THE DO OVER

By
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FADE IN:

EXT. CALTECH - DUSK

The orange glow of the setting sun shines down on the campus of The California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California.

INT. CALTECH (HALLWAY) - DUSK

WILLIAM MATTHEWS, early twenties, thin, good looking wearing glasses and a white lab coat, storms down the hallway with determination in every step.

TITLE CARD: 1997

He opens the large library doors and enters.

INT. CALTECH (LIBRARY) - DUSK

Students hunching over their work and buried in books line the long wood tables of the library.

RACHEL PHILLIPS, early twenties, beautiful and radiant sits at a table in the library diligently working.

William marches right over to her.

WILLIAM
We have to talk!

Rachel sits back from her book and looks at William, bemused.

RACHEL
Do I know you?

WILLIAM
William Matthews, President of the Physics Club. You and I are up for the same summer internship at Delmox Labs.

RACHEL
You're the guy who gave the student lecture last week, right?

William is thrown but flattered by the acknowledgement.

WILLIAM
Transversable Wormholes and Time Travel. That's right.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL
It was a good talk, McFly.
(beat)
If you like fiction.

WILLIAM
Well, I read your paper on Quantum Entanglement and your theories are amateur at best.

RACHEL
Where'd you get my paper? And why?

WILLIAM
Teacher's aide let me see it for $20. I wanted to know who was jeopardizing my future.

RACHEL
So you read it, were immediately threatened and decided to have some sort of "throw down" in the library? Was that the plan?

WILLIAM
Here's the plan. I get the internship. I go to grad school. Delmox hires me then-

RACHEL
Question. Should I be more amused by your plan or your sense of entitlement?

WILLIAM
Is this a joke to you? This is my future! Without that internship-

RACHEL
So I should back out?

WILLIAM
If you know what's good for you.

Rachel rises and stands face to face with William. William awkwardly crosses his arms and tries to stand his ground.

RACHEL
Are you threatening me?

WILLIAM
What's your thesis on?

RACHEL
Why? So you can ridicule it?

WILLIAM
So I can disprove it.

RACHEL
Are we doing this?

Some of the students surrounding them in the library close their books and watch the showdown. William does his best to drum up some bravado.

WILLIAM
In a battle of Science I will crush you.

RACHEL
Prove it. The lab right now. Whoever disproves the other's thesis drops out of the running.

Some of the students start packing up their work in anticipation. William notices the crowd getting out of their seats.

WILLIAM
Ladies first.

Rachel gathers her books and walks out of the library. William turns to follow with a "McFly" sign taped to his back. A group of students get up from their seats and follow after them.

INT. LABORATORY - DUSK

Students file into a classroom and sit down. William and Rachel are the last to enter the room and close the door. They each step up to two empty white boards.

TITLE SEQUENCE MONTAGE

William addresses the crowd and Rachel smirks.

Rachel writes furiously on the board. She turns to William with an "I told you so" look and William can't disagree.

William writes furiously on the board.

The clock ticks the hours now well into the middle of the night.

More and more of the chairs in the room become empty.

EXT. CAMPUS - SUNRISE

William and Rachel walk across the empty quad, their discussion continuing. The sun slowly rises in the background

WILLIAM
I will give you entanglement is dependent on attraction if you give me-

RACHEL
That's not a give! It's a fact. Attraction is the first principle of-

William laughs, exhausted but completely taken by her drive.

WILLIAM
Do you ever agree with anyone?

RACHEL
Only when they're right.

She smiles at him. He smiles back and they share an extremely comfortable pause.

WILLIAM
You are without a doubt the most challenging woman I have ever met.
(beat)
We should do this again.

RACHEL
We have to. Tonight revealed nothing.

WILLIAM
I wouldn't say that.

She laughs both amused and flattered. She had fun too. She walks away and William watches her go.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

William stands in a science laboratory at a white board vigorously working on a problem. Rachel storms in.

RACHEL
Delmox said you dropped out of the internship. Why?

WILLIAM
Because in one evening you were able to tear down every thing about time travel I once held true.

RACHEL
Don't give me that! You shred my thesis piece by piece and everyone who witnessed it agrees. But guess what? I went back and re-did it based on your critique.

William goes back to working on his problem on the board.

WILLIAM
My work has never been more focused and clear. I don't need that internship. I don't have time for it.

RACHEL
Well, you're welcome.

He slams the marker down and steps over to her.

WILLIAM
I'm sorry, were you expecting a "Thank you?"

RACHEL
Were you?

They stand face to face. Both out of jabs and only one thing to do- THEY FEVERISHLY MAKE OUT.

INT. LABORATORY - LATER

They lie on the floor of the laboratory with their clothes strewn about. William stares at the ceiling in ecstasy but Rachel clearly has something on her mind.

RACHEL
William-

WILLIAM
Don't. No "I have a boyfriend" or "This was a mistake". Let me just enjoy this.

Rachel is silent. For a bit.

RACHEL
I was going to say that I'm not looking for anything serious right now.

WILLIAM
Me neither.

RACHEL
Are you just saying that because I said it first?

WILLIAM
Rachel, you are the most beautiful and intelligent woman I have ever met. But, I just got out of a relationship and now is not a good time for me to get serious.

RACHEL
Then we are in agreement?

WILLIAM
Totally.

RACHEL
Good.

They stare at each other nose to nose, very happy to be on the same page. THEN THEY START MAKING OUT AGAIN AND ROLL OUT OF FRAME.

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

William puts on a pair of protective goggles. Camera pulls back to reveal that he is wearing a tuxedo. He nods over to Rachel also wearing goggles and a wedding dress.

TITLE CARD: 1999

RACHEL
William, we're going to be late.

WILLIAM
Just one more test for accuracy. Hit it.

She turns on a switch and a bright gold laser comes out of a small pipe and bounces off several glass plates and LANDS ON THE CENTER OF A BULLS EYE set up on the wall at the other end of the room.

They celebrate, getting the desired results and embrace and kiss.

EXT. CAL TECH - DAY

William and Rachel run across the campus dressed in their wedding attire and down the street.

WEDDING VIDEO MONTAGE

William smiles a ridiculously happy smile as he stands next to Rachel on the altar of a beautiful church. Behind them is row after row of smiling guests.

They dance their first dance in a beautiful hotel ballroom surrounded by a sea of guests.

They step into a horse drawn carriage and drive off with the guests waving and cheering them on.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

William works at a desk in the lab. Rachel comes up to him.

TITLE CARD: 2004

RACHEL
I need to get home and work on my presentation for the Opeil grant. Your notes were spot on. Discouraging, but spot on.

WILLIAM
You can't leave yet. We have to do the pressurizing tests.

RACHEL
It's late. Can't we do those in the morning?

William takes her hand and kisses it. He makes his way to her neck as he speaks.

WILLIAM
If you get that grant you're going to be in Chicago for months conducting your research far away from me. I'll be lost without you.
(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
My work will suffer without your keen eye to guide me in the right direction. Plus I'll probably balloon up like a fat pig.

Rachel kisses him and smiles.

RACHEL
Fine. I'll stay. One hour.

WILLIAM
With your brain it'll probably take half an hour.

INT. HOUSE- DAY

A modest craftsman house in Pasadena. Rachel enters from the front door carrying a suitcase. William comes down the stairs and sees her.

TITLE CARD: 2007

RACHEL
I didn't get the funding. They gave it to Dr. Brunell. You'd think I'd be used to rejection by now.

WILLIAM
I'm so sorry.

William gives her a hug.

RACHEL
Brunell filled in for me as guest lecturer at the conference in Phoenix. The one I declined so I could be here-

She stops herself and tries to control her frustration.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

She walks away from William and into the dining room where she sees a nice table cloth and two places set.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
What's this?

WILLIAM
I-I- wanted to surprise you last night with dinner.

Rachel looks at William in disbelief.

RACHEL
You had no idea that I was in New York giving a presentation did you?

WILLIAM
Of-of course I did.

RACHEL
How long was I gone for?

William is silent and it speaks volumes. Rachel starts to walk out of the room.

WILLIAM
I was held up at the lab. But if I'm right-

RACHEL
Three days.

WILLIAM
Seriously?

Rachel starts to walk out of the room. William desperately makes a b-line to a large wrapped box off a side table.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I got you a gift. Happy Anniversary.

Rachel unwraps the gift to find a beautiful Native American Vase.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
8th anniversary is the pottery anniversary.

RACHEL
You Googled that, didn't you?

WILLIAM
Depends. Do you like it?

RACHEL
I do....but things need to change around here, William. I want you to respect my work.

WILLIAM
I respect your-

RACHEL
If I have to leave your lab because of something important to my research then it's important.

WILLIAM
Of course.

RACHEL
And I want date nights. For real this time.

WILLIAM
You've got it. Wait- what night?

RACHEL
William!

WILLIAM
It's a joke. It's a joke.

He crawls his way back into her arms and kisses her.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

William works in the lab hunched over his desk. Rachel stands in the doorway, but he doesn't notice. She stares at him for awhile as he keeps working. She's about to turn around but finds the courage and steps into the room.

TITLE CARD: 2009

WILLIAM
Rachel? What're you doing here?

RACHEL
We had plans, William.

He looks at the clock and realizes that he is in trouble.

WILLIAM
I am so sorry. But I had a breakthrough tonight.

RACHEL
So did I. I'm leaving you.

She is just as surprised by the words as he is.

WILLIAM
What? Why?

RACHEL
I can't do this anymore.

She looks away from him and fumbles with her hands. This went better in her mind.

WILLIAM
Don't give up on everything we've-

RACHEL
We were never a "we". We were always a "you". My research, the things I wanted to do, they all got pushed aside so I could support you.

WILLIAM
Then starting tomorrow-

RACHEL
I don't blame you for that. That's my fault.

She starts to walk out of the lab.

WILLIAM
Please don't do this. I love you.

She turns and faces him.

RACHEL
No. You love the "idea" of us. Some parallel universe that has nothing to do with the present.
(beat)
William, we're two very smart and logical people. So if we can't figure out how to make this work then maybe it doesn't.

She exits and he can't move.

INT. CONDO - DAY

Camera pans across a dilapidated condo with beat up furniture, dirty dishes on almost every surface.

TITLE CARD: PRESENT DAY

Camera lands on William fully clothed and sleeping on the couch covered in schematics and drawings. He is now early forties has a beard, a tad out of shape but his good looks have not waned.

In the distance an alarm clock rings. Immediately, he shoots up from the couch with a giddy “mad scientist” look on his face.

WILLIAM
That’s it!

He gets up, grabs a few of the drawings and makes it out the door.

EXT. CAL TECH - DAY

Students fill the campus walking to and from class, playing frisbee in the quad and lounging in the shade.

William runs across the quad, dodging frisbees and makes his way to the main science building.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - DAY

William runs down the hallway. DR. MICHAEL JEFFRIES, early forties, balding, nervous and pudgy shuffles towards him.

WILLIAM
Great news, Michael! I figured out where we’ve been wrong!

But it doesn’t even land on Michael.

MICHAEL
Foster is here and he’s going to find out and shut us down! We stop your tests now and start giving him what he’s been waiting for.

WILLIAM
We’re close and you know it. Just give me one more night.

MICHAEL
I’ve been listening to that for three months.

WILLIAM
I...can’t quit, Michael.

MICHAEL
Why not?

WILLIAM
Because this is all I’ve got.
(beat)
(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
One more test tonight. If I'm wrong, we walk away. I swear.

Michael looks at William sizing up the situation.

MICHAEL
You swear?

William nods, puts his arm around Michael and they walk down the hall.

WILLIAM
Relax. I can handle Foster.

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

A science laboratory lined with equipment and various stations where students work and conduct experiments. A GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN, dressed in suits and ties, observe a team of students and their research.

In the middle of the room is a bulky piece of machinery with a long thin cannon that protrudes from a metallic base: the world's most powerful electromagnetic laser. Hovering over it is JED FOSTER, late sixties, sharp suit, big Texas money.

William and Michael enter the lab. William turns on the charm and is all smiles as he walks towards Foster.

WILLIAM
Mr. Foster, what a wonderful-

JED
I want answers, Dr. Matthews. Like why I gave you twenty million dollars?

WILLIAM
To develop a laser for off shore drilling.

JED
Has your team done the pressurizing tests yet?

WILLIAM
Well, sir, these things take time.

JED
Which you've had plenty of. I'm assigning a consultant to determine whether or not I should pull your funding.

William has the wind knocked out of him.

WILLIAM
You can't do that.

JED
Of course I can. It's my money. I mean damn boy, what the hell have you been doing with your time?

WILLIAM
Who are you sending in?

RACHEL (O.S.)
Hello, William.

William turns around and sees Rachel, a little older but just as beautiful. William stifles both his rage and admiration and attempts professionalism.

WILLIAM
Dr. Phillips? What a <u>lovely</u> surprise. You are still a doctor, right?

RACHEL
Yes.

WILLIAM
Fantastic. I was afraid you might have walked out on that too.

Rachel takes a deep breath and the high road.

RACHEL
(to Michael)
How are you, Michael? You look good. Have you lost weight?

She walks over to Michael and gives him a hug.

