

The Club for Dying People

written by

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INT. OFFICE - DAY

Black screen. A clock is ticking for several beats. Cut from black to find a teenage girl sitting in what looks like an office. Shortly after, A man in a white coat walks in and sits down at a desk directly across from the girl.

DOCTOR
(Flipping through
clipboard)
Alright, Alex. I'm afraid I have
news you aren't going to like.

Alex adjusts herself and nods.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
It seems that all forms of
treatment were...unsuccessful.

Alex's pupils jolt around while she glances at different parts of the floor. She clears her throat. The doctor continues to talk to Alex, but everything is muffled and fuzzy. She doesn't know what to think, or even how to think properly at this point.

The doctor puts the clipboard with Alex's vitals on his desk and walks out of the room, shutting the door. Alex lowers her head once again and stares at a single spot on the floor, silent. Alex sits there, speechless with a million thoughts in her head.

Hard cut to title sequence. The ticking of the clock remains.

INT. CAR - DAY

Alex rolls to a stop at a traffic light, and begins staring blankly at her feet. She then looks over to see some boys playing in a park. Alex just stares at them, trying to remember the last time she was in a park. Her thoughts are cut short by one of the boys getting hit with a Frisbee that they were throwing around, followed by a car horn honking from behind. Alex quickly snaps back into focus, and continues to drive her car.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Fade from black to Alex's younger brother, Luke, playing video games while sitting on the couch. Alex walks into the house and closes the door.

Luke looks to his sister and pauses the game. He quickly runs upstairs to talk with Alex.

LUKE
Mom and Dad just went shopping.
(beat)
How was the drive?

Alex throws her keys onto the steps, and begins taking off her jacket.

ALEX
Pretty awful, to be honest. But
what else is new.

Luke feels sympathetic towards his sister's string of bad events. He tries to think of something else to say.

LUKE
So, uh, how was school today? I
heard Kelly is back from Florida-

Alex looks directly at Luke.

ALEX
I know what you're doing. You can
just ask if you really want to.

Luke looks down at his feet.

LUKE
(looking back at Alex)
What did the doctor say?

Alex tries to contain her emotions as she clears her throat. She shakes her head. Destroyed, Luke hugs her tight.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Okay, it's okay. You can just start
looking somewhere else. Not every
hospital uses the same treatment-

Alex gently pushes Luke away and begins putting her things down.

ALEX
(coldly)
I'm not doing any more treatment.

Luke is shocked at what he heard.

LUKE
What? No, no. We're gonna find
someone else who can help-

ALEX
I'm tired of it, Luke.

LUKE
(now visibly upset)
Well, would you rather be tired or
dead?!

Alex spins around, tears forming in her eyes.

ALEX
I'm done, Luke! Every day I wake up
and swallow pill after pill, drive
to test after test, and I'm sick of
it! I can barely think straight
anymore! I do all this shit to get
better, but I'm getting worse!

Luke is now furious that Alex is giving up, tears now forming
in his eyes as well.

LUKE
Nobody said this would be easy,
Alex! No one! But the fact is that
this will make you better! If you
stop now, you're going to die! End
of story, period! If you give up,
that's it!

Alex goes quiet.

ALEX
8 percent.

LUKE
(beat)
...What?

ALEX
I read the report that the doctor
had. With treatment, there's only
an 8 percent higher chance of me
living. Is that worth all of it?
The pain I have to endure every
day? To you, yes. Because it's easy
for you to tell me to keep
torturing myself to help you feel
better.

Luke's tears have now broken and are rolling down his face.

LUKE
I just want you to get better,
Alex.

Alex pauses for a moment, and then continues up the stairs
and slams the door to her room.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex is laying still in her bed, eyes wide open. We can hear Alex's parents yelling and shouting at each other, muffled through walls.

ALEX (V.O.)

Are they yelling because of me? Or because of each other?

(1 beat)

It doesn't really matter, anyway. Nothing does, when you really think about it.

(2 beats)

I hate trying to fall asleep. I keep thinking about the way I breathe. The pattern, the space in between exhales and inhales. It drives me crazy.

(3 beats)

But I think that's something I'll miss.

Alex gets visibly more upset during this last line. She turns over, her eyes red as if she wants to cry, but can't. Slow fade to black.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Cut to morning. Alex is sleeping when a knock wakes her up. Outside the closed door, we hear her mother.

ALEX'S MOTHER

Honey, get dressed for school, you're gonna be late.

