed, keep my quirks, keep me in
 your heart, because you're my keeper,
 because otherwise you've lost me. Let
 me leave a bit of a mark.

HOUSE40 - SOME FLOOR - BEDROOM (CONT'D)

MEGAN40 hears a door softly closing down the hallway.
 DAVID40 has finished putting COREY in bed. David40 walks
 down the hall. He's tired and out of it. He doesn't turn
 his head towards the room where Megan40 still stands, he
 just goes on. Megan40 watches him go.

HOUSE70 - KITCHEN (CONT'D)

MEGAN70 stands by the small table with the vase with her
 cup of tea in her hands. She absentmindedly and very slowly
 rubs the fingers of her free hand as if to remove some
 grains of sugar on them. She looks in the distance.

MEGAN70 (very softly - to herself)
 Why shouldn't I get rid of you? You
 were a lovely girl but you've wasted
 so much of my time. It's not the mark
 I want to leave.

We see a sugar cube slowly dissolving in liquid.

FOREST (CONT'D)

MEGAN20 walks along on her own path, every now and then
 looking up at the branches, but mainly caught in her own
 thoughts. She ultimately walks by him, not truly looking in
 his direction. He calls out to her:

DAVID20
 Are these your trees?

MEGAN20

What do you mean?

DAVID20

You know your trees, your very special trees. Those that you commune with when you go off flying in your dreams.

MEGAN20

Don't make fun of me.

DAVID20

It's just a joke.

MEGAN20

I was trying to tell you something that I thought was important. Maybe it's just not cool enough for you. Not intellectual enough. You should try to open your eyes once in a while and see the beauty that's right in front of you.

DAVID20 (Dismissive)

I got it, I got it.

MEGAN20

I don't like that you said that.

DAVID20

There's plenty that you say that I don't like...

They both continue to walk on. He turns a bit and heads in a different direction.

HOUSE70 - KITCHEN (CONT'D)

DAVID70, MEGAN70 and COREY are at the kitchen table, they are finishing up their pancakes. The mood is happy and light. They are joking with each other mainly with Megan and Corey teasing David. We hear laughter.

MEGAN70

I wouldn't listen to anything he's got to say.

COREY

I never have, or I try not to anyway.

DAVID70

It's ok I still love you anyway.

By the way love is not blind, you know, it sees more deeply than anything, deep down into those far away places where the tiny bits of good still live.

COREY

So you're saying that I only have some minuscule bits of good in me?

DAVID70 collects his thoughts.

DAVID70

In my long experience...

Corey and Megan70 share an incredulous look.

MEGAN70

Oh God!

He was always a little like this you know. At first I didn't see it, but it was always there.

COREY

The flourish!

MEGAN70

Too many old books.

DAVID70

...In my long and mainly useless experience. There's one bit of somewhat valuable insight.

Pause

...is do what your mother says.

Laughter

Actually, it would be: try not to be afraid, there are enough things out there that will do that for you. And see that everything that you do from the slightest glance to the biggest gesture gets bounced around between you and everybody else around you, and between you today and you tomorrow.

FOREST - PARKING LOT + CAR

DAVID20 in car waiting for MEGAN20 who is still outside doing stuff. He's not happy, the afternoon did not turn out the way he wanted.

MEGAN20 (O.C)

You should come and see this.

No response. David continues to key everything out.

MEGAN20 (O.C.)

Please don't withdraw, come out!

DAVID20 tries to get some quiet, calming mind frame to set in, but finds it hard to do so.

DAVID20 (V.O.)

She's great. She's happy, she loves me, so why do I feel like it won't work out? Actually I feel like *I* don't want it to work out, like there's a part of me not willing to take that step.

I don't know if it's because I don't want to be changed, because it's new or if because it's just wrong.

(MORE)

IN AN OFFICE

DAVID40 is at work. He's aimlessly shuffling the papers in front of him, barely looking at them. He's not bored but

he's trying to gets things done so that he can move on to something more enjoyable. He ultimately puts them in a folder, Scratches his head, looks at his watch and picks up a book. He finds the page where he left off and begins to read.

DAVID20 (V.O.) (CONT'T)

Part of me just wants to keep doing the same old thing. Like I'm hypnotized into keeping things safe. Walking in a dark house that happens to be my life, just find that little corner that's got some light and stay there, happy to be looking in from the outside.

How long am I going to be happy with that?

I don't need to feel bad about it,

DAVID20 (V.O.) (CONT'T)

there's nothing wrong about wanting a little quiet, a little time apart of everyone else. I know I can't be like this all the time. But it's ok for now.

HOUSE70 - KITCHEN (CONT'D)

DAVID70, MEGAN70, and COREY have finished their meal. They are up and about, cleaning up the table and bringing stuff to the counter.

COREY

I'll be in town again in three weeks.

MEGAN70

Oh, soon! - Good! it'll be good to see you.

COREY

I have another meeting, I can come early.

DAVID70

We can do another late breakfast.

COREY

Same pancakes?

DAVID70

If you want. But we can do something different too.

MEGAN70

Your father's been talking for the last few days of making these noodles for breakfast. With fish! Korean Style.

COREY

We can do that, I'm up for it.

DAVID70

That's a good man. I'm glad it doesn't scare you. It took me a long time to get there.

IN AN OFFICE (CONT'D)

DAVID40 is at a desk, surrounded by papers and books. A coworker, BRIGADIER JIM, (I just like the name - this is not a police station or some military thing) is busy going through some paperwork himself.

BRIGADIER JIM

Do you have the syllabus for the intro class?

Pause, DAVID40 doesn't react

BRIGADIER JIM

Do you have the syllabus for the intro class?

Short pause.

Dude, are you there.

DAVID40

Yes. Yes.

BRIGADIER JIM

You need to get back to the world.

DAVID40

I much prefer to spend my time away
from the real world.

BRIGADIER JIM

I can see that.

DAVID40

I've been getting into this book and...

BRIGADIER JIM

What's it about?

Drawing a blank.

DAVID40

It's kind of hard to say. It's very
vaporous...

BRIGADIER JIM

Vaporous!

DAVID40

...As you go forward with it, what's
left behind, well, it disappears.