MICHAEL
Maybe a little. You look great.

William gives Michael a dirty look as Michael's smile disappears and he awkwardly gets out of the hug. Rachel faces William.

RACHEL
Dr. Matthews, I'm going to need to see your journals as soon as possible.

WILLIAM
(to Foster)
Mr. Foster, can we talk about this?

JED
Who better to get to the bottom of this than someone who knows how you work?

WILLIAM
Well you should know she's a "quitter".
(to Rachel)
You requested this position, didn't you?

RACHEL
I didn't know it was your team I'd be investigating until- you know what?
(to Jed)
I'm going to go get some coffee before I stoop to his level.

Rachel walks out of the room. William is about to follow but is stopped by Jed.

JED
I've had a lot of other teams approach me about this project, but do you know why I've stuck with you?

WILLIAM
I'm the best.

JED
You're the cheapest. I think I'm finding out why.

WILLIAM
I think you'll find that you chose wisely in going with me, and I will gladly open my doors to any consultant you invite. Will you excuse me?

William rushes out of the room.

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Rachel walks down the hallway as William catches up to her.

WILLIAM
Wonderful to see you again, Rachel. You look fantastic.

RACHEL
You look scared.

WILLIAM
Congratulations. The consulting thing seems to be working out for you. This is a big account.

RACHEL
You would know. You're the one blowing it.

WILLIAM
So did you say yes to stick it to me, or to check up on me?

Rachel stops walking, turns around and faces William.

RACHEL
You got me. You always saw right through me.
(beat)
I'm here to win you back.

William looks at her unsure if she's telling the truth. Then she smiles and walks down the hall.

WILLIAM
That's not funny.

William scurries after her.

RACHEL
It's a little funny.

WILLIAM
I know why you're here. Gets you back in the lab. Gives you the illusion you're still a scientist.

RACHEL
Is it really this hard for you to fake maturity?

WILLIAM
No, it's just not as fun. So are you dating?

RACHEL
I know you're not.

WILLIAM
And how do you know that?

RACHEL
Because the only thing you ever loved was your work.

William is silent, digesting the words that land like daggers. Rachel realizes she's gone too far and shifts into professional mode.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Maybe it would be best if you gave me the logs for the first two years of research. Then I could work alone.

WILLIAM
You're loving every minute of this, aren't you?

RACHEL
Now you're just sending up the red flares like you're hiding something.

William laughs, futilely covering up his frustration.

WILLIAM
My journals are all yours.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

In the middle of the lab rests the cannon but encircling it are several shiny reflectors.

Michael stands behind a control panel and William is transfixed on the clock on the wall.

WILLIAM
Time is impatient, time is unkind, and time always, always wins. Or does it?

MICHAEL
Thirty seconds.

WILLIAM
If you could go back in time where would you go?

MICHAEL
Knowing what we know now?

Michael really thinks about it as William glares at the clock.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
You could stop wars, save lives-

WILLIAM
You know where I'd go? I'd wipe out every ounce of regret in my life.

MICHAEL
That insinuates that every ounce of regret comes from one moment.

WILLIAM
But it does. Every hellish moment in life is spawned from that one second when you could've gone this way but instead you decided to take a swan dive into a pool of crap.

MICHAEL
So what was that second for you?

WILLIAM
The moment I decided to go to Cal Tech instead of Stanford. Do you know the year we graduated the Stanford Science Department made major breakthroughs in quantum physics?

MICHAEL
And you would've never met Rachel... or me.

William remains silent but considers Michael's words.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
But if your theory is right and proven tonight, you might have never-

WILLIAM
I could've gotten here a lot sooner.

William's watch alarm goes off. He jumps behind the control board just as-

A BRIGHT GOLD LASER COMES OUT OF THE THIN CANNON. It hits one of the reflectors and splits into two beams.

The beams bounce off the reflectors until they collide in the middle of the room, the COLLISION GIVING BIRTH TO A WORMHOLE - A WARM ORANGE CLOUD THAT FLOATS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AIR.

As it expands and contracts, a SMALL METALLIC BALL drops out of it and onto the floor. The wormhole contracts and implodes, disappearing as black dust rains down on the floor.

Michael takes off his glasses, blown away. William picks up the metallic ball and ejects a small memory card.

He inserts it into a computer as Michael searches for the words.

MICHAEL
That was....that was-

William studies the data from the card displayed on the monitor.

WILLIAM
Look at these readings. Carbon levels, temperature, resistance. Which would make the entry year at-

He types into the computer and smiles at the results he sees.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
1995. Perfect. A year before I enroll.

Michael is still dumbfounded by what he witnessed.

MICHAEL
How?

WILLIAM
We need to know if it's the same hole every time. Set it to go off again in fifteen minutes.

As Michael goes to the board, THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

RACHEL (O.S.)
William?

Michael spooks, William motions for him to calm down.

RACHEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I need to talk to you and I'd prefer to do it face to face.

EXT. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

Rachel leans against the lab door trying to hear if anyone is inside.

RACHEL
Ok, fine. I've been going over your journals and I have enough to pull your funding in just four hours of reading.

INT. LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

Michael motions to William and they have a silent arm waving argument.

RACHEL (O.S.)
I wanted to give you a chance to defend yourself. Mr. Foster was very adamant I call him tonight and tell him what I found.

She waits for a response but gets nothing.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Fine.

William hears Rachel walk away from the door and down the hall. He curses the situation and walks towards the door as Michael silently implores him not to go.

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Rachel walks down the hall but William catches up to her.

WILLIAM
You didn't come all the way down here just to walk away.

RACHEL
You either have no idea what Foster expects of you, or you have your own agenda.

WILLIAM
Just ask, Rachel. "What have I been up to"?

RACHEL
I don't care.

WILLIAM
Of course you don't. You just like visiting labs at three o'clock in the morning.

He smiles and goes back into the lab.

Rachel shakes her head and exhales her disgust and contempt but she doesn't walk away.

INT. LABORATORY - NIGHT

Michael comes out from behind the controls as William enters.

MICHAEL
Did she go?!

WILLIAM
Don't know.

MICHAEL
She can't see this!

WILLIAM
Not sure we have a choice.

Michael is about to protest as Rachel steps into the room.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Michael, will you please excuse us?

Michael is hesitant but William nods him out of the room. Rachel tries to decipher the laser cannon and the reflectors.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Titanium reflectors, strong enough to split the laser and reflect it onto itself.

RACHEL
Why?

WILLIAM
Because if it collides with itself, it will create enough negative energy to form a wormhole.

RACHEL
A wormhole?

WILLIAM
Yes, a portal though the space time continuum.

She seriously hopes he is joking. His cocky smiles says that he is not.

RACHEL
And this is what you've been using the money for?

WILLIAM
Jealous?

William smiles with bravado. Rachel can't believe what she is hearing.

RACHEL
I've seen this fixation ruin more than just grants-

WILLIAM
We successfully sent in the deep sea sensors-

RACHEL
The ones Foster gave you for deep water carbon testing?!

WILLIAM
-and they confirmed that we went all the way back to 1995.

Rachel shakes her head in disapproval and walks towards the door.

RACHEL
I have to call Mr. Foster.

William jumps behind the controls and starts the laser up.

WILLIAM
You know you want to see it work.

Rachel grabs the door knob and opens the door. She looks back about to give one more shot but before she can-

ON CANNON

THE LASER SHOOTS OUT AND IS REFLECTED AROUND THE ROOM COMING INTO THE MIDDLE AND FORMING THE BEAUTIFUL ORANGE CLOUD.

Rachel stops dumbfounded by what she sees.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
You were saying?

Rachel stares at the cloud, amazed. Winds expel from the wormhole blowing papers around the lab. She steps back into the room, practically speechless.

RACHEL
You did it?

WILLIAM
Watch this.

William types on the control board.

ON WORMHOLE

The wormhole expands and contracts with a much wider diameter.

ON WILLIAM

As the large cabinets and desks in the lab rumble, William walks away from the control board and confronts Rachel.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I realize how difficult this must be for you! To see me succeed!

The big heavy cabinets along the wall slowly gravitate towards the wormhole. Desks and chairs slowly move towards it.

RACHEL
I-I don't believe it.

WILLIAM
You never did.

A mini cyclone of stray papers dance around William and Rachel who continue to argue.

RACHEL
How dare you say that! After I put my career on hold to assist you!!

WILLIAM
What happened to you, Rachel? You had so much promise. And now you're just a consultant?

RACHEL
At least as a consultant-

A chair is suddenly sucked into the wormhole.

WILLIAM
If you hung around, you could've shared this with me.

RACHEL
You don't share, William. You never did.

WILLIAM
Well, this is what I did by myself!! And if that makes me selfish, well then color me selfish!

BOTH WILLIAM AND RACHEL ARE LIFTED INTO THE AIR. WILLIAM GRABS A DESK TO HOLD HIMSELF DOWN AND RACHEL GRABS A DESK LAMP. They try and keep their hold as their legs are lifted high above them and sucked towards the orange glow.

Rachel fights to keep her grip but the pull is too powerful and she IS SUCKED INTO THE WORMHOLE.

ON WILLIAM

Legs in the air, he desperately holds onto the desk. He climbs around the desk to the adjacent control board. He types on the control board with one hand as he holds on with the other.

He looks over and sees the wormhole expand and contract. HE LETS GO OF THE DESK AND GETS SUCKED INTO THE WORMHOLE.

The wormhole implodes and dissipates into the cloud of black dust that falls to the floor.

ON CONTROL BOARD (TIMER)

FIFTEEN MINUTES AND COUNTING DOWN.

INT. CAL TECH (CONFERENCE ROOM) - DAY

A conference room. Wood paneled walls. A long wooden table in the middle of the room with chairs on all sides. A whiteboard with several equations written in dry marker.

INCHES ABOVE THE TABLE THE WORMHOLE FORMS. The lab chair comes flying through and crashes against the wall and down to the floor. William and Rachel soon come barreling out and slam down on the conference room table.

They get their bearings as the wormhole expands and contracts, finally imploding into a thick cloud as tiny black particles fall down to the table.

RACHEL
What happened?

William looks around the room trying to figure it out as well.

WILLIAM
Levels were too high. We must've created a vortex and were sucked through.

He looks out the window. He sees the familiar Cal Tech campus. He checks his watch with the clock on the wall and starts to do the math.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
About eight hours according to that clock.

RACHEL
What do you mean "sucked through"?

WILLIAM
Time.

William looks up from his watch and at Rachel with a giddy look on his face.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Rachel you and I are the first time travelers ever!!!

He grabs her and jumps up and down celebrating as Rachel tries to get her bearings.

RACHEL
You're joking, right?

WILLIAM
Not at all! We have just traveled eight hours into the past!!!
(beat)
I did it. I actually did it.

He looks to Rachel to share in his joy.

RACHEL
Eight hours?! Are you serious?!

WILLIAM
Yeah, isn't it cool!? But I don't recognize this room.

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

YOUNG WILLIAM (O.C.)
Hey, what's going on in there?

Rachel rushes to the door and looks through the peephole.

RACHEL'S POV:

YOUNG WILLIAM, mid twenties, clean cut, slender, glasses looks into the peephole to investigate. He digs in his pocket and gets out a set of keys.

ON RACHEL

RACHEL BACKS AWAY FROM THE DOOR HORRIFIED. She turns to William.

RACHEL
Hide.

WILLIAM
Who is it?

RACHEL
You!!

William follows Rachel as she cowers under the far end of the conference room table.

ON DOOR

Young William walks into the conference room. It is empty. Everything looks fine except for the BLACK CIRCLE OF DUST ON THE CONFERENCE ROOM TABLE and the chair knocked over on the floor.

Young William walks towards the dust and examines it. He takes out a small bag and combs some of the dust into it.

The dust falls into the bag but rather than sink to the bottom, it separates to the edges.

BRITTANY, 20's, attractive, wearing a short skirt and a lab coat giggles as she enters. Behind her in pursuit enters DR. ROGER BRENNAN, mid thirties, starting to take his lab coat off.

Brittany stops giggling as soon as she sees Young William. Dr. Brennan immediately puts his coat back on and clears his throat.

DR. BRENNAN
Matthews? What're you doing here? You still have eight and a half more minutes of free lab.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I thought I heard something.

Dr. Brennan escorts Brittany towards the door.

DR. BRENNAN
(to Brittany)
I'm afraid I'm going to have to take a rain check on our counseling session.

Brittany smiles.

BRITTANY
(seductive)
7:30?

DR. BRENNAN
Perfect.

Brittany walks out of the room and Brennan watches her go. Young William remains focused on the dust on the table.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Then I found this.

Dr. Brennan goes over to it and picks up a pinch of the black dust and rubs it in his hands. Young William picks up the strange chair.

YOUNG WILLIAM (CONT'D)
And where'd this come from?

Dr. Brennan looks at the dust on the table and the chair.

DR. BRENNAN
Did you get a sample?

YOUNG WILLIAM
Yep.

Young William shows Dr. Brennan the bag, proudly. Dr. Brennan takes the bag and sees the dust separated around the edges.

DR. BRENNAN
Odd. It doesn't collect.

