PHOENIX

Written by

Isaac Sastre
and
Alex Pastor & David Pastor

Revised 07-09-2014

alexpastor81@yahoo.com
davidpastor10@yahoo.com

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - FERRY - DUSK

A speck in the vastness of the OCEAN. It's a FERRY, a few miles off the coast of Massachusetts.

A single TRAVELLER (40) is on deck, somber. The way he fidgets with his CELLPHONE tells us something anguishes him.

He places a call, but whoever's at the other end doesn't pick up. He immediately regrets it and hangs up.

He looks around. He's alone. The sun has set and the DARK WATERS become an invitation. An escape.

He climbs the rail and stares at the water, the wind hitting his face as he's about to jump into the ocean.

He hesitates, a last chance to change his mind...

He closes his eyes. No, he'll do it. The final release.

But suddenly, a FLARE goes up in the horizon.

The Traveller watches the flare as it lights up the sky. Alone on deck, he's the only one who's seen it.

CUT TO:

The Traveller watches as the CREW raises the only passenger of a stranded SAILING BOAT. A WOMAN wearing a life vest.

CAPTAIN
Put her down. Careful.

She's ZOE (23). Beautiful under other circumstances, she now looks sickly: wet auburn hair sticks to her temples, and her cheeks and lips are pale. She shivers uncontrollably.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
Can you hear me? Understand me?

Zoe nods feebly. She still clutches the flare gun.

TRAVELLER
Is she going to be okay?

CAPTAIN
She's very cold, looks like she's been out there for hours.
(he looks around)
Where's that med kit?!

A CREWMAN (20s) comes running, carrying a heavy box.

CREWMAN
Sorry, couldn't find it. It's been a while.

He opens the box and produces a futuristic-looking device: a portable medical SCANNER. What year is this?

CREWMAN 2
Miss?

ZOE
(feebly)
Zoe...

CREWMAN 2
Zoe. You should take that off, metal interferes with this thing.

He points at the pendant in Zoe's neck, but she can't move.

TRAVELLER
It's okay. I'll take care of it.

He takes the pendant carefully and pockets it.

ZOE
Don't lose it, it was my mother's...

Crewman 2 operates the device, which emits a humming sound as it scans Zoe's body.

CREWMAN 2
Mild hypothermia, low blood pressure... Everything else looks okay.

CAPTAIN
Okay, let's get her inside. Careful now... One, two... three!

And they all lift her.

INT. FERRY - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Zoe devours a bowl of soup in the ship's lounge. She's borrowed some clothes from the crew that are way too big.

The Traveller sits with her, seeing the real Zoe - spirited and vitalistic - slowly emerge back from her accident.

TRAVELLER
Is it good?

ZOE
Not really. But it's warm.
(eats voraciously)
You're the one that saw the flare, right?

TRAVELLER
Just dumb luck, I guess.

ZOE
Well, you saved my life. I owe you. Sadly, all I can offer you right now is some really awful coffee.

Zoe tries to pour him some coffee, but the boat PLUNGES. Coffee spills on her hand, scalding her.

ZOE (CONT'D)
Ouch!

TRAVELLER
Careful, we're headed into a storm.

He cleans her. The first time they touch. A connection.

ZOE
So what were you doing?

TRAVELLER
Huh?

ZOE
When you saw my flare. I mean, it's just that... whatever got you there, at that moment, it saved my life.

He can't tell her the truth.

TRAVELLER
I was just watching the sunset.

A sudden CHILL in her bones makes Zoe shiver. The Traveller hurries to wrap a woolen blanket around her shoulders.

ZOE
Thanks. God, I hate the cold. We should all live in warm climates. Otherwise we stay inside too much. We get used to being alone.

TRAVELLER
I've never gotten used to that.

Hearing this, Zoe looks at him more attentively: a kindred spirit?

ZOE
Yeah... Me neither.
(gets up)
I'm feeling better. Come on, let's go for a walk.

INT. FERRY - FORECASTLE - NIGHT

They reach the front of the ship. From the windows, Zoe gazes at the ship breaking the waters. Right behind, the Traveller tries to hide the fact that he can't take his eyes off her.

ZOE
I'm glad I'm not out there. I always sail the strait this time of year and never had a problem. Until today.

TRAVELLER
You never know what can happen.

ZOE
But that's good, don't you think?
(beat)
You know, there was no sunset.

TRAVELLER
What?

ZOE
I was out there. The storm was gathering. You couldn't see the sunset.

TRAVELLER
(he's been caught, admits...)
I needed to think. I've... had some bad days.

ZOE
Maybe I can make up for them. I owe you, remember?

The Traveller ponders the question... Could she?

TRAVELLER
Maybe.

ZOE
Well, let's get started, then. What happened?

TRAVELLER
I did some things I regret.

ZOE
Don't.
(explains)
Without them, I wouldn't be here. It's like a chain. If you think about it, everything that's happened to you, everything you've done, has brought you here, so you could see my flare today. So I'm glad it happened.

They're close, two strangers brought together by misfortune. Someone breaks the spell, though: a Crewman rushes in.

CREWMAN 3
Miss, we've been looking for you. The Captain needs you. For the report.

TRAVELLER
It's OK. There's something I have to do.

ZOE
I'll meet you back here, OK?

The Traveller nods.

EXT. FERRY - DECK - NIGHT

The Traveller walks to the same place near the bow where he tried to kill himself. The strong wind blasts his face.

He meditates in front of the troubled waters.

But this time, he makes a different decision: He steps back, and <u>throws his cell phone into the waters.</u>

He's about to go back in when he finds something in his pockets; it's ZOE'S PENDANT, he forgot to give it back.

He looks at it: some sort of wings. Strange design.

Suddenly, the ship PLUNGES and he loses his footing. He manages to latch onto the railing. But the rail is WET and his hand SLIPS, HITTING the deck!

In front of him the ship's bow RISES as it's about to plunge again. He tries to get up, but his feet slip on the wet surface...

INSERT: INT. LOUNGE - SAME TIME

Passengers GASP as glasses fall and Zoe's soup bowl SLIDES off the table. This is no ordinary pitch...

...as BACK ON THE DECK the ship PLUNGES violently.

WATER violently floods the deck and the Traveller is thrown against the railings!

He manages to CATCH one of the bars before falling overboard. He SCREAMS in pain as his shoulder TWISTS badly.

TRAVELLER
Heeelp!!! HEEEELP!!!

Below, the dark waters he just rebuked are claiming him back.

Slowly, his hand slips...

SPLASH! The Traveller falls into the water.

TRAVELLER (CONT'D)
HEEEELP!!!

Nobody hears him, as he desperately tries to stay afloat.

A wave hits him and sinks him deeper underwater.

The water is dark, cold, in turmoil... He fights, but he's disoriented, swallowing water as he struggles.

And he sinks, his energy running out...

His eyes close...

It's over...

But suddenly, we see several POV FLASHES. Like the proverbial time when your entire life flashes before your eyes:

-A KID, running ahead of us.

-A BULLY, picking on him at school.

-A COFFIN covered with the American flag.

-A MAN (27), donning army DOG TAGS. And then...

SPLASH! The noise of something plunging in the water awakens him. He opens his eyes and is perplexed to see:

A LITTLE BOY (8), diving near him, with an excited smile in his face. He gazes at us before swimming back up.

Then SPLASH! A GIRL (9) appears a few feet away. And SPLASH! Another BOY dives in. Ghostly figures swim around us.

Is this real? A hallucination from his oxygen-starved brain?

The Traveller tries to swim up to the surface, but something's off. His arms aren't his arms: they're smaller and thinner. His legs are short and weak, struggling to prop him up.

But his head finally rises to the surface and we get a good look at him:

He's now a 8 YEAR OLD KID. Panting. Confused. ALIVE...

...emerging from the waters of a pristine COUNTRY LAKE.

TITLE CARD: "PHOENIX"

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

The sun rises over the city of New York.

Fall. A flock of GEESE flies against the skyline.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

It's 7 AM. A radio alarm clock buzzes in a small and messy apartment that screams "BACHELOR".

RADIO NEWS
In further financial news, Gasko stock rose after the release of third quarter earnings which showed strong sales...

ETHAN CLYNE (33) turns it off, waking up.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM-KITCHEN - DAY

We meet Ethan at a bad point in his life. Unshaven, unkempt.

He oozes weariness. He fashions an improvised breakfast, the remains of yesterday's takeaway dinner still there.

CUT TO:

Ethan checks the mail. Bill. Bill. Takeaway menu. Bill.

He looks out the window, spotting the geese as they fly over town.

EXT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ethan walks to his car, a Toyota that's seen better days.

EXT. ELECTRONICS STORE - DAY

The Toyota pulls in the parking lot of a Best Buy-like electronics store.

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE - ENTRANCE - DAY

As Ethan walks in the store, we stay on a WALL OF TV SETS, all of them playing...

A commercial for the 2016 VMA AWARDS.

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE - BACKROOM - DAY

Ethan puts on an EMPLOYEE VEST, while A COWORKER (25) listens to his iPod while on break: a MOPEY EMO GUY whines his way through a 2016 hit song.

ETHAN
Aren't you tired of listening to that shit all day?

COWORKER
What, this? This is a great song, man. Album of the year.

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE - AISLES - DAY

Ethan performs his dull daily job, checking shelves, making sure everything's well stocked. It's his job and he hates it.

He's humming that SONG, unaware... until he catches himself and stops. Damn it! Now it's stuck in his head.

Then, he spots a FEMALE CUSTOMER (32), dressed in a large, baggy shirt.

Ethan recognizes her and immediately hides out of sight.

He takes off his EMPLOYEE VEST and tucks it in one of the shelves. He doesn't want her to know he works there.

And with that, he turns the corner.

ETHAN
Kate...?

She turns and, after a beat, recognizes him.

KATE
Ethan? Oh my god... how long it's been? Five years?

Soft-faced, short brown hair... Ethan can't take her eyes off her.

ETHAN
I think so, yeah. Hey, you're looking great!

KATE
(self-deprecating)
Yeah, right. I'm huge.

And then he realizes why she wears baggy clothes. She's pregnant, around 6 months.

A MAN walks to her side. 38, tall and strapping, carrying a shopping basket with some supplies. He's looking around...

MAN
Does anyone actually work here? It's like they vanish the moment you need them.

That'd be Ethan, of course.

KATE
Do you know...?

ETHAN
Daniel, right? Ethan.

DANIEL
Pleased to meet you.

They shake hands and Daniel winces in pain. His shoulder.

ETHAN
Oh, sorry.

DANIEL
It's OK, still hurts sometimes.
(to Kate, mockingly)
Probably your fault.

KATE
Hey, I saved your life!
(to Ethan)
Anyway, how's everything going? It's been so long.

ETHAN
It's going... well.

KATE
Yeah? Tell me.

ETHAN
(lies)
Yeah, I got my own startup now. We are prepping a new social game. We got investors... People are really excited about it.

KATE
Really? Wow. I'm happy for you. That's what you always wanted.

ETHAN
Well, you save people's lives and I create something so they can waste them. That was the deal, right?

KATE
I'm... I'm no longer in medicine.

ETHAN
Oh?

KATE
It's... it just wasn't the same after LaGuardia.

ETHAN
Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't know...

KATE
No, it's OK. I'll have more than enough people to look after from now on.

Ethan spots his SUPERVISOR near the exit, so he stops on his tracks before he's caught without his uniform.

ETHAN
I think I'll go back there, forgot that... thingy. It's been great seeing you, Kate.

KATE
Nice seeing you too. I'm really happy that, you know, everything worked out for you.

Ethan walks back, watching Kate as she rejoins Daniel in the cashier area.

EXT. ELECTRONICS STORE - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ethan's finished his shift and walks towards his car. There are some ads, but Ethan doesn't pay much attention.

His cellphone rings. He hesitates, but takes the call.

ETHAN
Hi, Mom.

It's SANDRA (62), Ethan's mother, and she sounds angry.

SANDRA (O.S.)
All you had to do was show up.

ETHAN
You know I had to work, I told you.

Sandra scoffs.

SANDRA (O.S.)
It was the anniversary of your father's death. You couldn't get some time off Radioshack?

ETHAN
It's not Radio-- Look, I don't do well at this sort of things, you know that.

SANDRA (O.S.)
Ethan, he would have wanted you there.

ETHAN
Yeah, well, he wanted many things from me. I don't think one more or less is going to matter.

Ethan hangs up and throws the phone inside the car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

It's raining, but Ethan speeds down the road. He's angry, mostly at himself: Seeing Kate, lying to her, not daring to attend his father's service... it all has made him ashamed of who he is.

The car engine ROARS and, as he passes an intersection, the headlights light up a SIGN. There's a graffiti: JAMES HEARTS MARY.

Suddenly, something crosses the road! What was that? A dog?

Ethan hits the brakes, but the pavement is wet and THE CAR SPIRALS OUT OF CONTROL.

<u>BANG! The airbags deploy as the car rams through the railing, bouncing off a tree and spinning over the road.</u>

The car stops, a mangled mess in the middle of the road.

Ethan pants, and then he notices something. BLOOD. A shard of glass has stabbed his leg. Rain pours into the car, mixing with the blood.

And then, a noise. A LIGHT coming round the curve.

Ethan panics. It’s a TRUCK!

Ethan tries to HONK, but it doesn’t work...

He tries to get out of the car, but he’s trapped and...

...THE TRUCK IS UPON HIM. Ethan braces for the END, when...

We see a flurry of images:

- Ethan playing with his father as a little kid.

- Holding the hand of a sickly old man in a hospital bed.

- Drinking at a frat party and chasing a girl. Kate.

- Watching the stars lawn while Kate lies next to him on the lawn.

- An argument with Kate in their apartment.

- A kiss in the middle of the snow.

And then... WHITE.

Slowly, a blurry image comes into focus: we see branches... trees... A GLOVED HAND (Ethan’s) scratches the whiteness and realizes that it melts between its fingers. It’s SNOW.

Ethan sits up and looks around:

He’s in the middle of a SNOWED PARK. He winces in pain and reaches for his leg, but THE WOUND IS GONE. No blood, no broken glass, no car... Just snow and trees.

FEMALE VOICE
Hey, you!

He turns and PAFFF! A snowball hits him in the face. He sees, incredulous, that it’s...

ETHAN
Kate?

Indeed, Kate stands several yards away. She throws another snowball before taking off into the woods.

KATE
Come and get me!

He walks with difficulty, as if his body wasn't really his.

ETHAN
Wait... Wait!

Ethan looks for Kate among the trees. She's vanished. Was she an apparition?

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Kate? Kate!!!

Nothing. Ethan walks around the trees until... BAM! Kate jumps on him from behind.

They both roll over the snow and end up facing each other. So close. Her lips. Her eyes. Is she... real?

KATE
(softly)
Gotcha.

She looks different, younger, with long curly hair dirtied by the snow. She brushes snow off him, when she notices something's off.

KATE (CONT'D)
Hey, are you OK?

ETHAN
(confused)
I don't know.

KATE
What, did I hit you too hard, you big pussy?

Kate packs some snow, produces a couple of candles from her coat and lights them up.

KATE (CONT'D)
Happy birthday...

And she kisses him.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Kate tugs at him as they exit the park and onto the streets. Ethan follows her in a state of confusion.

As they pass a NEWSTAND, he notices all the tabloids carry news of the recent death of Heath Ledger...

A man tries to warm himself while tending a “NEW YORK FOR HILARY CLINTON!” stand for the 2008 primaries...

The billboards display ads for hit movies of winter 2007...

Is this a dream? Or is he really in the past?

KATE
So where did you park?

ETHAN
Park?

KATE
Yeah, the car? You took it yesterday. Where is it?

Ethan finds the car keys in his pocket. Of course he doesn’t remember where he parked it 8 years ago...

ETHAN
I... I don’t remember.

KATE
What? For real?

Ethan’s blank look completely convinces her he isn’t joking.

KATE (CONT’D)
How can you lose a car?
(puffs, looks at watch)
Okay, it’s late, we’re going to take a cab. Will cost a fortune but your parents are waiting.

His parents. Plural. <u>His father was still alive in 2008</u>.

EXT. TED & SANDRA’S HOUSE - DAY

A CAB pulls up in front of a SMALL SUBURBAN HOUSE, virtually indistinguishable from the others around it. At the porch, someone’s waiting for them.

SANDRA
Ethan!

It’s SANDRA (55), plump and motherly, her sweet mood completely different from what we heard on the phone a few minutes ago, 8 years into the future.

SANDRA (CONT’D)
Happy birthday, buddy.
(to Kate)
Welcome, sweetie.

KATE
You’re looking great, Sandra.

SANDRA
Oh, you should tell that to Ted. He hates this dress.

ETHAN
(covering his turmoil)
Where is he?

SANDRA
He’s out back, I think.

Ethan leaves them abruptly and goes into the house.

INT. TED & SANDRA’S HOUSE - DAY

Ethan walks down the main hallway. It’s a cozy house, but Spartan enough to suggest it took much sweat from its owners.

It’s dark inside. At the end of the hallway, the light bleeding in through the ajar door blinds him.

With trepidation, Ethan pushes the door open and reveals...

EXT. TED & SANDRA’S HOUSE - BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

TED (58), tall and hirsute, rough like a piece of leather. He shovels snow from the back yard. Ethan just stares at him from the door, in shock. Watching a dead man come to life, when the “dead man” notices him.