Alex grudgingly get out of bed, chooses an outfit from her closet. And throws it onto the bed. She stares at it for a few moments. Her expression is drained. She proceeds to take the hangers out from the clothes.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

Alex is sitting in her desk at school, while students all around her are talking and laughing. Principal Lee walks up to the front of the room and begins talking to the students.

PRINCIPAL LEE

Good morning, Gold Tigers! In light of some fairly recent and sad news regard a student whose name will not be said *looks straight at Alex, then snaps out of it* Oh, uh, we decided to bring in Father Patrick from the Holy Rose church. Give him a warm Tiger welcome!

Father Patrick walks over to the front as very few claps are given.

FATHER PATRICK

Good morning, East Borough students! Today, I thought I would talk to you all about the Rapture. Now the Rapture, according to Evangelicalism, is the event in which all Christians -living and resurrected dead- will rise into the heavens to join Christ for eternity.

Alex hears voices around her. She looks at a group of girls who are staring at her, but they immediately look away. Alex sighs and sinks deeper into her seat.

FATHER PATRICK (CONT'D)

What does this mean, exactly? Is what we do on Earth...pointless? No, no I don't believe so. I believe that how you treat the time you have here- a precious and limited thing- can and will make all the difference in what happens after. And remember, You are not alone. There are others like you who fear what happens next, and it's those people who will help you find your way back to Christ. Thank you.

Alex is mesmerized by these words. Father Patrick concludes the speech and begins to walk out as Principal Lee transitions the class back to the teacher. Alex keeps looking at Father Patrick as he leaves.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - AFTERNOON

As Father Patrick begins heading to his car, Alex calls his name, and eventually catches up.

FATHER PATRICK

Well, hi there! What can I do for you Ms-

ALEX

Alex. Alex Morrison.

FATHER PATRICK

(beat as he realizes who she is)

Right. What can I do you for, Alex?

ALEX

Well, father, I heard what you were saying, about finding people who are like you.

(1 beat)

The doctors didn't give me a whole lot of time.

FATHER PATRICK

Your principle told me. I'm sorry, Alex.

ALEX

(beat)

I guess what I'm trying to ask is... do you think it could be possible for me to, I don't know, find other people like me? So we can talk about, I guess, everything. Like a club.

Father Patrick is a bit surprised.

FATHER PATRICK

You want to make a club...for...?

There is a humorous beat while Alex thinks over what she said.

ALEX

Uh, yeah. Yeah.

Father Patrick begins to sympathize with Alex.

FATHER PATRICK

I suppose you could, I don't know, ask someone in the administrator's office. I bet they might let you borrow the gymnasium a couple of times a month.

Alex lets out a slight smile.

ALEX
Thank you, father.

Father Patrick nods, and then excuses himself as he walks to his car. Alex takes a moment, and leans against the fence, proud of what she did.

MONTAGE

Alex places some shopping bags on her kitchen table. They're filled with markers and construction paper. She begins drawing and coloring. She also is doing research on topics to talk about, and fun ice breakers, while writing them down onto cards.

Cut to Alex putting flyers into mailboxes and on people's windshields.

Cut to Alex walking into the empty gym. She takes a moment to size everything up, and then gets to work.

Cut to Alex putting chips and napkins on tables, arranging chairs, shuffling through note cards. Eventually, she is taping the big banner to the ceiling, that reads "Welcome!". Alex comes down from the ladder and appreciates her work.

INT. GYM - EVENING

The day has come. Alex sits nervously in one of the chairs that form a circle in the center of the gymnasium. She checks her watch, and looks at the door repeatedly. Her leg is shaking. After several moments of what feels like an eternity, Alex depressingly stands up, and begins to put the napkins and plates into a bag. As she does this, the door opens. Alex quickly looks over to see a 20-something year old in the doorway.

CALEB
Hey, is this the...the club for
people who, ya know.

Alex nods, and Caleb walks in and grabs a plate before shaking Alex's hand.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Caleb McGillicutty.

ALEX
Alex Foster.

Caleb looks around.

CALEB

Wow, you did a good job decorating
this place. Pretty cool.

Caleb grabs a handful of chips, and grabs his seat.

Suddenly, the door opens again. An older couple walks in,
probably around their late 20's.

MARCUS

This is the club, right?

CALEB

Yeah, this is it.

JESSIE

Sorry we're late, we decided to
pick up some Indian food before we
came, and it did not agree with
Marcus' stomach.

MARCUS

Don't have to tell them that, Jess.

The couple walk over to Alex and greet her.