He knows this is big but doesn't dare let on to Young William.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I'll run some tests on it.

DR. BRENNAN
Why don't I send it to some friends at Jacobs Labs?

YOUNG WILLIAM
Thank you, Dr. Brennan but I-

DR. BRENNAN
Don't you trust me?

YOUNG WILLIAM
It could be exotic matter and if it is it could've come from a wormhole.

DR. BRENNAN
That's a lot of "coulds" and "ifs". Better be sure before you write your Nobel speech, right?

YOUNG WILLIAM ACCEPTS DR. BRENNAN'S REASONING AND HANDS HIM THE SAMPLE BAG. Dr. Brennan smiles and puts the bag in his pocket.

DR. BRENNAN (CONT'D)
You are so driven, Matthews. Which is why I was hoping you would join my research team in Helsinki.

Young William is flattered, excited and struggles to find the words.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I thought your team was all set.

DR. BRENNAN
I had a recent opening and you're my top choice. We leave from LAX in two days. You in?

YOUNG WILLIAM
I-

DR. BRENNAN
Promise me you'll think about it?

Young William wants to say no but it's so tempting.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I'll think about it.

DR. BRENNAN
Good. C'mon, let's get back to the lab.

Dr. Brennan and Young William walk out of the conference room.

Slowly William and Rachel rise from their hiding place.

WILLIAM
Did I say eight hours? I meant eight hours and fourteen years!!! We're back in school! This is so cool!!

RACHEL
This is far from cool, William!

But William is already out of the conference room.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

A hallway that lines several laboratories. Students work at labs along both of them. William crouches down the hallway, periodically popping up to look into the classrooms that he passes. Rachel follows, a bit freaked by the trip down memory lane.

RACHEL
This isn't happening. This is a dream.

Rachel rises up and looks into a laboratory full of underclassman clad in late nineties fashion.

She slips back down sinking to the floor.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
No, it's worse. It's a nightmare.

INT. LABORATORY - DAY

They enter an empty lab. Stations for students line the walls of the lab, filled with test tubes, beakers and Bunson burners. A dry erase board on one wall.

William looks around the room immediately recognizing it.

WILLIAM
The old lab. Of course! Part of the new lab used to be the old conference room. They didn't expand it until 2002.

RACHEL
You'll forgive me if I don't share your enjoyment in being stuck back in time!!

WILLIAM
Not "stuck". Just visiting.

William spots a calendar and runs to it. The month of April is up with the first six days crossed out.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
April 7, 1999. Wait a second-

William takes out his small notebook and opens it up to a particular page. He looks into the book and grabs a dry marker and starts to scribble down equations on the dry erase board.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Multiply by the..... divided by one thousand and twenty four and add on.....perfect. Perfect! If the laser goes off in fifteen minutes in 2013, another wormhole will be created in forty eight hours at the exact spot in the conference room.

RACHEL
Are you sure?

WILLIAM
Well, it's a theory, but then again what isn't?

Rachel does her best to control the rage inside.

RACHEL
I should've known this assignment would lead to no good. My God if I never married you-

WILLIAM
If I didn't marry you, and took Dr. Brennan's offer, I would've been part of his award winning team.
(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
In three years he gets a Nobel prize and his entire team branches off to head their own research.

RACHEL
You want to blame me for everything wrong in your life? Fine!

WILLIAM
You're one to talk.

RACHEL
I don't blame you, William. I blame myself for believing we had a future.

William is pissed, hurt, and struggles to take the high road.

WILLIAM
I have two days to spend in 1999 and I'm not going to waste them arguing with you.

RACHEL
And if the conference room is locked in two days?

WILLIAM
I have keys in my desk.

William walks over to a small desk in the lab, smiling proudly. HE TRIES TO OPEN THE DRAWER BUT IT IS LOCKED.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
And desk keys at my house.

They hear voices approaching and scurry through a door on the other side of the laboratory.

They exit as Young William and the rest of his classmates enter the lab. Dr. Brennan is the last to enter and makes his way to the dry erase board.

DR. BRENNAN
Okay, class. Can anyone here summarize what our experiments yielded?

He picks up a marker about to write on the board but stops as he sees William's equation.

DR. BRENNAN (CONT'D)
Other than I should lock my doors.

The students laugh. He is about to erase when he really looks at the revolutionary equation. He turns to the class.

DR. BRENNAN (CONT'D)
Who wrote this?

EXT. CAL TECH - DAY

William and Rachel walk out of the Science building, across a lawn and down the street.

WILLIAM
Alright, two days in 1999. What to do?

RACHEL
Stop being so cool about this!!

WILLIAM
I've dreamt about this moment my whole life. Could you at least for once in your life fake happiness?!

It hits her hard and she is about to retaliate but instead she takes a deep breath and sits on her rage.

RACHEL
I'll be happy when we get back.

WILLIAM
That's just like you. Always worried about the future, always regretting the past and never enjoying the present.

RACHEL
You're going to lecture me on the present?! Your present is full of manipulations and lies. I'm not going to stoop to your level, William. I'm really not.

WILLIAM SEES SOMETHING ACROSS THE STREET. He grabs Rachel and pulls her down to the ground.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
What the hell-?

William covers her mouth as they duck behind a 1999 Volkswagon Beetle. They both peer back up and look through the window.

SIDEWALK ACROSS THE STREET

EILEEN, mid fifties, a cigarette dangling out of her mouth carries a white dress on a hanger wrapped in a clear dry cleaning bag. Next to her walks her daughter, twenty year old YOUNG RACHEL, a bit more bubbly and full of life.

EILEEN
You are going to look fantastic in my dress.

YOUNG RACHEL
Still wish I had one of my own.

EILEEN
I've got twenty five years of marriage and going strong out of this dress. This is a God damn good luck charm.

YOUNG RACHEL
But you hate dad.

EILEEN
I do not hate your father. The man acts like an ass but he cannot help it.

She takes one last drag of her cigarette, throws it on the ground and steps on the butt without missing a step.

ON RACHEL AND WILLIAM

Rachel, eyes bulging, mouth agape turns to William.

RACHEL
That's me.

She looks fondly at her younger self walking away.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
(adoringly)
Look at my ass.

WILLIAM
Wait a minute. April 7, 1999.

Rachel is still lost at the sight of her younger self.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
It's two days before we get married!

William snaps his fingers. An excited giddy look spreads across his face.

RACHEL
What are you thinking?

WILLIAM
Rachel, the day we got married was the worst day of my life.

RACHEL
It was worse for me. I had to sleep with you.

WILLIAM
Exactly. What if that day never happened?

Rachel laughs it off, but it is clear that William is not joking.

RACHEL
You're talking about messing with causality. We change <u>one</u> thing in 1999, the repercussions-

WILLIAM
Don't have to be bad. Where would you be without marrying me, Rachel? Be honest. Would you be a consultant or would you be a <u>scientist</u>?

RACHEL
First of all, you're the only one that has a problem with me being a consultant. Secondly, what if some good came out of our divorce?

WILLIAM
Because of our split I'm stuck between two hells: dying alone or never being close to another female again.

RACHEL
I did that?

William quickly covers-

WILLIAM
Not yet.

Rachel looks away from William and watches her younger self walk down the street. She wrings her hands and runs them through her hair actually considering the plan.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Isn't it worth a shot? To make things right?

Something about this makes sense. She turns and watches her younger self and Eileen turn a corner.

RACHEL
We have forty eight hours to stop our own wedding.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

REGINALD, early sixties, grey hair, stern, stares at a bill in his hand. He tries to wipe the horror from his face and looks at it again. Eileen and Young Rachel enter.

EILEEN
Reginald, why the hell aren't you dropping off the deposit?

REGINALD
I thought we agreed on Salmon for the napkins. Who the hell chose Blue Chiffon?! Fifteen cents more per napkin!!

IN THE BACKGROUND, WILLIAM AND RACHEL POKE THEIR HEADS OUTSIDE A WINDOW.

EILEEN
Don't start. Rachel is going to try on her dress and I don't want you getting any "jackass" on it.

YOUNG RACHEL
You promised you wouldn't fight!

Young Rachel takes the dress and runs up the stairs, near tears.

Eileen walks to Reginald and whispers.

EILEEN
Salmon is for proms, dick.

The doorbell rings. William and Rachel duck down just as Eileen turns by the window and walks to the front door.

The doorbell rings again. Reginald remains focused on the bill in his hand as Eileen storms by.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
No, don't get up. I'll get it.

As she walks towards the door-

EILEEN (CONT'D)
(sotto)
I swear I wish I was planning a funeral.

Eileen opens the door to reveal Young William. Eileen just beams.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
Well, if it isn't the son in law of the year.

She gives Young William a big hug.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Mom, if Rachel looks half as good as you on our wedding day I'm the luckiest man in the world. Is she in? I mean, may I call on her?

Eileen is all smiles, ecstatic that this is the boy her daughter has landed.

EILEEN
Why of course you may.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Young Rachel and Young William sit on the back porch. He jots down notes in a small notebook as Young Rachel tries to get his attention.

YOUNG RACHEL
Did you get the tuxedos today?

Young William grimaces knowing his answer will upset Young Rachel. He puts his pencil down.

YOUNG RACHEL (CONT'D)
The corsages?

YOUNG WILLIAM
I'll get them first thing in the morning.

YOUNG RACHEL
William!

YOUNG WILLIAM
I'm sorry, something really weird happened today and I got caught up at the lab. I should probably get back-

YOUNG RACHEL
You always get caught up in the lab. It's not going to be like this forever is it?

YOUNG WILLIAM
Of course not. You know I want to be with you. I love you.

Her defense goes down and she melts.

YOUNG RACHEL
I think I love you more.

YOUNG WILLIAM
That's not possible.

THEY MAKE OUT FEVERISHLY. Young Rachel pulls out of the kiss.

YOUNG RACHEL
Will you stop by tonight on your way home from the lab?

YOUNG WILLIAM
If I have time-

YOUNG RACHEL
William!

YOUNG WILLIAM
Kidding. Of course I will.

THEY KISS AGAIN MORE PASSIONATELY. Camera pans away from the kissing couple to some shrubs where William and Rachel hide and watch in horror.

RACHEL
There's no way we were this much in love.

WILLIAM
We have our work cut out for us.

EXT. RACHEL'S HOUSE (SIDE DRIVEWAY)- LATER

William and Rachel hide on the side of the house. William remains focused on the front door.

RACHEL
What are you going to do?

WILLIAM
I'm going to talk some sense into me.

RACHEL
Like that ever worked.

WILLIAM
Name one time I ignored common sense.

RACHEL
How about the time your enormous ego couldn't swallow pride and go to marriage counseling when I actually wanted us to work out?

She is shocked by her own outburst.

WILLIAM
Wow, how many years of therapy did that sentence take?

RACHEL
Three.

EXT. RACHEL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Young William exits the house practically skipping down the sidewalk.

Behind him, William approaches.

WILLIAM
Excuse me, could I talk to you for a second?

Young William turns to see his older self. He doesn't know whether to run, cry or puke.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Listen, don't marry Rachel. It doesn't work out.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Who- Who- Who are you?

WILLIAM
I'm you. I mean you're me. I'm you fourteen years from now.

YOUNG WILLIAM
How'd did you get here?

WILLIAM
I manipulated an electromagnetic laser and formed a wormhole.

YOUNG WILLIAM
How did you control it for reentry?

William is stunned by the question and unable to answer only coming up with-

WILLIAM
I'll get back to you on that.

THE SKY SLOWLY TURNS RED. BUILDINGS START TO RUMBLE. A BIG CRACK SLOWLY THREADS DOWN THE STREET.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Let's stick to basics. Rachel? Love of your life? Not so much.

YOUNG WILLIAM
You're not real. This is a panic attack.

WILLIAM
I'm the panic attack that happens after you say "I do".

Young William, totally freaked out, walks away very quickly. William follows.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
No, no don't be freaked out.

YOUNG WILLIAM
(covering his ears)
I can't hear you.

WILLIAM
Trust me, I'm doing you a favor. Run from this now. Like the wind.

THE EARTH VIOLENTLY SHAKES. A few car alarms sound off as Young William runs off down the street.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
No- wait! Go with Dr. Brennan! Please!!

As Young William runs away, the shaking stops, the crack stops splitting the street and only the cacophony of the car alarms fill the air.

William is about to chase after Young William but Rachel stops him.

RACHEL
We have to talk.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

William and Rachel walk down a neighborhood street.

WILLIAM
What the hell was that?

RACHEL
That is what happens when you break the laws of physics, relativity, and nature. You and your younger self can't take up the same space or all hell breaks loose.

WILLIAM
How close can I get to him?

RACHEL
According to your experiment today? I'd say about four feet.

WILLIAM
Fine. We'll do it the old fashioned way. I'll go visit Father O'Connor at Blessed Sacrament. You cancel what's her name, the wedding planner. Oh! Maybe we should look up my ex-girlfriend, Janine?

RACHEL
This is insane!

WILLIAM
C'mon Rachel, don't go soft on me. Think of our beautiful future apart.

RACHEL
And how am I supposed to dig up our wedding planner from fourteen years ago?