Pause

Actually I couldn't tell you about
half the books I've read..

HOUSE40 - LIVING ROOM

THEY40 are sitting in the living room. It's evening. He
lies on the sofa with some book. She's on a chair, nearby
with a device, a laptop, a tablet of some sort. She looks
at holiday pictures, flipping from one to the other. With
her other hand she runs her fingers in her hair. Her
expression changes from picture to picture, a bit of a
smile, a bit of a frown. She sometimes looks into the
distance.

MEGAN40 (V.O.)

I look at old photos and seem to see
how happy we were that day at the
beach, years ago. But that whole day
I was worried that Corey would get

too close to the water... we all got sunburns 'cos we forgot the sunscreen, there was no bathroom for miles. It was so beautiful. The place was majestic, huge... For some reason we were somewhere else.

While he reads his book he absentmindedly rummages around with his free hand in a little bowl by the sofa. The bowl contains little rocks. He picks one up and drops it back in the bowl. He does this without taking his eyes off his book. She doesn't care for the noise, but doesn't say a word. She looks at her screen again.

THE BEACH

DAVID70 picks up some shells, some small rocks, he meticulously inspects them. He walks around small shallow pools where algae lightly undulates in the water. A bit further away we can see that MEGAN70 is there as well, in the distance, doing her thing. He glances in her direction every now and then. For a few moments they each walk around the beach, each investigating independently.

DAVID70 (V.O.)

I want to touch my wife's hair,
because I've forgotten, I want to
roughhouse with my son, because I've
forgotten, I want to fill every day
with all those tiny gestures that
evaporate as soon as they're made,
that no one fully remembers, but that
set up everything that comes up next.
They reach deep and far into us and
whisper words that we only half
understand. But somehow, if we try,
we get it.

Here's something for you to do. Your
first step. Close the kitchen drawer
with love, step on the subway with
grace, make the bed - an opera.

HOUSE40 - LIVING ROOM

DAVID40 is still sitting on the sofa, with his book, still toying with the rocks. He brings one closer to inspect it.

He looks at it for a few seconds and drops it back into the bowl. She looks at him, somewhat upset.

THE BEACH

DAVID70 settles on a rock, he looks up and notices that she is walking towards the waves. He watches her slowly advance to the shore. She takes a few steps into the water, stops, takes a few more. He wonders what she's up to, not daring to imagine the worse. She sits in the water and lets the water flow around her. She looks into the distance, not at Portugal on the other side, but at herself many years ago. She cocks her head to the side, it takes a while to straighten one's path, but it can be done. She did it.

MEGAN20 APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

MEGAN20 is sitting on the sofa of her living room. She is on the phone and is talking as quietly as possible. There are sounds of a couple of people talking in the other room. She obviously would like to keep this conversation private.

She sits and listens intently, disturbed.

DAVID20 (O.C.)

You've always got all these great things going on. I don't. I haven't either had the good luck that you've had or put in the elbow grease...

MEGAN20

But you could always come with me and find something for yourself there. It's not like you're wedded to this place.

DAVID20 (O.C.)

I know. You make it sound like it's a no-brainer. Like I can just flip it all around. I need to think about things.

MEGAN20

I know you do, but it's exciting too, no?

DAVID20 (O.C.)

Well, I'm not sure I'd call it that.
I just wish it was more obvious.

MEGAN20

Are you free tonight?

DAVID20 (O.C.)

I don't think I can come, I've got...

MEGAN20 (cutting in)

Oh I thought that you were pretty
much done with all your work.

DAVID20 (O.C.)

We just saw each other yesterday .

Irritated

MEGAN20

Well call me then.

DAVID20 (O.C.)

Alright, I will, I gotta go.

MEGAN20

Bye.

MEGAN hangs up, gets up, and after a second of uncertainty she heads to the kitchen.

MEGAN20 APARTMENT - KITCHEN

MEGAN20 enters her apartment kitchen, a couple of friends/roommates are already there sitting with a drink (tea/coffee). Things are different than they were in the past. She doesn't show the same kind of ebullience as before, the two friends do most of the talking. The conversation does not really engage her. It seems like they are growing apart. Their various decisions pulling them in different directions.

MEGAN20 walks in, goes to a cupboard, grabs a spoon, and makes sure that the kettle is on. She's making a cup of tea. While she is doing this:

LAURA THE AUTHOR

I'm excited for next year, this graduate program is gonna be cool, they've got these visiting authors, that come in like every week.

Cutting in

JAQUELINE THE UNDECIDED HUMANITIES
GENIUS

That's great, I really feel like it will finally be the time to have some freedom, you know, now we've got some kind of basics under our belt, we can just experiment, try stuff out, it'll really be our time to fly! ...

This catches MEGAN20's attention she turns her head to them

...Hone our own personal craft. Really take that first step in being outstanding...

LAURA THE AUTHOR

...There are a few schools that I'm still considering. I'm not sure how it's all going to work out. If one

LAURA THE AUTHOR (CONT'D)

wasn't in the middle of nowhere it would be an easy choice. Either way it's going to be way better than being some no-name undergrad poking around.

JAQUELINE THE UNDECIDED HUMANITIES
GENIUS

It's going to be a really important time. I think we'll really grow there. Grad school will be good for us

LAURA THE AUTHOR

We'll you and I anyway...

Turning to MEGAN20

...Megan, you're not going to grad school right?

MEGAN20

No, I took a job as a junior
assistant editor at WBO.

LAURA THE AUTHOR

Right, jumping into real life!

JAQUELINE THE UNDECIDED HUMANITIES
GENIUS

That's exciting!

MEGAN20

I have no fear.

OFFICE

MEGAN40 is at work. We can hear phones ringing in the
various offices and cubicles, people talking.

She is intently looking into a drawer with the phone jammed
between her ear and her shoulder. She mutters the
occasional "mmm" and "uh-hm" while her hands are going
through some paperwork. She hangs up and closes the drawer.
She is looking at her monitor, clicking her mouse every few
seconds. JERRY THE PIN-STRIPE MAN enters her space.

JERRY THE PIN-STRIPE MAN

Megan, I though you should be the
first one to know.

I heard from Bruce, they're going to
go with it. They'll be sending you
signed contracts by the end of the
day. They sounded very happy, good
work as always.