TED
Hey, you made it! What is it, twenty-five? God, you make me feel old. Come on, don’t just stand there. Give me a hand, will you?

Ted coughs. Might be the cold, might be something else. Ethan comes down, but instead of picking a shovel...

...he hugs his father.

TED (CONT’D)
Hey, hey, what’s gotten into you?

ETHAN
I’m just happy to see you, Dad.

TED
Well, then pick the damn shovel and make yourself useful.

Ted was always harsh, but that was his way of loving his son.

INT. TED & SANDRA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

They're finishing lunch. Sandra has pulled all the stops in the kitchen.

Kate and Sandra laugh about something, but Ethan's not really present. He keeps glancing at his father. He feels inserted in a distant memory...

...until Ted makes him snap out of it.

TED
So, Ethan, how are things?

KATE
We get by...

TED
Oh, I know you're doing fine.

SANDRA
(tries to keep the peace)
People are hurting. The economy's turning, haven't you heard?

TED
There's always something. People love eating up bad news. It gives them an out. An excuse to not put up a fight when things don't go their way.
(to Ethan)
I don't want that to happen to you.

But that's exactly what will happen to Ethan.

ETHAN
Maybe I'm just like the others, dad.

TED
No, you're not. Don't talk like that, don't sell yourself sh--

Ted starts coughing again. It's a nasty one this time.

ETHAN
Dad, you should get that looked at.

TED
I'm fine.

SANDRA
Ted...

TED
It’s just a cough.

ETHAN
You don’t know that.

TED
(irritated)
Who made you a doctor? Because, you know, you actually have to finish college to become one.

Ouch. That was definitely a hit below the belt.

SANDRA
Jesus, Ted. It’s his birthday...

Ethan pushes his chair away from the table and stumbles out of the room.

EXT. TED & SANDRA’S HOUSE - DAY

Ethan exits the house, gasping for air. Still dizzy. Confused.

He closes his eyes and sees...

THE LIGHTS OF THE TRUCK IN 2016, CLOSING IN ON HIM...

When a hand on his shoulder makes him open his eyes and come back. Kate has followed him outside.

KATE
Hey... are you okay?

ETHAN
I don’t know... I... I think there’s something wrong with me.

Kate, suspecting an anxiety attack after the scene with Ted, makes him turn around.

KATE
May I...?

ETHAN
What?

KATE
I’m an EMT. Will you let me do my job?

She rests her head on his chest.

KATE (CONT’D)
Heart still beating.

She touches his lips.

KATE (CONT'D)
You're breathing. I think we got the basics covered.

ETHAN
(smiles)
That's a relief.

KATE
And unlike half my usual patients, you're neither drunk nor violent. You're a real catch, you know.

She's in his arms now. And then, he realizes it:

ETHAN
God, I've missed you.

He kisses her and she kisses him back. It's a cold January afternoon in 2008. It is real. He's travelled back in time.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Weeks later, Kate and Ethan are in a small - but hopelessly hip - bar, attending a marathon of local bands. She's letting off steam, having a good time.

On stage, the Emcee is introducing the last artist of the night.

EMCEE
Thanks guys for coming tonight. You've been awesome, but it's time for our very last act. She comes from that mysterious land beyond the waters. From Hoboken, New Jersey... Bailee Swann!

The crowd applauds as BAILEE SWANN (24) takes the stage. A ravishing brunette with long raven hair, pale skin and big dark eyes. She's a bit nervous as she approaches the mic.

BAILEE
Thanks, it's great to be here with you guys. This is only the third time I play for a live audience, second if you don't count my goldfish.

The audience laughs. Kate talks to Ethan's ear.

KATE
One of the nurses saw her play last week, he told me she's great.

BAILEE
This is my newest song.

Bailee begins to play, focusing on getting every note right.

And as she plays, Ethan's attention perks up, because he could swear he recognizes the first bars of the song...

ETHAN
That's not hers, right?

KATE
You sure? Haven't heard it before.

Kate's loving it. She follows the music...

As Bailee's voice grows more confident, letting go as the song progresses.

The crowd's engaged, they're eating it up.

We stay for a moment on a TALL MAN WITH A SHAVED HEAD. He's taping the performance on his cellphone. Dead serious.

Ethan doesn't notice him. He watches Bailee, trying to remember where he's heard that song before...

Where...?

And then it hits him:

FLASHBACK: INT. ELECTRONICS STORE / BACK ROOM - DAY (2016)

Ethan's coworker listening to his iPod and humming along.

It's the same song, except sung by a man.

And as Bailee finishes her song to a round of applause, Ethan looks at her very differently.

EXT. MUSIC BAR - NIGHT

The show's over and Kate and Ethan walk back to their car. But Ethan can't stop thinking about the song.

KATE
(notices Ethan's off)
Hey... where are you?

Ethan suddenly stops.

ETHAN
I... Wait in the car. I think I forgot to close our tab.

KATE
You sure?

But Ethan's already on his way back to the bar.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Inside, Ethan finds Bailee packing her guitar, ready to go.

ETHAN
Hey.

Bailee turns around. Who's this guy?

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I've got to talk to you.

BAILEE
That's a great pick-up line. You came up with it yourself?

ETHAN
(quietly)
I know what you're doing. I know where the songs come from.

BAILEE
What are you talking about?

ETHAN
You're stealing them. From people who haven't written them yet.

And now Bailee gets nervous. She hurries to pack her guitar.

BAILEE
Look, I don't know what you've been smoking, but--

ETHAN
A kid named Jordan Stack wrote-- will write that song in 2016. It'll win the Grammy and it's going to be everywhere. You won't be able to walk into a store without hearing it. It's going to be fucking unbearable.

Bailee stops. She takes a good look at Ethan. Could he be...?

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Something happened to me. And I believe the same thing may have happened to you.

Bailee looks around: there are still patrons in the bar.

BAILEE
Let's talk, but not here, okay? Tomorrow.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The next day, Ethan and Bailee sit on a bench. She's tense, fidgeting with her sunglasses.

BAILEE
I was getting off work one night. I wait tables at that place, Rocco's. It's late, I'm tired, I don't pay attention... Some asshole runs a red light and I barely see him coming.

Bailee rubs her arms.

BAILEE (CONT'D)
It's so weird... I can still feel it sometimes, you know? Being torn to pieces.

Ethan nods: he knows.

BAILEE (CONT'D)
I was so scared... And then... no fear. Just these... moments flashing by. Did you see those?

ETHAN
Yeah. Good moments, shitty moments...

Bailee laughs: they've both been through the same things.

BAILEE
Yeah, I've had a lot of those. But then I found a place that felt good. I wanted to stay there. It felt safe. And I opened my eyes and I wasn't broken anymore.
(relieved:)
It feels so weird to be able to talk to someone about this.

ETHAN
What's happened to us, Bailee?

BAILEE
My real name's Leah.
(beat)
(MORE)

BAILEE (CONT'D)
The night Leah died, all she did was smile at assholes for tips so she could barely, barely make rent. But Bailee, she always dreamt of being a star.

ETHAN
By stealing songs.

LEAH
(defensive)
Do you really want to know what this is? It's a second chance. That's why we're here again. All you have to do is take it.

INT. CAR - DAY

Ethan mulls over Leah's words as he drives back home...

...when he spots a BILLBOARD. It shows an ad for SUPERBOWL XLII: New England patriots Vs. New York Giants.

An idea...

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ethan drags a confused Kate across the street.

ETHAN
Come on... you said you wanted to go out tonight!

KATE
Yeah, yeah... But I mean... here?

And we see they're headed to:

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

They enter the sports bar, overflowing with testosterone as a crowd of FOOTBALL FANS guzzle beer and cheer the Giants.

KATE
This is your idea of a romantic night out?

On TV, the PLAYERS take the field and a nearby table breaks out in a spontaneous, beer-addled chant.

FOOTBALL FANS
Go Big Blue! Go Big Blue!

ETHAN
See? Love is in the air.

KATE
But you've never cared about football.

ETHAN
I know, so to make it more interesting I put some skin in the game. Got some money on the Giants.

KATE
Come on! I know nothing about football, and even I know the Pats are going to win.

Beers are served and, on television, the GAME KICKS OFF.

CUT TO:

LATER- Silence. Long faces... The GIANTS FANS watch the game demoralized...

TV COMMENTATOR
With 40 seconds on the clock, the Giants trail New England 14 to 10. It's not looking good for New York.

Kate gives Ethan an "I told you so" look and teases him:

KATE
So how much did you bet, sucker?

ETHAN
(casually)
Oh, I don't know, like... four thousand?

WHAT?! Kate almost spills her beer.

KATE
Four--? Are you insane!? That's all our savings!

ETHAN
(unflappable)
Not all of them. I left like two hundred in there to pay Con Ed.

KATE
But that's all we have! I'm going to kill you, Ethan! We're broke and you just pissed away all the--!

Suddenly, the WHOLE BAR EXPLODES AROUND THEM.

TV COMMENTATOR
TOUCHDOWN! Burress scores for the Giants!!! 17-14!!!

The Giants Fans erupt in cheers and celebrations! Kate, confused, wants to know...

KATE
What-- what happened?

ETHAN
We just won fifty thousand dollars.

And Kate screams! Joining the celebration as if she was a life-long Giants fan.

EXT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

A bunch of fans are celebrating, while Ethan pulls Kate out of the bar, both laughing.

ETHAN
Come on, let’s blow it.

KATE
It’s late. We’ll do something fun tomorrow.

ETHAN
Not tomorrow, tonight. We haven’t had more than a hundred bucks to spare since we graduated. This is what you’ve always wanted, right?

Kate stops, uneasy. What is he talking about?

KATE
What do you mean?

ETHAN
Nothing. Just... let’s have some fun.

INT. SEVERAL - NIGHT

Ethan and Kate dance the night away in a club.

Laughing. Joking.

Making out in a CAB.

Having a great time together.

CUT TO:

They end up sitting on a bench near the river, with great Manhattan views. They are a bit tipsy.

KATE
I've had a great night.
(jokes)
But it doesn't count. We didn't do anything REALLY expensive.

Ethan produces an fancy-looking wine bottle from a bag.

ETHAN
What about this?

KATE
(checks the bottle)
It's all in French. Okay, that counts.

He pours it in two unfitting plastic cups.

ETHAN
What should we do with the money?

KATE
Pay bills, have the car fixed. Probably save the rest...

ETHAN
No, no... forget that. What do you *want* to do?

KATE
Okay...
(thinks)
It's cold here. Maybe we could go south, rent a boat... I always wanted to sail.

ETHAN
Good start.

KATE
Get lost somewhere, lie to people about who we are. Tell them you're the guy that invented Myspace and I'm a surgeon. Forget that you can't get a job, forget that I drive an ambulance. Forget all that for one day.
(conscience kicks in)
We should definitely save it, though.
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
You can’t get lucky like this every day.

ETHAN
No, no, we’ll do what you said. Things will be better, I promise.

KATE
What’s going on with you? You’re so different.

Ethan stops, slightly startled. Is she onto him?

KATE (CONT’D)
It’s like a dark cloud finally cleared.

ETHAN
I had a dream. I saw my life without you.

KATE
Oh, and how was it?

ETHAN
Sad. But it was just a dream.

And with that, they kiss.

INT. ETHAN’S APARTMENT - DAY

Ethan’s apartment, the same where we first met him. As cramped as before, but it now feels brighter, livelier, even if it’s just because Kate’s sleeping next to him.

Ethan gets up and gets to work. Jots down A LIST:

The Beijing Olympics winners: **PHELPS, BOLT...** The big hero stocks of the future: **APPLE, GOOGLE,** as well as **NOT FACEBOOK.** A list of everything he can remember from the future.

He looks at Kate, asleep, and tries to focus on something: **PHARMACY SHOOTING OCT? NOV?** He can’t remember.

His CELLPHONE rings. It’s Leah. He answers.

ETHAN
(quietly)
Leah?

Kate stirs at the sound of the phone.

LEAH (O.S.)
Something's happened. Someone's found me.

Ethan steps out of the bedroom.

ETHAN
What do you mean? Are you sure?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LEAH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Leah nervously paces her small and messy apartment. The fish bowl sits in a corner of the room.

LEAH
I got a weird text this morning. I'm sending it to you.

In his apartment, Ethan receives the text:

"I'M LIKE YOU. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. MEET ME 02/09 AT 6:30PM - CLEARVIEW MALL, RICHMOND - VA"

LEAH (CONT'D)
I tried calling back, it's a blocked number. I don't know what to do, Ethan.

Meanwhile, Ethan's been checking directions on his laptop.

ETHAN
It's only a day's drive from here.

LEAH
Wait, you want to go? You've turned out to be a nice guy, but who the hell knows about this one.

ETHAN
He already knows who you are. I doubt he's going to leave it at that.
(plus:)
Don't you want to know what's happened to us?

LEAH
(blunt)
No.
(conflicted)
Shit. Okay. Maybe.

Meanwhile, Kate's woken up and comes out of the bedroom, a bit groggy. Ethan doesn't want her to hear.

ETHAN
(hanging up)
Okay then, I'll call you back.

KATE
Hey. Something happened?

ETHAN
I might have to leave. Could be for a few days.

Kate sits next to him. Ethan needs an excuse. And fast.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Just got a call from this guy in San Francisco. He's interested in investing in this app I've been working on.

KATE
Wow. Just like that?

ETHAN
Yeah, well, I've been chasing him for a while, but it looks like he may come through after all.

Kate smiles, proud.

KATE
It's finally happening.

ETHAN
Yeah.

Kate kisses him and heads to the shower, leaving Ethan feeling like a scumbag for having lied to her.

EXT. ROADS - DAY

A CAR flies down the roads, leaving NYC and heading South.

INT. CAR - DAY

Inside, worried looks. Leah's at the wheel, Ethan at her side. Leah decides to liven up the atmosphere.

LEAH
Gonna play some music. Wanna listen to my new CD?

ETHAN
Something tells me I already have.

LEAH
Look, I really have an excuse for this one. This is my favorite car song. I just CAN'T live without it, and since it won't come out until 2010, I *had* to record it myself.

When the song starts, we realize it's KESHA's TIK TOK.

Leah STARTS SINGING along herself. She gets into it as if it really was her own song.

Ethan watches her: This is how her dream started, a girl singing in her car, having fun and feeling alive.

Ethan just listens to the song until...

ETHAN
Wait, what? Did you just say "blow my sneakers up"?

LEAH
What do you mean?

ETHAN
It's "blow my speakers up", not "blow my sneakers up". Why would anyone want to blow up some sneakers? You got the lyrics wrong!

LEAH
No way! I've been singing this song in cars for YEARS.

ETHAN
(laughing)
You rip off the most popular song of 2010 and you can't even get the lyrics right!

LEAH
Shut up!

Leah starts singing along again, LOUDLY, while Ethan mockingly competes with her singing the correct lyrics.

And, for a moment, they forget the tension of their upcoming meeting.

I/E. CAR - CLEARVIEW MALL - NIGHT

The car sits in the parking lot. Ethan and Leah watch the MALL in front of them.

ETHAN
The place's going to be packed. Lots of witnesses, that's good. We don't like what we see, we pull out. He asks us to go somewhere else, we pull out. No need to be stupid here.

Leah nods.

INT. MALL - LOBBY - NIGHT

Ethan and Leah enter the mall, along with the late afternoon crowd.

They check the people around them. Their "date" could be anyone.

Then, Leah's phone vibrates. She checks it. A TEXT: **"BOOKSTORE"**

Ethan checks the store plan.

ETHAN
That's in the second floor.

They head towards the escalators. On their way there, they cross paths with a MAINTENANCE WORKER (20s), carrying a tool box.

We follow the worker instead, as he walks to the door of a UTILITY ROOM. He shoots back a look of suspicion before disappearing inside.

INT. MALL - BOOKSTORE - SAME TIME

Ethan and Leah enter the bookstore and scan the crowd. Who might be their mysterious date?

A COUPLE (late 20s) perusing travel guides to Italy?

A GEEK (32) browsing fantasy novels?

A TALL MAN (40s), who seems to be just standing there with a shopping bag?

INT. MALL - LOBBY - SAME TIME

Close on A GUN.

It's in the HOLSTER of a SECURITY GUARD (40s). We follow him down the lobby.

INT. MALL - UTILITY ROOM - SAME TIME

The Maintenance Worker opens his tool box. He's manipulating something, but we can't see what it is.

INT. MALL - BOOKSTORE - SAME TIME

Ethan and Leah watch the Tall Man approach them. They both tense up...

...but he walks past them and hugs a WOMAN entering the bookstore behind them.

INT. MALL - UTILITY ROOM - SAME TIME

We finally see what the Maintenance Worker is doing: He's ROLLING UP A JOINT.

He lights up and takes a deep toke, when...

...the DOOR OPENS. It's the SECURITY GUARD.

The Maintenance Worker coughs up all the smoke and hurries to toss the joint.

SECURITY GUARD
Jeff, man, where were you? They need you upstairs.

JEFF
Coming.

He hurries to pack up his toolbox and leave.

When he closes the door, the DRAFT sends the JOINT rolling along the floor, until it lands next to...

A PILE of CARDBOARD, which soon CATCHES FIRE.

INT. MALL - BOOKSTORE - SAME TIME

Leah checks her cellphone again, waiting for more instructions, but there's NOTHING, when...

The FIRE ALARM RINGS. People look up, startled.

EMPLOYEE
That's the fire alarm. Please remain calm and walk to the nearest emergency exit. Do NOT run.