William realizes she has a point. Rachel snaps her fingers, light bulb.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
My mom's address book! It'll be in there. And while I'm there I'll cancel my side of the guest list.

William smiles, liking the fact that Rachel is on board.

INT. YOUNG RACHEL'S HOUSE (KITCHEN) - DAY

An address book sits on the kitchen counter. Next to it is a cordless phone. Eileen and Young Rachel's voices come in from the living room.

EILEEN (O.S.)
Don't you just look darling.

YOUNG RACHEL (O.S.)
I thought it was bad luck to wear your dress before the wedding.

Rachel sneaks through the back door into the kitchen. She takes the cordless phone, grabs the address book, and darts back out the door.

EILEEN (O.S.)
Sweetheart, I got the bad luck. It skips a generation, trust me. Hurry up and try on the shoes.

EXT. HOUSE (BACK PORCH) - CONTINUOUS

Rachel sneaks out of the house and dials a number from the book.

RACHEL
Granny? It's Rachel. It's so good to hear your voice, I haven't talked to you since- um, anyway the wedding has been called off.
(beat)
Oh, no we're fine, everything is great. I just realized that William will probably never get his head out of his ass so why even try?

INT. JACOBS LABS - NIGHT

A pristine laboratory with computer monitors and work stations littered with scientific equipment. DR. JIM MORRIS, late fifties, leans back from a computer monitor. Behind him stands Dr. Brennan looking on excitedly.

DR. MORRIS
It could be, Roger.

DR. BRENNAN
Could be? It has to be exotic matter. It has negative energy density- look at how it separates!

DR. MORRIS
So where did it come from?

Dr. Brennan knows his theory is nuts but he tries to sell it anyway.

DR. BRENNAN
The only known source of exotic matter is a wormhole.

Dr. Morris smiles and politely laughs.

DR. MORRIS
Wormhole <u>theory</u> is just that.

DR. BRENNAN
But if it is? It would be the discovery of a lifetime.

Dr. Morris tries to rationalize with Dr. Brennan.

DR. MORRIS
Ok, I'll play along. How'd the wormhole form? Did someone create it? How? And more importantly, why?

The questions land on Dr. Brennan but he is far more determined than deterred.

INT. RECTORY OFFICE - DAY

An ornate rectory office. Behind a desk sits FRAN, early seventies, coke bottle glasses. She speaks on the phone.

FRAN
I'm sorry, Father O'Connor is unavailable at the moment. Can I take a message?

William rushes into the office.

FRAN (CONT'D)
I'm sure he'd love a weekend of golf but he has a wedding this weekend. Also he thinks you're full of yourself.
(beat)
Okay, you have a good one too, Bishop Robinson.

She hangs up the phone and sees William.

FRAN (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

WILLIAM
Is Father O'Connor here? I need to cancel the Matthews-Phillips wedding.

FRAN
If you cancel within seventy two hours-

WILLIAM
I just need to talk to him.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Row after row of empty pews. Lining the side of the church are a row of confessional booths.

FRAN (V.O.)
He's hearing confessions.

William enters the church and heads towards the confessionals.

INT. CONFESSIONAL- DAY

FATHER O'CONNOR, mid sixties, pot belly, balding sits in the confessional flipping through Golf Magazine. Suddenly the booth next to his door opens and someone sits down. Father O'Connor continues to flip through the Magazine. We intercut between the two booths.

FATHER O'CONNOR
Welcome, my child. How long has it been since your last confession?

WILLIAM
Father, it's William Matthews and I need to cancel my wedding.

Father Matthews puts the Golf Magazine down.

FATHER O'CONNOR
What's happened between you and Rachel?

William takes a deep breath for drama's sake.

WILLIAM
She went lesbo, Father.

FATHER O'CONNOR
Beg your pardon?

William goes in for the kill.

WILLIAM
I walked in on Rachel and another girl- I can't say it.

FATHER O'CONNOR
(hopeful)
Not even part of it?

WILLIAM
I just need to cancel the wedding and you go about your day so no more harm can come out of this. There must be something you'd rather do this weekend.

Father O'Connor looks at the Golf Magazine in front of him.

FATHER O'CONNOR
You know, lad. The Lord works in mysterious ways. He could have another plan for you than marriage right now.

WILLIAM
That's the beauty of rock bottom, isn't it? Nowhere to go but up?

FATHER O'CONNOR
Time heals all wounds, my son.

WILLIAM
That's the hope.

INT. I “HEART” EVENTS SHOWROOM - DAY

An extravagant party events show room. The walls are lined with pictures of big gaudy wedding receptions. Brides and grooms ridiculously happy in every one of them. There are place settings, centerpieces and mannequins of brides and grooms that litter the showroom floor.

Behind a desk at the far end of the room sits SARAH JENKINS, late thirties, a bun hairdo. The Delta Burke resemblance is uncanny. She speaks on a telephone deep in negotiations.

SARAH
(into headset)
No, Marshall, that’s not what I said. That bride wants the fire eaters and sword jugglers to exit first.

Rachel enters the showroom and cautiously makes her way towards Sarah.

SARAH (CONT’D)
(into phone)
No. The clowns are out.
(beat)
Because they were too much.
(beat)
Good, make it happen.

She hangs up the phone and gives Rachel a quick look.

SARAH (CONT’D)
Christ, sweetie, you look like ass.

RACHEL
Good to see you again, too.

SARAH
Don’t worry. Call Tina at the salon. She is a miracle worker. She can take out those bags and color the hair. You’ll be fine for Saturday, trust me. Did I tell you I got the doves?

RACHEL
The wedding has been called off.

Sarah waits for Rachel to give in on the joke. Rachel does not. Sarah bursts out in laughter.

SARAH
Very good, sweetie, you almost had me. I was thinking we could push the rehearsal up an hour-

RACHEL
I'm cancelling the wedding.

SARAH
This isn't funny!!

Rachel realizes she has derailed a control freak. Sarah takes a deep breath in order to regroup.

RACHEL
It's not your fault. We just changed our minds.

SARAH
When?

RACHEL
Recently. Sort of.

Sarah gets shaky like she's about to fall apart. She fakes a smile and calmly wipes her forehead.

SARAH
It's the doves, isn't it?

RACHEL
No, the doves were lovely, really it isn't that.

SARAH
(more to herself)
I've never had anyone cancel on me. Every couple who has invited me into their hearts has stayed together. My record is impeccable.

RACHEL
Well, I've met someone else. Sorry.

Rachel walks out of the showroom. As she reaches the door and opens it to leave-

SARAH
This isn't over, Rachel!! Love conquers all!!
(beat)
Even a cancelled wedding!!!

Sarah opens a desk drawer and takes out a fifth of Jack Daniels and a small rocks glass.

INT. CALTECH (LABORATORY) - NIGHT

Young Rachel works late in the lab. Dr. Brennan enters unaware of her and rushes to the white board with the equation written on it. He stares at it practically possessed.

Young Rachel watches, unsure if she should stay or leave. Slowly she closes the book and slips it into her bag. She gets up to leave and bumps into her chair. The chair legs scrape the floor and break Dr. Brennan's concentration.

DR. BRENNAN
Ms. Phillips? What a lovely surprise.

YOUNG RACHEL
I'm sorry, Dr. Brennan. I needed to make up some lab hours.

Dr. Brennan smiles and his smile melts Young Rachel. She does her best to stay upright as he walks over to her.

DR. BRENNAN
Don't be sorry. I'm glad you're here. I know my proposition the other day-

YOUNG RACHEL
Don't-

DR. BRENNAN
I won't.
(inviting)
But I could use your help on a new development.

YOUNG RACHEL
(flattered)
You need my help?

He knows he has her and he goes in for the kill. He slowly saunters towards her.

DR. BRENNAN
I'm on to something Rachel. I could use an outsider's point of view. Why don't we discuss it... over some wine...at my condo?

She is lost in the idea of a night with him.

YOUNG RACHEL
(dazed)
Red or white?

He leans in close.

DR. BRENNAN
Ladies' choice.

Young Rachel breaks from the spell, awkward yet intrigued.

YOUNG RACHEL
I-I-I...have to go. Maybe another time?

DR. BRENNAN
I'm going to hold you to that.

Young Rachel looks at him trying to come up with something clever but can't and exits. Dr. Brennan smiles briefly then looks back at the equation on the board.

INT. CHEAP MOTEL - NIGHT

William and Rachel walk into a cheap motel lobby.

WILLIAM
So how'd she take it?

RACHEL
Rough but she took it. Father O'Connor?

WILLIAM
On an eight thirty flight to Pebble Beach.

RACHEL
(impressed)
Nice work.

WILLIAM
Likewise.

They step up to the ATTENDANT at the front desk.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Can we have a room with two queens, please?

William takes out his credit card and passes it to the attendant. The Attendant runs his card through.

ATTENDANT
I'm sorry, sir, this card doesn't work. Do you have another?

William gives him another card. The Attendant runs it through and it doesn't work either. The Attendant looks at the card.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
(confused)
This card expires.... in fifteen years.

RACHEL
(to William)
Great. Now where are we going to stay?

EXT. RACHEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

William and Rachel sneak up to the back door of Rachel's house. They argue with intense whispers.

RACHEL
What about your house?!

WILLIAM
I don't have an attic!

They open the back door and enter.

YOUNG WILLIAM WALKS UP TO THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE AND SWIFTLY LIFTS HIMSELF UNTO THE LOWER BRANCH OF A TREE AND CLIMBS UP.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

William and Rachel sneak through the empty kitchen. William grabs the cordless phone and puts it in his pocket.

INT. RACHEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They sneak down the hall from the back door. They hear footsteps and scurry into different rooms.

Reginald walks down the hallway in a robe. He locks the front door then goes up the stairs.

Slowly William and Rachel come out as they hear the bedroom door upstairs close.

They sneak down the hallway. William passes a wine rack with several bottles and glasses hanging upside down.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Young William leans out from a branch and taps on Young Rachel's window. She comes to the window, smiles, and opens it up. He climbs inside and immediately into her arms.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

A cluttered attic with unused furniture and belongings covered in dusty sheets. From the floor, a small door opens and William and Rachel pop their heads out. They step into the attic with a bottle of wine and two glasses. William closes the door as Rachel takes in the attic.

RACHEL
This is a horrible idea!

WILLIAM
This way we stay on top of things. No surprises. Besides, you said no one ever comes up here.

He pops the cork and pours two glasses. He raises his glass and clinks it with Rachel's.

RACHEL
So should I be ashamed that I ruined all female relationships for you, or flattered?

WILLIAM
I didn't mean that-

RACHEL
That's probably the nicest thing you've said to me in the last two days.

William raises his glass.

WILLIAM
To us.

She gives in and clinks her glass with his.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I forgot how good a team we are when-

RACHEL
If you found out that I cancelled the wedding planner two days before our wedding-

WILLIAM
Today was a good day-

RACHEL
(defiant)
Wouldn't you find a way to marry me?

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Young William and Young Rachel are a flurry of twisted sheets, naked bodies and moans.

WILLIAM (V.O.)
No.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

Rachel is taken aback by William's frankness.

RACHEL
No? Just like that "no"?

WILLIAM
I will be crushed to a tiny shell of a man. And in two days I'll be on a plane to Helsinki and you'll never see me again.

He toasts to her again and they drink.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
If you heard I cancelled the priest two days before our wedding what would you have done?

RACHEL
I'd probably be pissed.

WILLIAM
Probably?! I saw you in the backyard today-

RACHEL
But I'd talk to you.

WILLIAM
But I'd want nothing to do with you.

It stings Rachel but she takes the high road with silence.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Satisfied?

RACHEL
(simply)
Satisfied.

Rachel grabs a sheet and throws it over her shoulder as she lays down on a chaise lounge.

William looks around the attic looking for something comfortable to sleep on. His eyes land on an old rocking chair. He sits in it and grabs a sheet from a covered piece of furniture and pulls it over himself.

The moans of their younger selves permeate through the floor. Rachel and William try their best to ignore it but the moans build as the bed posts knock against the walls below.

INT. RECTORY OFFICE - MORNING

Eileen steps into Father O'Connor's outer office. At the desk sits Fran.

EILEEN
Good morning, Fran. I'm here to see Father O'Connor about the wedding on Saturday.

FRAN
Father O'Connor left for a golf trip.

EILEEN
Well, when is he coming back?

FRAN
Tuesday.

Eileen brushes off Fran with a polite nod.

EILEEN
Thank you, Fran.

Eileen walks up to the office door and knocks.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
Father O'Connor, it's Eileen. Just a few moments of your time, then I promise I'll be gone.

FRAN
Does he know who you are?

Eileen opens the door and realizes the office is empty. She panics.

EILEEN
Damn it, Fran, every one in this church knows who I am.

FRAN
There's no need to swear.

EILEEN
Did Father O'Connor explain why he left two days before he was supposed to marry my daughter?

FRAN
Maybe she's not his type.

Eileen massages her temples.

EILEEN
Amazing, I can feel the aneurysm coming.

FRAN
You should talk to the young man with the beard. He's the one who cancelled the wedding.