MEGAN40 (pleased)

Why, thank you! We get to feel good
for what...

She looks at the time.

...three hours before we need to get
going on this.

JERRY THE PIN-STRIPE MAN

I'm really happy we'll get to work on this account together.

MEGAN40 (ever so slightly flirty? -
not sure)
It's going to be good. It's going to be fun.

JERRY THE PIN-STRIPE MAN
Here you go, I'll see you later.

Jerry, places a folder on her desk. Taps it with his knuckles a few times and steps out. Megan gives a smile as she watches him go.

HOUSE40 - KITCHEN

DAVID40 is sitting at the dinner table along with MEGAN40 and COREY. Megan and Corey are eating and intermittently playing this game with each other. All the while David40 just sits there and does not react to their fun. For him, the scene comes in and out of focus, sounds get muffled and trail off.

In their game, Megan and Corey suddenly make faces at each other and quickly stop, returning to normal. After a few exchanges Megan inserts:

MEGAN40
Have another bite, darling.

Corey doesn't comply

MEGAN40
I'll give you more juice if you take another bite.

Corey takes another bite as Megan re-fills the plastic cup. Corey drinks it up in one fell swoop as if it is the most refreshing thing ever.

David just sits there zoning out, lost in his thoughts.

MEGAN40
Alright, your pajama is on your bed, can you please get ready.

She turns her attention towards David. Bits of memories wind their way in, old voices are heard vaguely and faintly. He seems perhaps to grasp a fragment, but as soon as it forms it dissolves. There is no break in the clouds that will bring him back to the dinner table. She wonders if he's upset with her or if she's upset with him.

BEACH - (CONT'D)

MEGAN70 gets up from her sitting position in the water. She sees DAVID70 in the distance and heads towards him. Upon reaching him she settles on the blanket next to him. They talk as he's going through his find of pretty shells and rocks. Megan70 puts a few things away in her bag.

DAVID70

What were you doing out there?

MEGAN70

I was making plans.

DAVID70

I see.

MEGAN70

I've been very good, my whole life, at making plans. I've kinda gotten lost in them every now and then.

Pause

MEGAN70 (CONT'D)

And I wish I hadn't. It would have saved me lots of time.

DAVID70

You want to get straight to the good parts.

Pause

That's how you read books by the way. I see you jumping around.

MEGAN70

Lately, it's like I hear this faint voice inside of me.

DAVID70

That's not good.

MEGAN70

It's faint. It's like it's telling me that I was something else, different than the person that I seem to remember.

I'm finding it hard - we have a nice life, everything's good, so why that nagging feeling inside. It's frustrating. I want to get rid of it, give it a month or two it'll be gone.

DAVID70

It's funny how things bounce around.

DAVID20 HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

With a couple of friends, we hear the electronic beeping of a video game. He watches his friends play. They are making sounds, insulting each other, as they compete against one another. The usual. A few friends come in and out of the room, unconcerned about the duel. The two friends are intensely focusing on the TV, light changes on their faces with the action. After enjoying being there with his friends and being their happy spectator David's mood changes.

DAVID20

I don't know if it's gonna work out

SUPER MARIO

Of course it's gonna work out, I've done this level hundreds of times.

DAVID20

It's not what I'm talking about...

Pause

I don't know if I can do this.

BEACH (CONT'D)

MEGAN70 and DAVID70 are leaving the beach area. They are putting their things in the couple of shoulder bags they

have with them.

DAVID70

You never told me what plans you were making.

MEGAN70

I haven't made any plans. I'm still undecided.

DAVID70

Undecided - you're like how I used to be.

MEGAN70

We were very sweet weren't we?

DAVID70

A little sweet, a little clueless, which is sweet too depending on how you look at it.

David turns his head towards the shore.

DAVID70

Look at this place!

MEGAN70

Never gets old.

THEY70 get up and head off. The beach is grand.

DAVID20 HOUSE - BEDROOM

MEGAN20 is sitting in bed covered in a large blanket, while DAVID20 is a bit further away kneeling on the floor, huddled by a radiator, tapping it, trying to fiddle with things, bringing his hear close to it to see if there isn't anything hissing or buzzing. He's frustrated. The room is obviously cold and it seems like it's been that way for a while.

DAVID20

It's freezing in here.

He goes from the radiator to the dresser, opens a drawer and rummages in it for a few seconds. He closes it and goes towards the wall to the thermostat.

I don't think I even have the number for the landlord? It's got to be somewhere.

MEGAN20

You can call him in the morning, come...

DAVID20

Don't you think it's cold?

More tinkering, with the thermostat.

MEGAN20

My love...

Still wrapped in her blanket she leaves the bed and gets close to him. As she approaches:

MEGAN20

Next time we can stay at my place.

DAVID20

I wish I knew how this thing worked.

From behind him, she kisses him on the cheek, but doesn't get much of a reaction from him. She waits and looks at his fiddling for a few seconds. She turns back and returns to the bed.

HOUSE40 - KITCHEN

MEGAN40 stares at DAVID40 over her teacup. A glare. She is perfectly dressed up for some sort of office job, everything in place while he's still in his pajamas. He rubs his eyes, he hasn't quite woken up yet. From off camera we can hear the sounds of a child. She stares at him, he fiddles with a cup, a spoon, he's not going to be there this morning. Then suddenly:

MEGAN40

I'm going to be late for work, I've

got to go.

MEGAN40 (O.C. in a much warmer voice)
 Hey my love, I'm taking you to
 school, are you ready?

He lifts his eyes from the haze he was in, he realizes that all is not well this morning.

SUBWAY CAR

We see MEGAN40 sitting/standing in a crowded subway

HOUSE40 - BEDROOM

DAVID40 comes into the bedroom, tidies up a side table, then proceeds to make the bed. We see him tugging at some sheet corner, straightening a cover, placing pillows. He stands in front of the bed for a few seconds. He moves towards it and undoes his work - he gets into in the bed. He closes his eyes.

DAVID40 (V.O.)

There's a moment when you realize that you've changed. How did that happen? You don't wake up like a bug in a bed. You wake up and there's a little less light in the light, there's a little less meaning in that kiss, there's a little more 'automatic'.

