

# **EAT**

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"The story of a girl who finds herself - and then eats herself."

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FADE IN:

0 INT. DARK VOID - NIGHT - DREAM SEQUENCE #1 0 \*

Darkness. Far away, a girl sits alone at a glowing table. \*

This is NOVELLA, frozen in fear, her head bowed.

Slowly, we drift towards her, closer and closer until we're finally a few feet in front of her.

Like a mouse trap her head.. snaps up and we see her wide eyes \$  
face to face.

1a INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY 1a

Novella's eyes pop open with a jolt. She lays in bed motionless. Terrified. Only her eyes move, darting around the room and land on a bedside alarm clock.

It reads 6:59.

She's stares at it for a moment. Waiting.

6:59. 7:00.

The piercing alarm shatters the silent air. Novella's grabs the clock and clicks it off.

She wipes away some drool and sits up. Her bed is still made. So is she. Her cheetah print dress is wrinkled. Eye make up smeared. Mouth dry. Hair frazzled. She's 31 but looks like the ghost of an 18-year-old sorority pledge. \*

She looks at herself and sighs at what she sees. The headache sets in. It's going to be a long day.

NOVELLA

Great.

She gets up, pulls off the dress and heads to her bathroom.

**SERIES OF SHOTS - GETTING READY**

-- Novella blow dries her hair in front of her steamed mirror.

-- She carefully applies eye makeup.

-- She holds two shirts up against her chest in front of a mirror. She goes with the blue one.

-- She paints her pinky nail before spraying it with compressed air.

-- She opens her refrigerator to reveal a single, lonely cup of yogurt. She sighs before grabbing it.

-- She flips through Variety and circles every audition that says "Female, early 20s" which is most of them. She writes down addresses on a yellow legal pad as she eats the yogurt.

-- She brushes her teeth. Her eyes fixated on her hair. Her hand adjusting her bangs.

-- She grabs her legal pad and a pile of her head shots with a photo taken years ago.

**1b INT. NOVELLA'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS 1b \***

She sits in her car, waiting at a Starbucks drive-thru.

**INT. NOVELLA'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS \***

She sits in her car, waiting in gridlock traffic, sipping on her Starbucks. She adjusts her hair in the rearview mirror.

**INT. NOVELLA'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS \***

She sits in her car, waiting to enter a parking garage.

**INT. NOVELLA'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS \***

She finally reaches her destination. She shakes off some jitters and walks through the door.

**2 INT. AUDITION WAITING ROOM #1 - DAY 2**

Her smile quickly fades. There are five girls waiting but are actually in their early 20s.....Novella walks to a desk. \*

She scans the sign-in sheet looking for a particular name but doesn't see what she is looking for.

She signs her name and phone number. Under the section "Agent" she writes "None."

She finds a seat among her doppelgangers and pulls out a pocket mirror. She fixes any minor blemishes to her face.

The entry door opens and in walks TRACY (22).\_\_She walks with a fierce confidence. \*  
\*

Novella pulls out her phone and bows her head, pretending to read a text message. After signing in, Tracy turns to find a seat but notices Novella. She struts over, smirking and sits down. \*

TRACY  
Hello, Novella.

Novella looks up, pretending to be surprised but doesn't smile.

NOVELLA  
Oh...hey Tracy.

TRACY  
Are you trying out for Alice?

NOVELLA  
Yeah.

Novella continues to stare at her phone. \*

TRACY  
What happened to your agent?

NOVELLA  
What's that?

TRACY  
I saw that you're not with Teller and Davis on the sign-in sheet.

NOVELLA  
Oh, yeah. I've been thinking about moving on for a while now.

She looks back to her phone.

TRACY  
Really? Olivia Thompson said they let you go.

Novella shakes her head defiantly.

NOVELLA  
No, I moved on.

TRACY  
Sure.

They sit for a few moments as Tracy searches for something to talk about.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Did you ever get a call back for that Budweiser commercial?

Novella sighs. An old wound has just been opened.

NOVELLA

Sure didn't. I don't think it would have worked with my schedule anyway.

TRACY

Oh, yeah? That's too bad. Well, I got the part. We're lensing next week.

Novella puts down her phone and looks at Tracy.

NOVELLA

That's great. Whose the producer on that?

TRACY

Kurt Hanson.

NOVELLA

Oh really? I thought he was gay.

TRACY

Why does that matter?

NOVELLA

Well he was obviously hiring you so you could blow him. Everyone does. What does a gay guy get out of that?

Tracy rolls her eyes, not letting it get to her.

TRACY

Fuck off.

NOVELLA

I mean, I guess it doesn't really matter when it's just a blow job. Getting your dick sucked by a girl probably feels the same as a guy.

Novella smirks as she thinks.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

It's not like he's butt-fucking you. But I'm sure you offered that too, huh?

TRACY

You can say whatever you want, darling. But the fact is, you're terrible. That's why you don't get parts.

NOVELLA

Oh yeah?

TRACY

Yeah, what are you, like, forty? You're still trying out for roles half your age.

NOVELLA

I'm barely even 30, idiot.

\$

The door to the casting room opens revealing a FEMALE CASTING AGENT. She reads from a list in her hand.

FEMALE CASTING AGENT

Okay, let's see here...

She looks up from the list and notices Tracy.

FEMALE CASTING AGENT (CONT'D)

Tracy! Hey baby. Come on in.

The rest of the girls moan and groan.

NOVELLA

Um, ma'am. We've been here all morning.

FEMALE CASTING AGENT

Sorry sweetie, but the producers personally requested her for this one.

The Old Female Casting Agent goes back into the room as Tracy follows.

NOVELLA

(under her breath)

I'm sure they did.

Tracy turns to Novella just before she goes in.

TRACY

Yeah, sorry 'sweetie.' Eat your heart out.

She smiles, blows her a kiss and closes the door.

A DOPPELGANGER looks at Novella.

DOPPELGANGER

What a bitch.

NOVELLA

I know, right?

She looks back at her phone.

\*

3 INT. NOVELLA'S CAR - NIGHT

3

Novella crawls into the driver's seat and scratches off the last address on the yellow legal pad. She scans multiple pages of crossed out addresses.

She tosses the legal pad to her back seat and onto a pile of empty Starbucks cups, head shots and torn legal pad pages.

She sighs and stares into space chewing on her thumb nail from the left side to the right side. Her pace quickens as she bites nervously, but her eyes remain blank. She rips out the loose nail and spits it onto the dashboard.

NOVELLA

(sighs)

Shit.

She finally comes back to Earth and turns on her car.

4 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

4

Novella closes her front door and drops her purse on the ground. She hangs her jacket on a coat rack.

\*

\*

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Novella sighs to the heavens.

NOVELLA

Eesha...

She opens the door enough to see her guest, but isn't inviting this person in.

The guest is EESHA (60s) and beside her is JETHRO, a little Chihuahua with a satellite cone around his head.

\*

EESHA

Novi?

NOVELLA

Hi, Eesha.

EESHA

I heard you come home. Did you have a good day?

NOVELLA

Yes, thank you. How's Jethro doing?

EESHA

Oh, he's doing okay. He started picking at his privates so I had to put the cone back on. Must be a real doozy to find them whacked off, huh?

She starts laughing. Novella only smiles.

NOVELLA

Yeah, poor little guy.

When asking questions about acting, Eesha knows what words to say, but doesn't know what they mean.

EESHA

How was your day? Did you have any auditions or call backs?

NOVELLA

Yeah, I had some auditions.

EESHA

Did they go well?

NOVELLA

Oh, you know.  
(shrugs)  
We'll see, I guess.

Jethro is getting restless.

EESHA

Sure...sure. Well, I just wanted to see how you are doing and see how your month is going. It's almost over, you know?

NOVELLA

Yeah, time sure does fly.

EESHA

It really does. I can't believe it's almost the end of the month. Seems like last month just ended, you know?

Novella nods.

NOVELLA

Sure do.

They stand awkwardly for a moment and then Eesha turns.

EESHA

Well, have a good night honey.

NOVELLA

You too. Bye Jethro.

Eesha points to Novella.

EESHA

Say 'bye bye' Jethro. Go on.

Jethro yaps at Eesha frustrated.

EESHA (CONT'D)

That's a good boy.  
(to Novella)  
He says 'good night.'

NOVELLA

Okay. Great. Good night.

Novella closes the door, picks up some mail from the floor and makes her way into the kitchen.

5 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

5

Her phone buzzes in her pocket and she answers it.

NOVELLA

(to phone)  
Hello?

She opens her refrigerator and looks inside.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

(to phone)  
What's up?

The fridge is completely empty except for some packages of Soy Sauce and a bottle of Tabasco. She closes it.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Yup. Totally. I'll be there in twenty.

She opens up her cupboard and finds some salt, baking soda, etc. Nothing good to eat.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Ehh. I'll tell you about it when I get there.

(pause)

Cool, I'll see you there. Alright, bye.

She hangs up the phone and looks around her kitchen trying to find a hidden food cache.

Nothing.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Whatever.

She heads to her room to get ready for the night.

6a

**INT. CLUB - NIGHT**

6a

Novella sits at a small table across from CANDICE (32), a fashion guru who is as mouthy as she is pretty. They both have drinks and shout at each other over the house music.

NOVELLA

So then the casting director comes out, doesn't even look at the sign in sheet and lets Tracy audition. She didn't even look at the list.

CANDICE

She's the bitch who got that commercial over you?

NOVELLA

Not just the commercial, she's gotten, like, the last four or five roles I've tried out for....I hate her.

\$

CANDICE

Is she that good?

NOVELLA

I don't know, I still haven't seen anything she's been in. I refuse to watch any of that bullshit. I feel like if I don't watch it then it doesn't exist.

CANDICE

Is she really hot or something?

NOVELLA

She's cute, but not, like, out-of-this-world beautiful. She has kind of a snaggle-tooth. I mean, she's younger, that's mostly the reason.

CANDICE

How young?

NOVELLA

I don't know, early twenties. Whatever it says on my head shot...

CANDICE

Nice!

Candice laughs at this and lifts up her glass to "cheers" Novella. Novella does so and they both sip.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Look, I know it's tough Novi, but you're a good actress, you know? You just gotta stick with it. Forget about that Tracy bitch.

NOVELLA

Am I really, though?

CANDICE

Of course you are. What are you talking about?

NOVELLA

Candice, I haven't gotten a part in three years. Nothing. Not even a corporate video.

CANDICE

You're not trying to do corporate videos, you're trying to be a movie star so you can fuck Michael Fassbender.

NOVELLA

Candice, I can't get anything. I don't know...

CANDICE

What? Are you gonna quit just because you're going through a rough patch?

NOVELLA

A rough patch is three weeks or three months. Not three years.

CANDICE

You just have to keep fighting. You have to tough this out. It happens to everyone but you're tougher than everyone. You'll be fine.

Novella takes a sip of her drink and thinks for a moment.

NOVELLA

I don't know. It's like my computer screen is frozen, you know?

She takes the last sip of her drink and sucks on an ice cube in her mouth.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Maybe it's time I restart my computer.

Candice puts down her drink.

CANDICE

I say give it a couple more weeks. It's always darkest right before the sun comes up.

NOVELLA

(under her breath)  
...before dawn.

CANDICE

What's that?

NOVELLA

I don't know. I'm kinda tired.

GUY #1 (O.S.)

So do you girls want to dance or something?

\$

Two guys (mid-20s) have been sitting beside Novella and Candice this entire time, but we haven't seen them. Candice turns to GUY.#1 who sits beside her. \* \$

CANDICE  
Baby, could you go and get me another drink?

GUY.#1 \$  
Another one? You haven't said two words to me all night.

CANDICE  
I know baby, but we've been talking about some serious shit here.

GUY.#1 \$  
(sarcastic)  
Yeah, sounds like it.

Candice leans in close and whispers into his ear.

CANDICE  
If you get me another drink, I'll make it up to you. I'm just starting to get buzzed.

Guy.#1 doesn't fall for it. \$

GUY.#1 \$  
Yeah. Great. \*

Candice leans in closer.