A white EXIT light appears above a nearby door. Ethan and Leah walk towards it with the rest of the crowd.

INT. MALL - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Leah go with the flow of people down the emergency stairwell, when Leah stops.

LEAH
Wait. What if this isn't chance?
Whoever texted us...

ETHAN
(realizes)
...he knew this would happen.

Suddenly, THE LIGHTS GO OUT. The fire has taken the power down. It's PITCH BLACK. Some people SCREAM, others PANIC and RUSH down the stairs, making things worse.

The tumult SEPARATES Ethan and Leah.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Leah!

She's vanished.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
LEAH!!!

Ethan takes out his cell and uses it as an improvised flashlight as he searches for her.

Ethan tries to find her, but in the midst of a crowd trying to flee in the dark, it's impossible.

He fights his way downstairs, following the crowd as it reaches the GROUND FLOOR and spills into a:

INT. MALL - SERVICE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The crowd heads for the nearest EXIT...

ETHAN
LEAH!!!

...when Ethan hears something. Someone's sobbing. Leah?

No. It's a BOY (12), curled up in a corner.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Hey. Are you OK?

BOY
My Dad... He was here-- I can't--

ETHAN
Come on, come with me. Let's get you out of here and I'm sure he'll--

BOY
No, I have to find him!

The boy takes off down the hallway, in the opposite direction, away from the crowd.

ETHAN
Dammit!

Ethan chases after him, into the darkness and out a side EXIT that leads to a:

EXT. MALL - BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

This is the back alley that runs behind the mall, where its less glamorous business takes place: restocking, garbage disposal... All hidden from the eyes of the customers.

ETHAN
Hey kid, come on.

The boy is standing still in the middle of the alley. Weird.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Kid?

The boy turns to face him: he's calm now, smiling almost. He seems to be... waiting for him. Ethan notices that he's wearing an EARPIECE. And looking around, Ethan realizes how lonely and vulnerable he is in this place.

And then it hits him:

ETHAN (CONT'D)
It's you.

The boy's piercing eyes seem out of place in his sweet features. And when he speaks, it's clearly an adult talking.

BOY
I'm sorry about all this, but we have to be careful. Especially when you expect one person and two show up.

ETHAN
Where is she?

The boy motions at a parked VAN. At the wheel is LUTHER. We recognize him as the man who recorded Bailee's performance.

BOY
She’s fine. She tells us you’re a traveller too.

Luther steps out of the vehicle and walks to them.

BOY (CONT’D)
I’m Julian. I lead a group of people like you. You come with us, you’ll get all the answers.

ETHAN
That’s not going to happen.

JULIAN
What do you want to change from your life, Ethan?

ETHAN
What?

JULIAN
Just answer me. The one thing you’d change. Give me a chance.

Ethan’s not too sure what to make of this, but reluctantly...

ETHAN
Someone, someone close to me, he will be diagnosed with lung cancer.

Julian motions to Luther, who hands him a bag. Inside, there’s a TABLET to which Julian plugs A USB DRIVE.

JULIAN
Your father?
(Ethan doesn’t deny it)
I lost my father, too. There was nothing I could do.

He checks on the computer, until...

JULIAN (CONT’D)
A new treatment will begin clinical trials in 2010. Won’t be approved until the end of the decades. Survival rates will triple, almost no sides effects.

ETHAN
That’s too late.

JULIAN
We have the names of the researchers involved. We'll boost their funding, get your father in on the ground floor. We can save him.

Saving his father. That's impossible, that's...

ETHAN
You can really do this?

JULIAN
And a lot more. If you come.

Luther produces a BLINDFOLD. Ethan considers it. He doubts, but... his father...

I/E. ROADS - VAN - NIGHT

The van flies down darkened roads. Ethan and Leah sit in the back, blindfolded.

JULIAN
Fight or flight. That's the reaction of every living thing, when threatened. When we're in danger, we run faster, we punch harder. Our body will do whatever it takes to survive. But what if death is inevitable? What if you cannot fight nor flight? Others have no escape. But we do.

I/E. MANSION - VAN - NIGHT

They arrive at a remote Mansion, tucked away in the countryside.

JULIAN
A mutation allows a few of us to escape to another time in our lives. Our conscience anchors itself at a moment where we felt unstressed, happy, <u>safe</u>.

LEAH
So we're immortal?

JULIAN
No one's dared to try it, but I doubt it would work a second time. You can't travel without fear. And once you know you can escape, you unconsciously stop being afraid of death. Of course you're free to put a bullet in your head and give it a try.

LEAH
No, thank you.

Julian smiles: I didn't think so.

INT. MANSION - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The blindfolds are removed and they find themselves in...

A HUGE, EMPTY ROOM. The walls are covered with NAMES of people and events, with THREADS connecting them. Every wall represents a major landmass: EUROPE, AMERICA, ASIA, AFRICA... Threads go from one wall to another, intertwining and linking the different items, representing how travellers affect the world.

ETHAN
What's this?

JULIAN
This is us. All over the world we look for travellers like you. People who start doing things that don't fit, who are suddenly too lucky. We find them before anyone else. We help them, organize them.

ETHAN
And you all get a piece of the pie.

JULIAN
What you do with your second chance is your choice. As long as you follow the rules.

LEAH
Let me guess: first rule of Time Traveller's Club is you don't talk about Time Traveller's Club.

JULIAN
(annoyed)
That's right. Rule number two: you can profit from what you know, as long you don't drastically change what will happen. Most changes are not important, a tiny ripple that dies in a corner of the pond. The butterfly effect is just something we tell ourselves to feel less minuscule. But significant events must remain intact.

ETHAN
And how do you know which are which?

JULIAN
That's what the Map's for.

ETHAN
The Map?

JULIAN
The Map tells us which songs Ms. Swann can steal, which stocks I can short... It keeps the future in check. It's the only way we can all profit from it.

LEAH
Holy s-- Steve Jobs's in here!

Leah has been looking through the names in the walls.

JULIAN
Steve shares your talent for appropriation. We let him stay just ahead of the curve.
(beat)
Come, we need to prep you for debriefing.

INT. MANSION - DEBRIEFING ROOM - DAY

A DARK ROOM, windowless. Ethan sits on a chair bolted to the floor. Aside from Julian, two others conduct the debriefing:

JOSHUA (50), a former pediatrician. He places electrodes on Ethan and sets up medical equipment.

PARMINDER (28), a traveller from Mumbai and IT expert. She mans the laptops and electronics.

Joshua straps Ethan to the chair.

ETHAN
Hey!

JOSHUA
It's for your safety. Relax.

Parminder puts a pair of BLACK ELECTRONIC GLASSES over his eyes, blinding him. Joshua then prepares a syringe.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)
This will help you relax... and remember.

He injects Ethan.

ETHAN
Remember what?

JULIAN
A traveller only remembers small pieces of his life. But put the memories of all the travellers together and you get something more complete. A map of everything that will happen. That's what we're doing. Every new member has to go through it.

Julian produces the USB drive we saw before and attaches it to one of the laptops. A DATABASE pops up, containing all the information the travellers have. THE MAP.

PARMINDER
Uploading...

As the glasses emit ultrasounds and hypnotic patterns, the drugs take over. Ethan's heart rate and brain patterns, they all slow down...

JOSHUA
(checking Ethan)
He's ready.

JULIAN
Ethan, can you hear me?

Ethan's now in a semi-hypnotic state.

ETHAN
Yes.

JULIAN
When did you die?

A STREAM OF MEMORIES flood Ethan's mind: Waking up. The store. Kate. Daniel. The truck. He focuses on...

FLASHBACK TO: INT. ELECTRONICS STORE - BACKROOM - DAY (2016)

Ethan swipes his employee card. The clock displays time and date.

In the debriefing room, Ethan answers:

ETHAN
October 20th, 2016.

JULIAN
Did you watch the news that day?

FLASHBACK TO: INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY (2016)

The RADIO ALARM wakes Ethan up.

RADIO
In further financial news, Gasko stock rose after the release...

In the debriefing room, Ethan recites it verbatim:

ETHAN
...of third quarter earnings that showed strong sales...

Ethan's words are digitized, keywords are highlighted: **GASKO, Q3 EARNINGS.** Parminder collates this with other data the Map already has, creating an approximate FUTURE STOCK CHART.

JULIAN
Did you see any ads?

FLASHBACK TO: EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT (2016)

Ethan walks to his car after work. The ads that we saw only briefly the first time now appear clearly.

ETHAN
"The Electric Dawn", New York Times Bestseller. Buy it now at Barnes & Noble. Vote Anthony Rhodes for the New Jersey State Legislature...

The Map's software enters the data: **ELECTRIC DAWN BESTSELLER. ANTHONY RHODES NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE...**

JULIAN'S VOICE (PRELAP)
Take the glasses off.

INT. MANSION - THE WHITE ROOM

Huh? Ethan seems to wake up from some weird dream. He obeys and finds himself inside a bare, bone-white room with a bed and night table. Nothing else.

Julian sits by the bed. He hands Ethan his cellphone.

JULIAN
Call Kate. Tell her everything's fine. It'll be a couple more days.

INT. MANSION - DEBRIEFING ROOM -DAY

The debriefing continues for... Hours? Days? It's hard to tell as his memories, the White Room and the Debriefing Room all mix into a dreamlike haze:

FLASHBACK TO: EXT. STREETS - DAY (SEPT 2008)

Ethan and Kate walk down the street in silence. A BANK BRANCH IS CLOSING DOWN.

ETHAN (V.O.)
We take a walk. We don't talk. A bank's closing...
(as if reading the sign)
Washington Mutual.

In the room, the Map takes good note: **WAMU BANKRUPTCY.**

FLASHBACK TO: INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (SEPT 2008)

Ethan watches the 2008 World Series. Alone.

COMMENTATOR
The Phillies win the World Series! Their first win since 1980! Incredible scenes!

Ethan picks the phone and gets a text: "BAD CALL. I WILL BE LATE."

In the room, the Map records: **PHILLIES WORLD SERIES 2008.**

FLASHBACK TO: INT. HOSPITAL - DAY (SEPT 2008)

Kate talks to Ethan.

KATE
He said I deserved a medal. He should get one, tough. Took a bullet for a little girl.

FLASHBACK TO: EXT. PARK - DAY (OCT 2008)

Ethan and Kate fight in the middle of the park.

ETHAN (O.S.)
We fight. She won't come out and say it, but she doesn't want to be with a failure, I can tell.

FLASHBACK TO: INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY (OCT 2008)

Kate's crying, dressed in her EMT gear, while the TV reports about a PLANE CRASH.

KATE
I couldn't do anything. They're all dead...

In the room, Ethan repeats the news, mixed with his thoughts.

ETHAN
...black box recordings point to human error as the cause of the crash of the Los Angeles-bound flight. I wish I knew what to say to her... We never talk anymore...

FLIGHT 1519. LOS ANGELES. PILOT MISHAP.

CUT TO:

Another memory floods Ethan's brain...

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Everybody wears masks. They're even afraid to touch each other. People buy flu vaccines like crazy.

SARS EPIDEMIC. FLU VACCINATION SALES SURGE.

FLASHBACK TO: EXT. STREETS - NIGHT (DEC 2008)

Ethan remembers a snippet of the day Kate left him:

KATE
(breaking down)
And I looked into his eyes and I... I just felt safe.

FLASHBACK TO: INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY (MAY 2011)

The apartment's messier, like it will be in 2015. <u>Kate's no longer with him</u>. Ethan reads a NEWSPAPER.

ETHAN (V.O.)
(reading the paper)
Bin laden killed by US forces in Pakistan after attack in compound near military academy.

The Map pinpoints the location on the computer screen.

FLASHBACK TO: INT. ELECTRONICS STORE - DAY (2015)

Ethan is now working at the store. He unpacks a new arrival: GOOGLE GLASSES.

ETHAN (V.O.)
First day at work. We get new glasses. They sell like hot cakes.

GOOGLE GLASS. Q2 2015.

FLASHBACK TO: INT. ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER - OBSERVATION DECK - DAY (2015)

Ethan watches the great vistas from the deck. Alone.

ETHAN (V.O.)
It's spring. The new World Trade Center opens. It's been years, but I still miss her.

SPRING 2015. ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER.

INT. MANSION - THE WHITE ROOM - DAY

Ethan wakes up again in the White Room, as if waking up from a nightmare. Julian's there by the bed.

JULIAN
I know this is hard for you. But it's not the isolation. It's remembering, right?

Ethan mechanically reaches for the blackened glasses.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
No. Not today.
(points to some clothes)
Put this on and come with me.

INT. MANSION - HALLWAY - DAY

Julian leads an elegantly dressed Ethan towards a door at the end of the hallway. Daylight awaits on the other side, and when the door opens...

EXT. MANSION - GARDEN - DAY

Ethan's eyes are blinded by the sun, after so many days without seeing the light of day. As his eyes adjust, we see:

A CROWD giving him a round of applause in the garden.

JULIAN
Welcome, Ethan.

Julian guides him throughout the crowd of TRAVELLERS that greet him warmly.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
They were once construction workers, pediatricians, unemployed... Now they're investment bankers, lobbyists, scientists... Some are just correcting small mistakes from their past. Others are some of the most powerful people in the world. The choice, Ethan, is yours.

As Julian talks, Ethan's greeted by travellers like MIGUEL (45), a kind Mexican who's now running a hedge fund, or ROSE (38), a former trophy wife now turned lobbyist.

We also recognize the two travellers that conducted the debriefing: JOSHUA and PARMINDER, looking out of place as overdressed geeks.

Ethan finally finds Leah among the crowd, who hurries to find him and gossip.

LEAH
I think I saw James Cameron!

ETHAN
Are you OK?

LEAH
Well, I feel like they put my brain in a microwave and turned it to mush, but at least they gave me a nice dress. If we're going to be in the time travel mafia, we might as well look the part.

Ethan looks at the crowd, a gathering of the incredibly rich and powerful. And among them, JULIAN. Ethan eyes him with distrust.

ETHAN
And the godfather is a 12 year-old.

LEAH
I heard he's the one who's traveled the farthest. Like he knows the names of the next six presidents or something.

Sensing Ethan's somber mood, Leah grabs a drink and pulls him towards the crowd.

LEAH (CONT'D)
Come on, cheer up. Think of the possibilities.

INT. TV STUDIO - NIGHT

CHEERING. APPLAUSE. Bailee Swann is about to perform on national television. The HOST introduces her:

HOST
Our next guest: a true Cinderella story. Six months ago she was waiting tables and now she has a chart-topping album... Bailee Swann!

Leah steps forward and starts singing her own version of LANA DEL REY'S VIDEO GAMES. She's confident, no longer the nervous fledging singer we first met.

And as Leah sings, we witness the activities of the travellers, intertwined with the events of 2008:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY (FEB 2008)

Ted's subjected to a LUNG SCAN.

An ONCOLOGIST shows the tumor in Ted's Lung. Ethan, Sandra and Kate are there. Sandra's devastated. Kate tries to console her...

But Ethan looks determined.

STOCK FOOTAGE OF BARACK OBAMA'S PRIMARY CAMPAIGN.

TALKING HEADS saying HILARY CLINTON is the frontrunner for the nomination.

INT. CLASSY RESTAURANT - DAY (MARCH 2008)

ROSE writes the fattest check for the campaign at a fundraiser and she shakes the hand of the FUTURE PRESIDENT OF THE US.

EXT. STREET - DAY (APRIL 2008)

A NEWSTAND. A PASSER-BY picks up an issue of ROLLING STONE. BAILEE SWANN is on the cover.

Bailee Swann's record tops the CHARTS on ITunes, while...

INT. CD STORE - DAY (APRIL 2008)

The OWNER closes the store, surrounded by "50% OFF LIQUIDATION SALE" SIGNS. Digital times are coming

STOCK FOOTAGE OF STEVE JOBS INTRODUCING THE IPHONE 3G IN JUNE 2008.

The Apple tech demoing the phone is none other than Parminder.

It's the dawn of the smartphone era. Soon they're everywhere.

INT. TRADE CONVENTION - DAY (JULY 2008)

ETHAN is demoing a VIDEOGAME in his booth. The name?

FURIOUS DUCKS. An Angry Birds rip-off. Shamelessly derivative. But this one will come out a year before the original.

Soon it's on smartphones. People are addicted.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY (SEPT 2008)

Kate plays Furious Ducks too, next to Ethan. She laughs: she loves it.

She's so proud of her boyfriend.

STOCK FOOTAGE OF THE NYSE DURING THE LEHMAN BROTHERS COLLAPSE IN SEPTEMBER 2008.

Financial PANIC: BANK BRANCHES closing, FORECLOSURE SIGNS popping up, people losing the jobs and their homes...

INT. BROKERAGE OFFICE - DAY (SEPT 2008)

But Miguel, surrounded by panic, is smiling: he watches his fund grow because of the shorts he's made.

A SUM beyond his (and our) wildest dreams.

EXT. SAILBOAT - DUSK (SEPT 2008)

Ethan and Kate sail down the coast, like she always wanted.

They kiss on deck. Passion. Happiness...

This is the moment, the life Ethan dreamed about.

And as he savors it...

INT. TV STUDIO - NIGHT (SEPT 2008)

...Leah finishes her song to a MASSIVE ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

LEAH
Thanks you! Thank you everybody!

She bows, she smiles, she beams, revelling in her dream too.