DAVID40 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And you're so good at it you don't even need to pay attention. You get so good at navigating the world that you don't even need to be there.

HOUSE70 - BATHROOM

He stands in the bathroom. There is a small photo of the two of them (20s? 70s) on the wall. He picks it up and looks at her for several seconds. He gets a malaise and sits down, helping himself with his arms. He puts the

picture frame on the sink counter face down. He breathes for several seconds holding his shoulder and neck.

MEGAN70 (OFF CAMERA)

I'll be outside in the garden

He gathers his strength. Gets up and faces himself in the mirror.

DAVID70 (muttering)

Come on, alright.

Pause, as he begins to look to himself, then softly:

I see you and your doubts. Every moment of the day is engulfed with whirling 'ifs'. Making you doubt, wonder, maybe even making you unhappy.

(MORE)

HOUSE40 - BEDROOM

DAVID40 is in bed. He reaches over to Megan's bedside table and takes a cup that's been left there. He looks at the lipstick stain on the rim. He is pensive for a moment and places the cup back down. (on his side of the table this time) He shuffles a few objects on the table and picks up a camera, he does not bring it to his eye but just simply rolls it around in his hands.

DAVID70 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You try to stand outside the moment, get outside of the world, to see it for what it is, but all you see is

DAVID70 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

the flutter of the 'maybes' like ghosts fighting to be made real. You try to turn the tide that's carrying you god knows where, to see just a bit of an opening, an opening in the shape of you.

A young person worries about money, an older one wishes that he had that

liberty, and even older one that he
had that strength.

(MORE)

HOUSE20 - BEDROOM

DAVID20 is sitting in bed covered with his blanket to help
him with the cold. He reads a book. He occasionally casts a
side glance away from his book.

DAVID70 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Each looking at the other with
different eyes, saying, you were
wrong, you were great.

We can hear a light muffled music sound in the room. As we
see the room we realize that MEGAN20 is also on the bed,
just a few feet away, covered in her own blanket. Her head
sways back and forth as she almost silently listens to
music on headphones. Her movement is meant to be seductive,
she would prefer it if he put down the book for the
evening. She alternately closes her eyes to the music or
fixes them on him. At a certain point, when he looks to her
for a second, she starts:

MEGAN20

You don't want to put your book down
for a second?

DAVID20 (lost in thought)

Put down my book?

MEGAN20

You want to listen with me? I could
get the other headphones.

DAVID20

I'm just gonna read.

She comes closer to him, stares.

DAVID20

It's a great book, it give the
impression that the world is this
great big place with all sorts of

connections happening all the time. I like the way it's written.

MEGAN20

Is it going to change you like I'm going to change you?

DAVID20

You think you're going to change me? Maybe I'm going to change you.

HOUSE70 - BATHROOM + HALLWAY

DAVID70 still by the mirror of the bathroom takes a cup by the sink and fills it with water. He looks at his reflection still a bit apprehensive at the state of his health. He raises his glass and toasts himself.

DAVID70

Here's to changing the tide.

He takes a drink and continues much more softly.

DAVID70

I hope you get it. I'm doing all I can.

DAVID70 looks at himself in the bathroom mirror. Making sure his breathing is regular, and that there are no unusual pains. He puts down the glass by the sink and exits the bathroom.

He walks down the hallway, on his way he straightens a few framed awards (on the wall, on a table?) and photographs. He gently picks one up.

HOUSE40 - LIVING ROOM

COREY is wearing his pajamas and is holding a plastic cup full of juice in his hands. He walks by the living room where MEGAN40 is sitting. From the kitchen we hear DAVID40:

DAVID40 (O.C.)

Corey, before you go to bed make sure that your bag is ready, O.K.?

Corey stops in his tracks, walks to his bag lying on the floor. He puts his cup down, picks up a small stack of papers and jams them in his bag with no regard for how crumpled he might make them. Megan40 looks on with very slight emotion. David40 enters the room as Corey finishes. Corey picks up his cup and walks out.

MEGAN40

Good night honey!

COREY (O.C.)

Good night mom!

DAVID40 approaches Megan40 in her chair holding a bottle of wine and two empty glasses.

MEGAN40

Wine!

DAVID40

Yeah, I thought we could have a little something special.

He begins pouring in her glass. She looks at him uneasily.

MEGAN40

That's good! I'm just going to have a tiny sip. It's going to wipe me out. I'm so tired.

DAVID40

Busy day...

He fills his glass generously.

MEGAN40

The usual, we're moving ahead with PanElectra, I they just finally signed. For all the time I've been

MEGAN40 (CONT'D)

telling them at work that they're scalable, I think they finally get it. They're finally jumping onboard with my plan. The stakeholders love the new stuff. It's mission critical that I get this done. It's lot of work. I'm just tired.

DAVID40 (looking at his glass)
I tell you it's delicious!
Notwithstanding the side notes of
despair, it's got a hint of
strawberry, a bit of ocean air too. A
deep wine, it's got legs.

She looks at him oddly

OUTSIDE

Leaves in the summer breeze, the sound of crickets in the air. It's evening and slowly getting dark. There is a house with some lit windows.

HOUSE20 - LIVINGROOM

We see the living room as a whole, a few of the house-mates are collapsed on the couch one of them fanning themselves with a bit of paper.

MEGAN20 walks through the room slowly, she is heading towards the kitchen.

HOUSE20 - HALLWAY

In the hallway she walks slowly, either hand touching the wall. She listens and goes.

HOUSE20 - KITCHEN

In the kitchen DAVID20 is sitting on the counter with a glass of water in his hands. He looks out of the window at the summer sky. The branches and trees are lulling in the breeze. It's hot. Megan arrives nearby. David has to arc sideways to let Megan open the cupboard. She gets a glass, opens the tap and lets it run for a bit. More than looking at her, David20 observes her. She doesn't seem to mind so much. Her glass full she sits on the counter as well. They don't interact much. She casts a look outside wondering at what he could have been looking at. They both take a sip of their water at the same time. As odd as it seems, that's all that's needed. It's a fragile moment.

OUTSIDE + SUBWAY STATION + SUBWAY CAR.