CANDICE  
Look, I have a gun in my purse and am not afraid to shoot your dick off right here on this couch. But if you go get me and my girl a drink, I'll give you a hand job in the bathroom later. Which of those scenarios would you prefer?

Guy.#1 stares at her, stunned. Candice doesn't blink. He nods his head. \$

Candice snaps her fingers and points at Novella.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
Baby girl, you want another drink?

NOVELLA  
Yup.

Candice points to Novella's guy who happens to look a lot like LOUIS CK. \*  
\*

CANDICE  
Louis CK, go grab my girl another \*  
vodka and soda. \*

Louis CK mockingly salutes her. \*

LOUIS CK \*  
Yes, sir. \*

The Guys get up and head to the bar. As soon as they are out of ear shot, Candice grabs her purse.

CANDICE  
You ready?

NOVELLA  
Yup.

6b INT. CLUB HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

6b

They get up and head to the door. They pass by a hallway that leads to the bathroom.

CANDICE  
Ah shit, I gotta pee. Two seconds...

NOVELLA  
Can't you wait? We're on our way home.

CANDICE  
Novi, I've already broken the seal. That dip shit bought me four beers.

NOVELLA  
(sighs)  
Well, hurry up. I don't feel good.

CANDICE  
Will do, but don't get caught by Ren and Stimpy.

Novella nods and then leans against the hallway wall as Candice disappears into the bathroom.

Novella bites her thumb nail nervously. The red, tender flesh underneath the nail has been exposed. She grimaces as she chews, but never stops.

SIMON (34), a tall guy who is stylishly unshaven, walks into the hallway and tries to open the locked Men's Room door. He pounds on it a few of times, but it doesn't budge.

He notices Novella and smoothly drifts over to her side. She \*  
moves to the other side of the hallway. \*

SIMON  
How's it going?

She smiles, but doesn't give in. He tries again.

SIMON (CONT'D)  
What's your name?

She reluctantly responds.

NOVELLA  
Novella.

SIMON  
Are you an actress?

NOVELLA  
Why do you ask?

SIMON  
Because you have a movie star name.

She smiles.

NOVELLA  
Thanks.

SIMON  
What's your last name?

NOVELLA  
McClure.

SIMON  
Wow. Really? That's an incredible name. What do you do?

NOVELLA  
I'm an actress.

SIMON  
Seriously?

She nods.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I knew it. You're beautiful and skinny and have an amazing name.

She blushes but doesn't know if this is just a line.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I'm not gonna friend you on Facebook now or something.

She laughs.

NOVELLA

Oh good. So what's your name and occupation.

\$  
\$

SIMON

Me? I'm Simon and I'm a doctor. You can call me Dr. Simon if you really want to. That's what I call myself.

NOVELLA

Are you really a doctor?

SIMON

I am.

NOVELLA

Did you have to go to school for like a million years?

SIMON

Two million, actually. Yeah, I started college just after the big bang.

NOVELLA

What? Like the TV show?

He laughs.

SIMON

Yes, exactly.

NOVELLA

Do you save people's lives and stuff?

SIMON

I do. If you consider saving lives listening to rich people talk about how bored they are.

NOVELLA

Hmm, not so much.

SIMON

Yeah, me neither. I usually tell people I'm a surgeon, but you bring the truth out of me.

NOVELLA

I have that effect on people.

SIMON

Oh yeah? Then you should change your name to Paulie.

NOVELLA

What?

SIMON

You know, like a polygraph?

She shakes her head confused.

SIMON (CONT'D)

It's a lie detector test.

NOVELLA

Oh, okay.

She looks back at the club, uninterested.

SIMON

Wow, I was really going until that last one, huh?

She giggles.

NOVELLA

Yeah, it kinda came out of left field.

A Tan Guy walks out of the Men's Room and past Simon.

SIMON

Speaking of which, I'm on deck here. Hey, are you here with your boyfriend or something?

Novella smiles and turns to him.

CANDICE (O.S.)

Nope, but we're just leaving.

Candice comes out of the hallway, grabs Novella's wrist and makes a beeline to the front door.

NOVELLA

It was nice meeting you Dr. Simon.

He waves goodbye but she disappears out the door.

SIMON

You too...

(to himself)

Novella McClure.

He shakes his head and enters the bathroom.

7 **INT. DARK VOID - NIGHT - DREAM SEQUENCE #2**

7 \*

Novella sits at a booth in a dark bar. She's clearly enjoying the company of others, but we cannot see them.

She laughs, takes a sip of her drink, points at someone who just made a joke, etc. She's having a wonderful time.

But instantly, Novella stops laughing. We pull out and see no one is sitting with her. In fact, the entire bar is empty. She is all alone.

8 **INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING**

8

Novella's eyes pop open with a jolt. She's motionless. Terrified. Only her eyes move, darting around the room and land on the alarm clock beside her bed.

It reads 6:59.

She grabs the clock and turns off the alarm. It clicks to 7:00 but remains silent.

She sits up, still in her dress from the club. She's hung over again.

She sighs and puts her head in her hands.

NOVELLA

This is so stupid.

She gets up and peels off her dress as she walks to the bathroom, leaving behind a pillow spotted with blood stains.

**9 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM SHOWER - MOMENTS LATER 9**

Novella rinses out her hair and notices the water turning brownish red in the drain. She looks herself over and notices her thumb is bleeding.

A thick hangnail sticks off her thumb and bleeds continuously. She wipes some water out of her eyes before sucking on her thumb.

**10 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER 10**

Novella is dressed and ready for the day. She opens up her refrigerator and before it's even open all the way...

NOVELLA  
Oh fuck, that's right.

And slams it closed.

**11 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER 11 \***

She picks up a stack of head shots, her legal pad and walks out the door.

**12 INT. AUDITION WAITING ROOM #2 - LATER 12**

She walks in, sunglasses still on, coffee in hand. She looks for a sign-in sheet but a RECEPTIONIST (25) greets her instead.

RECEPTIONIST  
Hi there. What's your name?

NOVELLA  
Novella McClure.

Novella hands her a head shot.

RECEPTIONIST  
That's right, Ms. McClure. I was hoping you'd make it out.

NOVELLA  
Oh, really? Are you the casting agent?

RECEPTIONIST  
No, I'm just helping out today.

NOVELLA

Oh, okay...Well, I'm happy to be here, thanks.

The Receptionist giggles.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry. What I meant was I've seen you around. You have a great look. Do you do any modeling?

Novella smiles, putting on her "hire me" face.

NOVELLA

Of course I do. Are you looking for models?

The Receptionist leans forward as if to give Novella the inside scoop.

RECEPTIONIST

A friend of mine has a company and is looking for some new faces. He's really talented.

NOVELLA

What company is it?

RECEPTIONIST

I'm not sure what the name is. But he's a great photographer and filmmaker.

NOVELLA

Where is his company based out of?

\$  
\$

RECEPTIONIST

I think he said San Fernando.

\$  
\$

Novella drops out of the conversation.

NOVELLA

Look sweetie, I'm not stupid. No... thanks

\$  
\$

She turns and looks for a seat among the other girls auditioning.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry, did I say something wrong?

Novella looks back at her.

NOVELLA

I don't do porn.

RECEPTIONIST

What?

NOVELLA

This isn't my first audition? I've  
been doing this for a while.

\$

RECEPTIONIST

I don't know what you're talking  
about.

NOVELLA

Anyone who has a *modeling* company  
but doesn't tell you the name of  
the company means it's a porn  
company.

RECEPTIONIST

No, it's not.

NOVELLA

Then what's the name?

RECEPTIONIST

I don't remember.

NOVELLA

Have you seen his work?

She thinks for a moment.

RECEPTIONIST

Well, no. But I've been dating the  
guy for a few weeks and he's --

Novella holds up her hand. Her thumb wrapped in a Band-Aid.

NOVELLA

Ah! There you go. He knows you're  
working as an intern here and  
wanted you to collect head shots  
and shit, right?

RECEPTIONIST

Yeah but it's not a porn company...

NOVELLA

Did he want you to *audition*?

RECEPTIONIST

Yeah, but --

NOVELLA

You see? There you go.

RECEPTIONIST

Stop it! He doesn't make porn, ok?  
Besides, you're the one with the  
porn name!

NOVELLA

What the hell does that mean?

RECEPTIONIST

Maybe the reason people try to cast  
you in their porn movies is because  
of your stupid name.

NOVELLA

It's not stupid.

RECEPTIONIST

Was Laura Lust taken or something?

NOVELLA

A porn name is your pet's name and  
the street you grew up on. Do you  
really think I named my cat  
Novella?

The door beside Novella opens and Tracy walks in.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Oh fuck me, are you serious?

Novella turns to the Receptionist.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Be sure to grab her head shot,  
she'd love to fuck your boyfriend  
on camera.

TRACY

Excuse me!?

NOVELLA

Fuck off, Tracy.

Novella storms out of the office and slams the door behind  
her.

Tracy stares at the door for a moment, stunned, and then back  
to the Receptionist. At the push of a button, a beautiful  
smile appears on her face.

TRACY

Hi, I'm Tracy Armstrong. Do you  
need me to sign in?

13 INT. NOVELLA'S CAR - LATER

13

Novella sits in gridlock holding her head with her left hand. After the car moves a few feet and stops, she takes off her giant sunglasses and rubs her eyes. She wants to cry, but doesn't.

She peels the Band-Aid off her thumb and looks at the wound. It's a pretty deep cut that stretches from her nail to her knuckle. She picks at it with her teeth.

The car moves a few feet forward, then stops.

She inspects her thumb and sees a tab of skin protruding from her knuckle. She nibbles it with her teeth.

The traffic begins to move and her car follows. She's finally gaining some speed.

She pulls the tab of skin and it peels down her thumb like a zipper. She grimaces but doesn't cry out. When the wound opens at her palm, blood gushes out and onto her shirt.

NOVELLA

Oh shit!

She quickly uses both hands to wipe away the blood, but it only smears.

She doesn't notice the car ahead of her has come to a stop. Novella's still at full speed.

She looks up. She gasps.

CRASH!

14 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

14

Novella digs through her medicine cabinet. She shoves numerous pill bottles and ointments out of the way, but can't find any bandages.

She settles on a washcloth and grips it in her bloody hand.

The cut continues to bleed, but worst of all, the piece of skin dangles from her hand like an untied shoelace.

She contorts her face and angles her hand so she is able to bite it off. Like wire cutters through a cable, her teeth CLICK as they bite through.

The string of skin hangs from her lip as she puts pressure on her hand with the towel.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Novella rolls her eyes. She spits the skin string from her mouth but it sticks to her chin.

NOVELLA

Fuck.

She wipes it off with her shoulder.

15 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 15 \*

Novella opens the door. Eesha stands there sans Jethro. Novella keeps her hands out of sight.

EESHA

Hey, Novi. How are you?

Novella is obviously anxious.

NOVELLA

I'm pretty good Eesha. Look, I'm on the phone. Can I talk to you later?

EESHA

Oh, yeah sure. But Novi, I just don't know of any other way to tell you this.

NOVELLA

What's that?

Eesha stares at Novella awkwardly.

Novella shrugs her shoulders, confused.

Eesha gestures to the door. An EVICTION NOTICE is attached.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Oh, shit.

EESHA

I'm sorry Novi. It's been three months now and I've been trying to tell you to pay your rent.

NOVELLA

No, Eesha. It's my fault. I'm so sorry. Look, I'll get you a check, okay? I got a callback and I'm positive I'm going to get the part.

EESHA

I know baby. But you said that in February and you still haven't paid. You know I hate doing this.

NOVELLA

I know, it's just...

Novella's face crumbles. Tears erupt and she cups her hands around her face.

EESHA

Oh Novi, baby. Don't cry. I'm so sorry.

The towel falls to the floor. Eesha sees Novella's bloody hand.

EESHA (CONT'D)

Novi, what happened?

Novella sobs and Eesha embraces her. Between fits, Novella squeezes out words.

NOVELLA

I was in a car accident today.

EESHA

You were?! Oh baby. Is that what happened to your hand?

NOVELLA

Yeah and my car is totaled because it's a piece of shit so I had to get a rental car just so I could make it home and go to auditions. And now I'm getting evicted and I don't have any money or anywhere to live.