END OF MONTAGE.

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY (SEPT 2008)

Ethan and Kate's new house. Spacious. Bright. The complete opposite of their old apartment. There are packing boxes everywhere: they're still moving in.

Ethan approaches Kate from behind. She's ready to go out to work, but has stopped to check the MAIL.

He sees that she's holding an ENVELOPE from...

ETHAN
Rutgers med school.

KATE
Thin envelope. It's a rejection letter.

She opens it: "We regret to inform you..." She was right.

ETHAN
Their loss. You still haven't heard from half a dozen schools.

KATE
You know the people I'm competing against. Honor students, advance degrees, internships... I drive an ambulance.

Ethan holds her from behind. There's something on his mind...

ETHAN
Are you happy?

KATE
(waves the letter)
What? Because of this?

ETHAN
No, in general. Are you happy?

KATE
What kind of question is that?

ETHAN
Just tell me.

KATE
Yes, of course I am.

Kate kisses him in the lips and takes off.

KATE (CONT'D)
I'll see you tonight.

When she's out the door, Ethan produces his NOTEBOOK. We see he's expanded an entry in it:

PHARMACY SHOOTING
ASTORIA-DITMARS ~~SEPT~~ - BEFORE PHILLIES GAME ENDS
TOOK A BULLET FOR A GIRL

Kate isn't aware, but Ethan just asked her for permission.

INT. MANSION - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Ethan's alone in the control room with Julian.

ETHAN
In a few days, there'll be a robbery at a pharmacy in Ditmars. Someone I know will get shot. The only thing I remember's that it happened when the Phillies won the World Series.

Julian operates the main computer at the center of the room. The MAP USB is plugged into it.

JULIAN
Here. The final game will start on the 27th. No, wait. It'll rain. It will be suspended. It won't finish till the 29th.

ETHAN
Thanks.

JULIAN
So what are you thinking? Warning the police? Your "friend"? They're going to wonder how you knew. And don't try to stop it. We can't have one of us playing hero in the evening news.

ETHAN
But...

JULIAN
Ethan, if you don't want Kate to meet Daniel...

Ethan's surprised that Julian's guessed his intentions, but after the debriefing, there's little Julian doesn't know about him.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Find another way. Take Kate to a Bailee Swann show. Backstage passes, meet and greet... Something tells me you can swing that.

Ethan considers this...

INT. ETHAN'S CAR - DAY

Ethan's driving home, trying to navigate the rush hour traffic, when the PHONE RINGS. It's Kate.

ETHAN
Kate? I'm stuck in traffic, but I'll be home soon. Are you ready?

KATE (O.S.)
That's why I'm calling. I can't make it.

ETHAN
Why?

KATE (O.S.)
Claire called. Her boy's sick. I've got to cover her shift.

Uh-oh.

ETHAN
Can't she ask someone else?

KATE (O.S.)
No, and I owe her a few. I've got to do this.

ETHAN
We had plans. Tell her you can't.

KATE (O.S.)
Ethan, she needs this. There'll be other shows.

ETHAN
Not like this one, there--

KATE (O.S.)
Come on, be a big boy and I'll make it up to you.

ETHAN
But...

KATE (O.S.)
I gotta go.

She HANGS UP. Ethan hurries to CALL HER BACK...

...but THE CALL GOES STRAIGHT TO VOICEMAIL.

Shit. He's got to do something or Kate will meet Daniel...

Suddenly, Ethan SWERVES. A crazy U-TURN that sends all the cars around him into a HONKING FRENZY.

As he drives, Ethan flips the pages of his NOTEBOOK. This is what he knows:

PHARMACY SHOOTING
ASTORIA-DITMARS ~~SEPT~~ BEFORE PHILLIES GAME ENDS (OCT. 29TH)
TOOK A BULLET FOR A GIRL

Ethan turns on the radio: The final game of the World Series is on. They're in the 7th INNING...

...and as the 9th INNING approaches, so does the shooting.

On his phone, a Map shows all the PHARMACIES in the area. There's about half a dozen of them.

Then, the PHONE RINGS. Ethan checks the screen, hopeful, but the call's from LEAH. He sends it to voicemail.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - SAME TIME

Leah, in full Bailee Swann outfit and make-up, is about ready to go on stage. She leaves a message.

LEAH
Ethan, where are you, guys? You were going to stop by before the show, right? Give me a call.

I/E. CAR - STREETS OF ASTORIA - SAME TIME

Ethan drives around the neighborhood, as the RADIO announces the TOP OF THE 9TH. He slows down as he drives past one pharmacy after another.

Nothing suspicious. They all look the same. How can he find the right one...?

But, wait! Isn't that guy...?

Yes, it's Daniel!

Ethan hastily brakes. He exits the car, barely bothering to double-park it, right on time to see Daniel disappear into a PHARMACY.

Ethan runs after him.

INT. PHARMACY - NIGHT

Ethan enters the sprawling, brightly lit pharmacy.

He dives into the aisles, determined. He has a plan:

FLASHBACK TO: INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Ethan's memory of Kate relating this very incident:

KATE
...took a bullet for a little girl.

He walks down the aisles, until he sees a LONE GIRL (10). The girl Daniel will save...

Unless Ethan gets her out of there.

ETHAN
Hey, what are you doing here alone?

GIRL
Mom sent me for bandages. She sprained her ankle.

Ethan looks out the Pharmacy's window: a SEDAN has arrived in the parking lot. There are TWO UNSAVORY GUYS inside. One of them smokes a cigarette while eyeing the pharmacy.

Are these the guys that will hold up the place?

ETHAN
(to the girl)
I'll help you get them, and then you run home, OK?

Ethan helps the girl reach the bandages.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
These ones? OK, let's go.

The idea is simple: if he gets the girl out quickly, Daniel won't get shot saving her. He won't meet Kate.

Ethan walks the girl to the register, but there's a line.

Come on... come on...

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Hurry up, will ya!

OLD LADY
(annoyed)
I'll take as long as I Goddamn want!

Outside, the Unsavory Guys have stepped out of the car. Cigarette Guy throws the cigarette into a puddle.

The Old Lady grabs her things and Ethan pushes the Girl to the front. Before the Girl can even pay, Ethan slaps a $10 bill on the counter.

ETHAN
Keep the change.

CASHIER
It's 11.95.

Shit. Ethan searches his pockets for more money, as he keeps an eye on the Unsavory Guys, who walk away from the car...

...and towards the door...

Shit, shit, shit...

But, no! The Unsavory Guys actually head to the McDonald's next door and disappear inside! Phew...

Ethan throws another bill on the counter and grabs the bag...

ETHAN
Come on, let's get you home.

...and turns to leave. The exit is clear! But...

SKIMASK 1
NOBODY MOVE!

The SERVICE DOOR in the back opens and three guys wearing SKIMASKS rush in, pulling out guns.

PEOPLE PANIC. CHAOS ensues.

SKIMASK 2
What part of "nobody move" did you not get!? SIT!

Ethan reacts quickly and sits against one of the registers with the girl. He tries to calm her down.

ETHAN
What's your name?

ALLISON
Allison.

ETHAN
So this is what we'll do, Allison. We stay here until these people get what they want. And nothing bad will happen. Okay?

But then...

SKIMASK 2 (O.S.)
I said "Sit"!

...Skimask 2 hits a DISOBEDIENT MAN in the mouth with the butt of his weapon. The man drops to the floor, bleeding...

...and Allison, panicking, runs off into the perceived safety of the aisles.

ETHAN
Allison!

SKIMASK 2
Hey, where are you going!?

DANIEL (O.S.)
You scared her.

Daniel. He's right there. Ethan hadn't noticed him.

SKIMASK 2
(to Daniel)
You go and bring her back. I want everybody nicely in sight.

Skimask 2 pushes Daniel at gunpoint. Ethan has to do something...

ETHAN
I'll go. She knows me.

SKIMASK 2
Okay, you go. Could give a fuck.

Ethan gets up and walks into an aisle, with Skimask 2 aiming at him from the distance. Meanwhile, SKIMASK 1 and 3 empty the cashiers.

ETHAN
Allison? Allison?

Sobbing. And then he sees her, hidden behind a counter.

And we see why Allison has chosen that place: a CUSTOMER (30s) is hidden there too. <u>And he carries a GUN</u>.

The man pulls his jacket aside, showing Ethan an NYPD BADGE on his belt. He's an OFF-DUTY COP.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Allison. Come. Here...

ALLISON
(terrified)
No...

Ethan tries to grab her but...

SKIMASK 2
Stay where I can see you!

Ethan pries Allison from his hiding place.

ALLISON
No!

She snatches at the cop, surprising him and dragging him into view.

Skimask 2 is startled when he sees a man with a gun. BLAM! He fires an intuitive shot.

Screams. PANIC.

The cop crawls back to cover, ready to fire back.

And Allison is running away, right between the two shooters.

Ethan watches, powerless. Everything is happening again: a stray bullet will hit Allison unless...

...Ethan shields the girl himself.

BLAM!

Silence. Then, Allison SHRIEKS.

The robbers take off, while Allison screams, again and again. Something wet. Blood. But it's not hers. It's Ethan's.

Everything becomes hazy... and Ethan falls to the floor.

Seconds pass, or minutes - he can't tell anymore - The lights of an AMBULANCE appear behind the store windows.

And an EMT comes running in, panicking when she recognizes him. It's Kate.

KATE
Ethan?

She applies first aid, trying to block the hemorrhage. She speaks, but her voice sounds very far away.

KATE (CONT'D)
Stay with me. Stay!

He's lifted on the stretcher and carried to the ambulance.

DANIEL
Is there anything I can do to help?

Daniel and Kate's eyes meet for a moment. But...

KATE
No.
(to the crowd)
Make a hole!

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

As the ambulance races down the avenue, sirens blaring, Kate frantically applies a tourniquet. Then starts performing CPR.

KATE
Stay with me, please. Please...

Kate feels Ethan's hand: he's caressing her long brown locks. He's ALIVE. Kate smiles, exhilarated, and caresses his cheek.

Ethan feels his conscience slip away in a state of bliss...

...into TOTAL WHITENESS, which slowly gives way to...

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

The wall of a HOSPITAL ROOM. This is Ethan's POV: a heavy bandage covers his shoulder and an IV drip is attached to his arm. There's someone else in there.

ETHAN
Kate?

But no, it's a NURSE (40s).

NURSE
No, she's been here all night, but I sent her downstairs to get some food in her.

Indeed, Kate's been there: there's a chair with a blanket and a newspaper on it. There are also some flowers. LILIES.

NURSE (CONT'D)
I'm going to give her a call. Don't worry, she'll be here right away.

ETHAN
Yes, please. Call her.

Ethan tries to sit up but...

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Ouch!

NURSE
Take the hint: stay put.

But Ethan still reaches for the DAILY NEWS. The cover reads: "HUMAN SHIELD! HERO SAVES GIRL IN ROBBERY".

NURSE (CONT'D)
Looks like you're famous now.

But Ethan doesn't look happy. Julian won't like that.

NURSE (CONT'D)
There's something else. A police officer, he's waiting to talk to you. One word and I'll tell him you're not ready.

ETHAN
It's fine. Send him in.

The nurse heads out and talks to a man waiting outside. LIEUTENANT EBBS (42), old enough to distrust everyone and young enough to still care about it.

He enters and greets Ethan, politely but coolly.

LIEUTENANT EBBS
Thanks for seeing me, Mr. Clyne. I've talked to the other witnesses, so we already have a pretty good picture of what went on. There's just... one thing.

Ebbs produces Ethan's NOTEBOOK, <u>the one where he's written all the memories from the future</u>. Ethan's heart skips a beat.

LIEUTENANT EBBS (CONT'D)
It was on the floor, right where you were shot. Is this your handwriting?

ETHAN
(reluctantly)
Yes.

LIEUTENANT EBBS
(flipping pages)
It’s all... nonsense, until we get to... this.

Ebbs shows him the page with the details about the robbery.

LIEUTENANT EBBS (CONT’D)
The place, the date... Even that you’d save the girl. How could you know?

Ethan’s speechless. He doesn’t have a convincing answer.

LIEUTENANT EBBS (CONT’D)
I mean did you... arrange all this?

ETHAN
No. I swear, I had nothing to do with it.

LIEUTENANT EBBS
(holding the notebook)
So how do you explain this?

Ethan eyes the NURSE out the door, pleading.

ETHAN
I... I can’t. I can’t explain it.

LIEUTENANT EBBS
TRY.

Way too forceful. The NURSE barges in.

NURSE
OK, that’s enough. You’re at the ICU, not your precinct. This man needs to rest.

Ebbs eyes the nurse and then, stands up.

LIEUTENANT EBBS
OK, you get that rest, Mr. Clyne. I’ll be back.

Ebbs walks out, escorted by the nurse, leaving Ethan alone. What can he do?

Ethan yanks the IV drip off and gets up from bed, even if his shoulder hurts like hell.

He finds his cell and starts dialing Kate... but reconsiders. Leah, maybe she can help.

But before he can dial, the door opens and an ORDERLY rolls in a table with lunch. Except that Orderly is actually...

ETHAN
Luther.

He can tell that Ethan wasn't looking forward to a reunion.

LUTHER
I really have a way with people, don't I?

ETHAN
What are you doing here?

LUTHER
You got yourself shot, made the front page and left a souvenir behind. What do you think I'm doing here?

Luther pulls out a bag hidden under the table and tosses it at Ethan.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
First thing is getting you out of here before he comes back with a warrant. I brought you some clothes, money... It's all there.

Ethan opens the bag... but it's EMPTY. It dawns on Ethan...

Luther isn't here to help.

Suddenly, Luther jumps on Ethan and grabs him from behind, gagging him. Ethan thrashes, tries to wrestle him off, but Luther deftly pins him.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, but sometimes an example needs to be made. I'm afraid this is one of those times.

While he talks, Luther produces a SMALL SYRINGE. He bites the cap off and stabs Ethan's arm.

Ethan struggles, but... Luther presses the plunger. Whatever was in the syringe is now in Ethan's bloodstream.

Desperate, Ethan manages to elbow Luther in the face, freeing himself as Luther crashes against the rolling table.

Ethan tries to stand up, using the bed as support. This gives Luther enough time to come back at him and grab his leg.

But Ethan lashes back at him, kicking him in the face.

This buys Ethan a few seconds to make a run for the door...

...but suddenly his legs desert him and he collapses on the floor. What's happening? He can barely move!

Luther walks up to him, massaging his jaw.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Julian got his hands on some interesting shit. Muscle relaxant, totally untraceable. It's not supposed to exist for another ten years. First it will stop your legs. Then you lungs. Finally the most important muscle of all.

Luther crouches by him and places his hand on Ethan's HEART.

Ethan starts to CHOKE. His limbs shake as he tries to stand up...

And Luther just watches.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
You think you're afraid, but you're not. Not enough. Not really. A part of your brain knows you can get out of this. And that's the part that will kill you. No fear, no adrenaline, no travel.

But Ethan's not listening. He's looking for an escape... when near him, on the floor, he sees the bed's REMOTE CONTROL.

He finds the strength to stretch his arm and push the button.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Shit.

Luther wasn't expecting this. Ethan watches the door. Somebody come... Please...

Meanwhile Luther hurries to put the syringe away. He lifts Ethan up and puts him back on the bed. Ethan can't even fight him, when...

The NURSE rushes in. She sees Luther leaning on Ethan.

NURSE
What are you doing?

Ethan tries to talk, but... he can't.

LUTHER
I think he's having a heart attack!

NURSE
(yells out on the hallway)
Resuscitation trolley!!!

She runs inside and starts performing CPR on Ethan. He's still conscious, looking impotently at Luther.

NURSE (CONT'D)
(to Luther)
Don't just stand there! Go check on that trolley!

Luther takes his bag and walks out to the hallway. There, he sees two TECHNICIANS pushing the resuscitation trolley.

He walks towards them and stands in the way just long enough to slow them down for a beat or two.

RESUSCITATION TECH
Move!

LUTHER
Sorry, sorry!

The Techs rush into the room, right as KATE EXITS THE ELEVATOR. She sees all the commotion in front of Ethan's room.

KATE
Ethan...

She runs to the room. There, she sees the Nurses about to discharge the DEFIBRILLATOR.

KATE (CONT'D)
ETHAN!!!

RESUSCITATION TECH
Two hundred.

BLAM! The defibrillator fires. The Nurse performs CPR.

RESUSCITATION TECH (CONT'D)
No response!

NURSE
Again.

BLAM! The charge is applied. But Ethan doesn't respond.

RESUSCITATION TECH
Going 360!

BLAM! Kate pushes the Nurse aside and performs CPR herself, more out of desperation than any real hope.

KATE
Don't stop!

NURSE
He's gone...

Kate ignores her. The Nurse pulls her arm, gently but firmly.

NURSE (CONT'D)
Kate. He's gone.

KATE
(teary)
Ethan...

NURSE
I'm sorry, Kate...

The nurse consoles her, as Kate collapses. She can't believe it, and neither can we:

ETHAN'S DEAD.

From the distance, Luther watches the scene. He picks up his phone and dials as he walks out.

LUTHER
It's done.

INT. MANSION - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

On the other side, Julian hangs up the phone.

Julian walks to the "U.S." section of the wall. There, a thread labelled "ETHAN CLYNE" is attached, barely touching anything else.

He yanks it, watching satisfied as the grander construct isn't affected: Ethan was, after all, irrelevant.