DAVID40 walks on the city sidewalk, it's chilly outside, he pulls his coat tightly. He goes down the stairs, enters a subway station. He waits for his train.

DAVID40 (V.O.)

When I see the hazy sky for those few minutes before I get to the station, sometimes the sky is pink, and I'll tell myself unforgettable. And yet I forget. If you ask me a few days later to tell you what I saw, I'll be reduced to one word "Pink". I could add the word "clouds". In fact if I make an effort I could use a whole bunch of words, but I'll still never get to the feeling of when I first saw it. It's gone, just like my two year old son is gone, completely adorable, but just gone, replaced by a 7-year old. Now I have to go through my phone to see the pictures, to say to myself "yes, that's right you were there". But barely.

All that lightness and joy, all intertwined with sadness and second-guessing. When did it all get so mixed up? And where are the beautiful things I know I've seen - that subway sunset, gone. Fuck.

DAVID40 is in a subway looking at nothing in particular.

HOUSE70 - BATHROOM + HALLWAY

DAVID70 puts down the photograph that he holds. He lightly touches one of the framed awards.

DAVID70

My poor Megan.

He begins walking down the hallway.

DAVID70

But then again maybe not.

He continues on towards a window where he glances at

MEGAN70 outside in a small garden. She is cutting a few dead branches here and there, pruning a few leaves.... She is concentrating on what she is doing, she is happy. He looks at her for a few moments. While she is unaware that he is looking at her she does sense something - she lifts her head for a second and pays attention to her surrounding.

PARK BENCH

MEGAN40 is sitting alone on a park bench. She is well dressed, a small bag is by her side, her lunch. She's done eating, now she sitting very straight, just looking, almost as if she's waiting for someone. She checks the time a few times. She looks off in the distance.

MEGAN40 (V.O.)

Sometimes, I don't love him anymore.
I don't want to be with him, I don't
want to be with anyone. I want people
to forget me, that's what I want. Not
a go-getter, not a vivacious
storyteller, not a busy mom, not a
loving wife, nothing, just for a
little while.

HOUSE70 - GARDEN

MEGAN70 looks into the distance. She had the feeling that someone was looking at her, but now it's gone. As she resumes cutting away at the greenery with her scissors we hear a door opening and closing behind her. DAVID70 arrives near her and sits close by. He watches her cut. He shuffles with a finger in the dirt.

DAVID70

You know I used to wonder about these
ants. You see them go in all these
directions. They don't just go from
here to there, It's always in some
crazy path.

She looks at him, pausing in her snipping

DAVID70 (CONT'D)

Then I realized that we kind of do
the same thing. Not out here but in

here...

He gestures at the yard and garden then he points at his head.

...all over the place.

Pause - She just listens politely, perhaps taking it all in.

DAVID70 (CONT'D)

You almost done? Want to have lunch?

MEGAN70

That sounds nice.

DAVID70

How's your voice doing?

MEGAN70

My voice?

DAVID70

You know, that inner voice faintly talking.

MEGAN70

Oh! Nagging.

Pause.

It makes me feel weak. Like I'm not the one deciding.

DAVID70

Well I'm full of weakness and I'm still going.

Pause.

Lets go before you cut too much off.

HOUSE40 - BATHROOM + HALLWAY + PLACE FOR LAPTOP SITTING
DAVID40 is looking at himself in the bathroom mirror. The feeling is matter of fact, even somewhat confident.

DAVID40

Broken, imperfect.

Pause

Good.

He shifts his position by the mirror and continues his inspection. He peppers it with some "hmm"s as his hand finds the lines of his face. He gets closer to the mirror, pauses for a second to make sure that no one is there with him, and whispers to his image.

DAVID40

I know that you speak to me.

I want to let you know that I've been trying to be...

...to be more there. I've been changing a bit, I'm a little more happy, a little less afraid. I'm trying to see all the little moments of the day. I can't really do it.

I need you.

I need to know that you're there, down the path, and that you'll be there when I get there. I want things to be good. I'm going to be your sunset.

He steps back from the mirror as if slightly surprised at his behavior. He whistles a bit.

HOUSE40 - THE HALLWAY

The house is quiet and dimly lit. In the he walks slowly, either hand touching the wall. he listens and goes.

After a few quiet steps he arrives near the 'office nook' where we can see MEGAN40 at her laptop. As soon as she senses him approaching she rapidly closes the screen and straightens her back. He's a bit taken aback. She gives him some sort of artificial smile, lifts her highbrows.

DAVID40

I was just going to bed are you coming.

MEGAN40

I'll be right with you.

She takes the laptop under her arm, gets up and exits the screen. He turns as she walks by.

HOUSE70 - HALLWAY/ENTRANCE

By the open door MEGAN70 wipes and cleans her plant scissors with her gloved hand. She puts the tool away and takes off the gloves. While she does this we can hear noises from the kitchen - some clinking plates and cutlery.

DAVID70 (OFF-CAMERA)

I haven't made much, some cheese, some bread.

MEGAN70

Sounds perfect

As Megan finishes up her cleaning David enters the hallway. David70 is moving in slow motion in a dance-like way as if the god of flamenco himself is whispering some soft tune in his ear. He moves his arms up and down, to and fro, turns, his eyes are closed, his head a bit down. He is approaching Megan. From the side Megan70 looks at him. She attempts some sort of gesture herself, a clap of the hands.

MEGAN70 (V.O.)

It's rather amazing how a serious young man can transform into someone who's actually happy. How he came to this new season of his life is a mystery that I would love to figure out for myself. I used to tell myself that I wanted it all. I could do anything. I could even fly. I couldn't understand that not everyone would want that. And somehow, even though it got me to a place that I

MEGAN70 (V.O.)

love when I look back all that

certainty melts into grey. It makes me sad to think that I may not be hearing that inner voice the right way.

This makes him happy. He opens his eyes, he smiles. Without hurrying he waltzes towards her. As he approaches he extends his arm towards her, she does the same. Hand in hand they do a few steps. We see her face. She's happy, but also melancholy. There's a certain sadness in her eyes. She twirls into him. He takes her into his arms.

OUTSIDE - SIDEWALK

MEGAN20 is walking down a street. She is upset, gaze cast down. She walks. She is clutching her bag.