JESSIE

You must be Alex. We saw your flyer
on our car. I'm so sorry, Hun.

Alex nods in awkward thanks.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

I'm Jessie Collins, and this is my
boyfriend Marcus. We met at one of
those snobby, "Nature is the real
medicine" retreats.

MARCUS

(Shakes Alex's hand)

Marcus Soto. Turns out nature does
jack-shit, but it was worth a try.

ALEX

(slightly laughing)

Well, it's nice to meet you both.
Please, grab some snacks.

An older woman, silver haired and on the shorter side, opens
the door. Everyone becomes a bit silent, as they are all much
younger. The woman walks over with a friendly smile, and
addresses Jessie.

VERONICA

Hello, sweetie. Are you Alex?

Jessie smiles back as Alex gives a small giggle. Veronica seems very warm and welcoming.

ALEX

That's me. Nice to meet you,
Mrs...?

VERONICA

Veronica Tatum, my dear. And It's
'Ms.'" now, unfortunately.

Alex's smile fades.

ALEX

Oh, I'm very sorry.

VERONICA

That's okay, honey. That's actually
why I'm here. I figured if I could
help that stubborn mule of a
husband, I could help some more
people.

The rest of the crew laughs, and Alex brings everyone to their seats. Once everyone is in their seats, Alex begins the club.

ALEX

So, uh, thanks for coming, you
guys.

(shuffles through cards)

I had some...ice breakers for us
somewhere here.

Jessie giggles.

JESSIE

Honey, this isn't an A.A. meeting.
We can just talk if you'd like.

Alex is surprised, but nods and puts her cards on the ground.

There's a bit of awkward silence before Caleb speaks up.

CALEB

So, when did you guys find out?

Alex is a bit uncomfortable by the question, but Jessie goes first.

JESSIE

Well, It was about 2 years ago. It was hard, as I imagine you all know. I felt like there was nowhere left for me to turn, nothing left to do except lie down and die. But I had some good people supporting me, and eventually, I met Marcus.

Marcus smiles at Jessie, and then he tells his story.

MARCUS

I found out about 1 year ago last week. They recommended all these pills and seminars and everything else you can imagine, but that's not how I wanted to go out. So I packed a suitcase and went south. Didn't really have a plan or anything, but it was better than sitting around.

Alex listens with interest as these people tell their stories and their hardships.

JESSIE

So, what have you guys crossed off your bucket list so far? We went to Italy 2 months ago.

Alex is confused by this.

ALEX

Bucket list?

CALEB

I've been trying to be a superhero. You know, like a superhero themed party, and I'm dressed up with the cape and everything. That'd be badass.

Marcus laughs.

MARCUS

I bet we could do something like that. Why the hell not, right?

CALEB

(smiling and nodding)
Hell yeah.

ALEX

I don't understand.

JESSIE

Honey, haven't you ever had a bucket list?

Alex thinks for a minute, and then shakes her head.

VERONICA

(slightly surprised)

Well, it's basically just a list of all the things you wanna do before you kick the bucket. Get it? Bucket list!

As Alex is thinking of something that'd she want to do, the door opens again. Alex looks open, and she freezes. A male, around Alex's age, walks in and looks around.

JUSTIN

Hey, this is the club, right?

Alex doesn't say anything.

JESSIE

That's us, sweetie. Grab a chair.

Justin walks over and sits next to Alex, giving a small smile as he looks at her.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

We were just talking about our bucket lists.

(beat)

What's your name, by the way?

JUSTIN

Justin Wilkie. Actually, I got a few things I'd like to do before I go too. I've actually never to the shore, so that would be awesome.

JESSIE

You never been down the shore?! Oh, it's beautiful. I mean, depending on where you go.

MARCUS

Belmar is fantastic. Jess and I spent a few days there a couple weeks ago.

CALEB

I'm more of a Wildwood guy. My friends and I would go every summer for a couple nights and get plastered.

Everyone laughs together as Veronica gives Caleb a sturdy but friendly stare. Alex and Justin continue glancing at each other, with Alex beginning to blush .

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Everyone is saying goodbye and leaving for the night. Alex begins walking towards the door.

JUSTIN

(from across the gym)

Alex!

Alex turns around to see Justin walking towards her. He suddenly gets nervous, and begins adjusting her clothes before he catches up to her.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Hey, Alex. This is a really cool thing, what you're doing. I never knew anyone else going through a similar thing was anywhere near me. I'm glad I came tonight.

Alex stutters for a brief moment.