INT. HOUSE- DAY

Reginald sits in the living room reading the Sports section. Eileen tears into the room slamming the door behind her.

EILEEN
WHAT DID YOU DO?!

Reginald slowly lowers his paper preparing himself for yet another onslaught.

REGINALD
(defeated)
Why don't you just tell me?

EILEEN
Father O'Connor left for a golf trip because someone claiming to be in the wedding party cancelled the wedding.

REGINALD
What?

EILEEN
And when I called the bridal party, they all said that Rachel called them and cancelled the wedding. I know she didn't make those calls. And I know William isn't behind this.

REGINALD
Here it comes.

EILEEN
How much? How much did my and my daughter's eternal sadness cost you?

REGINALD
Why would I want to make <u>Rachel</u> sad?

EILEEN
Because you're a cheap bastard.

REGINALD
Then how could I afford the conspiracy festering in your head?

He makes sense. But before she can retort-

REGINALD (CONT'D)
<u>I</u> didn't scare William away. You look at him like he's made out of Scotch.

EILEEN
What is it, some sort of competition? Does William intimidate you? Is that it?

REGINALD
I have nothing against that boy.

EILEEN
He is a “man”. The man that would bring your daughter happiness and love for the rest of her life. There should be a statue of him in this house.

REGINALD
Christ Eileen, swear you never told him that.

EILEEN
Well now I won’t get a chance to, will I?!

INT. YOUNG RACHEL’S ROOM - MORNING

Eileen opens the door and sees Young Rachel asleep in bed. So innocent and harmless. She fights back the “worry” and composes herself. She sits down on the bed and gently rubs her daughter’s back.

EILEEN
Rachel? Sweetie, it’s time to get up.

Young Rachel slowly wakes up.

EILEEN (CONT’D)
Time to rise and shine, sweetheart. Last day as a single girl.

Young Rachel looks at the clock.

YOUNG RACHEL
I’m late.

Young Rachel grabs a towel and heads for the door.

YOUNG RACHEL (CONT’D)
Granny is still well enough to come to the wedding?

EILEEN
Yes, sweetie. Everyone is coming and it’s going to be the most beautiful wedding of all time. Just like I promised.
(beat)
How are things between you and William?

Young Rachel looks away from her mother so Eileen pursues.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
Are you having cold feet?

YOUNG RACHEL
I wouldn't say cold feet. But-

EILEEN
What did you do?!

YOUNG RACHEL
Nothing.
(beat)
But...how did you know, really know that dad was who you wanted to spend the rest of your life with?

Eileen is floored by the question and can't hide it.

EILEEN
Christ, when you say it like that it sounds like cancer.

YOUNG RACHEL
There wasn't anyone else....in the periphery?

Eileen holds her suspicion down and takes a deep breath before she proceeds. Carefully.

EILEEN
You are engaged to a brilliant scientist and are about to embark on the perfect wedding.
(beat)
You do not have a periphery.

YOUNG RACHEL
What if he gets consumed by his work and he becomes someone he is not-

Eileen grabs Young Rachel by the arms and uses her "serious" tone.

EILEEN
The way he looks at you. The way you smile when he's around. That is the only thing you should be thinking about.

Young Rachel smiles.

YOUNG RACHEL
I know. But you and dad-

She takes Young Rachel's head in her hands and looks at her longingly.

EILEEN
This is not about me and your father.

Eileen kisses Young Rachel on the head.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
Because you are not marrying an imbecile.

Eileen smiles and walks out of the room.

INT. RACHEL'S HOUSE (HALLWAY) - CONTINUOUS

Eileen steps out of the room, closes the door and does a small silent prayer to her Lord Jesus to get her out of this.

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

William is on all fours with his ear to the floor. He curses under his breath as Rachel wakes up.

RACHEL
What is it?

WILLIAM
Your mom is protecting you from the truth.

Rachel puts her ear to the floor.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I have to find out that you cancelled the wedding planner. Trust me, it will crush me.

RACHEL
It better. Once my mom gets scheming there's no stopping her.

William picks up the cordless phone and dials.

WILLIAM
Yes, California Tech, please.
(beat)
Can you connect me to the Science Department? Lab 403?
(beat)
Hello, I'd like to leave a message for William Matthews.
(MORE)

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Can you please tell him to call his wedding planner? It's very important. Thank you.

William hangs up the phone extremely pleased with himself.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Done.

RACHEL
Not enough. We need to fight. What's the angriest you've ever been at me?

WILLIAM
Other than breaking my heart and trying to take my research funds?

RACHEL
Yeah, like pissed.

He doesn't even need time to think about it.

WILLIAM
When you had a date three weeks after our divorce.

RACHEL
How did you know it was three weeks?

WILLIAM
I-I-I --someone told me-

RACHEL
You were spying on me?

WILLIAM
No, you were just eating in the same restaurant that I had a high powered telescope on.

He wants to take the admission back, but it is too late. Rachel owns those words with a contempt filled shake of the head.

RACHEL
Amazing. Only a divorce could get you to take a night off.
(beat)
So jealousy worked?

WILLIAM
You said "angry".

Rachel picks up the cordless phone from the floor and dials.

RACHEL
(into phone)
Yes, Cal Tech please.
(beat)
Can you connect me to the Science Department? Dr. Roger Brennan, please?
(beat)
Thank you.

INT. CAL TECH (CONFERENCE ROOM) - DAY

Dr. Brennan walks into the conference room. He looks at the lab chair that is still on the floor. He picks it up and inspects the leg.

INSERT: MANUFACTURED, BRISTOL FACTORIES, 2007.

Dr. Brennan's eyes light up as he gets more proof to his theory.

Young William enters.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Dr. Brennan!

DR. BRENNAN THROWS THE CHAIR TO THE SIDE.

YOUNG WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Did the tests results come back?

DR. BRENNAN
Yes they did. Sorry but he ruled out exotic matter.

Dr. Brennan walks out of the room but Young William follows.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - DAY

Dr. Brennan walks down the hall with Young William in pursuit.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Are you sure?

DR. BRENNAN
Matthews, we can hope for results but science doesn't lie.

A PROFESSOR, mid forties taps Dr. Brennan on the shoulder.

PROFESSOR
You got a call on line three.

Dr. Brennan picks up a phone in the hallway. Young William walks away disappointed. Dr. Brennan watches and smiles as he answers the phone.

DR. BRENNAN
This is Dr. Brennan.

INT. ATTIC - DAY

Rachel is on the phone as William paces behind her. We intercut between the two.

RACHEL
Dr. Brennan? This is Rachel Phillips.

DR. BRENNAN
Well hello, Rachel. What can I do you for?

RACHEL
I was wondering if you would like to join me for lunch in the cafeteria?

DR. BRENNAN
Sure I'd love to.

Dr. Brennan hangs up and smiles the smile of victory close at hand.

DR. BRENNAN (CONT'D)
My lucky day.

INT. ATTIC - DAY

Rachel hangs up the phone and smiles.

WILLIAM
Wait, you weren't like in love with him were you?

RACHEL
More like the other way around.

Rachel stands proud with her plot. William does his best to stifle his laughter.

WILLIAM
(amused)
Oh my God. He nailed half the freshman class.

RACHEL
Those were rumors. He was brilliant and kind and ....strapping.

This is more than a ploy and William digs deeper, cautious, but deeper.

WILLIAM
You didn't do anything, did you?

RACHEL
What if I did? You and I wouldn't have worked out?

It lands but William tries to fight on.

WILLIAM
So Brennan is "the one who got away"?

RACHEL
No, he's "the one who could've been".

Rachel walks towards the window in the side of the roof. She opens it and climbs out.

WILLIAM
Where are you going?

RACHEL
Back to the lab. I want to watch.

WILLIAM
Have fun. I'm going to my house to get my key.

Rachel disappears out the window.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE (LIVING ROOM) - DAY

William sneaks into his house. He takes in the familiar living room. Pristine, beautiful antique furniture.

On the mantle over the fireplace is a black and white wedding photo of his mom and dad. As he walks towards it-

GERARD (O.S.)
That you, William?

William freaks. He runs out of the room and towards the back of the house. As he does, GERARD, frail, late seventies makes his way out of the kitchen with a tv dinner on a tray.

He sits in front of the television and turns it on.

William walks out from his hiding place and looks at his father alone, eating a frozen dinner in front of the television.

WILLIAM
Dad...you look great.

Gerard doesn't turn his attention away from the tv in front of him or the race lineup on his lap.

GERARD
Did you place my bet at the OTB?

WILLIAM
Yeah, you're good.

GERARD
Damn right I am. You see who's running in the third? "Sweet Girl Of Mine." I'm telling you, your mother is going to make me a rich man.
(beat)
How's Rachel?

WILLIAM
She's a pain in the ass.

Gerard's laughs lead to a series of coughs before he is able to recover.

GERARD
Ha! Sounds like love to me.

WILLIAM
What? No, I did, I mean she's nice but- it's far from perfect.

Gerard cuts into his Salisbury steak as he watches the tv.

GERARD
"Perfect"? Get that word out of your head now.

WILLIAM
You had a good marriage, Pop.

GERARD
Your mom, God rest her soul, was a pain in the ass. So was I. But you stick around anyway. That's how you know it's love.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)
"Petri's Delight" gets up to the gate and hesitates. There he goes, he's in and we're about to start.

Gerard gets lost in the broadcast. William slowly walks out of the room.

INT. WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

A bed strewn with dirty clothes. Above the bed is the classic picture of Albert Einstein sticking his tongue out. To the other side of the room a small desk with a lamp and a BACK TO THE FUTURE poster over it. By the door, a dresser with various framed pictures of Young William and Young Rachel.

William flies into the room, opens the DESK DRAWER AND TAKES OUT A SMALL KEY. Victory in his hand. He is about to close the drawer when he sees a little black address book. He flips through it, but suddenly stops at a particular page and smiles.

INT. CAL TECH (CAFETERIA) - DAY

Rachel walks into the cafeteria and spies her younger self sitting at a table across the room. Young Rachel sits at a table with opened textbooks and salad in front of her.

Rachel takes a position behind a pillar and watches.

INT. CAL TECH (CAFETERIA; YOUNG RACHEL'S TABLE) - DAY

Young Rachel highlights several pages as she eats her salad as Dr. Brennan gallantly makes his way to her table.

YOUNG RACHEL
(breathless)
Oh, Dr. Brennan.

DR. BRENNAN
May I sit?

Young Rachel nervously nods and he sits.

DR. BRENNAN (CONT'D)
I know when I first made my offer I probably made you feel like I was rounding you up with all the others. But you are not like the others. Not by any means.

YOUNG RACHEL
That's kind of you to say.

DR. BRENNAN
I was thinking that it would be a good idea if you worked directly under my supervision.

Rachel is taken aback.

YOUNG RACHEL
You mean as an assistant?

DR. BRENNAN
How about partner? I'll keep you close, Rachel. Real close.

EXT. CAL TECH - DAY

William runs across the quad towards the main Science building.

INT. CAL TECH (LABORATORY) - DAY

Young William watches in horror as the older version of himself huffs and puffs across the quad. He rubs his eyes hard with his palms. When he looks back out at the quad he sees no sign of his older self.

Freaked, he backs away from the window. A YOUNG MICHAEL, mid twenties, overweight and excited, comes up to him and slaps him on the shoulder.

YOUNG MICHAEL
Hey William-

Young William jumps up extremely jittery. He sees who it is and calms down.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Sorry, I've been having a really strange couple of days.

YOUNG MICHAEL
Nervous about the big day?

Young William laughs and covers with-

YOUNG WILLIAM
Just um, excited. Best day of my life, right?

YOUNG MICHAEL
That's the spirit. By the way, your wedding planner called.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Thanks.

Young Michael walks away as Young William goes to a nearby phone and dials.

YOUNG WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Hi Sarah, this is William Matthews.
(beat)
Wait- stop crying. What happened?
(beat)
What do you mean "someone" else?

INT. CAL TECH (CAFETERIA: YOUNG RACHEL'S TABLE) - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Brennan takes out a plane ticket and slides it across to Young Rachel.

DR. BRENNAN
Now I bought this out of my own pocket because I believe in you.
(beat)
If you don't show, fine, I understand. If you do, you're saying "yes" to a brilliant career.

YOUNG RACHEL
Dr. Brennan, I-

Dr. Brennan holds Rachel's hands tightly.

DR. BRENNAN
I just want you to know you're more than a student, my God you're an equal. That's why I can't let you make this mistake.

YOUNG RACHEL
William's research is going to keep us here.

DR. BRENNAN
William Matthews? He's what's keeping you here?

YOUNG RACHEL
We're engaged.

DR. BRENNAN
I hate to see you hold yourself back for him. You have twice the potential that he does.

YOUNG RACHEL
Really?

Dr. Brennan leans in and firmly holds Young Rachel's hands practically to his lips.

DR. BRENNAN
I want this for you.

YOUNG RACHEL
I've often thought about what it would be like to work under you.

DR. BRENNAN
I am on to something right now that is huge. A game changer in the world of science. Come to Helsinki and find out.

YOUNG RACHEL
I don't know. We already got the doves.

DR. BRENNAN
If it's really love, it will wait.