BOSS' VOICE (V.O. with office sounds)
You need to know your place young lady. You're an excellent employee, but junior assistants are not to make any such decisions under any circumstances. You have no idea how much crap needs to be fixed now that your ambitious little email has come out. You can be a fucking headache sometimes...

MEGAN/DAVID20 HOUSE - BEDROOM + ENTRANCE

DAVID20 is in bed with a book. Megan comes in the house, she drops her bag to the ground. And heads towards the bedroom. She plops herself in bed next to David. He on his back and she on her side with her back to him. She's not doing too well. Her mind is fixed with things going on at work.

We see his expression, a bit serious, a bit amused, a thawing has occurred in his mind. After a while she turns around into him. With a movement of the arm he takes her in his arms. Eyes closed things just got better.

DAVID20 (V.O.)

How strange. She's in my arms and it feels good. And yesterday I didn't like her. Sometimes she makes me feel brave and everything is good, and sometimes I think we're about to break up. I love her and I don't like her. Strange. My world is going grey, it's mixing up. I need to find a way to makes sense of it.

He begins to talk, softly. Hoping to make things better. He employs one of her old techniques - storytelling. Momentarily she opens her eyes in his direction, He may not be gifted at making up stories, but at this moment no story could be better than this.

DAVID20

Imagine a place. Large rolling hills,expansive, big and bare, like you've seen in magazines. The Andes of Peru.

There's a lake in the distance, it seems like it's floating. It reflects the sky. Graceful. I'm thinking of a high plateau, there are snow-capped peaks in the distance, but they're far away. There's a little white dot in the distance. It's a goat all by itself in this huge place.

She likes the idea of this goat, she gives a faint smile.

It's going in no particular direction and it's eating everything in front of it. Keeping its eyes on the grass.

It's so high up that the air feels cool even though the sun is strong.

SUBWAY STATION STAIRS

THEY40 and COREY, are getting out of a subway station, they emerge from the dark into a sunny street.

DAVID20 (V.O.)

Here the sun comes up quickly,
catches you by surprise, before you
know it your dark spot is bright and
you can feel the rays on you. The
light's not so bad. It warms you up,
you didn't realize that you were
cold, but it's ok, it's better now.

They step out into the light, he raises his arm for a second to protect himself from the sun, squints a bit, but he rapidly gets accustomed to the new light. They both sport large bags to their side. They turn a corner. They head towards the trees - they're at the entrance of a large park. They look up towards the branches.

HOUSE70 - VAR. + BEDROOM

MEGAN70 opens up a curtain in her dimly lit house. She lets some light in. She opens windows, opens doors. She enters their bedroom. He is there sitting in bed all wrapped up in a blanket. He's not doing too well. She put her hand on his forehead. Reaches for a small bottle on the side table, feeds him a pill, then gives him a bit of water. They look at each other.

DAVID70

How many moons do you remember?

MEGAN70

What do you mean?

DAVID70

How many moons? You know, every now and then you look up at the sky and you see this moon, and it's stunning, beautiful. And you say to yourself "wow, now that's a moon", how many how those do you remember?

Pause. Then, hesitantly

MEGAN70

It's hard to say. I've see them... how many? I'm not sure...

DAVID70

I know, and I'm wondering why's that?
Why don't they leave a trace?

MEGAN70

Oh, I don't know.

He gives her a bit of an inquisitive look, a half-stare. She takes a few steps, prepares to leave the room.

MEGAN70

I don't! What do you think?

DAVID70

It's a little perplexing. Maybe it's just gone and we shouldn't be looking for that exact moment all over again.

She begins to leave the room and David resettles on his pillow. As she exits:

MEGAN70

Sounds like wisdom to me.

He raises his voice a bit to be heard by Megan in the hallway.

DAVID70

Even the word trace says that the thing is not there anymore. But we keep wanting it. I'm sure it's frustrating looking for something that's not there.

A pause, he restarts, amused, uncertain.

You've got to look out for what's different, whatever that is!

BY DAVID20 HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

The group of friends is together, coming in and out of the house. One of them carries a blanket, others some bags with plastic cups and such. They are splitting up in groups and getting in the few cars in the driveway.

As DAVID20, camera around his neck, heads back into the house he crosses MEGAN20. He gives her an uneasy look, which she doesn't catch. She's busy. LUIGI coming up behind her does notice.

LUIGI

Listen, it's like the last time were going to do this together before we all head in different directions. Try not to be too down. If things aren't going well with Megan just don't hang out with her. There'll be plenty of us.

DAVID20

I don't know what's going on. I don't know what's going to happen.

LUIGI

Fine, let's just have a nice time at the beach.

DAVID20 continues into the house.

LUIGI

We'll see you in an hour.

THE PARK

THEY40 and COREY are on a blanket, DAVID40 is setting up a few things down - plastic cups, a few bottles... Absentmindedly MEGAN40 runs her hand in her son's hair. DAVID40 pauses what he's doing and looks on for a few seconds.

MEGAN40 notices her husband looking at her (and their son) She keeps playing with the child's hair. The child's hand comes up to move her hand away. COREY's not the biggest fan of this. He grabs the nearby soccer ball in his hands gets up. He goes to DAVID40 who's vaguely placing things by now.

COREY7

Let's kick the ball!

The husband and son get away to kick the ball around and

she stays alone on the blanket with nothing to do but watch.

HOUSE70 - KITCHEN

(keep the sound of the ball playing going)
We see MEGAN70 at her table, there are two teacups set on it, both filled with tea. There is no one else at the table with her. She takes the room in, observes the little details around her. She looks at both cups in front of her and picks one up. She takes a sip of tea in her quiet kitchen.

MEGAN40 (V.O.)

I've always liked it a bit on the sweet side. I've always felt that there was a certain lightness to it.

THE PARK

DAVID40 is kicking the ball around with COREY. We can see them running along, trying to take the ball away from each other, gently pushing each other. They are having quite a good time. Off on the blanket MEGAN20 looks at them go.

MEGAN40 (V.O.)

I see it in Corey and more and more I see it in David as well. I was just so busy - there were so many things I wanted to do and they all took so much time. I was always shuttling between one then the other. Back and forth.