ALEX

I'm glad too. I mean, I'm not glad that just you came, I meant like everyone. Like, a collective people came, uh, which is always good.

Alex sighs from how stupid she must have sounded just then, but Justin doesn't mind.

JUSTIN

(slight laugh)

Right. Well, I'd better get going, but do you need a ride?

ALEX

Oh no, I'm good. I brought my car.

JUSTIN

Great, because I don't actually have a car. Took a cab. Mind if I get a ride?

Alex thinks for a moment, and then agrees.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The two opens their doors and get into the car. Justin looks around the car.

JUSTIN

Woah. This is a really nice car.
How did you afford this?

ALEX

(quiet laugh)
It's actually my dad's. He'd kill
me if it even got a scratch. I
actually was saving up for my own
car, until...

It gets quiet for several awkward beats.

JUSTIN

I'm saving up too. I've been DJ-ing
at parties and making music, stuff
like that.

ALEX

You make music?

JUSTIN

Yeah. You wanna hear something?

Alex nods.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Awesome, I'm warning you though,
this track isn't done yet. I
haven't finished all the vocals.

Justin plugs his phone into the AUX cord and begins the song.
Alex is blown away by how good it is.

ALEX

Is that you?!

JUSTIN

(laughing)
Yeah! Trust me, auto tune was my
best friend!

ALEX

This is amazing! I always wanted to
learn how to make music.

Justin looks at her in amazement.

JUSTIN

Really?!

ALEX

Yeah! I took a bunch of those music perspective classes my first two years of high school, but it never really stuck.

JUSTIN

Aw, man. You gotta get back into it! It's such a good feeling, making something that will live on forever, even after this generation is gone, and the generation is after. Music will still be there.

Alex stares at Justin with admiration while he talks so passionately about music. They look at each other before driving away from the school.

EXT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The car pulls up to Justin's house. Alex puts the car in park.

JUSTIN

Well, thanks for the ride.

ALEX

Any time.

They stare at each other for a few more seconds, and Justin begins to get out of the car. He turns back before closing the door.

JUSTIN

And Alex...If you ever want to, I don't know, get back into making music, I'd be happy to help you.

Alex smiles and nods before Justin closes the door and walks to the front door. Alex stares at him as he walks into the house, and then leans her head onto the headrest, thinking a million thoughts all at once.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex walks into her bedroom, a smile forming on her face as drops her bag, and falls face first into her bed.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Alex is sleeping, but her eyes open to the noise of a car honking. She realizes who it is, and then jumps out of bed. As she finishes getting dressed and leaves, we can see the calendar set 2 months from the first club meeting.

Alex, amazed by the car, opens up the car door.

ALEX

Oh my god, it looks so good!

As she enters the car, Justin grabs her hand. He gives it a kiss, and they drive off.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The rest of the club members are sitting by a truck, eating some ice cream and laughing. Justin and Alex pull in next to them, and everyone greets each other.

Marcus hands them some ice cream.

MARCUS

We picked you guys up some, hope you like chocolate.

JESSIE

This is the best ice cream place we've ever been to! Marcus and I went on our first date here.

They grab each other's hands and look at each other.

MARCUS

Best \$5.39 I ever spent.

Caleb is devouring his ice cream with great speed.

CALEB

This shit is miraculous.

Everyone laughs, including Caleb as he realizes how fast he's eating and that there's ice cream all over him. Veronica takes a napkin and begins wiping Caleb's face with a mild but motherly forcefulness.

After everyone is finished, they begin walking back to their cars from the trash.

MARCUS

Hey, we were gonna go see a movie if anyone's interested.

CALEB

I'm in.

VERONICA

Oh, no thank you dear. I've got a real page-turner for me back at home.

Alex looks like she is about to say yes, but Justin speaks before her.

JUSTIN

Actually, I think me and Alex are just gonna go back to my place to hang out for a bit. Maybe we can get dinner or something tonight though.

CALEB

For sure. See you guys later.

Everyone says goodbye to Veronica, and Alex and Justin get into the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

ALEX

Why did you say no? I wanted to go to the movies.

JUSTIN

I have a surprise idea that's gonna blow your mind.

Alex listens.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

What if we went down the shore for the day? I mean, I've never been and it looks awesome.

Alex smiles, loving the idea to go down the shore.

ALEX

Let's do it.

JUSTIN

Really? I mean, we can still catch up for the movies if you want-

ALEX

No, no. The shore sounds amazing. I could use a beach day.