\*  
\*

EESHA

Novi, I'm so sorry. Don't you worry baby. We need to get your hand fixed, right now. Let me grab some cleaner.

Eesha sits Novella on the floor near the door.

\*

## EESHA (CONT'D)

Just sit right here and I'll grab  
some cleaner, baby.

Eesha shuts the door, but doesn't close it.

After a moment, Novella calms down and looks at her hand. It continues to bleed and drips onto the floor. She pinches the skin together revealing a dry patch on the bottom side of her wrist.

She picks the skin with the nails of her other hand, but they aren't strong enough to dig in.

With her breathing back to normal and tears dry, she quietly closes the door.

She BITES the dry part of her wrist, crying out as blood squirts into her face.

She breathes heavily through her nose continuing to gnaw and chew through her skin. Moans and grunts emit from her mouth between gurgles and gushes.

Finally, she rips away a mouth full of flesh, munching it loudly. She swallows it all, licking her lips and her teeth after.

Novella sighs with relief. Then passes out.

16 INT. DARK VOID - NIGHT - DREAM SEQUENCE #3

16 \*

Again, Novella sits at a booth in a dark bar. She's still enjoying the company of others, but we cannot see them.

She laughs, takes a sip of her drink, points at someone who just made a joke, etc. She's having a wonderful time.

But instantly, Novella stops laughing. We pull out and see no one is sitting with her. The bar is empty. She is all alone.

## 17 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

17

Novella's eyes pop open. She's motionless and frightened. This is heightened when she sees she's not in her bedroom.

An I.V. Machine beeps at a steady pace. She's in a hospital gown with tiny flowers. Her hand is wrapped up like an oven mitt.

She sits up to get her bearings, but then...

NURSE

Good morning.

Novella jumps at the sight of a NURSE (26) at the foot of her bed reading a chart. The Nurse is cute and chipper.

NURSE (CONT'D)

How are you feeling?

Novella looks around the room, as if saying "who me?"

NURSE (CONT'D)

You've been out all night. The medication should make you feel pretty groggy.

Novella grabs the I.V. tube and traces it to her wrist.

NURSE (CONT'D)

How are you feeling?

NOVELLA

Groggy.

NURSE

I'll go grab the doctor and send her in.

NOVELLA

That's not necessary. I can just grab my stuff and go home. I'm okay.

Novella sits up and starts straightening herself out. The Nurse smiles.

NURSE

Oh no you don't. You had quite the night. Let me go grab the doctor.

NOVELLA

No, please. I'm not a big fan of doctors. I don't trust them. I mean...no offense...but you're not a doctor, so you're cool.

The Nurse awkwardly smiles and then exits the room leaving Novella alone with the ambient orchestra of medical machines and beeping instruments.

She rubs her eyes and looks at the giant cast on her hand. The massive amounts of ACE Bandages make it soft as a pillow.

Her eyes inspect all the machines that are monitoring her health.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
Oh fuck. This is gonna be expensive.

KNOCK KNOCK

DR. MORGAN WALKER (45) walks in reading the chart the Nurse gave her. She's the type of woman who manages an impressive practice, a family, and still looks young for her age. But instead of a white doctor jacket, she wears a pant suit.

DR. WALKER  
Hello Novella. How are you feeling?

NOVELLA  
Groggy.

DR. WALKER  
That's probably the medicine.

NOVELLA  
That's what I hear.

DR. WALKER  
My name is Dr. Morgan Walker and I'm a psychiatrist here at the hospital.

Novella's eyes widen.

NOVELLA  
Excuse me?

DR. WALKER  
I wanted to talk to you about your wrist.

Novella stares at her wide eyed, confused. Then she looks at the oven mitt on her hand.

NOVELLA  
Psychiatrist?

DR. WALKER  
There's no reason to be ashamed.

NOVELLA  
Oh no...

DR. WALKER

A lot of people are going through hard times right now.

NOVELLA

Okay. This is kind of hard to explain.

DR. WALKER

There's nothing to explain Novella. Your friend Eesha brought you in. She told me you might be going through a tough financial situation.

\*

NOVELLA

So I have Eesha to thank for this?

Dr. Walker looks at her sternly. She's reading every expression Novella gives.

DR. WALKER

She saved your life.

NOVELLA

Right. Look, Dr. Walker. I'm not suicidal. In fact, it's a really weird story.

DR. WALKER

Really?

NOVELLA

Yeah.

Dr. Walker stares at her, pen ready.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Do you want me to tell you what happened?

DR. WALKER

Please...

Novella gulps and sits up. She wants to put her hands in front of her, but finds it difficult with one of them attached to a machine.

NOVELLA

Well, yesterday, after Eesha left. I...

She sees Dr. Walker writing something on the chart.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Well, I...I went into my kitchen because whenever I get nervous, I get really hungry --

DR. WALKER

Does this happen often?

NOVELLA

Oh yeah.

DR. WALKER

Okay, go on.

NOVELLA

And I, got a can of...peaches out...to eat them, you know?

DR. WALKER

Peaches?

NOVELLA

Yeah. Peaches. And I, uh. I love peaches. And when I was opening the, uh, can of, uh --

DR. WALKER

Peaches.

NOVELLA

Yeah, peaches...I slipped and sliced my wrist right open.

Dr. Walker stares at her for a moment, waiting for Novella to continue. Novella smiles, nervously. The Doctor scribbles on the chart and then pulls something out of her jacket.

DR. WALKER

Novella, I'm going to put you on twenty four hour suicide watch. Do you have friends or family who can stay with you?

NOVELLA

Uh, I don't know. Miss...I mean, Dr. Walker, I'm not suicidal, I just told you --

DR. WALKER

Ms. McClure the wound on your hand was a bite mark.

(MORE)

DR. WALKER (CONT'D)  
 The first responders thought it was from an animal, but the blood that was caked on your face and pieces of flesh in your teeth proved otherwise.

She stares at Novella, waiting for a reaction. Novella looks like she's been busted by her parents.

DR. WALKER (CONT'D)  
 You must have a friend or family member stay with you. If not, you will be required to stay here. I also want to give you this.

She hands Novella a business card.

DR. WALKER (CONT'D)  
 It's a psychiatric facility just up the street. You must meet with the psychiatrist there twice a week until further evaluation. Is all of this clear?

Novella nods her head.

DR. WALKER (CONT'D)  
 Novella, we're here to help you. You don't need to lie to us. I'll send the Nurse back in to get you all cleaned up and ready to go.

Dr. Walker leaves the room. Novella grimaces as if she were in extreme pain.

NOVELLA  
 Oh...FUCK!

The machines and beeps echo through the room.

18 INT. CANDICE'S CAR - DAY

18

Candice and Novella sit in gridlock traffic. Novella is in a large hoodie and sweatpants provided by Candice. Both wear huge sunglasses.

NOVELLA  
 So then I go and check out and it's gonna cost me twenty two hundred dollars. Just for one night's stay.

CANDICE

Why did she say it looked like an animal bite?

Novella is genuinely frustrated.

NOVELLA

Because she's a lying bitch. All doctors are. I was fucking opening up a can and slipped. Now I have to see a God damn shrink at an insane asylum.

CANDICE

Well don't worry about it, baby girl. I'll stay over at your place and we'll make the most out of it. It will be fun.

NOVELLA

Candice, I'm being evicted. I don't have a place.

CANDICE

Are you kidding? Just tell your land lady that you tried to kill yourself because of her. You've got her wrapped around your finger.

NOVELLA

My apartment is attached to her house, it's not like she's going to let me live there for free.

CANDICE

She has been for three months, hasn't she? Trust me on this. She loves you.

NOVELLA

I don't know. I feel bad.

They continue to move foot by foot in the traffic.

CANDICE

I get off work at seven. Talk to your land lady and everything will work itself out.

Candice pumps her fist in the air.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Yay! Suicide watch!



MALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Is this Novella?

NOVELLA  
Yes...

MALE VOICE  
Hi, my name is Brad Hatcher, I'm a filmmaker here in Los Angeles. I was calling because my girlfriend gave me your head shot today.

NOVELLA  
Oh, cool. Who's your girlfriend?

BRAD  
The one you yelled at the other day.

NOVELLA  
Oh. Her. Wow, I was pretty nasty to her, I'm surprised she even gave it to you.

BRAD  
Me too, actually. But we all have shitty days, right?

NOVELLA  
Yeah, tell me about it.

BRAD  
Well, my producers and I are putting together a small scene and we all think you have the perfect look for it. We would really like to talk with you in person. Would you be interested in coming in to audition?

Novella sighs.

NOVELLA  
You know, honestly, I don't know Brad. I'm thinking about taking some time off, but I really appreciate you calling and offering and such.

BRAD  
I don't know if she mentioned this, but it's a paying role.

NOVELLA

How much is it paying?

BRAD

It's fifteen-hundred for a four hour scene.

Novella is stunned.

NOVELLA

Did you just say fifteen-hundred?

\$

BRAD

I did. Will that work for you?

She tries to play it cool.

NOVELLA

Okay...umm...yeah that should work. When and where is the audition?

BRAD

It's at our production studio in the valley, I can text you the address.

\*  
\*  
\*

NOVELLA

I'll see you there.

BRAD

Great. Thanks Novella. Oh...real quick...is this your current email address on the back of your headshot?

NOVELLA

It is.

BRAD

Ok cool. I'm gonna send you some more information about our films and any reference materials you may need. Otherwise, we'll see you tomorrow.

NOVELLA

Thank you, Brad.

She hangs up the phone and kicks her feet up onto the table to relax.

Her toes are in need of a pedicure.

**22 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 22**

Novella digs under her sink and pulls out a small caboodle.

**23 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 23**

She sits back down on her couch.

She rubs her toes with nail polish remover and cotton swabs.

She clips her toe nails, one by one.

She files them. Then buffs them. They look pretty good considering she did this all with one hand and an oven mitt on the other.

She looks through an assortment of different nail polishes and selects red.

With all of her toes painted blood red, she applies white polish to a silver design template.

She presses a stamp against the plate and then presses it to her big toe, revealing a argyle design.

A long hangnail sticks out. She clips it, but it causes a small cut to form on her big toe. She picks it with her fingers, making it worse.

She leans back and puts down the nail polish. She stares at the cut on her toe. While staring, she puts her thumb in her mouth to chew it, but the tender skin stops her.

Tentatively, she folds her leg up to her chest and then picks it up into her mouth with her hands. She puts her toe into her mouth and chews it.

She grimaces and scowls, but her eyes are blank. Emotionless.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Novella kicks her foot out and back to the coffee table. Her toe nail bleeds. She blinks her eyes as if she just woke up from sleep walking.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

**24 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 24 \***

Novella opens the door. Eesha stands there, pale as a ghost with Jethro at her side.

EESHA

Novi baby, how are you doing?

NOVELLA

Hi Eesha, I'm fine.

Jethro tries to get through the crack in the door, but the cone around his head traps him.

EESHA

(to Novella)

Sweetie, what happened?

NOVELLA

Oh, they let me go this morning so I'm just waiting for my friend Candice to come over. She should be here any minute, actually.

EESHA

No Novi, why did you do that to yourself?

Novella looks away embarrassed, but she sees a pool of blood has formed around her foot. This is what Jethro is trying to get.

NOVELLA

Oh...I don't know. I just have a lot of things going on right now.

She closes the door even more, trying to hide her foot from Eesha and to keep the dog out.

EESHA

Novi baby, don't worry about your rent.

Novella is genuinely surprised.

NOVELLA

Oh, Eesha, no. I'll pay you the rent.

EESHA

Please. I insist. If anything were to ever happen to you, I don't know what I would do.

NOVELLA

Thanks Eesha.

EESHA

I mean it. You're a special girl  
with a lot of talent. You're gonna  
be a big movie star. You don't  
need this stress in your life.

Novella makes eye contact with her for the first time. This  
means a lot to her.

Jethro barks.

EESHA (CONT'D)

(to Jethro)

What is the matter with you?

She sees that he's desperately trying to get in.

EESHA (CONT'D)

What do you want in there?