For a moment I must have looked away. Because when I came back the sweetness was gone. I couldn't quite taste it anymore.

I was busy trying to leave my mark on things, trying to climb that mountain. And I loved it. I still love it. Looking for something solid, something that would anchor me.

But it wasn't all lost. There's something in me that just wouldn't go

- quiet - there's no way it was going anywhere.

MEGAN40 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

For a moment I looked away and I lost sight of him, He'd given himself to me and I forgot him.

HOUSE70 - KITCHEN

She sits at her tea for a few moments. Slowly gets up with her cup in hand and slowly walks to the kitchen counter. There are a few branches and flower stems lying on the counter awaiting to be put in a vase. Set sets the cup down, and looks at the items, gently arranging them. She hears some steps behind her, David is coming into the kitchen, her eyes and ears perk up but she keeps her head still. He walks towards her, eventually taking his cup on the table while she further arranges a new vase.

MEGAN70

You didn't get your tea. It's still on the table.

DAVID70

Is it already afternoon?

She just looks

DAVID70 (CONT'D)

I must be going at a different speed today.

Pause

Or maybe a just different rhythm, I like that better than thinking that I'm slow - I've got a different rhythm. A new season, a fifth one, that nobody ever noticed. I've been hiding in the fifth season, napping, glorious napping.

MEGAN70

Tell me about it.

DAVID70

The napping or the season?

MEGAN70

Both. I want to know about both!

DAVID70

They're kind of the same really.
In fact I invite you to the bed to
try it out for yourself. I'll be your
guide.

She smiles

ROAD/HIGHWAY

THEY20 are together in a car, driving to the beach. MEGAN20 is driving, eyes on the road, concentrating, while DAVID20 looks out of the window. David20 fiddles with the camera in his hands as they speak.

DAVID20

Do you know where to get off?

MEGAN20

I know which exit to take, yes.

DAVID20

I'm not sure you do.

MEGAN20

I'm not going to miss our exit.

Pause

You've been acting strange. Is
everything OK?

DAVID20

There's a bit too much that's up in
the air right now

I feel like I'm not deciding anything
- that things are just happening to
me. Even what I feel is all over the
place.

I feel one way one day then it all
flips around. I don't like it. I feel
lost.

MEGAN20

Like the characters in your books.

DAVID20

What do you mean?

MEGAN20

Well, they don't like being lost
either...

Pause

...but because they're heroes they
always know what to do. Every step of
the way is clear for them.

DAVID20

Well it's not like that. Not like
that at all. I've been feeling lots
of grey. It's all pretty blurry to
me.

MEGAN20

Maybe that's a good thing. Maybe
you're getting more refined or maybe
you're just overthinking things.
Maybe you'll just bump into your
answer.

DAVID20

I hope so.

MEGAN20

I hope so too.

The light of the sun shines on the trees as they speed by.
David returns to looking outside.

HOUSE70 - BEDROOM

THEY70 are folding a bed sheet, they are rather engaged in
it, they cast each other some intense looks, there's some
electricity in the air.

MEGAN20 (V.O.)

We push, we pull, we get close, we
get far, and then, maybe, we get
close again. Always one step away
from a million different directions.

THEY70 put the folded sheet on top of the bed. DAVID70
picks up a shirt on the bed and begins folding it. MEGAN70
rearranges a few items on the side table. Assembling a few
cups left on the side tables onto a little tray.

MEGAN70

I've been hearing you talking to
yourself in the bathroom.

DAVID70 (smiling)

Yes.

MEGAN70

What are you saying to yourself?

DAVID70

All sorts of things.

MEGAN70

Like what?

DAVID70

It's very silly. It's very serious.

Pause

MEGAN70

You're not going to tell me?

DAVID70

I try to be...

I try to be strong. I want to be like
Prospero in the Tempest - finding a
way to a fifth season, a new
direction.

MEGAN70

You're not happy?

DAVID70

Oh, it's not that. It's more like...

...It's like I feel life everything is delicate, like wisps of smoke floating in the air and the world has a certain pull on them.

But I have my own pull. I can see

DAVID70 (CONT'D)

myself at all sorts of points and I try to sent out some help, some pull, like the moon on the ocean changing the tide, making sure my next step is...

...good.

MEGAN70

Does it work?

DAVID70

It's awfully tenuous sometimes, but so far so good.

She comes over and kisses him. Then, she leaves the room with her tray. On her way out she softly says:

MEGAN70

I'll be outside.

David70 acknowledges her departure with a bit of a head and hand movement. He goes over to the dresser and puts the shirt into the drawer. There are a few things lying on the dresser, one of which is a camera. He picks it up and inspects it for a few seconds. He looks through the viewfinder, and turns around to look at the room. He turns the camera around to check if there is film in it.

DAVID70

Let's see what's in here. Empty black box. I should get some film and get you to talk. You've had very nice things to say over the years. Getting that finger to see that it's time to click. That's the hard part. Gotta

keep looking.

He closes the back of the camera, and delicately puts it back on the dresser, making sure that it is exactly positioned in the way that he sees best.

HOUSE70 - GARDEN

MEGAN70 is the garden with her gloves on. She holds a little gardening shovel in one hand. She goes by the side of the house by the door. A variety of things are piled leaning on the house - little pieces of wood.. She rummages a bit, moves a plastic watering can out of the way.

She bends down near the pile and picks up a fragment of an old mirror. She looks at herself in it for a few seconds. The light of the sky catches her face. She looks down. She sees that on her other hand, the one steadying her on the ground, that an ant is climbing. She observes the ant for a few seconds, shifting her hand accordingly so that the ant stays facing up. She gently blows on it and places it back to the ground.

A second time she picks up the broken mirror and looks at it more intently. She looks around to make sure that no one is observing her. She bends her gaze to the mirror, a serious look on her face.

MEGAN70

I don't know how to do this. But I'll
tell you this much. You're my
favorite thorn.

(MORE)

THE PARK

We see MEGAN40 on the park blanket. She's a little bored of looking at DAVID40 and COREY kick the ball around. She gets her phone out of her bag, she looks at it for just a few seconds before putting it back. She pulls out a little compact. Opens it and looks at herself tugging at a strand of hair by her temple.