Justin smiles, and starts the car. They drive off from the parking lot.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Quick shot of Alex running in and grabbing some beach supplies while Luke glances over from the TV.

LUKE

Hey, where are you-

His question is cut short by the sound of the door closing shut.

Alex gets into the car, and the couple drive off to the shore.

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Montage of Alex and Justin enjoying the boardwalk, seeing attractions, and eventually sitting down, facing the ocean and the beautiful orange sunset.

EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - MORNING

Alex is behind Luke as they are leaving school for the day. Before Alex can leave the hall, Principal Lee stops her.

PRINCIPAL LEE

Alex! A moment, please.

Alex closes the door and looks to Principal Lee.

ALEX

What's going on, Principal Lee?

PRINCIPAL LEE

(nervously)

Well, um, I want to say that your "club" is doing a great thing for a lot of good people...

Alex can tell there's something bad at the end of the sentence.

ALEX

Thanks, but what's this about?

Principal Lee exhales deeply and prepares himself to tell Alex the news.

PRINCIPAL LEE
I've been told by the
Superintendent that after the
school year finishes, there can't
be meetings here anymore.

Alex is surprised and shocked.

ALEX
...What? But, we always leave it
clean, and we only meet on Saturday
nights-

PRINCIPAL LEE
It's nothing you've done. She just
thinks that a club for people
with...similar circumstances to
you, is sort of...unusual. The
rumors about a club like this may
end up scaring the incoming
freshman AND their parents.

Alex doesn't accept this.

ALEX
(frantic)
Principal Lee, please. This club is
important to a lot of people, me
included. We can be cleaner, we can
leave earlier, we can-

PRINCIPAL LEE
I'm sorry, Alex. You still have
three more meetings scheduled; That
should more than enough time to let
your members know.

Principal Lee leaves, and Alex stands there speechless.

INT. GYM - DAY

The gym is decorated with superhero themed decorations and food. Marcus and Jessie are dressed as criminal clowns, and Veronica is dressed almost exactly like Jessie. Alex and Justin are dressed up in red and blue with red capes.

Suddenly, Caleb opens the door with an overly-elaborate costume, complete with long pointed ears and a black cape. Everyone stops to look, and they are a mixture of impressed/trying not to laugh.

Caleb confidently walks over to Alex and Justin.

CALEB

This place looks awesome, Alex. Or should I say, "Bat-ass".

Caleb covers the lower half of his face with the cape and waits for a laugh, but finds none.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I'm gonna get some food.

Caleb walks over to the snacks. Justin can tell something is bothering Alex.

JUSTIN

Okay, what's wrong? You've been acting weird since we got here.

Alex tries to tell him, but can't seem to find the words. Justin picks up on this.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Alex, what is it?

Jessie hears this, and chimes in, which grabs the rest of the group's attention.

JESSIE

Honey, what's going on?

Alex begins having a mini panic attack as everyone looks at her. Finally, she spits it out.

ALEX

Guys, uh, I've got some bad news. I was told that we're only allowed to have two more meetings after today.

Everyone takes a moment to let this sink in.

CALEB

What? No! Who says we can't keep meeting?

ALEX

My principal told me yesterday. I'm really sorry, guys. I don't know what to do.

MARCUS

What about just finding another place to have the meetings?

ALEX

I tried. I called everywhere in town that I could find with a gym or big enough empty room, but none of them wanted to host a club like this.

Alex looks down at her feet and tries not to cry. They are all saddened by the news, but Jessie tries to say positive.

JESSIE

Well, I guess we're gonna have to jam pack some stuff from our bucket list before next Saturday, huh?

Alex looks up to Jessie, and Jessie gives Alex a friendly smile and a wink. Alex smiles back and then nods at Jessie's optimism.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE FRONT - AFTERNOON

The crew exits a convenience store with slushies in their hands. Caleb is explaining the rules of the contest.

CALEB

So then, someone yells go, and we drink as fast as we can to see who can finish the most before brain-freeze.

The rest of the group look mildly horrified by the idea of this game, until Marcus steps up to the challenge.

MARCUS

I'm in.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Cut to Principal Lee, walking through the halls of the school, and takes a left into another hallway. Alex and Justin poke their heads out of a hiding spot, and begin running until they reach an office. There lies the microphone used to make morning announcements. Alex locks the door as Justin takes out a mini speaker and puts it next to the microphone.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY

JUSTIN

Are you sure this is a good idea?

ALEX
Absolutely not, but people need to
hear this song.

JUSTIN
Right, but it's not finished-

ALEX
(humorously angry)
Justin, play the song!