We fly through the walls, seeing the names of future events and dates until we reach...

EXT. OSAKA AIRPORT - DAY (EARLY 2009)

A private jet has landed at the Osaka International Airport. Julian descends from it, escorted by Luther.

Several Asian men are waiting by a couple of black sedans. This is the East Asian chapter of Julian's network. Their leader is KAMUI KOBAYASHI, a stern looking Japanese businessman.

Kobayashi greets him in Japanese and Julian does the same.

JULIAN
Take me to him.

INT. DEBRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Julian enters a darkened room, very similar to the one where he debriefed Ethan. There, a KOREAN TRAVELLER (25) in the NK People's Army uniform is being prepped in the same fashion.

Julian plugs the USB drive to a laptop and loads the Map.

The Korean Traveller slowly falls into the drug induced trance. A JAPANESE TECHNICIAN (40) checks his vital signs.

JAPANESE TECHNICIAN
All ready.

A TRANSLATOR (20s) gets ready as Julian fires the first question. The same he asked Ethan.

JULIAN
When did you die?

The Translator asks the Traveller in Korean, and, after a pause, he replies, his speech slurred by the drugs.

TRANSLATOR
August 21st, 2018.

JULIAN
What do you remember from that day?

TRANSLATOR
It's a beautiful day in Pyonyang. Sunny. Warm. We're in line for a movie. Yoon and I. Our second date.

JULIAN
What's the name of the movie?

KOREAN TRAVELLER
(reciting the marquee)
The Dawn Warrior. George Clooney, Brad Pitt.

The Map displays an error message: MISMATCH.

JULIAN
Can't be. His memories must be contaminated. That movie's not supposed to exist.
(but realizes...)
How can you be watching an American movie in North Korea?

The Translator repeats the question to the Traveller. A look of disbelief flashes on his face as he listens to the answer.

TRANSLATOR
There's no North Korea. We are one country again.

Julian takes the Map and exits the room.

EXT. JAPANESE FARM - DAY

Luther rushes outside the farm. There Julian is furiously operating his tablet with the Map plugged in.

LUTHER
What's wrong, sir?

Timelines unfold and spread on the touch screen, crisscrossing, intersecting... Julian is going back to find where or when things went wrong.

Suddenly, he stops. He's found something.

JULIAN
No, no, no, NO!!!

We see that the screen shows a picture of DANIEL, Ethan's rival. Under the photo, a CAPTION: "Wounded at pharmacy robbery. October 29th, 2008. How is he involved in all this?

Julian throws the tablet in a bout of anger.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
I missed it. I missed it and now it's all fucked!

Julian produces a VIAL from his pocket, containing a DARK BLUE LIQUID.

LUTHER
What's that?

Julian doesn't answer. He ponders his decision until... he puts the vial in a jet injector and, he INJECTS HIMSELF.

JULIAN
Now, shoot me.

LUTHER
What?

JULIAN
You heard me. Shoot me.

LUTHER
Sir, I-- I can't...

Julian's face turns sweaty and pale as the blue liquid rushes through his veins. He starts HYPERVENTILATING.

JULIAN
Wanna know what's in the vial? Epinephrine. A rush of adrenaline, straight to the brain. Fear in a bottle. Fight or flight, remember? Shoot me.

Luther aims his gun at Julian. But he hesitates. He's killed quite a few people in his life, but shooting a child...

JULIAN (CONT'D)
It's easier than you think, Luther. You've done it many times before, even if you don't know it.

Julian slowly starts walking towards the trembling barrel of the gun. Luther still needs a little push.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
(voice starts to break)
You have... a child...

LUTHER
What?

JULIAN
(twisting the knife)
A son... You knocked up a meth head... apparently.

A sliver of anger pops in Luther's face, mixed with heartbreak. A son? His eyes redden, about to cry.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
I've left instructions... you'll find him... but only after I die.

LUTHER
You-- you son of a bitch... How-- How long have you known?

Julian takes the barrel of the gun and presses it against his chest. He looks straight into Luther's eyes and whispers...

JULIAN
Always...

BLAM! Luther shoots Julian, who falls on the lush grass. His death is almost instantaneous, as everything turns to...

We start seeing some flashes from Julian's life, as Julian's brain looks for a memory to awaken to:

- Julian furiously writing on his whiteboard - Julian performing the initiation on a traveller - A COFFIN covered in the American flag - A MAN IN MILITARY UNIFORM...

A noise. Distorted at first. It becomes clearer... It's WATER.

Julian opens his eyes. He's...

UNDERWATER

Then SPLASH! One, two, three children dive into the water. They watch Julian, swim around him, like ghosts.

Julian swims up to the surface...

EXT. LAKE - DAY (AUGUST 2004)

<u>And he emerges as a 8 year old kid</u>. Soft-faced, innocent. Julian has turned into the same kid from the opening of the movie.

<u>Julian is the Traveler who died on the ferry</u>.

Two strong hands pick him out of the water. They belong to his FATHER (27). A built man sporting a military haircut. He's a tough-looking guy, yet he's all affection with Julian.

FATHER
Look at the fish I caught! Oh boy, it's a big one!

The lake is full of families like them and kids jumping from a pier. Julian LAUGHS, losing himself in the moment.

INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY (2004)

In the bedroom of an old farmhouse, Julian's Father puts on his MILITARY FATIGUES, under his son's watch. A duffel bag lies on the bed: his leave is over.

FATHER
Wanna play our game?

Julian nods.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Try to be faster this time...

Julian's father tries to feint with his hand and prick one of his son's ears. Julian, as he's done countless times before, guesses the direction, and CATCHES HIS FATHER'S HAND.

FATHER (CONT'D)
You're good!

But not strong enough. His father overpowers Julian and twists his ear. And it's not a gentle twitch, it hurts.

JULIAN
Ouch!

FATHER
Don't let anybody fuck with you, you hear me? Not even me.

JULIAN
But you're too strong.

FATHER
The world's full of people stronger than you. I'm your father and I'll always take care of you. I'll protect you 'til the day I die. But that's it.

He releases Julian and dons his dog tags.

JULIAN
I have a problem, dad. Somebody's trying to take something I want.

FATHER
Then find something HE wants, and you'll be even.

His Father picks the duffel bag.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Just don't get in trouble. I'm going pretty far this time, but I promise I'll be back.

JULIAN
Dad, wait...

FATHER
Yes?

For a moment, he doubts, wanting to tell him not to go.

JULIAN
Nothing... I'll miss you.

FATHER
(hugs him)
Be good to your mother.

Julian watches his father disappear down the stairs. He won't be coming back.

INT. RUNDOWN APARTMENT BUILDING - UPPER FLOOR - DAY (2004)

Two people sleep under the covers in a seedy bedroom. Suddenly, a CELL PHONE RINGS.

From under the sheets appears LUTHER, younger, looking more emaciated than in 2008. The reason? The METH on the bedside table.

KID'S VOICE (O.S.)
Look out the window.

LUTHER
Huh? Wrong number, kid.

Besides him stirs KAYLA (25), his meth-head girlfriend.

KAYLA
What's going on?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - AT THE SAME TIME (2004)

The person at the other end of the line is none other than Julian. He keeps a close eye on the ticking CLOCK on the wall. It reads **17.53.**

JULIAN
Your girlfriend will tell you she's sorry. After that, you'll look out the window.

Kayla DROPS A DIRTY GLASS and it smashes against the floor.

KAYLA
(high, laughing)
Shit! Sorry!

Luther is freaked out. He walks to the window.

In the street below, several unmarked black sedans are parking in front of the building. A POLICE TEAM comes out of them and starts breaking in. A DEA bust.

LUTHER
Holy sh--

KAYLA
What's wrong, baby?

LUTHER
DEA!

JULIAN (O.S.)
Don't hang up, and I'll get you out of there.

INT. RUNDOWN APARTMENT BUILDING - LAB - DAY (2004)

The DEA breaks into the building, finding a METH LAB.

DEA AGENT
POLICE!!! FREEZE!!!

The COOKS, protected only with plastic gloves and paper dust masks, raise their hands. Some agents run upstairs and the rest starts making arrests.

INT. RUNDOWN APARTMENT BUILDING - UPPER FLOOR - DAY (2004)

Meanwhile, Luther is leaving his room, phone in hand.

JULIAN (O.S.)
Go to the room to your right.

Luther complies, entering an empty bedroom.

JULIAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Look around you. There should be a closet to your left. Get inside.

Luther slips in the CLOSET... in the nick of time! Two DEA agents enter the room and find it EMPTY.

DEA AGENT
Clear!

Julian keeps his eyes on the KITCHEN CLOCK.

JULIAN
Get out, take a left, down the hallway and get to the last room... Now.

Luther OBEYS. There's a DEA agent, but he rushes into another room at the right moment, giving Luther enough time to sneak by. He gets to the last room and closes the door behind him.

He finds himself cornered in a DIRTY KITCHEN, piles of half-eaten take-out on every surface. No way out.

LUTHER
Now what?

JULIAN
See the window in front of you? In thirteen seconds, you'll jump out.

LUTHER
Are you fucking with me?

JULIAN
Eleven, ten... I need you to be ready, Luther.

Luther opens the window. A BACK ALLEY. Three stories and then the hard pavement. Is Julian being serious?

LUTHER
This is nuts, kid. No fucking way.

JULIAN
Seven seconds to jump, Luther. You're running out of time. The DEA's about to break in. You really wanna go back to jail?

Luther doesn't respond, but doesn't hang up either. The kid seem to have a hold on him. What to do?

JULIAN (CONT'D)
We'll do great things together, Luther, but for that you have to do what I say.

This is about just one thing; blind obedience. Julian's pet dog has to start to learn its tricks.

The clock ticks in Julian's kitchen.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Three, two, one...

The police approach Luther's door.

JULIAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Jump.

Luther closes his eyes and JUMPS.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY (2004)

Luther falls...

...as a BUSBOY exits the back of the Chinese restaurant across the alley. He's dragging THREE HUGE GARBAGE BAGS when...

THUD! Luther lands hard on the bags. The garbage flies.

A couple of DEA agents look out the window, alarmed by the busboy's YELLING in Chinese. Luther gets up and RUNS AWAY, laughing, amazed by what's just happened.

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY (2004)

Julian hangs up. He opens a NOTEBOOK and considers the first page: a CHILD'S DRAWING. He flips the page and starts writing:

JOSHUA GRAHAM DEC 2005 SALT LAKE CITY
MIGUEL ROYO JUN 2006 SAN ANTONIO
PARMINDER KAUR FEB 2007 MUMBAI...

A LIST OF ALL THE TRAVELLERS. As those names are written, we see Luther encountering and recruiting some of them.

MONTAGE

PARMINDER getting the same text message Leah got - Luther driving a blindfolded JOSHUA - MIGUEL sitting in the debriefing room, speaking Spanish - ROSE being applauded by the rest of travellers in the garden...

And thus we reach the last name Julian writes in the list:

ETHAN CLYNE, JAN 2008 QUEENS

EXT. PARK - DAY (JAN 2008)

We see again Ethan's awakening: in the middle of the snow. Panting, surprised to be alive.

He looks around, discovering that he's in a park. Confused. A SNOWBALL hits him and...

In quick succession, we go through Ethan's life since his "awakening":

Playing with Kate in the snow - Storming out after talking to his father - Finding Leah - Winning the bet - Meeting Julian - Enjoying his new life...

Until we reach...

INT. MANSION - CONTROL ROOM - DAY (2008)

Ethan back in the control room with Julian, asking for information.

ETHAN
In a few days, there'll be a robbery at a pharmacy in Ditmars. Someone I know will get shot. The only thing I remember is that it happened when the Phillies won the World Series.

Julian operates the main computer at the center of the room. The MAP USB is plugged into it.

JULIAN
The final game's supposed to be on the 27th. But it'll be postponed because of the rain.

ETHAN
Till when?

Julian doesn't respond. Instead, LUTHER steps into the room.

JULIAN
I can't let you stop it, Ethan. I'm afraid it has to happen.

Ethan looks at the menacing figure looming behind him.

ETHAN
But--

JULIAN
I know you think you have a good reason, Ethan.

ETHAN
What do you know about my reasons?

JULIAN
I know it's Kate.

Surprised that Julian knows so much, Ethan watches the intimidatingly cool boy talk.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Look, sooner or later you all think you have a good enough reason to break the rules. But it's me who eventually has to fix your messes, one way or another.

ETHAN
(re: Luther)
Is that what he's for?

JULIAN
If necessary... Sometimes, though, there's a better way. Sometimes I can take care of *your* problem, so you stop being one to me.

Julian checks the computer.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
One of the funds I control has just taken over the company Daniel works for. I just have to say the word and he'll be sent to the other side of the country. She'll never see him again. That's all you want, isn't it?

ETHAN
Why do you care? Why is this robbery so important to you?

JULIAN
Ethan, think about Kate.

Hearing her name, puts Ethan on edge.

ETHAN
What about her?

A thinly veiled threat, sweetened with an offer:

JULIAN
I can help her too. I can get her into the best medical school in the country. In the research team that in a few years will discover treatments for AIDS, cancer... whatever you fancy her to cure. Isn't that what she always wanted?

Ethan NODS, defeated.

Julian smiles coolly.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Respect the rules, Ethan, and you'll have all that. SHE will have all that.
(his smile vanishes)
Break them...

He lets Ethan imagine the consequences.

ETHAN
I understand.

JULIAN
That's all I needed to hear.

And as Ethan leaves the room, somber, we...

CUT TO:

INT. PHARMACY - NIGHT

Daniel looking for a girl at gunpoint...

He shields her when she runs away from the OFF-DUTY COP...

The exact same scene we saw before, <u>but this time Daniel is the protagonist</u>.

EXT. PHARMACY - NIGHT

Kate is trying to save Daniel's life. Pulling the stretcher towards the ambulance.

KATE
Make a hole! Make a hole!

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Inside, she applies a tourniquet to block the hemorrhage. Starts performing CPR.

And then Daniel WAKES UP.

Their eyes LOCK.

Kate feels something in those eyes. It's the beginning...

INT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Meanwhile, Ethan's at home. It's not Ethan and Kate's old and cramped apartment. It's a new luxurious house, but everything else plays out like the memory we saw during his debriefing:

On TV the Phillies are winning the World Series.

Ethan gets Kate's text: **"TOUGH CALL. I'LL BE LATE."**

Life repeating itself.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A hospital hallway. The Oncologist guides Ethan and Kate through it, walking to Ted's room. They are alarmed.

ETHAN
But you said that we caught it early, that there was hope...

DOCTOR
He hasn't responded to the treatment. I'm sorry.

They arrive, and Ethan tries to gather the strength to enter. He needs a beat. And then...

INT. HOSPITAL - TED'S ROOM - NIGHT

This clean room radiates sickness in the way only hospital rooms can. Ted is asleep, his skin looking like parchment stretched over his bones. Ethan and Kate approach.

ETHAN
Dad...

Ted slowly opens his eyes.

TED
Ethan? Is that you?

ETHAN
It's me. How are you feeling, dad?

TED
I don't even know anymore. So many painkillers...

Ted's brash personality is gone, he looks so small and frail.

TED (CONT'D)
I wanted to see it, son.

ETHAN
See what?

TED
Your future. Everything you'll do. I'm going to miss so many good things.

KATE
Don't talk like that...

TED
Son, I can't even feel my face. I know what it means when they drug you to the gills.

ETHAN
I tried, dad. I tried to save you.

TED
Some things can't be stopped, Ethan. But I'm so sorry. I wasn't fair to you, boy. Never been.

ETHAN
Don't say that...

TED
I hate that I won't have time to make it up to you. If I had a year, six months... I could make you forgive me.

Ethan can't stand seeing his father crumble like that in his deathbed: it's based on a lie.

ETHAN
I'm not who you think I am, dad.

TED
You're not. You're who I always wanted you to be.

ETHAN
Dad I...

TED
Please, forgive me.

Ethan HUGS Ted, and he hugs him back. Something Ethan craved for long time, but that now feels HOLLOW.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Ethan closes the door. He just stands there, lost in thought. Kate feels she's got to say something to him.

KATE
He is proud of you. That's what you always wanted.

ETHAN
But not like this.

KATE
I know...

Kate hugs Ethan, trying to support him. It's long and soothing. Ethan notices a WINGED BADGE on Kate's jacket.

ETHAN
What's this?

KATE
A man I treated yesterday. He said I deserved a medal.

ETHAN
Well, he's right.

KATE
He's the one who should get one, though. Took a bullet for a little girl.

At a closer look, Ethan realizes that it's a PILOT BADGE, **CPT DANIEL CONNOR** embossed in it.

ETHAN
(to himself)
He's a pilot?

FLASH CUT to the DEBRIEFING ROOM. Ethan in a trance.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
...black box recording points to crew recklessness as one of the causes of the crash...

FLASH CUT TO Kate watching the TV's report about a plane crash.

KATE
(crying)
I couldn't do anything. They're all dead...

BACK IN THE HOSPITAL. On Ethan, as this revelation sinks in.

INT. HOSPITAL - DANIEL'S ROOM - DAY

Daniel is sleeping when Ethan sneaks into his room. The same room Ethan stayed in the alternative reality where he was shot at the store.

Ethan approaches the table where Daniel's clothes lie and carefully rummages through his personal effects. He finds his SMARTPHONE, but it's cracked, useless. Shit.