Novella presses her knee against the door.

CANDICE (O.S.)

Oh. My. God. You are too cute!

Candice skips down the hallway and scoops up Jethro into her  
arms.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

And you have the little satellite  
and everything.

Eesha turns and giggles at her puppy.

NOVELLA

Eesha, this is Candice. Candice  
this is my land lady, Eesha.

EESHA

He likes you. Usually he turns  
into a little ball of barbed wire.

Novella grabs her jacket off the coat rack and drops it on top  
of the blood puddle. She quickly slips her feet into a pair  
of Uggs.

CANDICE

I just love him to death.

EESHA

Well, you can keep him if you want.  
Ever since got his testicles  
chopped off, he's been quite the  
handful.

The mutt starts to fight his way out of Candice's arms.

CANDICE

Yeah, I can see that.

The two women giggle. Novella double checks to make sure everything is clear.

EESHA

Well, I'll let you two go. Take care, Novi baby.

NOVELLA

Thanks Eesha.

Candice sets down Jethro.

CANDICE

It was nice meeting you, you handsome little baby.

Eesha and Candice say their goodbyes.

25

**INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

25

Candice grabs a glass and fills it with water. Novella takes a seat at the counter.

CANDICE

So what are we doing tonight?

NOVELLA

I need a drink.

CANDICE

Sounds good to me. Wait a second...

She points at Novella, inquisitively.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Should you be going out after you just tried to kill yourself or whatever?

Novella laughs.

NOVELLA

Are you kidding? That's why I *should* go out.

CANDICE

That's my girl!

They both giggle.

26a INT. CLUB - NIGHT

26a

Novella and Candice are drunk and having fun. They are dancing to the incredibly loud music and can only be seen through pulsing strobe lights.

The club is packed, but they are only dancing with each other. One on one. Intimately, sexually, but not romantically.

They finally take a seat with two men, CHAD and RON (both in their early 30s). These are their "drink buyers" for the night. Chad sits by Candice and Ron by Novella. Both wear button-ups that barely cover their tribal tattoos.

CHAD  
(to Candice)  
So are we gonna dance at all tonight?

CANDICE  
Baby, I just was dancing.

CHAD  
Not with me.

CANDICE  
What? You don't like to watch?

Candice points at Ron.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
You like to watch, don't you?

Ron has his eyes on Novella and doesn't look away.

RON  
You want to get out of here? I live real close.

Novella gulps her drink.

RON (CONT'D)  
I think that cast on your arm is hot. I kind of want to lick it.

He laughs at himself.

NOVELLA  
Umm...I could use another drink.

CANDICE

Yeah, me too. Hey boys, go get us some drinks.

CHAD

You better be giving me some later. I'm not getting you drunk for your health.

CANDICE

Yeah, charming. Make mine a double.

The guys get up and go to the bar.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

These guys are especially doucheey? Let's grab one more drink and then roll out.

\$

Novella isn't paying attention.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

You okay?

NOVELLA

I have my last audition tomorrow.

CANDICE

What?

NOVELLA

I'm quitting acting.

CANDICE

Oh god, not this again. Can't we just get drunk and have fun?

NOVELLA

I'm serious. If I get it, I'll get fifteen hundred dollars and stick with it. If not, I'm moving on.

CANDICE

Really? What are you gonna do?

NOVELLA

I can cut hair with you.

CANDICE

At my shop?

NOVELLA

Yeah.

CANDICE

I hate that place. Why would you want to work there?

NOVELLA

Because, you make money. I don't.

CANDICE

You're fine. Look how nice your apartment is.

NOVELLA

Candice...I got evicted!

\$

CANDICE

No, you didn't. So now you can keep doing what you love.

\$

Novella leans forward.

NOVELLA

I don't love it. I don't love sitting in rooms full of pretty girls who are younger than me. Girls who would literally kill me just so they could get the part. It's awful.

CANDICE

But you're paying your dues.

NOVELLA

It's all dues! It's only dues! I've been paying dues for ten years now. There's no pay off. Ever! Fuck it. I'm tired of it and I'm done.

Novella sits back and crosses her arms defiantly. It's kind of awkward with her cast.

Candice gulps the last of her drink, then clears her throat.

CANDICE

Baby girl, you're like my blood, okay? I will support you and do anything for you. But that's why I don't have your back on this. I can't let you give up your dream.

NOVELLA

My dream is to be happy. And I haven't been for a long time. Especially lately...

She lifts up her bandaged arm and points to it. This hurts Candice and we can see it.

CANDICE

I sit in that shop all day long while everyone else is out in the world. Some of them are actors, others are producers, directors, doctors, whatever...but all of them are out there working and living their dream.

\$  
\$  
\$

Candice leans forward so Novella can hear her.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

That's why I've always respected you and loved you. Because you're not giving up like I did. You fight and struggle and claw everyday so you can live your dream. While I sit in a fucking box all day long making assholes look pretty.

Novella takes this in. She appreciates it.

Chad and Ron return, drinks in hand.

CHAD

Alright, here's your double. You'll like that one.

Candice smiles and takes the drink. Ron hands Novella one, but just before she grabs it, he pulls it away and leans in.

RON

Give me a little peck on the cheek.

NOVELLA

Are you serious?

Ron smiles and continues to pose in that position. Novella reluctantly leans forward to kiss his cheek, but Ron quickly turns his head and kisses her on the lips. He grips the back of her head pressing her face against his.

\*  
\*

CANDICE

Hey! What the fuck?

\*  
\*

Novella is able to push him off, embarrassed. Chad lets out a hissy laugh then holds up his glass.

\*

CHAD

Cheers!

They all take big swigs.

CHAD (CONT'D)  
(to Candice)  
You ready to get dirty, shorty?

Candice gives Novella "the look."

CANDICE  
I need to pee.

NOVELLA  
Yup, me too.

CANDICE  
(to Ron)  
We'll be back.

RON  
Don't be too long. You'll make me  
sad.

The girls escape to the bathroom.

26b INT. CLUB HALLWAY - NIGHT

26b \*

Novella stops just inside the hallway.

CANDICE  
You good?

NOVELLA  
Yeah, I hate that bathroom.

CANDICE  
B-R-B.

Candice disappears as Novella checks her phone for any texts or missed calls.

SIMON (O.S.)  
Hey.

Novella looks up and a smile covers her face.

NOVELLA  
Dr. Simon. Hey man.

SIMON  
How are you, Novella?

NOVELLA  
You remembered my name, huh?

SIMON

How could I forget the one and only Novella McClure? By the way, I don't have to go to the bathroom, I just saw you over here.

NOVELLA

Alright...

\$  
\$

SIMON

Last time I talked to you I was waiting to go to the bathroom and now we're standing here...anyway, whatever. How are you?

NOVELLA

(giggles)  
I'm okay.

SIMON

What happened to your hand, there?

NOVELLA

Oh. Car accident.

SIMON

Oh no. How bad?

She holds up her heavily bandaged arm.

NOVELLA

This bad.

SIMON

Yeah, that sucks. Hey, so before your scary girlfriend comes back, I wanted to ask you out.

NOVELLA

(surprised)  
Oh wow. You just came out and said it.

SIMON

I sure did and I'm as shocked as you are. Do you want to get a cup of coffee or dinner or something?

NOVELLA

Uh, sure. I mean, I'm kinda drunk right now, so it might not be the best time.

SIMON

Oh yeah, I didn't mean tonight. I have a new patient in the morning, so that's cool. But let me give you my number.

He pulls out a business card and hands it to her.

SIMON (CONT'D)

That way if you don't really want to, I can't call you. It's a win/win situation for you, you know?

NOVELLA

I appreciate the option, but I will call.

SIMON

Okay. Those guys over there aren't your boyfriends, right?

NOVELLA

Oh God no. They're just our tab for the night.

SIMON

Wow, really? That's probably not the safest way to get a drink.

NOVELLA

It's the cheapest though.

SIMON

Fair enough, but just so you know, if we do go out, you can get whatever you want and you don't have to slip out the back.

\$  
\$  
\$  
\$

Novella laughs.

NOVELLA

That sounds like a good deal to me.

SIMON

Alrighty. Well, I'm gonna quit while I'm ahead this time.

NOVELLA

I'll call you soon, Dr. Simon.

SIMON

Talk to you then, Novella McClure.

He kisses her cheek tenderly and smiles at her. They lock eyes for a moment, just before he disappears back into the crowd.

Novella looks back at her phone but isn't really looking at it. She closes her eyes, excited and giddy.

Candice bursts out of the bathroom and yells back inside.

CANDICE

Yeah, and now you can go! Just like I said!

The person inside yells something back, but we can't hear it.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Well why don't we go outside then, bitch?

(waits)

Yeah, that's what I thought.

She slams the door and walks past Novella, who follows.

NOVELLA

Everything okay?

CANDICE

Yeah, just some hipster bitch starting shit. I'm not in the mood right now.

27

**EXT. CLUB ALLYWAY - NIGHT**

27

Novella and Candice stumble towards Novella's sedan. \*

NOVELLA \*

Man, I'm pretty drunk, are you okay to drive? \*

CANDICE \*

Yeah, I'm cool. I feel kinda fucked up though.

When they get to the car, Novella slides her keys across the top of the car. Candice misses the catch. \*

Novella rubs her eyes.

NOVELLA

Me too. Shit.

She looks around her. The world spins.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Dude, something's wrong.

Candice bends to pick up the keys but stumbles to the ground. \*

CANDICE

Oh shit. Me too.

Novella leans against the car, breathing as much air as she can.

Chad and Ron's silhouettes come around the corner.

CHAD

There you are!

RON

I told you not to run away from me,  
Stumpy.

They strut down the allyway toward the girls. The way they walk and laugh with each other does not bode well.

Candice rolls her eyes.

CANDICE

Oh...fuck.

Novella is much more worried.

NOVELLA

Candice, we gotta get out of here.

CANDICE

Baby girl, don't worry, okay?

Novella runs around the car to Candice, but trips and falls on her knees. She's too woozy to get up.

NOVELLA

Candice, come on.

CANDICE

Calm down, sweetie. Don't worry  
about these guys.

Candice sticks her hand in her purse. Novella clutches onto Candice's arm like a frightened child.

Chad and Ron stand over them.

CHAD

We've been buying you pretty things  
drinks all night and you're just  
gonna run off? Ron, figured you'd  
do something like that.

RON

I thought you might need a little  
something extra to get you in the  
mood, you know?

Ron unzips his pants.

RON (CONT'D)

I told you I wanted to lick  
you...but now you're gonna lick me.

Novella bursts into tears. Candice remains calm.

CANDICE

Go on, baby girl, it's okay.

NOVELLA

What?!

CANDICE

Do what he says, come on.

RON

Ooohh, I like her.

Chad nudges Ron, protecting his property.

CHAD

Hey man, you've got yours, *she's*  
mine.

Chad starts to unzip his pants, but Candice holds her finger  
up to his belt.

CANDICE

Hold on...

She nods over to Novella, smiling.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

I like to watch.

Chad is about to burst with excitement.

CHAD

Dude, fuck yes!  
(to Ron)  
Come on, man, hurry up.

Ron pulls down his pants and sticks his pelvis in front of Novella's face. She continues to weep.

RON  
(to Novella)  
Come on.

She covers her face.

RON (CONT'D)  
Come on. Suck it.

Novella doesn't put her hands down.

RON (CONT'D)  
Come on, slut!

CANDICE  
Here, allow me.

Candice pulls a chrome .38 Special out of her purse and shoves it right against Ron's penis.

BOOM!

The gunshot is deafening and splatters blood all over Candice and Novella.

Ron screams like a banshee as Chad freezes with his hands held up.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
Now it's your turn, baby.

She sticks the gun in Chad's crotch and FIRES.

Novella screams. Candice pulls herself to her feet and opens the door.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
Novi, get in the car.

NOVELLA  
What the fuck?! What did you do?

Candice grabs Novella's arm and shoves her to the passenger seat.

The two castrated men are writhing on the pavement, sobbing.

Candice gets in and slams the door.