JUSTIN
(humorously nervous)
Yes, dear.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE FRONT - AFTERNOON

Cut back to Marcus and Caleb holding the slushies close to their mouths. Jessie has her phone in her hand, and presses the screen to start the timer.

JESSIE
GO!

Caleb and Marcus begin gulping down their drinks, while the rest of the group cheers them on. Alex sits back, enjoying the game, but visibly has something on her mind.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Principal Lee attempts to round the corner back towards his office, but slides and hits the wall. He grabs his elbow and continues running to the office.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Inside one of the classrooms, the students are enjoying the music, drumming to the beats on their desks and video recording the event. The teacher attempts to calm them down, but just sits at her chair and takes out a flask.

EXT. LAKE - EVENING

Cut to Justin and Jessie in a canoe.

JESSIE
We're gonna wipe the floor with
you!

Marcus and Caleb are in another canoe several meters away, facing towards the other boat.

MARCUS
 (sarcastically)
 Why would you wipe the lake floor?
 It's already wet!

Both canoes begin paddling towards each other, all screaming dramatically. Alex and Veronica are sitting by the shore. Veronica is reading a book, and Alex is watching the canoe joust. She is much more upset-looking than at the convenience store, as if something is eating away at her thoughts.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE FRONT - AFTERNOON

Cut back to Caleb and Marcus are still chugging the drinks, until Marcus finally drops the cup and grabs his head in pain.

MARCUS
 Brain-freeze!

Caleb finishes the last of his drink, and spikes the cup like a football. He begins celebrating with a giant slushie mustache covering his upper lip.

EXT. LAKE - EVENING

The groups continue screaming until they collide with each other. Justin, who was in the back of the first canoe, gets knocked out into the water. Marcus and Caleb cheer as Justin surfaces and gives an embarrassed smile.

Alex snuffles, and wipes her eyes and face. This catches Veronica's attention.

VERONICA
 (light chuckle)
 Oh, sweetie, it's okay. A good shower will take the smell right off of him.

Alex looks to Veronica, and Veronica can tell that Justin is not the reason for her being upset.

VERONICA (CONT'D)
 (more serious and concerned)
 Alex, what's wrong?

Alex gets up and quickly runs up into a nearby house. Veronica gets up too, and tries to keep a speedy pace while calling to Alex.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Alex! Alex, honey! Alex!

Veronica finally gets up to the porch, where Alex is sitting in a chair with her face in her arms on a table. Veronica slowly sits down next to her.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Alex, sweetie. What's going on?

Alex picks her head up and looks at Veronica. Alex looks as though she is about to cry.

ALEX

I don't know what I'm gonna do,
Veronica. This club was all I had.
For once in the past year, I felt
normal.

(beat)

Like I wasn't gonna die.

Alex sheds a tear, the first of which we've seen from her. Veronica places a hand on Alex's back and consoles her.

VERONICA

Oh, honey.

(beat)

You know, my husband had very
similar thoughts to you when he was
feeling down.

ALEX

(sniffling)

Why don't you call him by his name?
You always just say 'your husband'.

Veronica smiles.

VERONICA

Because he was so much more to me
than a name. He was my best friend,
my biggest fan, and my my reason to
keep going. His name doesn't matter
because the things he's done, and
the people he's impacted will live
on well past him.

Alex listens to what Veronica says with a deep understanding.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

Also, because his name was Angus.

Alex lets out a few giggles.

ALEX

I'm assuming he wasn't a fan of that.

VERONICA

Oh, most certainly not. He went by Al for most of his life because he was too embarrassed. Then one night, we were going to have dinner with his very Scottish parents, and they welcomed him with a big hug and a 'how are ya, Angus?' I never let him forget that night, I can assure you.

Alex is still teary, but much less upset.

ALEX

(beat)

Thank you, Veronica.

Veronica smiles and gives a gentle nod, and the two share a long hug.

INT. JUSTIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Justin and Alex walk through the door while talking about the meeting.

JUSTIN

I am never getting in another canoe again. I probably held on the tightest, and I STILL went overboard.

Alex smirks.

ALEX

But you did it so well.

JUSTIN

Ha, ha. I'm going to get changed, be right back.

Justin walks out of frame. Alex sits down and reads her phone for a few moments before looking over to Justin's computer.

She walks over to find a file named "Justin Wilkie - Bio". Out of curiosity, she clicks on it. A resume-like document pops up, with Justin's song set to automatically play. Alex smiles while listening and reading his career story. But her smile slowly fades when This happens just as Justin walks in.