But there's something else: A HOTEL KEY CARD. He's about to pocket it when...

DANIEL
(stirring)
Who are you?

Ethan immediately turns, the card still resting on the table, hidden behind him.

ETHAN
Sorry, didn't mean to wake you. I--
I'm Ethan. Kate's boyfriend.

A slight pang of disappointment crosses Daniel's face when he hears that.

DANIEL
The EMT? She saved my life.

ETHAN
And you saved that girl's. I guess I wanted to meet the hero Kate's been raving about.

DANIEL
Anybody would've done the same.

There's an awkward silence. Here he is, face to face with the man who once stole his life.

ETHAN
So, I was thinking, maybe you need something taken care of while you get better? Anything I can do?

DANIEL
Not really. The airline's already looking for a substitute. I'm just going to enjoy the break, you know? This is the bed I've spent the most time since 2006.

ETHAN
Sounds busy.

DANIEL
It is what it is. Different crew every day, different bed every night.

ETHAN
And a different girl in every port.

DANIEL
(chuckles)
I wish... Can get a bit a lonely.
(beat)
Love the job, don't get me wrong. Flying all over the country. Guess I haven't found the thing that makes me wanna stay on the ground a little longer.

ON ETHAN, who knows that Kate could be just that thing.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Actually, there *is* something you can do for me.

ETHAN
What's that?

Daniel nods towards the flowers resting on the couch.

DANIEL
Thank Kate for the flowers. She's a keeper, you know?

ETHAN
I know.

Ethan surreptitiously slides the CARD into his pocket.

INT. CAR - DAY

Behind the wheel of his car, Ethan talks with the only person he can talk to about this: LEAH.

LEAH
You're really gonna risk everything you got for a hunch?

ETHAN
Not just a hunch. Come on, Leah. Julian wanted him out of the way. And the guy is a goddamn pilot!

LEAH
So what? It could be a million things he's trying to preserve. Do you even remember the date of the accident?

ETHAN
No... but what if this is it? What if I'm right? How many people died on that plane?

Leah has no answer for that.

Ethan parks the car in front of a HOTEL. A plane lands with a deafening howl right behind the building, telling us we're by the airport.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
(disappointed)
You're the only one I could tell, Leah. I thought you'd understand.

And he steps out of the car and heads to the hotel.

Leah watches him walk away. Finally, she gives in.

LEAH
Shit.
(she gets out of the car)
Wait. Wait!

As they enter the hotel, we notice somebody watching them from a car: MIKE (20s), one of Luther's men.

MIKE
(into phone)
You wanted to know if your friend did something strange. Well, he's doing it.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAYS - DAY

Ethan and Leah walk through the hallways of the hotel. Ethan then swipes the card on the door.

INT. HOTEL - DANIEL'S ROOM - DAY

Daniel travels lightly and there isn't much to see beyond some clothes and his uniform, neatly in the closet.

LEAH
So, what are we looking for?

ETHAN
A diary, a computer... a place to keep a schedule. We need to find out what's his next flight to LAX.

Ethan starts searching the clothes, the drawers... he only finds a metro card, a city map, some loose change...

Leah searches the sofa and table near the window. She takes a furtive glance at Ethan and we understand she's up to something.

Ethan opens the closet and finds a briefcase.

Leah sees something on the window: a GLASS BREAKAGE ALARM.

Meanwhile Ethan empties the briefcase: Flying manuals, airline paperwork... he browses them, but they look useless.

Leah then takes a weighty ashtray and BREAKS the window. The ALARM BLARES DEAFENINGLY.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Leah?

LEAH
Security will be here any time. We have to go!

ETHAN
What the hell have you done?

LEAH
(sincere)
You wanted my help, this is it. Let's go, Ethan.

INT. HOTEL - RECEPTION - DAY

A WARNING LIGHT flashes in reception. The DESK CLERK picks up his phone.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - DAY

A fat SECURITY GUARD is talking through his walkie-talkie.

SECURITY GUARD
I'll go check it out.

INT. HOTEL - DANIEL'S ROOM - DAY

Ethan, meanwhile, is milking the little time he has left searching the room in a hurry.

LEAH
Ethan! Just go! They'll find us!

ETHAN
You go if you want!

Ethan then sees something tucked below the bed: a BAG.

LEAH
Forget it, Ethan. Whatever happened, happened. It's not our fault. We can't stop every single accident. We can't change the future.

ETHAN
Yeah sure, but we can change it enough to profit from it, right?

LEAH
Ethan...

ETHAN
Everything I got, I stole, Leah. I'm a fraud. And so are you.

Ethan has pulled the bag and is looking through its contents. A city map, a notebook... Jackpot: the NOTEBOOK is a diary. Dates and annotations; it's gotta be here.

Ethan's cell phone then BUZZES.

This distracts Ethan a split second. Leah seizes it to RIP THE NOTEBOOK OFF HIS HANDS and run out the room!

EXT. HOTEL - HALLWAYS - DAY

Leah runs out with Daniel's notebook, Ethan behind her. She sees the security guard at the end of the hallway.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey! What's going on?

She slips out to the FIRE ESCAPE.

EXT. HOTEL - FIRE ESCAPE - DAY

Leah runs down the fire stairs, chased by Ethan. His cell rings again, but he's got more pressing matters.

Behind them, the security guard gives chase, but he's not the fittest individual and soon falls behind.

EXT. HOTEL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Leah reaches the parking lot. It's fenced and the parked cars turn it into a small labyrinth.

She looks for the exit as she's chased by Ethan. The parked cars give her some cover but...

Ethan finally corners her!

ETHAN
Leah, give it to me.

But his damn CELL PHONE just won't stop ringing. Who's the annoying caller? What he sees makes him stop on his tracks.

PHOTOS OF KATE asleep in their bed, recovering from her previous night shift. Beautiful, oblivious that somebody is photographing her from inside their house.

The cell rings again. Ethan finally picks up.

JULIAN (O.S.)
You broke our deal, Ethan.

ETHAN
What have you done to her?

JULIAN (O.S.)
She doesn't even know we're there. Come, both of you, and it will stay that way.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

Leah and Ethan sit in the van. They travel through darkened streets, under Julian's unsettling gaze. Luther searches Ethan and Leah. He takes their CELLPHONES while Mike and BRYAN (33), another thug, watch them.

ETHAN
Where are we going?

JULIAN
See Ethan, I don't know what to do with you. I can't trust you won't break the rules. But if I kill you, I could be changing the future myself. So that's where we're going. To get some advice.

The van arrives at its destination. Luther opens the door, revealing a PUBLIC SCHOOL. It's late night.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAYS - NIGHT

They enter the deserted school, dragging Ethan and Leah down the hallway. The colorful children crafts and cheery motifs that decorate the school look eerie in the dark.

We hear a NOISE down the hallway. Somebody turns on a LIGHT.

JULIAN
She's here. Get her, Luther.

Luther rushes down the hallway, takes the next corner and...

He finds a female JANITOR (late 20s) mopping the floors.

She SCREAMS terrified when she sees the intruder, and runs away. Luther gives her chase. He catches her when she's trying to open a classroom, so nervous that she can't handle the keys.

When she turns, we finally see her face...

LUTHER
Kayla?

The woman Luther was with on the day Julian called him for the first time. She looks different, though, healthier.

KAYLA
Luther?

Julian and the rest catch up. Ethan and Leah in tow.

LUTHER
(confused)
You wanted to talk to her?

JULIAN
No. Not her.

KAYLA
(to Luther, afraid)
You've come for him?

Who? The answer comes from the classroom: a CHILD'S CRY.

INT. SCHOOL - 1ST GRADE CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Luther enters, and inside he finds a CHILD (4) sitting at one of the desks, with a few worn-out toys and children books. The boy has DEEP BLUE EYES, exactly like Luther's. And he won't stop CRYING, terrified.

LUTHER
Shhhhh... It's ok, it's ok...

KAYLA
I shouldn't take him to work, I know, but babysitters are so expensive. I take care of him, Luther, I swear. Haven't used in years.

Luther ignores her. He's focused on the terrified boy. What can he do? He rolls a COIN on his knuckles and hides it in one of his hands. This picks the kid's interest.

LUTHER
Where is it, boy? You find it, you keep it.

The kid picks one of Luther's hands. But the coin isn't there.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Oh, maybe it's here?
(shows the other empty hand)
Or... here.

He then produces the coin off the BOY'S EAR and gives it to him. The kid is amazed by the little magic trick.

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

PAUL
Paul.

LUTHER
Paul... Paul... that's a cool name.

Luther smiles, savoring the name of the son he didn't know he had.

Then, something strange happens. Luther's breath quickens. He seems to be hyperventilating. <u>What's wrong with him?</u>

JULIAN
(to his men)
Restrain him. His return's not easy.

Luther falls to the floor, CONVULSING heavily. Kayla takes Paul away while the thugs restrain Luther. But Luther is a strong man, knocking down one of the thugs as he struggles with him.

But ultimately, Luther stops. Panting. The thugs release him.

And then... Luther LAUGHS.

He starts checking out his arms, his hands, his face... flexing them... <u>like he's surprised to be in one piece</u>.

LUTHER
I'm-- I'm alive! I can't believe it. I'm ALIVE!

Julian cuts short Luther's reverie.

JULIAN
What's the last thing you remember?

LUTHER
I... I was on a ferry. With you. You were much older and... you... you fucking killed me!

Luther angrily lunges forward towards Julian, but the thugs restrain him.

JULIAN
Easy now, easy. You're not dead, are you? I knew you'd come back. Never told you, but you're one of us. We've been through this many times before. That's why I chose you in the first place.
(beat)
Now, was she there?

Luther looks at him, breathing heavily, eyes still full of anger.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Luther, was she there?

LUTHER
Why the fuck should I help you? I'm not your fucking crystal ball.

JULIAN
Because of Paul.

Bullseye.

LUTHER
Don't you dare hurt him.

JULIAN
Don't need to. You'll do that yourself... in time. We always return to the happiest moment of our life. The fact you came back here, now, means you never had a better one with him. You won't be the world's greatest dad, I'm afraid. But I can give you the same I give to all travellers.
(MORE)

JULIAN (CONT'D)
A second chance to make things right with your son.

Julian's right. Luther sits, defeated, the dog once again submitting to his master.

LUTHER
She was there. I saw her.

CUT TO:

EXT. FERRY - DECK - NIGHT (2038)

Julian as an adult, the traveler from the beginning, is on deck, watching the horizon. He waits and waits until...

A red flare lights up the sky. ELATED, he runs inside.

CUT TO:

The crew is rescuing a girl from a stranded boat. Julian is there, helping them.

CAPTAIN
Put her down. Carefully.

Julian helps lay the girl down. Yes. It's her. ZOE.

INT. FERRY - FORECASTLE - NIGHT (2038)

Once again, Julian is opening his heart to Zoe.

JULIAN
I needed to think. I've had some bad days.

ZOE
Maybe I can make up for them. I owe you, remember?

JULIAN
Maybe.

ZOE
Well, let's get started, then. What happened?

JULIAN
I did some things. Things I regret.

ZOE
Don't.
(explains)
Without them, I wouldn't be here.
(MORE)

ZOE (CONT'D)
It’s like a chain. If you think about it, everything that’s happened to you, everything you’ve done, has brought you here, so you could see my flare today. So I’m glad it happened.

And once again, the moment is interrupted by a Crewman.

CREWMAN 3
Miss, we’ve been looking for you. The Captain needs you. For the report.

ZOE
I’ll meet you back here, OK?

He NODS and watches her leave. Then, he walks out to the...

DECK

There, Julian finds LUTHER. We’ve always seen him as the menacing hitman, but now, at 65, he looks... fragile.

LUTHER
Why am I here, Julian? Who’s the girl?

JULIAN
We’ve known each other for a long time, Luther. Tell me, what would you like to change from your life?

Luther’s thrown off. He probably has many answers for that, but above all of them:

LUTHER
Paul hasn’t talked to me in years.

Julian surreptitiously produces a BLADE from his pocket.

JULIAN
Then, that will be my gift.

And he stabs Luther in his belly.

Luther GASPS. Surprise and terror flash in his eyes. He’d scream if his mouth wasn’t filling with blood. Julian gently makes him rest against the ship railings.

JULIAN (CONT’D)
You’ve been good to me, Luther, but I don’t need you anymore. Not now.

Luther falls to his knees as Julian walks away, throwing the knife overboard. Braces for air. Chokes.

His eyes close.

We see “flashes” of Luther’s old life:

- Being punched by a kid in a playground fight - Kissing Kayla, high on meth - Holding a gun and killing somebody for the first time, his hand trembling - Playing with Paul...

INT. SCHOOL - 1ST GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY (2008)

Luther opens his eyes, and Paul is in front of him. He falls backwards, and starts convulsing.

JULIAN
Restrain him, his return’s not easy.

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. SCHOOL - 1ST GRADE CLASROOM - NIGHT

Back in the school, Julian is taking in what Luther said.

ETHAN
So that’s the reason? A woman you’ll meet in 30 years?

JULIAN
When we travel, we always go back to a the last time we felt happy, safe. I traveled back over 30 years, Ethan. What does that say about my life?

CUT TO:

EXT. FERRY - DECK - NIGHT (2038)

Julian, again as an adult, scans the horizon from deck, waiting... waiting...

...but nothing happens. No flare.

JULIAN (O.S.)
When the time came to meet her again, she wasn’t there. The future had changed. *You* travellers changed it.

Julian walks away, disappointed. Heartbroken.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT (2038)

A wild-eyed Julian sits at the edge of his bed, in a dingy hotel room. With shaky hands, he opens a briefcase. In it, there’s a JET INJECTOR and a GUN.

JULIAN (O.S.)
Without even knowing her last name, there was no way for me to find her.

First, he injects the DARK BLUE LIQUID into his neck. Then, he carefully places the barrel of the gun in his mouth.

Julian shuts his eyes, terrified. His pulse racing. Starting the hyperventilate. He gathers courage and...

BANG! PULLS THE TRIGGER.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - 1ST GRADE CLASSROOM - DAY (2008)

LEAH
So it can be done. You travelled back again.

JULIAN
To make things right. I had to make sure every piece fell into place, that the future remained intact.

As Julian paces, his anger seems to build.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
But it's not been easy, trust me, with each and every one of you pulling in a different direction, trying to get your petty second chance.
(he grows unhinged)
I had to go back over and over and over again. I don't even know how many times. Building everything from the ground up every single time. Looking for you, keeping you in the straight path, cleaning up your messes.

ETHAN
But why her? You could have anything. Anyone!

JULIAN
And I did. I had anything and everything. I had anyone I wanted, in one life or another. But at the end it always felt... empty.

Julian falls silent for a beat, lost in thought, until...

JULIAN (CONT'D)
So, the question now is how do you fit into my future. Are you relevant or inconsequential? Can I kill you or not?

Julian turns to Luther for an answer. Ethan and Leah also look at him, expectantly...

LUTHER
You'll kill Ethan and the girl will still be there.

JULIAN
And Leah?

Luther SHAKES HIS HEAD.

LUTHER
(with contempt)
She'll just watch. Ms. Swann has a long and successful career ahead of her.

On LEAH, relieved that she'll be spared, but shocked at herself. Could she really be that selfish?

EXT. PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

Luther drives Ethan at gunpoint through the ominous playground, Julian and Leah in tow. Mike and Bryan are several yards away, by the van, watching the nearby street for any passer-by that could witness Ethan's murder.

JULIAN
Is this how we did it?

LUTHER
I don't forget anyone I kill, Julian. It'll never be traced back to you.
(But...)
So that's how it's gonna be? I'm gonna have to do them all over again for you?

<u>This is not the Luther we have known so far. This one has spent three decades killing for Julian, and he's JADED</u>.

JULIAN
Just do it, Luther.

Luther nods, tired, resigned.

LUTHER
I remember you very well, Ethan.

Ethan has to do something, he just can't stay there...

LUTHER (CONT'D)
You'll try running away...

Luther sweeps Ethan's legs right before he can even think of doing what Luther says. He falls to the ground. Leah can only watch.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
...but I can't shoot you in the back
if this is gonna look like a mugging.

Luther walks deliberately towards Ethan as he crawls back.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Then, you'll try to throw me to the
ground...

Ethan tries that as Luther says it, but ends up eating his boot.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
You should just give up. But you
didn't back then.

Luther aims his gun. Ethan looks around... He's running out of options. There's a ROCK nearby, it looks desperate but...

Luther recognizes Ethan's look and smiles. He knows what's going through his head. And as Ethan tries to grab it...

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Then you'll reach for the rock...

Luther STOMPS hard on his hand! Ethan howls in pain!

Leah watches horrified as Luther kicks Ethan to make him turn and AIMS THE GUN at him.

<u>This is it. He'll kill Ethan. Unless she does something</u>.

Suddenly LEAH GRABS JULIAN, wrapping her arm around his neck, chocking him. <u>And thus, she changes the future</u>.

Trapped in the body of a child, Julian's overpowered by her.

JULIAN
Luther!

Luther turns and aims at Leah, but she's using Julian as a HUMAN SHIELD. He wrestles in her arms, gasping for air. Luther can't get a clear shot.

Ethan uses this opportunity to grab the nearby SWING and THROW IT to Luther. The swing hits him in THE BACK OF HIS HEAD, hard, and Luther falls to the ground.

He tries to get up, but Ethan kicks him in the face and KNOCKS HIM OUT.