ON YOUNG WILLIAM

Young William zips out of a stairwell and scans the cafeteria. His eyes land on Young Rachel and Dr. Brennan.

YOUNG WILLIAM'S POV:

DR. BRENNAN HOLDS YOUNG RACHEL'S HANDS CLOSE. THEY LOOK DEEPLY INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES.

ON YOUNG WILLIAM

HIS KNEES WOBBLE, THE ROOM STARTS TO SPIN. HE SCURRIES TOWARDS THE DOOR.

EXT. CAL TECH - DAY

Young William stumbles out of the building. He is blubbering and with every step his posture sinks more and more.

He stumbles off the curb as a purple 1997 Plymouth Prowler screeches to a halt inches from his legs. The door opens and out bounces JANINE, early twenties, pretty, bubbly and intense.

JANINE
William, you poor darling, there you are.

Young William tries to cover up that he's been crying.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Janine? What are you doing here?

JANINE
I am so sorry about your wedding.

Young William sinks to a new level of hopelessness and despair.

YOUNG WILLIAM
AM I THE LAST ONE TO KNOW?!!!

JANINE
Oh my God, you poor dear, you're hysterical.

He collapses to the ground. Janine helps him up to his feet. He sobs in her arms as she leads him to the car.

JANINE (CONT'D)
That's it. You're coming with me. You need a good shoulder to lean on and I have two I'm not even using.

YOUNG WILLIAM
This...this wasn't supposed to happen.

JANINE
I know, William. I know.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

William runs up to the edge of the parking lot. Across the way he can see the younger version of himself deep in Janine's embrace. He smiles at the victory and runs towards the entrance to the building.

INT. CAL TECH (CAFETERIA) - DAY

Dr. Brennan holds onto Young Rachel's hands and keeps an intense focus on her. He goes in for the kill.

DR. BRENNAN
I was wrong, Rachel. You're more than an equal. You're a-

Dr. Brennan stops as he realizes that Young Rachel's eyes are focused out the window.

YOUNG RACHEL'S POV:

Janine helps Young William into her car and takes off.

ON YOUNG RACHEL

Young Rachel bolts up from the table as she watches her fiancé drive away with Janine.

YOUNG RACHEL
I have to go.

DR. BRENNAN
Now? Are you sure?

YOUNG RACHEL
Positive.

Young Rachel runs to the door.

DR. BRENNAN
Wait- your ticket!

But Young Rachel is out the door. Dr. Brennan is disappointed by her reaction but confident he made some ground. As he gets up from the table he sees something across the cafeteria.

DR. BRENNAN POV:

Rachel stands behind a pillar and watches her younger self rush out the door.

EXT. CAL TECH - CONTINUOUS

As William runs into the building, Young Rachel passes by him concentrated on the car that leaves the parking lot.

INT. CAL TECH (CAFETERIA) - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Brennan walks towards Rachel but stops as William comes in. Dr. Brennan stands there in disbelief as he watches William escort Rachel up a stairwell. As quickly and as stealthily as possible, he follows them.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - DAY

William and Rachel come up the stairs to an empty hallway. William looks around to see if the coast is clear.

RACHEL
It worked! You'll never believe how perfect it was.

INT. CAL TECH (STAIRWELL) - DAY

Dr. Brennan sneaks up the stairwell towards the voices at the top.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - CONTINUOUS

Rachel and William jump up and down celebrating their success.

RACHEL
Roger and I were holding hands and you left sobbing like a little girl!

WILLIAM
I know! Then Janine swung by and I got in her car! I'm in such a state there's no telling what I'll do!!

William checks his watch. In the background, Dr. Brennan peeks his head out from around the corner and looks at William and Rachel in amazement.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
And we still have about twenty hours before the wormhole forms again.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Brennan hides on the other side of the wall putting it all together. He checks his watch.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - CONTINUOUS

Rachel's celebration turns sour as she beams a look at William.

RACHEL
You called your ex?

WILLIAM
(amused)
Now who's jealous?

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Young Rachel gets in her car and speeds towards the parking exit.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - CONTINUOUS

Rachel punches William in the arm.

RACHEL
She was a psycho.

WILLIAM
She was a nice girl-

RACHEL
Who threatened me all the time when we were dating. I had to get a restraining order. Finally our wedding sent her over the edge and she was institutionalized.

He knows when she is lying. This is not one of those moments.

WILLIAM
How come you never told me this?

RACHEL
I-

WILLIAM
What if she kills me? What have I done? C'mon!

William runs towards the door.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Her apartment's on Orange and Dewhurst.

RACHEL
(pissed)
You remember where she lives?!!

WILLIAM
Will you come on?!

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY)- CONTINUOUS

William and Rachel run back down the stairwell. They're in such a frantic state, they rush right by Dr. Brennan without noticing him. Dr. Brennan watches them run away, checks his watch and scurries down the hallway.

INT. JANINE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Janine opens the door and leads a sobbing, wilting Young William to the couch.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Maybe I smothered her. I talked her into the doves, maybe that was the straw that broke the camel's back?

JANINE
I think doves are poetry.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I never even saw this coming. Have you ever been so in love with someone that it blocked out the rest of the world?

Janine looks deep at Young William, locking her scope on him.

JANINE
Once.

She is inches from William's shivering blubbering lips. But Young William breaks into another long sob and Janine backs off.

JANINE (CONT'D)
Let me make some coffee.

She goes into the kitchen.

Young William grabs a Kleenex and blows his nose long and hard. He takes a deep breath and tries to get a handle on the situation. He takes in his surroundings, a modest apartment clean, neat, everything in its proper place.

On the mantle piece is a framed picture of himself and Janine arm in arm in a vineyard.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Was this the time we went wine tasting?

JANINE (O.S.)
Oh yeah, it was such a great photo I never put it away.

William nods accepting the explanation.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

William and Rachel come running up to the side of the apartment. They peek into the window, cowering low.

INT. JANINE'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS

Young William looks at an end table that has another photo of himself and Janine on a beach.

YOUNG WILLIAM
This one is Cabo, right?

JANINE
Remember that trip?

Young William turns around and sees a FLOOR TO CEILING MOSAIC OF HIMSELF. THE MOSAIC IS MADE UP OF TINY PICTURES OF HIM AND JANINE THROUGHOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP. Young William realizes he is in the den of the psycho ex-girlfriend from hell.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Um, Janine- I should probably go.

JANINE (O.S.)
Leaving so soon? I wouldn't think of it.

THE KETTLE IN THE KITCHEN WHISTLES LOUD!

Young William turns to see Janine wearing only a long t-shirt to her thighs that has a picture of William and a caption at the bottom that reads: I "HEART" GENIUS.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I've taken way too much of your time.

JANINE
I've been waiting for this moment, lover.

She takes out a remote and presses a button. The power riffs of Bad Company's "Feel Like Making Love" blare from the speakers.

Young William stands up.

YOUNG WILLIAM
No, this isn't really a moment.

JANINE
You say that because you're blind. But I can make you see.

JANINE THROWS HERSELF ON YOUNG WILLIAM. The force makes him fall into the chair with Janine straddling him.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I think you've misunderstood-

JANINE
No, William I see it all. And when you called me today to tell me about your cancelled wedding, you confirmed it.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I didn't call you-

JANINE
Oh sweetie, all that denial is just going to eat you up. That's my job.

Young William tries to push Janine off his lap but he can't. He looks down and realizes that throughout all her psycho babble, SHE HAS TIED HIM TO THE CHAIR.

JANINE (CONT'D)
We can make this work, William. It's the same thing I told you that night you were engaged. We can live in a house by the lake. My father will fund your research. Can't you see I can give you everything you've ever wanted?

YOUNG WILLIAM
I-I-I -

JANINE
If you can't see it, then I want you to feel it.

SHE WHIPS OUT A DARK PILLOW CASE AND THROWS IT OVER HIS HEAD. As he squirms with his bonds and the psycho on his lap, SHE PRESSES HIS HOODED FACE IN HER BOSOM.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

William winces as he watches but Rachel punches him hard in the arm.

RACHEL
You saw her the night we were engaged?

WILLIAM
Can we talk about this later?

RACHEL
Did you do anything?

WILLIAM
What if I did? We might not have worked out?

Rachel fumes and storms away.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Young William struggles in the chair as Janine smothers him in kisses.

YOUNG WILLIAM
You can't give me everything. I love Rachel.

BOOM!! The front door comes crashing down as Rachel enters the apartment.

Janine is just as much in shock at her entrance as her older appearance.

JANINE
Are you going grey?

Without missing a step RACHEL PICKS UP A LARGE BOOK FROM THE COFFEE TABLE AND SLAPS JANINE ACROSS THE FACE. Janine falls to her knees unconscious with her head landing in Young William's lap.

Young William reacts to Janine's face in his lap and does his best to look out from beneath his hood.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Who's there?

Rachel tries to get control of the situation.

RACHEL
Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Young Rachel drives her car down the street and slows down as she sees the familiar purple Prowler parked.

YOUNG RACHEL
No.

She pulls up behind the car and parks.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

William scurries out of the bushes but ducks down, just as Young Rachel gets out of her car and marches towards the apartment building.

INT. JANINE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Rachel is about to untie Young William but stops. She grabs him by the collar, threateningly.

RACHEL
You saw her the night we got engaged?! Why?

YOUNG WILLIAM
Do you want to marry Brennan?!

RACHEL
I want to marry you. Would I be here if I didn't?
(catching herself)
Oh my God-

She hears a knock on the window. William beckons her to come over. She runs over and opens the window.

WILLIAM
You have to leave now.

RACHEL
Why?

WILLIAM
Because your younger self is about to walk in.

Rachel steps on the ledge and William helps her out the window.

Young Rachel steps into the room and takes in the scene: Janine passed out with her face in the crotch of a hooded man tied to a chair. She walks up to the man and takes the pillow case off his head.

YOUNG RACHEL
What are you doing here, William?

YOUNG WILLIAM
Stop it with the innocent act. I know you cancelled the wedding planner. I also know there's someone else.

YOUNG RACHEL
You're having cold feet, aren't you?

YOUNG WILLIAM
I'm having cold feet? You love Dr. Brennan.

YOUNG RACHEL
I love you.

Young William is not buying it.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I saw you in the cafeteria today.

His accusations are ridiculous, but the venom in his eyes...

YOUNG RACHEL
You don't know how much I love you?

YOUNG WILLIAM
You know how much I love you? I was offered a position on Brennan's team but I said no so I could marry you. Biggest mistake of my life!!

YOUNG RACHEL
Well I was offered a position too!!!

YOUNG WILLIAM
What?!

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

William and Rachel watch the argument. William looks to Rachel.

WILLIAM
What?!

INT. JANINE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Young William is still unsure if she's telling the truth.

YOUNG RACHEL
I said no so I could marry you.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Did he ask you before or after me?

YOUNG RACHEL
My God, you're obsessed. Do you want to go?

YOUNG WILLIAM
That's not the point.

YOUNG RACHEL
It is the point. You think I want to be a piece of regret for the rest of your life?

YOUNG WILLIAM
You want me to go?!

YOUNG RACHEL
If it makes you happy? Then "yes"!

YOUNG WILLIAM
Fine!

YOUNG RACHEL
Fine!

Young Rachel storms out of the apartment. Young William shifts Janine's face out of crotch. He struggles back and forth with his bonds and they fall to the ground. His hands are free but all he can do is bury his head in them.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Young Rachel sits on her bed sobbing. From the hallway Eileen knocks on the door.

EILEEN (O.S.)
Sweetheart, let me in.

YOUNG RACHEL
Leave me alone. The wedding is off!

We intercut between Young Rachel in the bedroom and Eileen in the hallway.

EILEEN
It's not a problem if you can throw money at it. I fixed it.

YOUNG RACHEL
I don't want it fixed!

EILEEN
I got us a room at the community center. A third of the guests can still show. I even got us a rabbi. She's very nice.

YOUNG RACHEL
A rabbi? What about Father O'Connor?

EILEEN
Well, William cancelled him.

YOUNG RACHEL
Oh God!!!!

More tears and sobs from behind the door.

EILEEN
Maybe! I don't know! Sweetheart, you have to talk to William.

YOUNG RACHEL
I don't ever want to see him again.

She collapses on the bed in tears and shudders.

INT. ATTIC - DAY

Rachel and William sit in silence as Young Rachel's sobs intensify from below.

RACHEL
We did the right thing, right?

William remains focused on the opposite wall, trying to piece it all together.

WILLIAM
Dr. Brennan asked you before me, didn't he?

Rachel nods.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
And you said no so you could marry me?

RACHEL
So did you.

WILLIAM
But he was into nanoscale quantum engineering, your expertise.
(beat)
When you talk about sacrificing your career, you're talking about that moment when you said no to him and yes to me?

She reluctantly nods again.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, Rachel. We had something really great and I messed it up.

RACHEL
No-

WILLIAM
And then I went back to mess it up again. I thought I wanted this-

RACHEL
You didn't mess up our marriage. For years, I believed in you and I supported you. And not once did you ask me to set aside my research or my goals. I did that all on my own.
(beat)
But I blamed you for my unhappiness.
(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)
And I got so wrapped up in it, I couldn’t remember why we were ever married in the first place. So I left.