MEGAN70 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I'm not going to get rid of you.
 Ever. I'm going to keep you, quirks
 and all. You got me here at the place
 that I love. Keep going, be strong,
 darkness doesn't stand a chance.

After a bit of staring into the mirror notices the trees
 from their reflection. She moves her eyes up to get a
 direct view. She is overcome with a soft happiness at the
 sight of the trees.

HOUSE70 - GARDEN

MEGAN70 finishes her bit with the mirror and puts it down.

THE PARK

THEY40 are on a blanket in the forest park. They are both
 on their backs heads close to each other. COREY is a little
 further kicking the ball around. She looks up at the trees
 above, they shine and sway in the wind. She smiles. She
 begins:

MEGAN40

These trees are special trees. I know
 these trees. I've known them for a
 long time.

She turns to him. Happy.

There's a side table. On it you can
 see a flyer for the supermarket
 sales. There's a penny jar, a bunch
 of papers, keys - all sorts of stuff.
 The light isn't great and it's
 freezing in winter. There's these two
 people in the bed, sitting side by
 side. They're beautiful but only
 vaguely aware of it. And while
 they're slowly figuring things out
 they're sharing a great extravagance...

DAVID20s HOUSE - BEDROOM

They20 are in bed, sharing a pint of ice cream - they each

have a spoon and pass the pint from one to the other after each bite.

MEGAN40 (V.O.)

...and I'm not talking about ice cream, it's something else, something that I can't quite define. Actually, I've never been to fully grasp it all at once in a definite way, it's like it has to stay a bit hazy.

MEGAN40 (V.O.)

Looking at them you might think that they're happy, and they are, but they're also not happy, maybe because there are only two chairs in the whole apartment. Maybe because they have no idea, not a clue, of where they're headed even while they can't stop putting one foot in front of the other. But she knows two things - she likes fast, and she loves him.

THE PARK

Lying on the blanket he just looks at her.

NIGHTTIME STREET

Near one of those smokestacks in the road MEGAN40 walks bundled in her jacket. The street is somewhat animated even though it's rather late.

HOUSE40 - KITCHEN TABLE

At home DAVID40 sits with a stack of papers, He's annotating some of the sheets. He's tired. He checks the time, and after a moment of "what-do-I-do-now" he begins to clear up.

HOUSE40 - HALLWAY + BEDROOM

Nighttime, the house is dark. MEGAN40 walks around the house, looks at what's going on outside for a few moments, she turns around and heads back towards the bedroom, on her way she picks up a few stray toys left there and puts them

in a better spot. She very carefully gets in bed trying not to disturb DAVID40. She lies in bed, looks at the clock, can't sleep. She decides to pick up the tablet on her bedside. We can see the light on her face. For a few moments she types and looks at the screen, she looks intermittently at her husband. We ultimately see that she has done an image search for "the Andes of Peru" and that she is flipping around the tourist style images. She impassively looks at the pictures, puts her laptop/tablet back away, and gets under the covers. She turns over to him and quietly asks

MEGAN40

Are you sleeping?

DAVID40

No.

MEGAN40

Me neither.

Everything is dark except the glow of the LED clock

HOUSE40 - KITCHEN

In the morning, we witness the same scene as before: All dressed up MEGAN40's got her teacup in hand while DAVID40 sports the rumpled not-quite-awake look. He moves around the table passing behind her, a box of cereal in hand when she announces.

MEGAN40

I've got to go, I'm going to be late.

She gets up, turns around to go but he arrives to her side bottle of juice in hand. She's the slightest bit impatient, but he reaches out and tidies up her collar, takes a strand of hair and puts it in place.

DAVID40

There.

MEGAN40 moves her fingers to the newly placed strand.

MEGAN40

Thank you.

DAVID40

I'll see you tonight.

MEGAN40

I see you.

A QUIET ROAD + BEACH

The old couple is on their bikes! The DAVID70 is whistling away, MEGAN70 in front is enjoying every moment of it. They pedal enjoying the air and the surroundings. They leave their bikes at the edge where the beach starts. The cliffs are magnificent, the grasses sway, they walk side by side for a while.

DAVID70 (V.O.)

We try so hard to leave the world behind. Dirty, messy world, escape it for a beautiful idea.

You wanted to fly in a bit of blue sky with me. Where all there is is air, and you, and me, and lovely lovely quiet. And I didn't want to fly. I wanted to lie down in the grass and look up at the trees. It took us a while to discover that they were both the same thing.

You wanted so desperately to leave your mark. Don't worry, you're all over me.

BEACH

The group of 20s are on the beach, they've got some food and some drinks with them, they are mainly just hanging out, looking out at the waves, talking a bit. Both DAVID20 and MEGAN20 seem to be doing well, seem to be in good spirits. They are talking to different friends a bit away from each other. After a time MEGAN20 notices that he's left his group and is by himself, she comes over towards him.

MEGAN20

Come over tonight?

Pause. He nods

DAVID20

Yeah. I'd really love to.

As she's about to turn away and go.

DAVID20

Wait a second.

He takes the camera that's dangling from his neck. Lifts it. He's going to take her picture. She smiles at him. Then: him camera in face. Click.

DAVID70 (V.O.)

It's a rare gift when person can say; this was the moment where things changed. Oftentimes things had been changing all along, and what we think as the moment most likely isn't really, it's just the last moment, the big splash, where we're attentive enough to say "ah! there!" In hindsight the most truly important moments are quiet, unassuming, they ask nothing and like a blazing sunset they don't leave a trace.

They return to hang out with their friends.

FADE OUT

Some quick notes:

There are two main characters in the movie: David and Megan. Because they are both seen at various stages of their lives each character is played by three actors. In the screenplay in order to differentiate easily I use a number following the character's name. So you'll see DAVID20, DAVID40, and DAVID70, this way we can quickly be on with the story, there is no need for "the young David"...

Sometimes when both David and Megan are doing something together I will use THEY40, for example.

All the scenes for the 20s and 70s couples are shot in and around Halifax

The scenes for the 40s are shot in New York

Here are the two images that I refer to in the script:

DAVID70 with the towel on his head - "Like the Van Eyck painting"



MEGAN20 during lovemaking, she's transported "Like the Polke photo"