At this point, Mike and Brian have heard the fight and rush towards them, guns ready.

Ethan retrieves his CELL from Luther's pocket, grabs Luther's GUN and...

He starts SHOOTING WILDLY in their general direction. His aim is shit, but it's good enough to force them to find cover.

Meanwhile, Leah sinks her hand in Julian's pocket and produces...

THE USB DRIVE.

Leah pushes Julian away and SLAPS HIM HARD across the face. The kid lands on the ground with a BLEEDING NOSE. The image of a grown woman hitting a young boy is nothing but shocking.

As Ethan and Leah run into the nearby park, Julian wipes the blood off his nose, his eyes full of incontrollable RAGE.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Get Kate! NOW!

Mike starts dialing while Bryan RUNS after Ethan and Leah.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Still running, Ethan calls on his cell (Come on, Kate, pick up!) while Leah looks over her shoulder, checking if their pursuers are close.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Kate's phone BUZZES on a table. Finally, she picks it up.

ETHAN (O.S.)
Kate, you have to run. Now.

KATE
What?

ETHAN (O.S.)
People are coming for you. Get out of there! Now!

And then, she hears it. CLICK. The FRONT DOOR opening.

She RUNS to the bathroom. As the INTRUDER gives her chase.

INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

She locks the door behind her. Just in time!

She's got to think, calm down. She opens the bathroom's medicine kit and starts rummaging through the meds.

THUD! The intruder's barging at the door. She's been found.

She finds what she's looking for: insomnia drops, alcohol... she's a trained medical professional and knows the effects of creating a solution of alcohol with mild narcotics.

THUD! The door's starting to come off its hinges.

Kate fills up a syringe with her improvised concoction.

After the intruder HITS the door again, she quickly UNLOCKS it. The THUG barges into the room, momentarily thrown off balance.

Kate takes the opportunity to STAB him with the syringe.

He winces and wraps his fingers around Kate's throat, STRANGLING her. She struggles but she's powerless against a strong man like him. She's suffocating.

IN THE PARK: Ethan can hear the noises of the struggle over the phone, terrified.

ETHAN
Kate! Kate!

IN THE BATHROOM: Slowly, the Thug's hold starts to become looser and looser until...

He finally passes out on top of Kate. She pushes the man off her, grabs the phone and runs out of the house.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Leah come out of the park and reach a ROAD. Leah nervously scans the tree line. Is Bryan still after them?

ETHAN
Kate! Are you okay?

KATE (O.S.)
Who was this guy?! What's going on?!

Ethan exhales, relieved at hearing her voice, when suddenly...

LEAH
Ethan. Ethan!

Ethan turns to Leah to find her with DANIEL'S DIARY open in her hands, a look of concern in her face.

LEAH (CONT'D)
Daniel's flight. It's today. At 9:25, LaGuardia to LAX.

Leah points at the horizon. The SUN's rising rise over the canopy. Shit. They're running out of time.

KATE (O.S.)
Hello? Ethan? Ethan?!

Suddenly, they see HEADLIGHTS approaching and Ethan TOSSES THE GUN to Leah.

ETHAN
Kate, please, listen to me. You have to believe me.

Stunned, Leah looks at the gun and the car approaching. What the hell is she supposed to do?

KATE
What are you talking about?

ETHAN
Something very bad's about to happen. In LaGuardia.

Leah musters the courage and STEPS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, blocking the way of the incoming car.

KATE
This is insane.

ETHAN
I know how it sounds, but the guy that just broke into our apartment was not a figment of my imagination.

Leah raises the GUN, aiming at the windshield.

KATE
I know, but...

ETHAN
Listen, Kate. This is what you were meant to do. Get your ambulance. Round up as many EMTs you can convince, and get them to LaGuardia. If I can't stop this, a lot of lives will be in your hands.

On KATE, as the gravity of the situation sinks in.

KATE
I'll be there.

On the road, the car's approaching, FAST, about to run Leah over. She CLOSES HER EYES, and...

Suddenly, the car comes to an SCREECHING HALT.

LEAH
Get out. Now!

At gunpoint, the DRIVER steps out of the car.

DRIVER
It--it's all yours.

Ethan jumps on the passenger seat as Leah takes the driver's.

LEAH
Sorry.

DRIVER
Wait, ain't you Bail--

But before he can finish, SLAM! She shuts the door and PEELS OFF. Dumbfounded, the Driver watches his own car drive away when...

Suddenly, Bryan comes out of the tree line, out of breath. Fuck! He's lost them!

The Driver notices the GUN in his hand and, terrified, immediately BREAKS INTO A RUN, down the road.

INT. STOLEN CAR - DAWN

Leah drives the car in silence, until...

ETHAN
Thank you.

LEAH
You were right, you know? Everything we got, we stole.

ETHAN
Sorry I was an asshole.

LEAH
No, you were just being honest.
(beat)
But I-- I tried, you know? I wrote some songs of my own.

ETHAN
I've never heard them.

LEAH
Because nobody wants them. All they wanna hear are the ones I ripped off. I used to think it was bad luck. That back in my "old life", I never got the chance I deserved. I'll just borrow a song, get a break and then be... myself. Turns out I'm just a fraud.

ETHAN
I'm sorry.

Leah gives him a sad smile, as if saying "it's OK".

Then, she seems to have an idea.

LEAH
Hand me for your phone, will you?

Ethan gives her his cell and she dials a number. When she talks, she uses a FAKE CHEERY VOICE.

LEAH (CONT'D)
Hi, good morning. This is Samantha, Bailey Swann's personal assistant...

I/E. NEW YORK CITY - DAWN

The SUN rises over New York. Slowly, the city stretches its endless limbs.

One of those is the LaGuardia airport, which slowly comes to life.

I/E. AIRPORT - DAY

Airline personnel open their stands. Concessions and stores open. Passengers flood the terminals. Several workers start their shifts.

Two TSA officers display their IDs as they access the airport. <u>They are Mike and Bryan, dressed as TSA.</u>

INT. TERMINAL - LOBBY - DAY

Ethan and Leah enter the terminal. Ethan looks at the the departure screens: at the bottom, **LOS ANGELES - 9.25a - ON TIME.**

They both walk briskly across the lobby. Ethan looks nervously around the crowds. He knows Julian and his men could be here.

And indeed, he makes eye contact with Mike, who's patrolling the other side of the lobby.

MIKE
(over earpiece)
They're here.

Ethan and Leah keep walking. When he looks over his shoulder, he sees Mike making his way through the crowd, following them.

Ethan grabs Leah's hand and picks up the pace.

ETHAN
(quietly)
Act normal, walk fast, do not run.

He leads her dodging tourists carrying surfboards, businessmen arguing on their cells, parents appeasing bawling toddlers...

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Excuse me... excuse me...

MIKE
They're going to security.

Leah looks back and sees Mike closing in on them.

Ethan pulls her hand, turns a corner and there it is, at last...

...the SECURITY CHECKPOINT.

ETHAN
You're not carrying the gun, right?

LEAH
It's in the car.

They're almost at the checkpoint. Maybe they can make it.

But suddenly, another recognizable face steps in front of the entrance to the security line, blocking their way: BRYAN. Shit.

Ethan pulls Leah's hand and takes a sharp right.

Where to go now? What to do?

The only thing they can do is to keep walking, aimlessly. It's just a matter of time till Julian's men fall on them. If only they could--

Suddenly, someone YANKS Leah's other hand.

MALE VOICE
There you are.

She turns to see who's grabbing her tightly by the wrist and finds...

LUTHER, a shit-eating grin on his face.

LUTHER
So good to see you again.

Leah scans the crowd of tourists around them, terrified. It looks like she's looking for someone.

Beyond the tourists, she notices BRYAN AND MIKE approaching, fast. Their TSA uniforms would legitimize any sort of arrest. But they're not who she's looking for.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Time to go. Both of you.

Finally, she sees him: a WELL-DRESSED MAN with a name tag on his lapel and a ID BADGE hanging from his neck, approaching. Leah smiles and WAVES AT HIM.

WELL-DRESSED MAN
Ms. Swann! Ms. Swann! There you are!
So sorry I'm late.

Hearing the name out loud, some of the TOURISTS start to direct their attention to Leah. There are looks of recognition.

WELL-DRESSED MAN (CONT'D)
My name's Andy. I'm the airport's VIP liaison.

Some of them are now taking PICTURES with their cells. Luther hesitates. Can he snatch her in front of so many witnesses? Even Mike and Bryan stop at the edge of the crowd, unsure.

As Luther softens his grip, LEAH FREES HER HAND and shakes Andy's.

LEAH
So nice to meet you, Andy. I'm sorry my assistant called on such short notice.

ANDY
That's OK. I have your boarding passes right here, Ms. Swann. Everything's ready for you flight. Please, let me escort you to your gate.

Luther helplessly watches Leah and Ethan walk away, following Andy. She takes one last look back at the thugs and smiles triumphantly.

A nearby screen, shows that Flight 1519 has started boarding!

INT. TERMINAL - DEPARTURE LOUNGE - DAY

Ethan and Leah walk briskly through the terminal, following the Liaison. They both WHISPER, not to be overheard by him.

LEAH
What now? We're not really getting on that plane, right?

ETHAN
Well, we can't just start yelling that the plane's gonna crash.

LEAH
Great. So we ARE getting on that plane.

She can see they're approaching...

GATE C11

Julian is already there, watching the last passengers board the plane when he receives Luther's call.

LUTHER (O.S.)
We've lost them. They're headed towards the gate.

Julian spots Leah and Ethan speeding through the terminal, escorted by the liaison.

The STEWARD (20s) is starting to close the gate. Will they make it on time?

ANDY
Wait! WAIT!

Julian watches powerless as the Liaison give the boarding passes to the Steward...

STEWARD
(fake smile)
Have a good flight!

...and Leah and Ethan disappear through the jetway.

LUTHER (O.S.)
You want Mike and Bryan to pull them out of the plane?

JULIAN
Forget it. Can't risk having the flight delayed. If they wanna be part of the death toll, so be it.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - DAY

A STEWARDESS shuts the door close behind Leah and Ethan. No turning back now. They're trapped inside the plane.

As they walk to their seats, all passengers seem calm, oblivious to the threat that hangs over them. Not too far from them we notice a 13 YEAR OLD BOY playing with his gaming console.

Leah drops on her first class seat, a GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE and some warm nuts waiting for her.

LEAH
Great. If this is the end, at least we'll go out in style.

And she gulps down the champagne.

ETHAN
No, this is our second chance. To stop obsessing about the past, to try something new.

Leah lets this words sink in, when suddenly, she notices something: a YOUNG WOMAN across the aisle playing FURIOUS DUCKS on her TABLET. Leah has an idea...

LEAH
Excuse me? Could I borrow that for just a minute?

The Young Woman turns to her, shocked that anybody would even consider asking her something like that when she finds the million dollar smile of world wide celebrity BAILEY SWANN.

YOUNG WOMAN
Oh... Of-- of course!

LEAH
You're so kind.

She immediately hands it to Leah and turns to her COMPANION.

YOUNG WOMAN
(whispering)
Ohmygod! You know who that is?

Ethan looks at Leah, puzzled, as she pulls out the USB DRIVE and plugs it to the tablet.

LEAH
Maybe if we know why it crashed we'll know how to stop it.

The MAP flashes on the touch screen.

Leah starts going through it as fast as she can. Timelines spread in front of her eyes. Dates. Events. Births and deaths. Catastrophes.

Suddenly, the SEAT BELT SIGNS light up and the plane starts to taxi towards the runway.

PILOT
(over PA)
Welcome to Phoenix Flight 1519 with destination Los Angeles International Airport. My name is Benjamin Porter and I'll be your captain for this flight...

Shit. They're running out of time.

EXT. RUNWAY - AT THE SAME TIME

The plane slowly taxis through the runway.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - AT THE SAME TIME

Leah keeps going over the MAP. More of a tree than an actual map, really: Time-lines split and branch on the screen. Multiple possibilities and outcomes, depending on small variations. Cause and effect with multiple permutations.

Ethan nervously watches the stewards walking down the aisle, making sure passengers have fastened their seat belts.

She stops by the 13 YEAR OLD BOY, still playing on his console.

FLIGHT STEWARD
All electronic devices must be turned off, please.

And that also means them as soon as the steward reaches them.

Finally, she finds it:

“October 31st, 2013: PHOENIX FLIGHT 1519 LGA - LAX crashes on take off.”

She rapidly scrolls down...

“DEATH TOLL: 186 passengers, 4 crew members”

And further down...

“CAUSE OF ACCIDENT: Mechanical failure and pilot’s negligence”

LEAH
That’s it? That’s all?

What can they do with that?

ETHAN
Look, there...

Ethan points at a LINK and Leah clicks on it. A new BRANCH of the time-tree unfolds on the screen.

“JONATHAN PARKER, 13 years old, dies in tragic airplane accident”

This branch has other ramifications...

“Nation’s heart breaks for grieving SENATOR PARKER. Riding a wave of sympathy, Senator Parker obtains a landslide victory in South Carolina 2014 election”

Cause and effect...

“February 14th, 2016: Stalemate broken by SENATOR PARKER’s decisive vote. Senate approves air strikes and deployment of troops in Iran”

Ethan and Leah look at each other:

LEAH
Shit. That kid’s death is going to change the world.

FLIGHT STEWARD
Excuse me, Miss... (recognizing her) Swann. I need you to turn that off, please.

LEAH
(fake smile)
Of course.

INT. AIRPLANE - COCKPIT - DAY

The crew perform the last checkups before takeoff.

CAPTAIN
Elevator trim - set. Flaps, One, two, three - set. Slats - set Radios - set. One, two, three altimeters - set. Pitot heat, de-ice - on. Transponders, set.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - DAY

As the ENGINES ROAR, the stewards take their seats and fasten their seat belts.

Ethan gives Leah his hand. They'll do this together.

LEAH
So, came up with a brilliant plan yet? Because this would be the time.

ETHAN
I think so.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

A PACK OF GEESE fly over LaGuardia. They encounter bad wind, and they dive...

INT. AIRPLANE - COCKPIT - DAY

The crew see the flock of geese flying towards the plane, ZOOMING past the cockpit.

CAPTAIN
Holy---!

EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

And one of the birds lodges inside one of the engines.

INT. AIRPLANE - COCKPIT - DAY

The crew are rechecking everything after the birds hit.

1ST OFFICER
Want to check for birdstrike damage?

CAPTAIN
(rechecks instruments)
Everything's green, TOWS says nothing. No alarms beeping. We're good, don't think we were hit.

1ST OFFICER
You sure?

And the Captain makes the decision that will crash the plane:

CAPTAIN
We'd lose our slot. Phoenix will be on our asses if we delay just for this.
(keys radio)
LaGuardia ground, Phoenix 1519 is ready to go.

GROUND CONTROL (O.S.)
1519, you're cleared for take-off.

CAPTAIN
Chop-chop.

The Captain pushes the thrust lever, the engines ROAR.

EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

The bird is sucked inside the engine, were it will eventually cause fatal damage.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - DAY

The plane starts going FASTER AND FASTER.

ETHAN
Now.

Leah immediately gets up from her seat and runs to the back of the plane.

STEWARD
Miss! Go back to your seat!

The two Stewards closest to them unfasten their belts and chase Leah. They pass Ethan's seat.

That's just what he needed. He leaves his seat and runs towards the emergency door.

Leah has been caught, when one of the stewards spots Ethan and realizes what he's trying to do.

STEWARD 2
No! Don't!

He tries to run back to Ethan but Leah grabs his leg and makes him fall to the floor.

STEWARD
Stop!!! Stop him!!!

Ethan's struggling to open the door...

INT. AIRPLANE ENGINE - DAY

The dead bird inside the engine has broken some of the blades, the resulting debris further DAMAGING the engine.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - DAY

Ethan manages to turn the handle. But one of the passengers pulls him off the door!

Ethan raises his leg and KICKS THE DOOR! Clang! The air BLASTS Ethan's face.

INT. AIRPLANE - COCKPIT - DAY

The alarm goes off. A red DOORS sign lights up.

PORTER
STOP! STOP!

The air brakes are deployed and the engines SCREAM as they are put in reverse thrust.

INT. AIRPLANE - CABIN - DAY

Ethan falls to the floor and the passengers are pushed forward. Luggage falls over. There's PANIC.

EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

CRASH! The landing gear breaks.

INT. TERMINAL - DAY

Through the window, Julian watches the scene unfold.

TERMINAL PASSENGER
Oh my god!

The people in the terminal glue themselves to the window.

I/E. AIRPLANE - DAY

In the cockpit, the pilots watch the waters of Flushing Bay get closer and closer.

The plane capsizes and one of the wings breaks. The damaged engine REBOUNDS on the runway. SCREAMS. PANIC.

Ethan hits the ceiling. He is knocked out.

CUT TO:

BLACK

BOOM. BOOM.

The sound of something hitting the fuselage echoes through the darkness, waking Ethan up.

Around him, mayhem. People crying, screaming. ALIVE.

And then FREEDOM. The rescue team pries open one of the emergency exits, letting the light in.

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

EMTs triage the victims as they are taken off the plane, stopped a mere yards away from the water.

Some patients are put on the ambulances while others are treated on site and sorted depending on their seriousness.

We immediately recognize one of the EMTs: Kate. She's completely focused on the task at hand. She immobilizes a victim with a broken ankle, and hurries to help a colleague evacuate another with a bloodied head.