28

**INT. NOVELLA'S RENTAL CAR - CONTINUOUS**

28

\*

Candice uses her shirt to clear the blood out of her eyes. She blinks them a few times to make sure she can see.

NOVELLA

Why did you do that?

CANDICE

Because they were going to fucking rape us, what do you think?

NOVELLA

Couldn't you at least tell me you were going to?

CANDICE

It was kind of a last minute decision!

NOVELLA

We're gonna go to jail!

CANDICE

No we're not! We're going home.

BAM!

\*

Ron's bloody hand smacks the driver's side windshield. Both girls SCREAM.

\*

\*

NOVELLA

Get us out of here!

\*

\*

CANDICE

I'm trying!

\*

\*

Candice tries to start up the car but it jerks forward and dies. She starts it back up, then tries to shake off the drugs.

\*

NOVELLA

Wait, I'm still seeing double, how are you going to drive us home?

\*

Candice looks to the road ahead and smiles.

CANDICE

Quickly.

She steps on the gas.



CANDICE (CONT'D)  
You're welcome, by the way.

Novella leans against the counter behind her and slides to the floor.

NOVELLA  
(under her breath)  
Yeah, thanks.

Her stomach GROWLS. She cries out in pain. This is the worst it has ever been.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
Fuck!

She tries to get up but it CHURNS.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
Oh God...  
(yells)  
Candice!

She's able to climb to her feet, but is hunched over.

31 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

31

Novella shoves the door open and leans against the frame.

NOVELLA  
Candice. I need help.

Candice lays on her stomach under the comforter. She's half conscious and her mouth is muffled by the pillow.

CANDICE  
What's wrong?

Novella's stomach gurgles.

NOVELLA  
I don't know. I feel like...like  
I'm starving.

Candice doesn't move.

CANDICE  
Then go get some food.

NOVELLA  
No, it's worse than that. My  
stomach is eating itself. I need  
to go to the hospital.

CANDICE

Okay, baby girl. We'll go first  
thing in the...

Candice's words trail off as she falls asleep.

NOVELLA

Candice! Wake up!

Candice lays on the bed like a corpse.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

God damn it!

32

**INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

32

Novella stumbles to her couch holding her stomach with both arms. It continues to GROWL and GROAN, more intensely.

She starts to gag and choke. Tears stream down her winced face.

Novella pulls off her boots. She pinches her big toe after ripping off the soiled Band-Aid. A thick chunk of skin squeezes between her thumb and index finger.

One more GROWL seals the deal.

She kicks her foot up to her chest and then pulls it into her mouth. Her teeth clamp down on the toe and her nail cracks like a potato chip.

Novella cries out in agony, but this doesn't stop her. She rips the nail off and spits the toe nail with an argyle design onto the wooden table.

She bites again and nearly screams. She pulls away to see the crimson bone protruding from her foot.

NOVELLA

Oh Jesus.

She adjusts her grip and chomps on the side of her foot. She rips away a large piece and begins chewing.

As she continues to eat her foot and swallow her own muscle and skin, she exhales with ecstasy. Her stomach becomes quiet as she continues to feast.

**33 INT. DARK VOID - NIGHT - DREAM SEQUENCE #4 33 \***

Novella is sitting at the bar, but she's not laughing. She knows she's alone, frozen in fear.

She looks at the table in front of her. There is a large chalice full of a dark liquid. Reluctantly, she picks it up and puts it to her mouth.

She guzzles the liquid. It pours down her cheeks and throat as she continues to guzzle the drink. The fluid is dark red. Blood.

The chalice slams on the table once she is finished. Blood is painted all over her face. She becomes ill. Grabbing her stomach. She gasps for air, hyperventilating.

She retches the red fluid all over the table. The liquid covers the table and pours onto the floor.

**34 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MORNING 34**

Novella lays on the floor in her underwear. Her bathroom cabinets have been emptied out onto the floor around her.

Her foot is hastily wrapped with a bloody Ace Bandage. A collection of hair ties circle her ankle as a cheap tourniquet.

Her head pounds. She's pale as a ghost. She looks terrible.

She rubs her eyes and feels the blood all over her face. She grabs a hand towel and to wipe it off.

**35 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 35**

She limps into the room wearing her bathrobe and is cleaned up. A note is on her pillow.

Novella picks it up and reads to herself.

NOVELLA

Be back at seven. Hope you're feeling better. Good luck at the audition.

She thinks for a moment.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Audition? Oh, fuck.

36 INT. AUDITION WAITING ROOM #3 - DAY 36 \*

Novella sits against a white wall by herself. Her high heels cover her foot, but the large cast on her hand sticks out like a sore thumb. \*

She simply sits there, hand on her head, lifeless. Other women waiting to audition look at her nervously, wondering if she's okay. \*

The door opens. Brad Hatcher (27) greets her with a large smile. He's unshaven and wears a beanie on this sunny day and has a ridiculous hipster mustache.

BRAD

Novella?

She nods, gets up and limps into the room.

37 INT. AUDITION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 37

Novella sits on a black couch in front of the two MALE PRODUCERS and Brad. They are all in their late 20s/early 30s. All are unshaven and wear hip clothing. Each acts as if they have something better to do. \$

But Brad remains charming.

BRAD

We've been looking forward to meeting you.

NOVELLA

Thanks, I've been looking forward to this as well.

BRAD

I hope you don't mind me asking, but what happened to your hand?

NOVELLA

Hmm?

She looks down at her cast. Her sunglasses still on.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Oh, I was in a car accident a few days ago.

BRAD

Everything okay?

NOVELLA

Yeah, I hurt my arm and my foot,  
but it's no big deal.

PRODUCER #1

Did it hurt your eyes?

Novella looks at him confused. Then...

NOVELLA

Oh. Sorry.

She takes off her sunglasses and sets them on the floor with  
her purse and coffee.

Brad takes a seat with the other Producers.

BRAD

So I told you a little bit about  
this in the email, but we're still  
looking for our lead actress. We  
think you could be perfect for it.

NOVELLA

Awesome.

BRAD

Did you get the email?

NOVELLA

I haven't checked yet, I'm sorry.

BRAD

Oh that's okay. It had some sides  
in there to read, but do you have  
something prepared?

NOVELLA

Yeah, I have a monologue from a  
play I did a few years ago.

Some of the guys look at each other and smirk.

BRAD

Sounds awesome.

Producer #2 doesn't look up from the book he's reading.     \$  
Producer #1 doodles a penis on Novella's headshot.     \$

Novella sees this and closes her eyes for a moment. When she  
opens them, she is transformed. Her confidence beams, but we  
feel pain in her heart.

NOVELLA

They look at me as if I'm not here.  
They listen to me as if I don't  
speak. I walk through the darkness  
of my life and all I can hope for  
is to find light.

She swallows, not as herself, but as her character.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

No one knows who I am or what I can  
be. What I can become. Only I do  
and I fight and climb and try to  
break through these walls with  
every ounce of strength I have in  
my body. But it's never enough.

She grabs her chest.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

My heart hammers my chest, begging  
to escape, pounding so hard that it  
hurts. It's hurts unlike any pain  
I have ever felt. And I have felt  
a lot of it. One day, I will show  
everyone who I am. Not the person  
they see. But me. I will find  
that light. They will hear my  
voice. They will see me. They  
will see me.

\$

She bows her head. She nailed it. When she looks back, all  
three Producers are staring at her wide eyed. Brad smiles  
ear to ear.

All four men BURST INTO LAUGHTER. They clutch their stomachs  
they laugh so hard.

Novella doesn't get it.

PRODUCER #2

That was amazing. Seriously. Did  
Steve put you up to this?

\$

Novella shrinks.

NOVELLA

Who? Who is Steve?

Brad pulls himself together.

BRAD

Oh no. Novella, sweet heart. You  
didn't read the email, huh?

NOVELLA

No, why?

BRAD

We're making 'Anal Aliens: Seven.'  
Not 'Hamlet.'

PRODUCER #2

I was all excited there for a  
second. I was like 'monologue from  
a play?! Fuck yeah! I love porno  
plays!'

The Producers continue to laugh.

BRAD

You do anal, right?

Novella's expression dies. She's lifeless.

She stands and collects her things.

Then, she grabs the chair and **THROWS IT** at the men with all  
her strength. It smashes into the table as the guy's duck  
behind it.

BRAD (CONT'D)

Oh shit!

\$

She throws her sunglasses, then her coffee cup. Tears don't  
well in her eyes, hatred does.

She reaches into her purse and pulls out her yellow legal pad  
and hurls it at them. Then her pocket mirror.

Finally, she grabs her pile of headshots and tosses them with  
all her strength. They scatter in the air in all directions  
like smoke.

The Producers remain crouched under their table, stunned, as  
head shots faintly fall from the sky.

Novella gathers herself, walks out the door and slams it  
behind her.

PRODUCER #2

I guess that's a 'no' on the anal,  
right?

\$

They laugh.

38 INT. NOVELLA'S RENTAL CAR - DAY 38 \*

Novella drives through mid-day traffic. Her elbow is up on the window and her hand supports her head. She's exhausted. Sleep walking through the day.

39 EXT. PSYCHIATRIST FACILITY - DAY 39

Novella's rental car pulls into an empty parking lot. The building is part of an office facility which seems eerily calm.

She gets out and looks around her, trying to gauge her strange location.

40 INT. PSYCHIATRIST FACILITY - WAITING AREA - MOMENTS LATER 40

The waiting area has a few IKEA couches with a coffee table filled with magazines in front of a closed office door. As Novella enters the room, a DOORBELL RINGS.

She stands there awkwardly, not sure if she should sit down.

The office door opens.

It's Simon.

SIMON  
Hey Novella.

NOVELLA  
Oh, hey Dr. Simon. What are you...

Two and two come together. She puts her hand up to her head, mortified.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
Oh my God.

SIMON  
No, it's okay. Here, come on in.

NOVELLA  
Oh, Jesus. I didn't even think about this.

SIMON  
It's okay. Really. Come on, step into my office.

Novella reluctantly enters the office.

41 INT. PSYCHIATRIST FACILITY - OFFICE - DAY

41

Novella sits on in an over stuffed chair in front of Simon's oak desk.

SIMON

Can I get you anything to drink?

NOVELLA

No, thank you.

SIMON

Anything I can do to make you more comfortable?

NOVELLA

I'm pretty sure nothing will make this comfortable.

SIMON

That's fair enough. Let's see, how should I start this?

NOVELLA

Simon, seriously. I wasn't too thrilled with this whole thing to begin with. I know I'm required to talk with a shrink, but this isn't gonna work. Besides, I've had a really shitty day --

Simon holds up his hands.

SIMON

I know, I know. Here's the thing...I take suicide patients from the hospital very rarely, but they offer them to me. They show me the files and ask if I would like to take any of the patients. I saw your name and suggested I could work with you.

NOVELLA

Yeah? Well that wasn't what I had in mind for a date.

SIMON

No, that's not it at all. Look, I like you. I don't even know you and I like you. But when I saw you tried to kill yourself, it really bummed me out.

NOVELLA

I didn't try to kill myself...

SIMON

Yeah, I read about the can of peaches that took a bite out of your arm.

Novella looks away, embarrassed.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Look, you're a beautiful woman and even though we've only talked to each other a few times, I can tell you're an amazing person. I help people everyday. People who don't deserve it.

Novella sighs, unsure.

SIMON (CONT'D)

You need help. Not because you're crazy or suicidal or anything like that. I want to help you because you should have never felt like you needed to leave this world...it's better with you in it.

Novella smiles sheepishly. She relaxes a little and holds out her hands in a "now what?" gesture.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I rent this room from the facility, but I don't really like it. I feel like I'm in a hotel smoking lounge or something. Are you hungry?

NOVELLA

Are you serious?

SIMON

Yeah, come on. Let's go grab some lunch...Just don't tell anyone. You like tacos?

\$

He smiles, stands up and reaches for her hand.

NOVELLA

I love tacos.

She gives him her hand.

42

INT. TACO PLACE - DAY

42

\$

Simon and Novella sit on a bench enjoying some tacos. Novella scarfs hers down, usually speaking with her mouth full.

SIMON

So where do you live?