WILLIAM
You don’t remember any good times?

RACHEL
I remember being miserable. Don’t you?

WILLIAM
You know what I remember? Jimmy Buffet, 2004. You and I drinking Mai Tais out of plastic coconuts in 90 degree heat.

Rachel doesn’t know whether to be amused or touched by his memory.

WILLIAM (CONT’D)
When you had pneumonia and you were freezing. You asked me to come to bed. And I knew if I did I would get sick, but I did it anyway.

RACHEL
And you did. 103 fever the next day.

WILLIAM
That look on your face when you were walking down the aisle. So scared but beautiful at the same time.

RACHEL
What else?

INT. COURTHOUSE GARAGE - DAY

William stands face to face with Rachel in a parking garage. They shake hands and William walks away.

WILLIAM (V.O.)
Divorce Court Parking Garage. March 3, 2009.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

William gets into his car, he is about to start the car but stops. He gives into the failure of the marriage and is overcome with tears.

WILLIAM (V.O.)
I swear I bawled for an hour in that parking lot.

INT. CAR - DAY

Rachel cries in a car as she drives, barely able to see the road ahead through her tears and the rain that pelts the windshield.

RACHEL (V.O.)
Funny. I bawled as I was driving away.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

William looks deep into Rachel's eyes.

WILLIAM
You're the one who got away, Rachel. Twice.

RACHEL
I'm not gone yet.

THEY KISS.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
You know why I took this job? So I could reject you. And I thought I'd be able to walk in and give you a thumbs down and get the closure I needed.

WILLIAM
So you needed closure after five years of divorce? I don't know if I should be flattered or ashamed-

RACHEL
Stop talking.

SHE KISSES HIM.

WILLIAM
So what now?

RACHEL
We make things right. I'll visit you tonight.

WILLIAM
And I'll climb the tree the way I used to.

THEY KISS AGAIN LONG AND PASSIONATE. Rachel pulls out of the kiss-

RACHEL
What happens when we get back?

WILLIAM
We'll know when we get there.

EXT. RACHEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

William and Rachel walk down the driveway by the side of the house.

RACHEL
Be gentle. I'm fragile.

He smiles and she rushes down the sidewalk.

William walks up to the large tree by the side of the house. He grabs a lower branch and tries to pull his legs up around it. Awkwardly he flails, no way as nimble as his younger self. But just when he is about to fall he gets one of his legs around the branch and pulls himself up into the tree.

EXT. WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

William climbs up the tree out of breath. He crawls out on a branch and leans to the bedroom window and knocks.

WILLIAM
Rachel?

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Young Rachel rolls over trying to sleep but can't ignore the knocking on the window. She looks out the window seeing the empty tree but hearing-

WILLIAM (O.S.)
Rachel? It's me.

She wipes the sleep from her eyes and walks to the window and opens it.

EXT. TREE - CONTINUOUS

William backs off the branch and into the bush of the tree as Young Rachel opens the window and leans out.

YOUNG RACHEL
What do you want?

WILLIAM (O.S.)
I'm sorry about today.

YOUNG RACHEL
I'm not. Better we find out now than get married for ten years and divorce.

WILLIAM (O.S.)
You're the one for me, Rachel. You always have been and you always will be.

YOUNG RACHEL
You're going to push me away. You're already married to your work. What's it going to be like when you have a career and are successful?

WILLIAM (O.S.)
I can't be successful without you in my life.

Young Rachel isn't buying it.

YOUNG RACHEL
You know what I'm really afraid of? Becoming my mom and dad.

WILLIAM (O.S.)
At least they have each other.

YOUNG RACHEL
To hate?

WILLIAM (O.S.)
Maybe it's not hate.

YOUNG RACHEL
Two people who live in the same house and curse at each other- what do you call that?

WILLIAM (O.S.)
Growing old together. And it's beautiful but only if you have the right person to do it with.

YOUNG RACHEL
You still love Janine, don't you?

William sticks his head out of the branches to make his defense.

WILLIAM
I love you!

YOUNG RACHEL SEES THE OLDER VERSION OF WILLIAM AND SCREAMS.

YOUNG RACHEL
OH MY GOD!!!

He loses his balance and leaps to the window, his fingers gripping the pane.

WILLIAM
Wait, let me explain.

Young Rachel slams the window down on his hands.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
AGHH!!!

William falls down the side of the house and into the bushes.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Young Rachel sits on the bed freaking out with Eileen pacing back and forth on the phone.

EILEEN
(to Young Rachel)
What'd he look like?

YOUNG RACHEL
He looked like William but with a beard and fatter.

EILEEN
(in phone)
About six feet, dark with a-
(to Young Rachel)
A beard? Fran said a man with a beard cancelled Fr. O'Connor.

Young Rachel darts a fearful look at her mother.

YOUNG RACHEL
He knew things that only William would know. Where I live. How to get to my window. You don't think-

EILEEN
I'm sure he's fine.

Young Rachel runs out of the room.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

William pulls himself out of a bush at the base of the house.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Young Rachel rushes towards the back door with Eileen following.

EILEEN
Sweetheart, just wait.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

William sneaks onto the back porch about to open the door, when Young Rachel comes storming out and SLAMS THE SCREEN PORCH DOOR ON HIS FACE. He is thrown back into the bushes as Young Rachel looks back at her mother.

YOUNG RACHEL
I need to know he's okay!

Young Rachel runs off into the night oblivious of William in the bushes.

EXT. YOUNG WILLIAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rachel walks up to Young William's dark house. She takes a deep breath and heads towards the front door.

INT. WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Young William lies asleep in bed. Rachel sneaks in, the blue moonlight pours into the room. Rachel looks at his dresser and sees the pictures.

Young William stirs in bed. He looks up and sees Rachel's silhouette.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Who's there?

RACHEL
It's me.

YOUNG WILLIAM
What do you want?

He reaches for the light.

RACHEL
Keep it off. I'll be quick, then I'll go.
(beat)
I'm sorry about what I said today.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I'm not. I think you saved us from a huge mistake.

RACHEL
I love you.

YOUNG WILLIAM
You're going to be a brilliant scientist with or without me.

RACHEL
I love you, William.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Stop saying that!

Rachel steps back further into the darkness of the room as the moon shines on Young William's face.

YOUNG WILLIAM (CONT'D)
What if it's not love? What if it's hope? Or optimism. Or something else that goes away.

RACHEL
It's not.

YOUNG WILLIAM
You'll fail. We both will.

RACHEL
Not this time.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I saw myself yesterday. I tried to talk myself out of marrying you.
(MORE)

YOUNG WILLIAM (CONT'D)
And I was old and miserable and... fat.

RACHEL
Not that fat.

YOUNG WILLIAM
You know the statistics? One out of three-

RACHEL
Try one out of two.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Why are you so convinced we'll make it?

RACHEL
I'd rather have something with you and lose it than never have it at all. That's not hope. That's not optimism. That's love.

YOUNG WILLIAM
How can you be so -

RACHEL KISSES YOUNG WILLIAM LONG AND HARD.

He's taken aback by the kiss but doesn't dare back out of it. Slowly his arms wrap around her body.

INT. YOUNG WILLIAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Young Rachel steps up to the front door and sees that the door is open. She enters.

YOUNG RACHEL
William-?

She hears something in the downstairs bedroom and walks towards it.

INT. YOUNG WILLIAM'S HOUSE (BEDROOM) - NIGHT

Young William kisses a woman in the darkness. Young Rachel is crushed as she watches. Unable to bear it, she darts out of the room.

EXT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Young Rachel storms out of the house and slams the door shut behind her.

She tries to out run the vision she just witnessed. The sky opens and the rain pours down.

INT. YOUNG WILLIAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rachel pulls out of the kiss. Young William is blown away.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Wow.

RACHEL
I- um have to go. Be at the community center in the morning. My mom prepared a ceremony.

YOUNG WILLIAM
We're really going to get married tomorrow?

RACHEL
Get some sleep.

Rachel walks out the door. Young William is baffled about what just happened. Rachel comes back in and gives Young William one last serious kiss. She breaks out of it, slaps herself and walks out.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

Rachel sneaks into the attic. She sees William curled up on the chaise lounge, his face bruised. She lies down next to him and puts her arms around him and spoons.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Eileen walks down the hallway putting on her earrings and walks towards Rachel's bedroom.

EILEEN
Rise and shine sweetheart. It's time you got yourself-

She opens the door.

INT. YOUNG RACHEL'S ROOM - MORNING

Eileen enters and sees Young Rachel's empty bed.

EILEEN
Rachel?

She opens the closet door and sees that all her clothes are gone except the lone wedding dress.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD!!!!!!

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

William and Rachel flash their eyes open at the outbursts that shrill throughout the house. William jumps up and puts his ear to the floor.

RACHEL
What's going on?

WILLIAM
Not sure. I have to tell you something about last night.

RACHEL
Me too, I sort of-

William motions for her to stop talking as he listens intently at the floor.

WILLIAM
I don't think you're downstairs.

RACHEL
What?

Rachel puts her head down to the floor.

INT. RACHEL'S ROOM - DAY

Eileen sits on the end of the bed. She stares at the empty drawers.

EILEEN
Oh, Rachel. Oh sweet and complicated Rachel. Why would you run away? Today? Why?! Why?! Why?!

Reginald steps in to the room stroking his clean shaven face.

REGINALD
Gotta tell you honey. Just looked in the mirror and got hit with a fistful of handsome. Now I know it's <u>your</u> day but-

Reginald looks into the room and sees Eileen once again giving him the “jackass” look.

REGINALD (CONT’D)
Where’s Rachel?

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Eileen and Reginald race out the door and to their car. They jump in and take off down the street.

From the back of the house, Rachel and William come running. He checks his watch.

WILLIAM
Damn it, two hours before the wormhole.

RACHEL
What happened last night?

WILLIAM
You found out I was me, the older fatter version-

RACHEL
You’re not that fat.

WILLIAM
And went to go check on young me. What happened over there?

Rachel does the math and the horror registers.

RACHEL
Damn it. I sort of kissed you.

WILLIAM
Did you do anything else, Cougar?

RACHEL
No. But do you think I saw us kiss?

WILLIAM
You could be on a plane to Helsinki right now.
(beat)
C’mon!

William runs off down the street with Rachel following.

EXT. YOUNG WILLIAM'S HOUSE - MORNING

William and Rachel run down the sidewalk towards Young William's house. William stops at the front of the walkway.

WILLIAM
I better keep my distance.

RACHEL
Good point.

Rachel races up to the front door and knocks repetitively. Gerard answers, wearing a tuxedo and fumbling with the tie. He glances quickly at Rachel than back to his tie.

GERARD
Rachel? Shouldn't you be getting ready.

RACHEL
Is William here?

GERARD
He went to the lab.

RACHEL
On the day of his wedding?

GERARD
Early bird. Hey, you look really beautiful.

She kisses him on the cheek and rushes off the porch and passes William. Gerard fumbles with his tie on the porch alone.

William is about to chase after Rachel but runs up to his father.

WILLIAM
Let me help you with that.

GERARD
Thank you, I....

Gerard looks at William, recognizing the eyes, the expressions but has no explanations.

GERARD (CONT'D)
William?

William sees Rachel running down the street and knows that the clock is ticking. He looks back to his dad with-

WILLIAM
I turn out great, dad.

He fixes the Gerard's tie. Gerard doesn't know what to say looking at his 40 year old son. All he can come up with is-

GERARD
I like the beard.

WILLIAM
Thanks.

William hugs him and rushes down the street after Rachel. Gerard watches as he runs away.

GERARD
(to himself)
Wouldn't kill you to do some sit ups.

Gerard rubs his forehead and steps back into the house.

EXT. CAL TECH - DAY

William and Rachel rush inside Cal Tech.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - DAY

They run down the hallway and pass the conference room door that's open.

DR. BRENNAN (O.S.)
I don't know how he did it but he did it!!

William peeks his head in the conference room and sees Dr. Brennan on the phone with Young William's notebook in front of him. He is surrounded by a lot of scientific equipment, tape recorders, and a huge VHS camera.

DR. BRENNAN (CONT'D)
No. I'll know soon and have enough equipment here to document it all.

WILLIAM
You're going to steal my research?

Dr. Brennan looks over and sees William and Rachel standing in the doorway.

DR. BRENNAN
Let me call you back.

He hangs up the phone and looks at the two.

DR. BRENNAN (CONT'D)
You were right, weren't you?

WILLIAM
That you're a douche bag? Looks like it.

Rachel steps in the room.

DR. BRENNAN
I don't know what I'm more impressed by. The fact that you did it or the fact that you two stayed together. How perfect the future must be.

RACHEL
In three years you get the Nobel Prize.

DR. BRENNAN
I don't give a crap about the Nobel Prize. I want the discovery of a lifetime.

WILLIAM
And how do you plan on getting it?

DR. BRENNAN PUSHES BOTH WILLIAM AND RACHEL OUT OF THE ROOM AND LOCKS THE DOOR.