The PASSENGERS are hurt, terrified, but they're all ALIVE.

And one of them is Ethan. From the distance, Kate sees him.

KATE
Ethan!

She runs to him. They hug.

KATE (CONT'D)
My God, Ethan, are you okay?

ETHAN
I'm-- I'm fine.

KATE
What the hell happened, Ethan? How did you know? Did you--

But Ethan spots somebody among the people participating in the rescue: Mike and Bryan, still dressed as TSA.

ETHAN
Look, I'll tell you everything. I promise. But not now. It's not over yet.

KATE
What is? What's going on, Ethan?

Ethan watches them checking the survivors. And realizes...

ETHAN
There's this kid in the plane. His life is in danger. We have to find him. Now.

Kate notices the two guys Ethan is keeping his eyes on and knows this is real.

KATE
Come.

Kate leads him through the crowd to her...

AMBULANCE

KATE
Who's the kid?

ETHAN
His name's Jonathan Parker. He's 13 years old.

Kate gets her radio.

KATE
117 here, any of you got a boy? 13 years old? Name: Jonathan Parker?

Silence. Until...

EMT (O.S.)
Hey Kate. Just pulled one. Unconscious, looked like a concussion. Don't have a name though.

KATE
Where is he?

EMT (O.S.)
I... can't see him. Wait... TSA's taking him to the medical center.

ETHAN
That's him. That's the one.

Kate starts the ambulance and they drive out of the site.

In the middle of the chaos of EMTs, police and survivors being rushed into ambulances, they finally spot...

Mike and Bryan, pushing a stretcher into a terminal.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
There!

Kate stops the ambulance and they rush out.

INT. TERMINAL - LUGGAGE SORTING STATION - DAY

This area of the terminal is deserted, airport operations having been interrupted because of the accident.

Inside, Julian IDs the unconscious kid on the stretcher. It's the same BOY playing with his console on the plane.

JULIAN
It's him.

Luther produces a SYRINGE very much like the one he used to kill Ethan on the other life.

He's ready to inject him when Kate and Ethan rush in.

ETHAN
Let him go, Julian. It's over.

JULIAN
No. Not yet. It's the boy's death that will shape the world. If he dies now, people will believe it was the accident. The future will still be intact.

ETHAN
Forget it. Leah has the map.

EXT. RUNWAY - AT THE SAME TIME

Leah, making sure nobody sees her, slides out of the stretcher where she's been put on.

She walks away from the chaos, taking something out of her pocket: the USB drive.

INT. TERMINAL - LUGGAGE SORTING STATION - AT THE SAME TIME

JULIAN
Doesn't matter. I'll find her. She won't be able to use it.

ETHAN
She's not going to use it.

EXT. RUNWAY - AT THE SAME TIME

Leah plugs the USB drive to the tablet.

JULIAN (O.S.)
What do you mean?

He attaches the file to an EMAIL. The addresses include The NY Times, The Guardian, Wikileaks...

INT. TERMINAL - LUGGAGE SORTING STATION - AT THE SAME TIME

ETHAN
She's gonna make it public.

It takes a beat for Julian to process the consequences. But, when he does, he explodes in terrifying fury.

JULIAN
No! NOOOOOOOOO!!!

EXT. RUNWAY - AT THE SAME TIME

Leah watches the screen and hesitates. Will she do it?

Yes, she will. She sighs and pushes the "send" button.

INT. TERMINAL - LUGGAGE SORTING STATION - AT THE SAME TIME

Ethan's phone buzzes. He raises it for Julian to see. A text from Leah on its screen: **"IT'S DONE"**.

ETHAN
If everyone knows the future, it'll change. It's over, Julian.

Julian's somber. He's lost. Or maybe not? He starts pacing, his mind racing.

JULIAN
No... Nonononononono. I-- I can fix this. I can fix it. I know everything I need to know now. I'm sure. I'll just start all over again.
(MORE)

JULIAN (CONT'D)
No mistakes this time. Just follow the path. Follow the path...

Then Julian stops and looks at Ethan with a vindicating grin.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
But before I leave, a gift.
(to Luther)
Kill her.

ETHAN
Noooooooo!!!

At that moment, everything SLOWS DOWN.

Luther slides a SILENCED GUN out of his jacket.

Ethan lunges forward towards Kate, but Mike and Brian intercept him and subdue him.

Kate SCREAMS, her voice muffled, as if we were underwater, and tries to RUN AWAY.

As she turns, something on Kate's jacket GLINTS as the light hits it: it's DANIEL'S WINGED BADGE.

Julian's EYES WIDEN, in recognition.

FLASH CUT TO:

EXT. FERRY - DECK - NIGHT (2038)

Julian, taking ZOE'S PENDANT from her.

ZOE
...it was my mother's...

It's the same badge, turned into a pendant! Kate and Daniel are Zoe's parents!

INT. TERMINAL - LUGGAGE SORTING STATION - DAY

Julian runs to Luther...

JULIAN
Stop!

...and pulls his arm away from Kate when...

POP! The silenced gun GOES OFF.

Julian GASPS and looks down, to find that he's pulled the barrel of the gun towards his own stomach. DARK BLOOD blooms on his shirt.

LUTHER
Sir...

Julian COLLAPSES to the floor, gasping for air, his mouth filling with blood. He's dying.

With shaky hands, Julian produces the jet injector we saw him use to travel back in time: the EPINEPHRINE.

But the injector slips out of his trembling fingers and falls out of his reach, a few inches away of his bloody fingertips.

Julian looks at Luther with pleading eyes.

JULIAN
H-h-help me.

Luther is about to pick up the injector when he STOPS himself.

LUTHER
You were right about Paul. I made a lot of mistakes. You go back and I'll be that same old Luther again. Your murderer. Your dog. And Paul will always hate his father.

Luther STEPS ON THE INJECTOR, crushing it, its content spilling to the ground.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Good bye Julian.

Luther walks away, and the other thugs go with him. Kate then runs to Julian and tries to REVIVE him.

KATE
Come on, come on...
(to Ethan)
Help me!

Ethan helps her perform CPR, doing the cardiac massaging while she performs mouth-to-mouth.

Julian looks at Kate with glassy eyes.

FLASH CUT TO: Zoe, on deck, smiling at him. There's a clear resemblance between mother and daughter.

Julian seems to have an epiphany.

JULIAN
(to Ethan)
It's you. It's always been your fault.

FLASHBACK - MONTAGE SEQUENCE:

INT. SCHOOL - 1ST GRADE CLASROOM - NIGHT

Julian tells Ethan and Leah about his past lives.

LEAH
So it can be done. You travelled back again.

JULIAN
To make things right. I had to make sure every piece fell into place...

INT. PHARMACY - NIGHT

Ethan shields the girl from harm during the robbery.

JULIAN (V.O.)
...that the future remained intact.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Kate performs CPR to Ethan inside the ambulance.

JULIAN (V.O.)
But it’s not been easy, trust me...

And now we see the lives that Ethan has lived, all the times where he’s tried to keep Kate.

INT. ETHAN’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ethan hangs up his phone and...

JULIAN (V.O.)
...with each and every one of you pulling in a different direction...

INT. PHARMACY - NIGHT

...the Police ARRESTS the Skimasks before any bullets are fired.

INT. ETHAN’S HOUSE - DAY

Ethan is showing Kate an ACCEPTANCE LETTER for a med school, carrying the college’s emblem.

JULIAN (V.O.)
...trying to get your petty second chance.

She smiles. She embraces him.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Ethan, visiting Kate at work, closing the door of DANIEL's room.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

And we see how his father also dies in these lives. And he gives Ethan a valuable lesson he always forgets:

TED
Some things can't be stopped Ethan.

INT. CLASSY RESTAURANT - DAY (2025)

We find them both in their 40s, eating in silence at a restaurant. Unhappy. Avoiding looking at each other.

JULIAN (V.O.)
I had to go back over and over and over again. I don't even remember how many times.

EXT. ETHAN'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY - (2012)

In another life they are in their 20s, ARGUING HEATEDLY under the rain, before she storms out.

JULIAN (V.O.)
Looking for you, keeping you in the straight path, cleaning up your messes.

EXT. ONE WORLD TOWER - OBSERVATORY - DAY (2014)

Ethan is again watching the NYC vistas from the tower. Missing Kate.

EXT. FERRY - DECK - NIGHT - (2038)

And in a very similar setup. Julian is waiting on the deck of a boat. For a flare that won't come.

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. TERMINAL - LUGGAGE SORTING STATION - DAY

Julian keeps his glassy eyes on Ethan...

JULIAN
(barely a whisper)
You were... you were keeping her from being born...

...and exhales his last breath.

KATE
(checking his pulse)
He's gone.

Ethan observes Julian's face, now the face of a CHILD, so innocent in death. Meanwhile, Kate tries to digest everything that she's seen in the past few hours.

KATE (CONT'D)
Ethan, what's going on? I mean.. The future? Travelling in time?

ETHAN
It's true.

KATE
How can that be true?

Ethan looks at her, sadden. It's time to confess...

ETHAN
I've seen it, Kate. *Our* future. I won't be able to make you happy. To give you the things you want.

KATE
The things *I* want? I never asked for anything, Ethan. Just for you to be happy, proud of yourself.

Ethan lets these words sink in. <u>Could have he been so wrong</u>?

ETHAN
Doesn't matter anymore. It's too late. You've-- you've met a man. You don't know yet, but he'll change your life like you changed mine. In a few months you'll tell me about him, and how, when you met, you looked into his eyes and he made you feel just safe.

We've seen this, when Ethan recalled his breakup during the initiation, and Kate has felt it when he saved Daniel's life.

KATE
(shocked)
How-- how do you know that?

How could he know something so intimate, something she's been denying to herself? Maybe... <u>he's telling the truth?</u>

ETHAN
I love you too much, Kate. And I'm scared of what I'll do to keep you.

Ethan walks away, towards the exit of the terminal.

KATE
Ethan! Where are you going?

Ethan keeps walking. It hurts, but he has to. Kate must stay by Julian, as Ethan steps out of the building.

KATE (CONT'D)
Ethan!!!

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

Police cars. Agents. Interrogating witnesses of the crash.

One of them is Lieutenant Ebbs - who we met in the "alternate life" where Ethan died at the hospital. He's talking to the Steward that tried to stop Ethan in the plane.

The Steward suddenly starts to point nervously. He's pointing at Ethan, walking towards them.

Ethan raises his hands, giving himself up. He's ARRESTED and mirandized. By doing this, he's removed himself from Kate's life.

The world starts to know its future. A MONTAGE SEQUENCE starts:

INT. TV STUDIO - DAY

A NEWS ANCHOR relaying the news of the plane crash.

NEWS ANCHOR
A software engineer and a pop star have been arrested in connection with the terror attack against a commercial flight in New York. So far no casualties have been reported.

I/E. COUNTRY HOUSE - DAY (WINTER 2008)

TWO MEN (25-30) are checking a printout of the Map. They run into a house as its OWNER tends the garden. They BARGE into a locked room. Repeatedly.

An inside they find... THREE KIDNAPPED WOMEN. Crying. Scared.

NEWS ANCHOR 2 (V.O.)
...After an Indonesian blogger located three bombs in a Jakarta Hotel, more and more incidents have been attributed to a list floating the internet that supposedly depicts future events...

INT. BROKERAGE FIRM - DAY (SPRING 2009)

A BROKER (30s) checks a tablet with the Map as he starts issuing buy and sell orders.

The market goes CRAZY, the index resembles a rollercoaster.

INT. TV STUDIO - DAY (SPRING 2009)

FINANCE EXPERT
(agitated)
A third of the nation's GNP grown and lost in a single day. A third! The world's financial system is (blip).

INT. NORWEGIAN HOUSE - DAY (SUMMER 2009)

The NORWEGIAN POLICE break into a room and arrest a YOUNG MAN (30) as he was warming some take-away food. They search the house, finding weapons.

NEWS ANCHOR 3 (V.O.)
Today Norway have become the first government to acknowledge the existence of The List, arresting a suspect of future murder.

INT. TV STUDIO - DAY (SPRING 2010)

A Conspiracy Theory debate show.

CONSPIRACY THEORIST
Where does the list come from? Can there really be time travellers among us?

CONSPIRACY THEORIST 2
George, I think there's a simpler answer than that. Aliens.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY (SUMMER 2010)

A press conference in the White House.

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN
Today, this administration has launched a simultaneous, wide-scale operation against a series of targets using unconventional intelligence...

The famous image of President Obama and his cabinet overseeing the killing of OSAMA BIN LADEN.

STOCK FOOTAGE of a Raptor UAV performing a sortie.

I/E. COURT - DAY (FALL 2010)

Ethan and Leah are attending Court.

NEWS ANCHOR 4 (V.O.)
In a landmark decision the Supreme Court has accepted the contents of The List as trial evidence. Ethan Clyne and Leah Walcott could see their sentences revised and be eligible for parole, as this would prove that they acted to save lives...

Leah and Ethan exit the court, meeting PRESS and SUPPORTERS with SIGNS: “FREE LEAH AND ETHAN”, “HEROES NOT TERRORISTS”.

EXT. JAPANESE COUNTRYSIDE - DAY (MARCH 2011)

Footage of TRAFFIC JAMS in Japanese cities.

NEWS ANCHOR 5 (V.O.)
The evacuation of the East Coast of Japan has been completed in prevision of the tsunami that will hit tomorrow morning...

A CROWD on top of a hill, armed with cameras and telescopes, observe excitedly the horizon, waiting for the giant wave.

EXT. KODAK THEATER - DAY (FEB. 2013)

STOCK FOOTAGE of the 2012 Academy Awards Red Carpet. We see JESSICA CHASTAIN.

ENTERTAINMENT EXPERT (V.O.)
Her determined portrayal of a CIA analyst, bent on using the List to find Bin Laden when nobody else believed in it... she’s one of the frontrunners, definitely.

INT. TECH STORE - DAY (SUMMER 2013)

People picking Google Glasses. Except that they aren’t Google branded as some other maker has “stolen” the design.

INT. TV STUDIO - DAY (FALL 2014)

...an interview with an R&D EXECUTIVE.

R&D EXECUTIVE
The List's been amazing. It's allowed firms to focus on the things that will work and find the people that will make them work. It's saved billions and years of R+D. Everything's going so fast...

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY (SPRING 2015)

As he speaks, a prototype for the very same MEDICAL SCANNER we saw at the beginning of the movie is tested at a hospital.

INT. ARMY LAB - DAY (SPRING 2014)

An AMPUTEE SOLDIER tests a highly sophisticated ROBOTIC ARM, flexing its articulated fingers.

R&D EXECUTIVE (O.S.)
We don't know where it's going to end.

EXT. PYONGYANG - SQUARE - DAY (AUG. 2015)

The NK Soldier and the Translator we met before kiss each other amidst a celebration for the Korean reunification.

PROFESSOR (V.O.)
What happened to the List? Well, it's easy to understand. The more it changed the world, the less accurate it became. It may still work for natural disasters, but as for the rest? Useless.

EXT. PARK - DAY (SEPT. 2015)

Somewhere, in a public park, a father is playing with his son, throwing a ball. The boy catching the ball is PAUL, now 12 years old. He smiles and throws it back to LUTHER, his father.

It's a nice day, and a flight of geese fly over their heads. The same day where we started Ethan's story.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. ETHAN'S FLAT - DAY (2016)

From the window, in his Sunday best, Ethan watches the GEESE migrating through New York. He lives in a small but cozy Brooklyn apartment.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

A gentle afternoon. Ted's ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY is held in front of family and close friends. Besides Ethan, Leah is in attendance, and we can spot Kate and Daniel in a corner.

SANDRA
Ted was my soul mate, the perfect companion. It was my joy walking through life with him. And even if some times were hard and life could get rough, I wouldn't change a thing. We always pushed through together, side by side...

As his mother talks, he puts fresh flowers on his father's grave.

He's now what his father wanted him to be.

CUT TO:

The ceremony has finished and people are beginning to scatter. Ethan approaches Kate.

ETHAN
Thanks for coming. He always liked you.

She gives a hug. Short, but sincere. Forgiveness.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
How's the little girl?

KATE
(caresses belly)
She moves a lot. I think we'll be in a bit of trouble when she gets out.

ETHAN
I think she'll turn out fine. Have you decided on a name yet?

KATE
No, not yet. Any suggestions?

Ethan SMILES, he does have one...

EXT. PALLISADES PARK - NIGHT

It's raining heavily. Ethan is inside his parked car with Leah, when he suddenly motions to exit.

LEAH
Come on, it’s pouring out there!

ETHAN
There’s something I want to see.

They walk down a slope under an umbrella, reaching down the road that runs below.

ETHAN (CONT’D)
I’m sure it was over here.

They reach the sign that Ethan passed right before his car crashed at the beginning of our story. The graffiti is now slightly different: “JAMES HEARTS LAURA”

ETHAN (CONT’D)
There...

Ethan and Leah walk by the road. It’s the stretch of road where Ethan suffered the accident that sent him back in time.

They hear a noise from the bushes, and Leah turns around. A RABBIT crosses the road. Ethan presses on.

They sit on the slope, from where they can view the road. And just a few seconds later a HEAVY TRUCK roars by: the same truck that killed Ethan.

Leah rests her head on Ethan’s shoulders, while Ethan plays with her long black hair.

LEAH
And now what?

ETHAN
I don’t know.

THE END...