\*

NOVELLA

I have an apartment a couple miles from here. It's a mother-in-law suite at my land lady's house. It's actually really nice considering how shitty the neighborhood is.

\*

\*

\*

\*

SIMON

You live alone?

NOVELLA

Yeah. My friend Candice is staying with me right now. My suicide watch dog.

SIMON

Is that your scary friend at the club?

Novella laughs.

NOVELLA

She's not scary.

SIMON

Are you kidding me? Her arms are bigger than mine. And I work out...sometimes.

NOVELLA

No, she's a sweetheart.

Novella swallows.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Actually, she did shoot two guys last night.

\*

Simon chokes on his taco.

SIMON

What?

NOVELLA

Yeah, Candice always carries a gun in her purse. Did you see those guys we were dancing with last night?

\*  
\*

SIMON

Yeah...

NOVELLA

Yeah, they tried to rape us in the parking lot so Candice blew off their dicks.

SIMON

Oh my God! Are you ok? That's horrible. I saw the cops there as I was leaving. I heard something about a drive-by...

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

NOVELLA

Oh really? Yeah, it was Candice. You can't tell anyone about that, right? That whole confidentiality thing?

\*

SIMON

Totally, you can tell me anything. But that's fucked up, though. Are you okay?

NOVELLA

Oh yeah, Candice always has my back. In fact, you better watch out, buddy.

She smiles jokingly.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

If you fuck me over or anything, she'll fucking kill you.

SIMON

Man, no shit. I would offer to talk with her sometime, but I think I want to avoid her.

Novella giggles.

NOVELLA

That's probably a good idea.

They eat their tacos for a moment in silence. The sound of nearby children and passing cars fill the air.

SIMON

So, this isn't too bad, huh? You  
can talk to me about things, right?

\*  
\*

NOVELLA

Yeah, this is a lot better than  
your office. And I like talking  
about myself. It's a lot better  
than listening to some douche bag  
talk all night just so I can score  
a free drink.

SIMON

Yeah, I bet. So, why don't you  
tell me what happened with your  
arm?

Novella's smile disappears. She thinks for a moment, then  
gives in.

NOVELLA

I don't know. I've been going  
through a lot lately.

SIMON

Like what?

NOVELLA

Well, I haven't landed a role in  
three years.

\*

SIMON

Jeez, how are you able to pay for  
everything?

\*  
\*

NOVELLA

I had a ton of inheritance money  
that I've been using but that well  
is pretty much dried up now. Oh,  
and I crashed my car.

\*

SIMON

You actually did get in a car  
wreck?

NOVELLA

Yeah, that's what happened to my  
foot. And when I got home, my land  
lady told me I was getting evicted.

\*  
\*

Simon reacts.

\*

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

Yeah, so I don't know. I just snapped, I guess. I had all this tension built up and just needed to explode. For some reason, I bit my wrist as hard as I could.

\*

Simon nods his head.

SIMON

Whenever things like that pile up, it's best to have something you can always count on to make you happy.

Novella nods.

SIMON (CONT'D)

You know, a place you can go. A family member you can talk to. Even just a TV show to watch. Do you have anything like that? Something in your life that makes you happy?

Novella thinks about this for a moment.

NOVELLA

I don't know.

SIMON

Come on...what about acting?

\*

NOVELLA

A couple of years ago I probably would have told you 'yes.' But now, it's just...

She finishes the last of her taco.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

When I was younger and stupid shit would happen, it didn't bother me because I was young and stupid. But now that I'm older, it's just not me anymore.

SIMON

Times change.

NOVELLA

Exactly. I'm just not that person anymore.

SIMON

Maybe it's time you start 'being you.'

Novella smiles.

NOVELLA

Yeah, that's what I've been thinking recently.

SIMON

Speaking of which, I like you.

NOVELLA

(blushes)

Isn't this breaking some sort of rule or law or something?

SIMON

I don't know, probably. But it's true, though. I like you and I like talking with you. I talk to people all day and I don't like them. But you, I like.

NOVELLA

Well, that's very sweet.

SIMON

What are you doing tonight?

NOVELLA

Tonight?

SIMON

Yeah, are you going out to some club to castrate more guys?

NOVELLA

I don't know, I guess I can always do that this weekend.

\*

SIMON

Great. Then let's go out to dinner?

Novella takes this in and looks at the beautiful sky.

NOVELLA

You know, that sounds great, actually.

Novella plays footsie with Simon.

\$

43 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

43

Novella walks in looking through some mail.

CANDICE

Hey there.

Novella jumps. Candice comes in from the living room nursing a rum and coke. Novella jumps.

\$

NOVELLA

You scared me.

\$

CANDICE

Sorry.

NOVELLA

You're home early.

CANDICE

Yeah, um...I wanted to talk to you about last night.

Novella puts down the mail.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

NOVELLA

Yeah, it was just intense, you know? I've just never seen someone shot before let alone right in front of my face?

\$

\$

CANDICE

What?

NOVELLA

Those guys...

CANDICE

Oh! I was talking about you being sick last night. Fuck those guys, man.

NOVELLA

Me being sick?

CANDICE

Last night, I heard you were sick in the bathroom and when I got up this morning you still had yourself locked in there. Is everything okay?

NOVELLA

Yeah, I'm fine. Probably just the roofy.

Candice looks ashamed.

CANDICE

Okay. I just feel terrible I didn't take you to the hospital when you asked. I was still all fucked up and then I passed out.

NOVELLA

Yeah, it's cool.

CANDICE

And look, those guys had it coming. You know me, man. If anyone threatens me or you, I'm gonna fuck them up.

NOVELLA

Yeah, clearly.

CANDICE

You're damn right, 'clearly.' Think those fuckers are gonna drug two girls again?

NOVELLA

I'm more worried about being a wanted fugitive.

Candice waves her off.

CANDICE

Yeah, I'd like to hear that one.

She impersonates a moronic guy.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

'Uh, these, like, uh two girls tried to rob us three hundred pound meatheads and then shot us for no reason.'

\$

NOVELLA

Well if we get busted, you're on your own.

Novella limps to her bedroom.

\*

CANDICE

Yeah, thanks Novi.

\$

Candice follows with her drink in hand.

**44a INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER**

**44a**

Novella is in her underwear, holding dresses up to herself in front of a mirror.

Candice lays on the bed watching.

CANDICE

Jesus, what happened to your foot?

Novella looks at it. Blood seeps through the bandages.

NOVELLA

Oh, that? Yeah I did that when I crashed my car.

CANDICE

You didn't tell me about it?

NOVELLA

I didn't?

CANDICE

No. Did you see a doctor?

NOVELLA

Candice, do you not understand the concept of being broke? I have enough medical bills to pay right now.

CANDICE

Well, fuck Novi, you're foot looks like it has gangrene.

NOVELLA

I'll clean it later.

CANDICE

Ew, gross. Really?

Novella pulls a pile of dresses out of her closet and sets them on the bed. She tries them on one by one.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

Are you going on a date?

NOVELLA

Yup.

CANDICE  
No shit? With who?

NOVELLA  
Dr. Simon.

Candice thinks for a moment.

CANDICE  
Who the fuck is Dr. Simon?

NOVELLA  
The guy at the club the other  
night.

Novella puts on a black dress. She smiles at herself.

CANDICE  
I don't remember him.  
(points)  
Ew, not that one. You're sides  
plop out like a muffin.

Novella, does not appreciate this, but takes off the dress  
anyway and continues through the pile.

NOVELLA  
Well, anyway, check this out. He  
actually is my doctor.

CANDICE  
Your doctor? You hate doctors.

NOVELLA  
Not my *doctor* doctor. My shrink.

CANDICE  
Isn't that like, illegal or  
something?

NOVELLA  
I don't care. I didn't want to do  
that therapy shit anyway. And I  
like talking to him, he's sweet and  
cares about me.

Candice has the look of an unsupportive mother. Novella  
pulls on a tight red dress.

CANDICE  
I don't know, that sounds kinda  
fucked up.  
(to dress)  
(MORE)

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
Yeah! I love that one. You look  
so hot in it.

NOVELLA  
It's not weird. Really. And he  
also says that I should quit  
acting.

CANDICE  
What?

NOVELLA  
Yeah, he agrees that it's not me,  
anymore.

CANDICE  
Is that what 'Simon Says?' That's  
pretty bold of him considering he  
doesn't even know you.

Novella takes off the red dress and puts the black one back  
on.

NOVELLA  
Maybe you don't really know me.

She walks into her closet.

\*

**44b INT. CLOSET - CONTINUOUS**

**44b \***

Candice stomps in behind her.

CANDICE  
What the fuck does that mean?

Novella adjusts her make up and hair as she speaks to  
Candice, never making eye contact.

NOVELLA  
I don't know. I have a lot of shit  
going on right now and you don't  
really seem to support me.

CANDICE  
Are you fucking kidding me?

NOVELLA  
No. I'm not.

Candice starts laughing.

CANDICE

This is fucking amazing. Allow me to compose a list for you...

She holds up her hand and counts off her fingers.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

When you tried to kill yourself, who was there? Me. When you needed someone to stay with you every night, who was there? Me. When two assholes tried to fucking rape you, who protected you? Me.

Novella puts down her make up and turns to her, upset.

NOVELLA

I know, okay? Jesus!

She holds up her hands like she wants to strangle the air.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

I have a lot of shit going on right now and it's really hard for me to fucking handle. I just need some space, okay? Give me some fucking room to breathe, Candice! You're always so fucking smothering!

Candice rolls her eyes.

CANDICE

Whatever. You can have your fucking space.

\*

Candice turns and storms out of the room.

\*

Novella hears the front door SLAM.

She sighs and then wraps her hair around a curling iron. As it begins to sizzle, she pulls it out and then brushes her hair.

Frustrated, she slams the iron and her comb onto her dresser and sits on a chair, crying.

\*

\*

NOVELLA

God damnit.

After a moment, she wipes away her tears trying to conserve her makeup.

She notices the bloody bandages on her foot and peels them off slowly. Blood sticks to them like syrup causing Novella to grimace as they tear off her rotted flesh. \*

Her foot is destroyed. It's covered in bite marks and a few toes are missing. The skin above her hair-tie-tourniquet is turning green and grey. \*

She picks at the skin and it peels off like grey salmon. \*

She rests her foot on her knee so it's closer to her face. She notices her boots by the closet door and grabs one. \*

She holds it up to her leg and measures how far up it goes on her calf. There's a few inches of fresh skin below the top of the boot. \*

Her fingers push the rotten skin and lift the hair ties up a few inches.

She licks her lips and leans forward to dig in.

45

**INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

45

Novella sinks her teeth into a juicy hamburger. She rips through the beef and when she pulls up to chew, a blood red tomato slaps against her chin. She giggles.

NOVELLA

(mouth full)

I'm sorry. I have absolutely zero manners. This must really be turning you on.

Simon laughs.

SIMON

No, it's okay. I like a girl who actually eats. I hate salad pickers.

NOVELLA

Yeah, I've always been an eater. The more meat, the better.

SIMON

Are you from Texas?

NOVELLA

Bakersfield.

SIMON

Oh, bummer.

NOVELLA

I know, right?

SIMON

(sarcastically)

How could you ever leave that place?

NOVELLA

Yeah, tell me about it. It wasn't too bad, though. Just boring.

Simon sips on some wine while eating his chicken.

SIMON

Where's your family?

\*

Novella smirks, knowing this one has some baggage.

NOVELLA

My Mom left when I was really young and my Dad died a few years after that. He was having a minor operation and the doctor screwed up and killed him.

\*

SIMON

Oh jeez.\_\_Is that where you got your inheritance?

\*

NOVELLA

Yeah it was a cash settlement. It's lasted me all these years, but I would give it all away in a second to have him back, you know?

SIMON

Absolutely, I understand.

\*

NOVELLA

Yeah, it's pretty heavy. I lived with my aunt and uncle after that and it was really bad.

SIMON

Why?

\*

NOVELLA

It was your usual stuff with an abusive uncle. Something that will give us plenty to talk about during a session someday.

\*

SIMON  
That's fair enough.

They continue eating and sipping wine.