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

William falls to the ground, Rachel stumbles.

WILLIAM
Sorry I asked.

William jumps to his feet and tries to pull the door open.

RACHEL
Do you have the key?

He fumbles in his pocket and takes it out.

WILLIAM
The lab.

They take off towards the lab.

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

They're about to go in and William stops Rachel.

WILLIAM
Let me talk to him.

RACHEL
But-

WILLIAM
I'll keep my distance. I promise.

INT. LAB - DAY

Young William stands dressed in a ruffled tux looking in a microscope. William enters the lab. Young William sees him and freezes.

WILLIAM
Don't move. Any closer and we get a 4.5 again.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Y-Y-You're real?

William nods.

YOUNG WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Well I'm getting married today regardless of what you want.

WILLIAM
You sure? Rachel is at LAX about to get on a plane to Helsinki.

YOUNG WILLIAM
What?!

WILLIAM
And Brennan is about to rip off your work. He has your notebook.

Young William pats his empty pockets.

YOUNG WILLIAM
You want me to choose? I have questions.

WILLIAM
We don't have time. Look, you could fight Brennan and save your theories because you're right or you could stop Rachel and have a great life.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I discover how to travel through time?

WILLIAM
Yeah, but without her you're just another brilliant scientist who goes home alone.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Why should I believe you?

The telephone rings Young William answers.

YOUNG WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Hello?

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Eileen stands in the community center on the phone. We intercut between the two.

EILEEN
William! It's Eileen. Listen, Rachel isn't with you by any chance, is she?

YOUNG WILLIAM
No. She's not with you?

EILEEN
No.

Young William looks at William and knows he's telling the truth. He slams down the phone and takes off out the door.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - DAY

Young William races down the hall. Completely oblivious that he's just run by Rachel.

INT. CAL TECH (LABORATORY) - DAY

Rachel runs into the lab.

RACHEL
Where's he going?

WILLIAM
I told him that he had to choose between stopping you from getting on that plane or making the discovery of a lifetime.

RACHEL
And?

WILLIAM
I chose you.

Rachel is overwhelmed and gives William a big kiss.

He walks over to his desk, takes out his desk key and opens the drawer.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I can't wait to get in there and kick Brennan's ass.

He looks inside the drawer. He shuffles some notes around but can find no keys.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
No, no, no-

RACHEL
What is it?

WILLIAM
I must have the key on me. C'mon!!

They rush out the door.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Young William runs down the street, hails a cab and jumps in.

William and Rachel rush out into the street and hail another cab.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The cab rushes down the freeway followed closely by another one.

EXT. LAX - DAY

The cab pulls up and Young William steps out.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Young William runs through the airport and stops at a screen listing departing flights and gate numbers.

His eyes land on HELSINKI GATE 26B.

He takes off.

INT. CAB - DAY

William and Rachel sit in the back seat as the cab screeches to a halt. The CAB DRIVER, late thirties, unshaven leans back.

CAB DRIVER
Sixty five dollars.

WILLIAM
Do you take debit?

CAB DRIVER
(puzzled)
Cash only.

EXT. CAR - DAY

William and Rachel run out of the cab. The cab driver gets out and chases after them.

INT. LAX - DAY

William and Rachel rush into the airport. Rachel goes to the monitor.

RACHEL
Gate 26B!

They speed off towards the gate. The cab driver comes running in and chases after them.

INT. AIRPORT (GATE 26B) - LATER

Young William runs up to the gate, it is empty. A FLIGHT ATTENDANT makes an announcement.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
This is the final boarding for Flight 263 to Helsinki.

Young William runs up to the attendant.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I need to get on this plane.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Do you have a ticket?

He hands her a ticket.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
This ticket is for Phoenix.

YOUNG WILLIAM
It's all they had left- look my fiancé is-

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Flight 307 to Phoenix leaves at Gate 24A. I suggest you get walking.

Young William is defeated and walks away.

INT. LAX (SECURITY)- DAY

William and Rachel rush up to the security line. They both wrestle to take off their shoes as quickly as possible and put them on the Xray belt.

THE SECURITY GUARD, late thirties, ex football player type looks at them quizzically.

SECURITY GUARD
Why are you taking off your shoes?

William and Rachel realize the passengers behind them are looking at them strangely too.

WILLIAM
Right.

They put their shoes on and step up to the metal detector.

SECURITY GUARD
Boarding pass?

WILLIAM
Sir, we're not flying. We just put our son on a plane to grandma's and we forgot to give him some spending cash.

SECURITY GUARD
You should have said so. Go right ahead.

William is shocked by the lax security.

WILLIAM
Seriously?

Rachel ushers William passed the guard and they rush towards gate 26B.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Young Rachel talks on the pay phone.

YOUNG RACHEL
Dr. Brennan this is Rachel Phillips again. Um....they're boarding the plane and I don't know if you're on your way or if I should-

She turns and sees Young William. She hangs up the phone and marches towards the gate.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Rachel- wait!

Young Rachel quickly walks by him.

YOUNG WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Please let me talk.

YOUNG RACHEL
I don't ever want to see you again.

YOUNG WILLIAM
I love you, Rachel.

YOUNG RACHEL
You have a funny way of showing it! I saw you last night.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Two days ago, a guy ran up to me and said he was me in the future. And then last night-

Young Rachel whips her head around.

YOUNG RACHEL
What did he look like?

YOUNG WILLIAM
He had a beard and was fatter.

YOUNG RACHEL
I saw the same guy in my bedroom.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Did you do anything?

YOUNG RACHEL
Yeah, I pushed him out the window!!

A CROWD slowly forms watching the two.

Young Rachel walks away.

YOUNG WILLIAM
You're the most important thing in my life. Success is nothing if I have no one to share it with.

Young Rachel stops and slowly turns.

YOUNG RACHEL
The woman you were with last night-

YOUNG WILLIAM
If there's an older version of me running around I think we can assume there could be an older version of you as well.

Young Rachel, frightened, walks towards Young William.

YOUNG RACHEL
Why? I mean why would we-
What's going on, William?

YOUNG WILLIAM
I don't know. All I know is that I love you and I want to be with you no matter what.

They kiss. The crowd applauds and cheers.

ON WILLIAM AND RACHEL

William and Rachel enter the gate and see Young William and Young Rachel embraced in the kiss of all kisses.

They stop rushing and take in their younger selves surrounded by the applauding crowd.

RACHEL
My God, look at us.

WILLIAM
We look so happy.

ON YOUNG WILLIAM AND YOUNG RACHEL

Young William and Young Rachel break from their kiss. Young William looks across the way and sees William and Rachel.

YOUNG WILLIAM
There he is!

Young William takes off towards William and Rachel, with Young Rachel following.

ON WILLIAM AND RACHEL

WILLIAM
What do we do?

RACHEL
I don't know.

Their younger selves approach them

WILLIAM
Just keep back about six feet.

Young Rachel looks at the older version of herself in shock.

YOUNG RACHEL
You're me in the future?

Rachel nods. All Young Rachel can say is-

YOUNG RACHEL (CONT'D)
I look good.

Rachel smiles.

Down the hall Airport Security comes marching towards them. The cab driver follows behind.

WILLIAM
Look, we don't have a lot of time. I need your keys to the conference room.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Why were you trying to break us up?

WILLIAM
We just forgot how good we were together. You reminded us. Thank you.

YOUNG WILLIAM
There's so much I want to know.

WILLIAM
Just stay with her.

William takes his notebook out of his pocket and tosses it to Young William.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
And take this.

Young William looks at the older and thicker version of his notebook. He takes out his keys and tosses them to William.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
We have to go.

YOUNG WILLIAM
What's the future like?

William looks at Rachel, smiles and back to Young William.

WILLIAM
It's better. Get to the community center. There's a wedding waiting for you.

William and Rachel run out the door.

EXT. CAL TECH - DAY

A cab pulls up to the curb. William and Rachel rush out and into the building. The cab driver runs out of the cab and after them, clearly they ditched without paying.

INT. CAL TECH (HALLWAY) - DAY

William and Rachel hurry down the hallway. William takes out the keys and opens the conference room door.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Dr. Brennan stands on the table and turns to see them. The wormhole is already formed with papers swirling around and furniture trembling.

DR. BRENNAN
How did you do it?

WILLIAM
We got lucky. Step away.

Dr. Brennan looks at the wormhole and smiles.

DR. BRENNAN
Even if I were to let you go back, don't you know I can reverse engineer? I can take this bag and figure it out before you discover it. You've shown me everything.

WILLIAM
I'm warning you, step away.

DR. BRENNAN
See you in the future.

He starts to step towards the wormhole but is immediately KNOCKED OVER BY A SMALL LAB CHAIR SENT FROM THE FUTURE THAT HITS HIM IN THE HEAD and knocks him to the floor.

WILLIAM
Told you to step away. That vacuum is a bitch.

William walks over to the unconscious Dr. Brennan and takes the bag of black dust out of his pocket. Then he helps Rachel onto the conference room table.

RACHEL
You know things might be different when we get back.

WILLIAM
I know. Isn't that great?

He kisses her and just as he does, they get sucked in.

All of Brennan's equipment, VHS camera, thermometers and recorders get sucked into the wormhole then it expands and contracts, finally imploding into the small cloud of dust.

INT. CAB - DAY

Young William sits in the back seat of the cab with Young Rachel next to her. He has one arm over her and the other holding the notebook which he reads.

WILLIAM (V.O.)
"Rachel is the best thing that will ever happen to you in your life. Hold on to her. And when you get a chance, check out these notes. You may find some useful. William.
(beat)
PS: Buy stock in Apple. Trust me.

Young William closes the notebook, touched and mildly confused.

YOUNG RACHEL
What's it say?

YOUNG WILLIAM
Says you're the best thing in my life. Nothing new.

YOUNG RACHEL
What if we come back? What if-

Young William stops her.

YOUNG WILLIAM
Let's make sure we never have to.

She smiles and kisses her as the cab flies up the 110 Freeway.

INT. CAL TECH (LABORATORY) - NIGHT

Inside the laboratory the wormhole forms. Michael looks on fascinated.

William and Rachel come out of it. As does all of Brennan's equipment which falls on them.

Michael runs up to them.

MICHAEL
How do you feel?

WILLIAM
I'm fine.

MICHAEL
This was premature. We didn't consider the space time referential. You were gone fifteen minutes but for you it must have seemed exponentially longer. But you were respectful to causality, right?

WILLIAM
We left everything the way it should be.

William looks at Rachel and smiles.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Is Foster around?

MICHAEL
Who?

WILLIAM
Our investor?

Michael tries to figure out what William is talking about.

MICHAEL
William, Matthews Technologies has been self financed for ten years.

RACHEL
"Matthews Technologies"?

MICHAEL
The company you two started. Perhaps memory loss is part of reentry. This is fascinating. Ask me anything?

RACHEL
We're still together?

MICHAEL
Married twenty years. Live in a beautiful house. You two are the darlings of the scientific community revolutionizing the field of relativity.

WILLIAM
Why are we at Cal Tech?

MICHAEL
You insisted. You said you'd tell me why when you got back. So "why"?

WILLIAM
I'll tell you later.

William and Rachel can't believe what they are hearing.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A beautiful home, miles away from the condo William once owned. From the furniture, to the art on the walls, it is clear that whoever lives here is doing very well for themselves.

William and Rachel enter. They stop in their tracks at their beautiful home.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

They step into a family entertainment room. William picks up a picture of him and Rachel on their wedding day in the community center.

Above the fireplace is an iPod on a dock. William scrolls through the songs and makes a selection.

The opening chords of Alphaville's "Forever Young" wave in. Rachel laughs. William moves a large coffee table out of the way to give them some room.

WILLIAM
I sort of forgot our first dance. Do you mind?

RACHEL
You want to watch it?

Rachel holds a DVD in her hand that reads on the side "Wedding". She puts it in the side of the large plasma tv, presses play and joins William.

We intercut between the late '90s video footage of their wedding and William and Rachel slow dancing in their new home.

ON TV

Eileen stands in the bathroom of the community center adjusting her corsage in the mirror.

She turns around and shushes the camera man away. Reginald comes up next to her and hugs her from behind. He plants a big kiss on her cheek and if you look close enough you can see her blush.

IN LIVING ROOM

As they dance, Rachel mischievously grins.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Where should we go next?

ON TV

Young Rachel stands in the middle of a room in the community center that is clearly a children's program room decorated with finger paintings, collages and dioramas. The young bride could care less as she twirls in her wedding gown.

Young Rachel walks down the aisle of the community center on Reginald's arm. A smattering of guests sit on fold out chairs and watch her.

IN LIVING ROOM

William leans in close to Rachel.

WILLIAM
Let's just enjoy the present.

ON TV

Young William sits alone at a table during the reception writing in his journal. Camera gets closer to see that he is drawing a picture of the cannon with metal reflectors around it.

Young Rachel comes over, closes the book and takes it from him. He reaches for it but she blocks him with a kiss.

IN LIVING ROOM

Camera pulls back from the tv screen and the kissing newlyweds, to the older versions kissing on the makeshift dance floor, to a small clock on an end table slowly ticking away, kind and patient.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END