Alex puts two and two together. She looks over to Justin with destroyed eyes.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Alex, it isn't what you think. Just let me explain-

ALEX

Explain what? Justin, is this bio true?

(beat)

Are you not really sick?

JUSTIN

It was a stupid thing to do. I thought that people will want to follow my music if I do something good-

This makes Alex mad. She begins pacing around the room

ALEX

Oh, thank GOD for the high and mighty Justin Wilkie, so willing to help his community that he hangs round a bunch of dying people-

JUSTIN

It's not like that!

Alex snaps.

ALEX

Then what is it like?! This is seriously fucked up, Justin! You lied to everyone! To me! We've been together this long! Why wouldn't you tell me?!

JUSTIN

Because I knew you'd never want to date me otherwise!

Alex stops in her tracks and looks directly at Justin is complete shock. Justin is slightly surprised in himself for saying this out loud, but knows he has to continue. He gathers himself. Alex gets teary.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I've had a thing for you since sophomore year, Alex. But all you were ever concerned about were your friends and your brother. I knew I had to accept that, but I never could. And then this whole thing happened with you getting worse, and I knew that you'd be even more hard to reach than before. But then I saw the flyer for this club, and-
(beat)
I didn't know what I was thinking. All I could think about was you.

Justin grabs Alex's hand, and she looks away, but doesn't fight it. Justin is now getting teary as well.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Please. I did such a stupid fucking thing. But think about everything we've been through since we met.
(beat)
These last few months have been some of the best of my life, and I know you'd be lying if you didn't say they were for you too. Please, don't throw everything away over. Please.

Alex is sniffing, and genuinely thinks about this for a moment, but then pulls away from Justin's grip, grabs her things, and shuts the door somewhat forcefully, all without saying a word. Justin stands there, staring blankly on the verge of tears.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Alex is walking down the street, but stops and feels lightheaded. Everything hasn't quite hit her yet, so she stumbles as she sits on the sidewalk, and eventually puts her head into her hands.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Alex walks into the hallway and shuts the door, with Luke in the basement playing video games, as per usual. Alex finds the couch in the living room, and falls face first into the cushions.

INT. GYM - AFTERNOON

The gym is virtually empty, with nothing but folding chairs and some leftover decoration mess from the last meeting. Only Alex, Caleb, Marcus and Veronica are present, and they all are sitting in silence. Caleb is fiddling his thumbs, waiting for someone to initiate conversation but hesitant to do it himself. After several beats, Marcus' phone goes off. Marcus puts the phone to his ear, answers with a standard greeting, and listens. His face shows worry as he gets up and exits the gym into a nearby hallway. Everyone looks around with curiosity and worry.

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Alex and Luke exit the school, and are engaging in small talk about their days. Alex looks up, and immediately stops dead in her tracks.

ALEX
(whispering)
Luke! Luke!

Luke stops walking and looks back towards Alex. She motions or him to come back towards her, and he does so.

LUKE
What?

ALEX
We can't go to the car yet. We have
to wait a little while.

LUKE
Why?

Alex doesn't stop looking towards the car.

ALEX
(still whispering)
Just because! Now come on!

Luke looks back towards the car, and we see Justin standing by it, waiting for Alex to get there. Alex and Luke begin walking in a different direction and Justin continues to look around for her.

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alex lies in her room, facing upwards towards the ceiling with her eyes completely open.

ALEX (V.O.)
 I feel sick. I feel used. What kind
 of person does that, and then
 expects forgiveness?

(beat)

Am I being too harsh? Should I
 forgive him? I mean, he was right
 about these months being amazing,
 but I don't know if that's enough-

Alex's phone abruptly goes off. Alex hesitantly looks at it,
 and then picks it up.

ALEX
 Look, Caleb, I'm not really in the
 mood to talk-

She suddenly sits up. Her face seems awake, and Alex looks
 sad and worried.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Oh my god. Oh my god. Are you sure?

She listens to the phone.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Well where is he?

She listens again.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 How do you not know? Did he says
 where he'd-

Alex freezes as she has a realization.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 I think I know where he is.

Alex walks to the hallway, looks around, and eventually
 decides to take the spare car key from the bowl.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 I'm leaving now, I'll call you when
 I find him.

Alex quickly walks out and closes the garage door.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SUNRISE

Alex drives and makes a few turns until she sees Marcus
 sitting on a bench by the ice cream shop that he and Jessica
 first met at. Alex parks the car into a nearby spot.