NOVELLA  
So what did you do this afternoon?

SIMON  
I had another patient for an hour  
and then went home. You?

NOVELLA  
I went home. I actually got in a  
fight with Candice.

SIMON  
About what?

NOVELLA  
I don't know. She can be kind of  
annoying.

SIMON  
How long have you been friends?

NOVELLA  
Since that creepy uncle. She  
helped me run away from him.

SIMON  
It's good she was around.

\*

NOVELLA  
Yeah, it's actually a funny story....  
So my uncle had this hockey stick  
signed by Jacques Plante, the  
famous goalie.

\$  
\$

SIMON  
Hmm, I don't know him.

NOVELLA  
Yeah, no one does. But he had this  
stick signed by him, it was up on  
the mantle, right? It was his  
pride and joy.

She sips some wine, clearing her throat for the story.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

So Candice is over at my house, I think it was the first time she had ever come over...we're like sixteen/seventeen years old...and my uncle said something shitty to me and pinched my ass. Which wasn't the worst thing he ever did.

SIMON

Gross.

NOVELLA

Yeah, well Candice sees this and she gets this look in her eye. Like she's the terminator or something. She walks over to the fire place, rips the hockey stick off the wall and proceeds to beat the living shit out of my uncle. She knocked out his teeth, fucked up his eye. It was amazing. It looked like a hate crime.

They both start laughing.

SIMON

Jesus Christ, what did you do?

\*

NOVELLA

What did we do? I think we had both already dropped out of high school so we probably crashed at a friends house for a few days. Then after that we came up here. Been here ever since.

SIMON

So she's quite the friend.

\*

She smiles and thinks.

NOVELLA

Yeah. She's pretty bad ass. She always has my back.

SIMON

It's good to have someone like that around.

NOVELLA

Yeah. Yeah it is.

Novella puts down her burger and takes another sip of wine.

Simon smiles at her.

SIMON  
Do you want to get dessert?

NOVELLA  
Sure.

SIMON  
It will change your life.  
Seriously.

NOVELLA  
(smiles)  
What is it?

SIMON  
It's not here.

NOVELLA  
Okay...

SIMON  
And I don't want you to get the  
wrong idea, but the dessert is  
worth it.

Novella furrows her brow.

NOVELLA  
What?

He smiles.

46 INT. SIMON'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

46

Simon puts a plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies in front of Novella. They are the size of biscuits.

She's seated at his kitchen counter drinking a glass of wine. He's in full chef gear: apron, mitts, even a silly little hat.

SIMON  
Voilà

NOVELLA  
Holy shit.

SIMON  
See! Told you it was worth the  
wait.

NOVELLA

Will I appreciate these even if I'm  
kind of drunk?

SIMON

Novella, darling, the dead can  
appreciate these cookies.

She picks one up and opens her mouth.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Hang on!

He takes a gulp of wine, tears off his chef gear and runs  
around to the front of the counter beside her.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Together...

He picks one up and wraps his arm around hers, jokingly.

They both take a bite out of the steaming, delicious, treats.  
From their expressions, they truly are life changing cookies.

They swallow and stare at each other. Silently.

He leans forward and kisses Novella gently. He wraps his  
arms around her and squeezes her tight. She kisses back.

47

**INT. SIMON'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

47

Novella and Simon are full speed ahead. They crash on his  
bed, their faces never separating. She fumbles with his  
shirt buttons because of her bandaged hand.

\*  
\*

He helps her and pulls off his shirt.

\*

He grips her thighs, guides his hands up her legs under her  
black dress. Novella moans with ecstasy.

He continues to lift his hands and pulls Novella's dress over  
her head.

They kiss passionately as Simon feels her naked chest. He  
feels something and finally pulls away from her lips. Simon  
looks at Novella's breasts.

SIMON

Oh my God!

He instantly lets go of Novella and recoils in fear. His  
hands are covered in blood.

NOVELLA  
What? What's wrong?

Novella looks at her chest and sees her breasts have been completely chewed off. All that remains are two bloody saucers.

She screams, petrified.

48 INT. SIMON'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING

48

Novella's eyes pop open with a jolt. She's motionless. Terrified. Only her eyes move, darting around the room. This isn't her room.

She sits up and sees Simon sleeping peacefully beside her.

Novella instinctively feels her chest and then looks under the sheet. Everything is normal.

NOVELLA  
Jesus Christ.

Simon turns over, still half asleep.

SIMON  
You okay?

NOVELLA  
Yeah. Just had a crazy dream.

SIMON  
Nice. Let's dig into that at our session today.

Novella smiles.

NOVELLA  
You still want me to come in?

SIMON  
Sure, why not? I have a couple appointments before you, but then you and I can spend the rest of the day together.

He looks up to her and smiles.

NOVELLA  
Okay. That sounds good.

She kisses him and cuddles with him.

As they fall back asleep, Novella's bandaged foot pokes out from under the comforter. All the linens around the foot are stained red.

49           **EXT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - DAY**

49

Novella, still wearing her black dress, looks through her purse trying to find her keys.

Eesha walks down the hallway, dragging Jethro behind her.

EESHA

Novi, baby. How are you?

Novella smiles, actually happy to see her.

NOVELLA

Hey Eesha, I'm wonderful. How are you?

EESHA

Oh I'm good, thank you.

She notices the black dress.

EESHA (CONT'D)

Did you have a long night?

Novella giggles, embarrassed.

NOVELLA

I sure did.

Eesha's eyes light up.

EESHA

Were you with a boy?

Novella blushes.

NOVELLA

I was. I was, indeed.

EESHA

Oh my. Is he handsome?

NOVELLA

Very.

EESHA

What does he do?

NOVELLA

He's a psychiatrist.

EESHA

Oh my. A doctor. Novi, baby.

Eesha playfully pushes Novella's shoulder.

EESHA (CONT'D)

I'm so happy for you.

NOVELLA

Thanks Eesha. I really like him, actually.

EESHA

Oh I bet. It's about time we had some little grand babies running around here.

Novella blushes, but plays along.

NOVELLA

I know, right?

EESHA

Have you ever decorated a little baby? It's so much fun.

Novella laughs.

Jethro barks.

EESHA (CONT'D)

Okay, you little shit face. He doesn't like it when I talk about grand babies, it makes him jealous.

NOVELLA

I bet it does.

EESHA

Okay. Bye bye, Novi baby. When your doctor boyfriend comes by, you be sure to introduce me to him. I must approve.

She gives Novella a wink and takes Jethro down the hall.

50

INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

50

Novella limps through the door but stops when she sees Candice sitting on the couch.

\*  
\*

CANDICE

Well, look who is doing the walk of shame.

Novella smiles at her.

NOVELLA

Hey, don't hate the player, baby...

Candice laughs. Her smile is warm and inviting.

CANDICE

I came here last night and you were gone. I got kind of worried.

NOVELLA

Seriously?

CANDICE

Yeah. It made me realize that I can kind of freak out about that sort of stuff, you know?

NOVELLA

Uh, yeah, I know.

CANDICE

I don't know what it is, but I just feel like I need to...I don't know.

NOVELLA

I know.

Candice smiles.

CANDICE

I'll try to lay off.

NOVELLA

Thanks.

CANDICE

You like him?

Novella sits down beside Candice who wraps her arm around Novella like a parent.

NOVELLA

He's amazing. He bakes cookies.

CANDICE

Really? Are they good?

NOVELLA  
Life changing.

CANDICE  
Okay. Well, if you like him, then  
I'll like him.

NOVELLA  
You're the best.

\$

Candice squeezes Novella.

CANDICE  
I talked with Susan about you  
coming in to the shop sometime. I  
told her about how you do my hair  
and stuff. You can come in and  
take a look around.

NOVELLA  
Really?

CANDICE  
Yeah.

NOVELLA  
That means a lot.

CANDICE  
I just want you to be happy.

\$

NOVELLA  
What are you doing home?

\$

CANDICE  
It's my day off. I'm gonna go for  
a hike or shopping or some shit in  
a little while.

\*

NOVELLA  
That sounds nice.

CANDICE  
You want to come?

NOVELLA  
I do, but Simon and I are going out  
for lunch.

CANDICE  
Oh, gotcha. You guys are in your  
honeymoon phase.

Novella smiles.

NOVELLA

Yeah, I guess so.

CANDICE

I'm happy for you.

NOVELLA

Thanks. I *am* happy.

They sit there for a moment, silently. Then...

CANDICE

But seriously if this fucking guy  
breaks your heart I'm not just  
gonna shoot his dick off, okay?

Novella bursts into laughter.

51

**INT. PSYCHIATRIST FACILITY - WAITING AREA**

51

Novella limps into the room, sun glasses covering her eyes. She's not sure if what she is seeing is a mirage or real. She pulls off her shades, eyes wide.

NOVELLA

Are you following me?

Tracy is sitting on the couch reading a magazine. She looks just as surprised as Novella.

TRACY

What the hell are you doing here?

NOVELLA

I'm meeting someone.

Tracy has a disgusted look on her face.

TRACY

Who, Simon?

NOVELLA

Yeah.

TRACY

Like for an appointment?

NOVELLA

(crosses her arms)

Yeah, sort of.... We're kinda seeing  
each other.

\$

Tracy hears this, waits a moment, then laughs.

Novella isn't impressed.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
What is so funny?

TRACY  
You're kidding me, right?

NOVELLA  
No, I'm not.

TRACY  
Then what are you doing here?

NOVELLA  
I have an appointment in a hour. I had nothing to do, so I came early.

Tracy looks concerned.

TRACY  
Did you try to kill yourself?

Novella stops in her tracks.

NOVELLA  
No.

TRACY  
Why would you do that?

NOVELLA  
I didn't.

TRACY  
Yes you did. Why?

NOVELLA  
Why do you think I tried to kill myself?

TRACY  
Because I tried to kill myself. Last year. That's when I started seeing Simon.

Novella is stunned. She takes a seat. She's less feisty.

NOVELLA  
Why did you try to kill yourself?

TRACY  
I asked you first.

NOVELLA  
Because my life sucks.

TRACY  
So does mine.

Novella isn't sure if she's even talking to the same person.

NOVELLA  
You're life is amazing. What do you mean your life sucks? You get all those parts. You're beautiful. I wish I was half as successful as you are and you're ten years younger than me.

Tracy waves her off.

TRACY  
I haven't gotten a part since I moved out here.

NOVELLA  
What are you talking about?

TRACY  
I haven't. I just say I do. It makes me feel better.

NOVELLA  
Then why do producers and casting directors request you? Why do you have an agent?

Tracy starts to cry.

TRACY  
Because. I do everything you say I do.

NOVELLA  
What?

TRACY  
I sleep with them. They always say they'll give me a part but they never do. They just use me.

Novella moves closer and puts her hand on her shoulder.

TRACY (CONT'D)  
I'm disgusting. I know.

NOVELLA

No, you're not. Don't say that.

TRACY

Yes I am. I disgust myself.  
That's why I try to cut you down  
all the time, because you're so  
much stronger than I am.

NOVELLA

No, I'm not. Trust me.

TRACY

Yes you are.

They sit for a moment, quietly.

TRACY (CONT'D)

But...I never would have thought  
you'd give in to Simon.

NOVELLA

What do you mean?

TRACY

His game.

Novella shakes her head.

NOVELLA

What are you talking about?

Tracy covers her mouth, worried.

TRACY

Oh no, I'm sorry...

NOVELLA

What? What are you talking about?

TRACY

Nothing.

NOVELLA

Tracy. Tell me.

TRACY

Simon does this all the time.

NOVELLA

Does what?

TRACY

He calls the hospital and asks for suicidal girls. Then he pretends to be Prince Charming and sleeps with them. I heard him telling his friend about it.

Tears begin to form in Novella's eyes, but she still doesn't believe it. She recoils from Tracy.

NOVELLA

No, that's not true. We knew each other before I started coming here.

TRACY

Then that's probably why he picked you.

NOVELLA

No, Tracy. He didn't *pick* me. This is different.

TRACY

Novella, I'm not trying to be mean. I'm sorry--

NOVELLA

Then why do you keep coming here?

TRACY

Because he makes me feel good. All the other guys don't even talk to me. At least he pretends I'm there when we're having sex.

NOVELLA

Oh my God.

Novella stands up covering her face with both trembling hands.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

This isn't happening.

TRACY

I'm sorry Novella.

NOVELLA

No, shut up.

TRACY

If it makes you feel better, I --

NOVELLA

Seriously! Shut the fuck up, you fucking slut! You're fucking lying to me!

Novella grabs her bag and storms out of the room.

Simon's door opens and he peeks his head out.

SIMON

What the hell is going on out here?

He notices Tracy's tears.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Why are you crying?

52 INT. NOVELLA'S RENTAL CAR - MOMENTS LATER

52 \*

Novella drives onto the highway, hysterically crying. She's immediately slowed down with gridlock traffic.

NOVELLA

God damn it! FUCK!

She slams her cast onto her steering wheel as hard as she can, as many times as she can.

Blood starts to seep through more and more every time she hits.

53 INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

53

Novella burns through her apartment and rips the cast off her arm. Chalky pieces remain, but she licks them off and spits them to the floor.

She tries to flex the bony, withered fingers of her eaten hand, but they don't work like they used to.

She pants and huffs, furious. She grips her forearm and sniffs it like a dog. The rotten flesh causes her to gag and fall to the floor.

She squeezes her elbow and then pinches the flesh of her bicep.

NOVELLA

Oh yeah. Come on...

She pushes up the sleeve of her shirt and bends her face forward. The sleeve falls back into place.

She pulls off her shirt and grips the clean flesh of her arm.

She cries out and chomps into her arm as hard as she can. Blood shoots across the room. Her agonizing scream is partly muffled by her arm and the gushing blood.

She continually rips away mouthful after mouthful of her own body, absolutely demolishing her arm. When she gets down to the bone, she's no longer able to hold up her arm without supporting it on the couch.

Novella looks to her other arm and just before she tears into it, she is tackled from behind.

Candice pins her to the ground.

CANDICE

What the fuck are you doing?

Novella snaps at her like a rabid dog.

CANDICE (CONT'D)

What the fuck is wrong with you?

Novella screams at her like a monster. Mouth fully agape. Blood, literally curdling.

Candice cocks back her fist and punches Novella square in the mouth.

**54a INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY**

**54a**

Black. Nothing.

Light slowly fades in, but it's sporadic.

Something unknown is moving.

NOVELLA

This is the dream...

Novella's breaths are distorted. Sound reverberates.

Her heart pounds. It echoes.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

This is the dream...

Light begins to take shape. Someone is busily moving back and forth.

It's Candice, and she's moving around Novella's bed.

Novella finally comes to. What she finds is disconcerting.

Candice has tied Novella to the bed's head board with belts. Novella's arms are stretched wide. Crucified. Her face and shirtless chest are caked in dry blood. Dozens of shoelaces are wrapped around her arm as a tourniquet. \*

But worst of all, a lamp shade is around her neck, protecting her mouth from anything.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)

What the fuck did you do to me?

Candice is strapping a belt to Novella's foot and securing it around the bed post.

CANDICE

What did *I* do to you? Are you kidding me?

Novella's body is in shock causing her to speak as if she were on heavy drugs.

NOVELLA

Let me go. Let me go now!

CANDICE

Novella, stop it.

NOVELLA

You stop it. You're not my Mom. You're not my older sister. You're fucking nobody. Why don't you go cut some hair or shoot somebody you fucking psycho...

Candice finishes tightening the belt and sits beside Novella.

CANDICE

What...the *fuck*...is wrong with you?

Novella tries to look angry but slowly begins to weep.

NOVELLA

I'm so fucked up Candice?

Candice tries to be strong, but cries as well.

CANDICE

What's wrong with you, baby girl?

NOVELLA

Candice, I'm a fucking lunatic. I can't live like this anymore. I can't.

Candice brushes hair out of Novella's face. Some of it sticks to the blood.

CANDICE

Why did you do this to yourself, baby?

Novella squeezes her eyes closed as if she doesn't want to say it.

NOVELLA

Dr. Simon...

Candice's face becomes stern.

CANDICE

What happened?

NOVELLA

He fucking used me. Just like everyone else does.

CANDICE

What do you mean?

NOVELLA

I mean, he fucked me because that's what he does to every girl he meets. Just like every fucking producer or director or anyone else who has a dick between his legs.

Candice gets up and puts on her jacket. She has a look in her eye.

CANDICE

Baby girl, I'll be right back, okay?

NOVELLA

No, don't leave me.

CANDICE

I'll be right back Novi, it will be okay.

NOVELLA

Candice, I'm gonna fucking bleed to death in here. You can't leave me.

Candice grabs Novella's cell phone on the dresser and then puts it in Novella's lamp shade like it's a jar.

CANDICE  
If you need help, here's your phone.

NOVELLA  
Candice no!

Candice puts her finger up to her lips.

CANDICE  
It's okay Novi. I'm gonna take care of this.

Candice grabs her purse and closes the door.

**54b**      **LATER - NIGHT**

**54b**

Novella is passed out, still hanging from the headrest.

BUZZZZZZZ.

The phone begins vibrating against the plastic cone.

Novella jumps awake. Once she understands what's happening, she maneuvers her head so the phone slides in front of her mouth.

She sticks out her tongue and presses it against the "Answer" button.

NOVELLA  
Hello?! Hello?

She can hear the faint sound coming through the speaker.

SIMON  
Novella?

NOVELLA  
Simon! I need your help.

SIMON  
What happened today? Where were you?

Tears form around Novella's filthy eyes. She remembers what happened.

NOVELLA  
You're using me!

SIMON

What?

NOVELLA

Tracy. Tracy told me everything. I know you're just using me to fuck me. You don't care about me. You don't like me. I know everything, you fucking asshole.

SIMON

You talked to Tracy?

Her voice shakes.

NOVELLA

Yeah, I know about you Simon.

SIMON

Oh jeez. Novella. Tracy has been a patient of mine for two years. She's a pathological liar.

NOVELLA

No Simon. I'm done with your bullshit.

SIMON

Novella, seriously. She tells her friends that she's this popular actress. She tells people she tried to kill herself. She also tells people we've been involved, sexually. It's all lies.

Novella breathes heavily.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I can show you my client list. There's you, Tracy, and a woman in her fifties. Other than you three, I have five male patients. Trust me on this.

NOVELLA

(to herself)

Oh...shit...

SIMON

Are you okay?

NOVELLA

No...

SIMON  
What's wrong?

NOVELLA  
I'm sorry.

SIMON  
What? Are you okay?

NOVELLA  
Simon...I need your help. I'm in  
big--

SIMON  
God damn it. Hang on sweetie.  
Someone is about to break down my  
door here.

NOVELLA  
No, Simon. Please!

SIMON  
Two seconds sweetie. Let me call  
you right back.

NOVELLA  
Simon!

BEEP BEEP BEEP. The phone goes dead.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
Simon!

She sticks out her tongue and licks the phone, trying to dial  
a number or do anything. It doesn't work.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
Fuck!

She sits there for a moment as her eyes slowly close.

55 **LATER - NIGHT**

55

BAM!

Novella's eyes burst open. Her room is nearly pitch black.  
She can see under the doorway someone is coming her way.

The person is dragging something heavy on the floor.

The door breaks open, filling the room with light. Novella  
is blinded, but can see Candice's silhouette.

Novella is weak. Quiet.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
Where did you go?

Candice has an extra spring in her step.

CANDICE  
I've got it all taken care of, baby  
girl.

She drags in the heavy object, wrapped in a rug.

She kicks the rug and it unrolls slightly. She kicks it  
again. Then again. Then one more time to finally reveal her  
prize.

It's Simon and he has a bullet hole in his head.

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(out of breath)  
There...now you have something to  
eat.

Novella's eyes change into a different person. She roars  
like a warrior and rips her arms forward, breaking her  
headrest.

She leaps at Candice and tackles her. She tries getting up  
to fight her, but her feet are still constrained to the bed.

She punches and slaps Candice as hard as she can.

NOVELLA  
What did you do?! What did you  
do?!

Candice is able to get Novella off her and get to her feet.  
Novella lies there, crying.

NOVELLA (CONT'D)  
You killed him! I loved him!

Candice doesn't understand.

CANDICE  
I thought you ate people.

NOVELLA  
I'M NOT A CANNIBAL!

CANDICE  
Then what are you?!

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

Someone is at the door.

Candice hears this, leaves the room and then closes the door behind her.

NOVELLA

No! No!

Novella tries to stand, but stumbles back to the ground.

\*

56a

INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

56a

\*

Candice opens the door a crack and sees Eesha with Jethro at her feet.

EESHA

Oh. Candice, right?

CANDICE

Yeah.

EESHA

Is everything alright? I heard a terrible scream.

CANDICE

Everything is fine. Thanks.

She slams the door, but Eesha's foot is in the way. She doesn't flinch.

EESHA

Where's Novi?

CANDICE

She's not here right now, lady. Everything's cool.

Candice tries slamming the door again, but Eesha holds strong.

EESHA

Where is she?

NOVELLA (O.S.)

I'm here Eesha, I'm just fine.

Eesha's face sinks.

EESHA

Novella, you don't sound right. I'm coming in.

Candice holds the door shut.

CANDICE  
You're not coming in here, lady.

EESHA  
Get the hell out of my way, little girl.

Eesha **SHOVES** the door open. Candice hits the wall behind her. Eesha marches in and around the hallway. Candice reaches into her purse. \*  
\*

56b

INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

56b

\*

Novella stands in her bedroom doorway covered in blood. Her mutilated arm dangles from her shoulder. The satellite cone still around her neck. Belts, shoelaces, and pieces of headrest are still attached to her.

When Eesha sees Novella, she gasps.

EESHA  
Novi baby! What happened to you?

A gun presses against the back of Eesha's head. \*

BOOM!

Eesha's head splatters all over Novella. Her body falls to the ground revealing Candice. Smoking gun in hand.

Novella stands silently in shock. So does Candice, beside Eesha's convulsing body. \*  
\*

CANDICE  
She was going to call the police. \$

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
(to Novella)  
You do this to me. Why do you do this to me?

Novella limps forward. She and Candice can only stare as blood pours out of Eesha's head. \$  
\$

CANDICE (CONT'D)  
I just try to protect you. That's all I've ever wanted was for you to be safe.

Novella looks up at Candice and holds out her hand. Candice reluctantly hands her the gun. \$  
\$

CANDICE (CONT'D)

I love you Novi. I always have.

Novella ~~takes the gun~~ and points it at Candice.

\$

CANDICE (CONT'D)

I love you, baby girl.

Novella squeezes the trigger. The EXPLOSION is so deafening, it's like it makes no sound at all. Candice collapses to the floor, dead.

Novella doesn't cry. She's all out of tears.

She simply limps into...

57

**INT. NOVELLA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

57

...her kitchen. She stands beside a chopping block and sets the gun beside it. She then pulls out the biggest butcher knife in the block.

She leans against the counter and slides to the floor. A smile crosses her comatose face.

She lifts the knife and with a sudden punch, shoves it into her chest. She twists the handle and contorts the knife so the chest cavity splits open.

Blood gushes out of the gaping hole, but Novella's hand finds what it's looking for: her beating heart.

She grips the heart and pulls it out of her chest.

Her lungs stop breathing. She loses feeling in her body. Her skin becomes pale. But she's able to place the heart in her open mouth and take one last bite.

She chews it slowly and swallows. Her eyes become inert. Two lifeless pieces of glass. But she's still smiling.

58

**INT. DARK VOID - NIGHT - DREAM SEQUENCE #5**

58

\*

Novella sits at a booth in a dark bar. She's clearly enjoying the company of others, but we cannot see them.

She laughs, takes a sip of her drink, points at someone who just made a joke, etc. She's having a wonderful time.

We finally see the people she's with.

It's the people who love her most.

Candice and Eesha sit across from her, laughing and giggling.

Simon reaches his arm around Novella, sitting beside her. He kisses her head as she snuggles up next to him.

She's never been happier.

FADE OUT:

**THE END.**