Alex leaves the car and walks to Marcus, looking tired and depressed. Alex sits down and looks to him.

ALEX
Marcus, I'm so sorry.

Marcus slowly looks over.

MARCUS
You know, deep down, some part of me thought we could beat this together. That we'd be with each other forever.

Alex begins to tear up as she is reminded of her recent heartbreak.

They sit for a moment in silence.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
She really liked you, y'know. She called you the "daughter she always wanted". I felt that way too.

Alex looks over and gives a small smile, but Marcus can tell something's wrong.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
What is it?

Alex doesn't want to say.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
...Justin?

All Alex can give is a small nod, but even that is enough to draw some tears.

Marcus looks back to the sunrise.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Look at us, a couple of kids dumb enough to fall in love.

Alex thinks for a moment, and joins Marcus as he looks at the sun slowly rise over the trees. Neither of them say anything, and they are together in that moment of silence.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Justin is sitting outside Alex's house in his car, honking his horn every couple of seconds.

JUSTIN

Come on, Alex. Come on.

The front door opens, but it's Luke, carrying a large spool of orange extension cord.

Luke walks up to the car, and Justin rolls down the window.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Is your sister home?

LUKE

You're that kid she was dating, right? And then you cheated on her?

JUSTIN

Listen, kid. It's a lot more complicated than that.

LUKE

Y'know, as her brother, it's usually my job to make her feel bad. But when shitheads like you do it, it just pisses me off.

Justin laughs.

JUSTIN

What does that mean, you gonna beat me up, small fry? I'd like to see you try.

Without flinching, Luke drops down the tie his shoe, but secretly puts a nail in front of the car's right tire. Luke stands up and scoffs at Justin as he walks back towards the house. Justin laughs and puts the car into drive. He doesn't make it two feet before he hears the nail penetrate the tire.

Justin yells in frustrated anger as Luke smirks while opening the front door into the house.

INT. GYM - EVENING

Alex, Veronica, Caleb, and Marcus sit in their usual seats, not saying a word. Two seats are empty. Caleb attempts to break the silence.

CALEB

So Marcus, where are you gonna go now?

MARCUS

East, probably Ireland. Jess always wanted to drink a beer and hear a band live.

Everyone smiles.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

What about you, Caleb? You gonna go anywhere?

CALEB

New York City. Ice Skating, Times Square, the whole deal. I've always wanted to.

VERONICA

Oh, I love New York City! I remember seeing the Christmas Tree lighting in '79. It was gorgeous!

Everyone looks to Alex, who seems zoned out.

MARCUS

Alex? And you?

Alex snaps back into the conversation.

ALEX

Oh, uh, probably not. My family isn't big on traveling.

MARCUS

I see. That's a shame, you're too special to be stuck in a town like this.

They both smile, but the tone is interrupted by a timer on Alex's phone.

ALEX

Time's up. I guess this is it.

Everyone looks around at the gym, the chairs, everything one last time.

EXT. CHURCH - EVENING

All four people are outside as Marcus hugs Veronica, Caleb and Alex before leaving. Veronica says goodbye and walks with Marcus, arm in arm, as he helps her to her car as they engage in small talk. Alex goes to sit down, and Caleb joins her.

CALEB

You know, you saved me.

Alex looks towards him in confusion.

ALEX

What do you mean?

CALEB

When I found out how long I had left, I decided I was just gonna take my own life. Cut out the middle man, y'know?. Make it easier. I wanted to walk around my neighborhood to see everything one last time. And when I started to walk home, I saw your flyer on a telephone pole.

Alex is shocked and completely immersed in what Caleb is saying.

CALEB (CONT'D)

You did a good thing, Alex. You took a bunch of people with the worst thing to have in common, and made them feel a part of a family. Thank you.

They hug, and Caleb walks off. Alex stares out as the sun sets on the last club meeting. She takes a picture out of her pocket, the same picture Justin had given her at their shore trip. She stares for several seconds, and then rips the picture in half and throws it in the nearby trash.

ALEX (V.O.)

I wonder if I'll ever see them again. Or Justin. I mean, he is an asshole, but it'd be nice to see a familiar face. To be honest, I prefer not to worry about it. Some good friends taught me that life is best lived doing what you love with people you care about. So as hard as it is, I'll try not to overthink about what's in store for me.

(beat)

That's something I won't miss.

As Caleb begins walking back to his car, Alex catches up to him. They talk for a bit, and then they both get into Caleb's car. Alex shuts the door.

CUT TO BLACK