

LAST SUMMER

"Part One: Solstice"

Written by

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FIRST DRAFT: June 24, 2017
REVISED: September 12, 2018
REVISED: January 24, 2019
REVISED: May 31, 2019
REVISED: June 17, 2019

The following season will take place in the
Summers of 1993, 1994 and 1995.

This episode occurs on June 21st
- Jeanette Turner's birthday -
and June 22nd of each year.

The scenes in 1993 will be GREEN.

The scenes in 1994 will be BLUE.

The scenes in 1995 will be RED.

TEASER

IN DARKNESS --

Muffled whispers, some "shhhhs"... Then silence.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1993 - MORNING

Sunlight pours into a cutely decorated room that feels a little young for a teenager, but --

JEANETTE TURNER (newly 15) - homely, mousy, awkward, with braces and frizzy hair - wakes up in her bed to:

SEVERAL VOICES (O.S.)

SURPRISE!

Jeanette looks up and sees her family, wearing PARTY HATS. They sing 'Happy Birthday' as Jeanette sits up in bed, grateful for the attention.

Her father, GREG TURNER (late 30s) - is a sorta-handsome "dad type." Her mother, CINDY TURNER (late 30s) - a former beauty queen who's let herself go a bit - holds a plate of CHOCOLATE CHIP PANCAKES with candles in them. Jeanette's two older siblings are twins, DEREK and LISA TURNER (17). Derek is slightly obnoxious and Lisa is a stuck-up bitch, but both are way more attractive than Jeanette.

CHYRON: JUNE 21, 1993 - JEANETTE TURNER'S BIRTHDAY

As they finish, Jeanette blows out the candles and they applaud.

JEANETTE

Awww. You guys. That's really sweet.

GREG

AND - happy first day of summer!

Lisa starts to leave.

GREG (CONT'D)

(To Lisa)

Whoa. Where are you going?

LISA

What? We sang Happy Birthday. Mission accomplished. Can I go now?

GREG
 (Offended)
 Uh, no?

Lisa rolls her eyes and rejoins the family.

CINDY
 (To Jeanette)
 We're all going to go to the
 Melting Pot for dinner, but any big
 plans for the day?

JEANETTE
 Probably gonna go see a movie with
 Vince and Mallory.

DEREK
 (Dryly)
 How exciting.

Greg shoots him a look.

LISA
 I can't go tonight.

DEREK
 Neither can I.

GREG
 That's so funny, because it isn't
 optional.

Lisa and Derek are both pissed.

DEREK
 Why?! I bought tickets to
 see Boyz II Men months ago!
 This is so bogus!

LISA
 Tucker's taking me out to
 dinner for our four month
 anniversary! This isn't
 fair!

GREG
 It's not MY fault that you both
 made plans on your sister's
 birthday.

CINDY
 Maybe we could compromise?

JEANETTE
 It's okay. We don't have to go to
 dinner. Or it could just be the
 three of us? That's okay, too.

GREG

No. We're having a family dinner
to celebrate Jeanette's birthday.
The end.

Jeanette sees the contempt in her brother and sister's eyes
and looks down, uncomfortably.

CINDY

Here. Why don't we let you get up
and --
(Taking the pancakes from
Jeanette)
I'll put these downstairs for you?

JEANETTE

Okay.

They leave and Jeanette can feel the tension between all of
them, but smiles gratefully.

Once she's alone -- she stands up and surveys herself in the
mirror. Fifteen years old. The first official day of
Summer. She gives herself a positive smile.

FADE OUT.

IN DARKNESS --

MALE TEEN'S VOICE (V.O.)

(Hushed; sweetly)
Babe? Wake up. Good morning.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1994 - MORNING

Sunlight pours into the newly decorated and much more age-
appropriate room...

Jeanette (just now 16) opens her eyes to see a super-good-
looking teenager named JAMIE HENSON (16) sitting on the edge
of her bed holding a cupcake with a candle on it.

JAMIE

Happy birthday, beautiful.

CHYRON: JUNE 21, 1994

Jeanette smiles, happy to see him. She looks COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT. Even though she just woke up - Jeanette looks
gorgeous. Braces gone, her hair is straightened, her skin
glows. The ugly duckling became a swan in the course of a
year.

JEANETTE

Hi. What are you doing here?

JAMIE

Make a wish.

She closes her eyes and blows out the candle.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

I had to arm wrestle your dad to come up here and wake you up. He was going on and on about family tradition. Do they really wake you up every year on your birthday?

JEANETTE

Without fail. It's lame. I know.

JAMIE

It's nice. But I won.

JEANETTE

(Cheekily)

I never knew you arm wrestled.

JAMIE

Okay. Maybe it wasn't arm wrestling, per se. I told him I'd wait until we were married before I deflowered you.

JEANETTE

And he believed you?

JAMIE

What daddy doesn't know won't hurt him.

He kisses her.

JEANETTE

Thank you. For this.

JAMIE

So, we have a full day planned with the assholes AKA our friends. I hope that's okay.

JEANETTE

(Smiling)

Yeah. Of course.

JAMIE

Okay. Get dressed. Beach attire.
I'm gonna go downstairs and
convince your parents that I didn't
do this.

JEANETTE

Do what?

He pulls her in for a much more passionate kiss and climbs on top of her, cupping her breast in his hand. She throws her head back as he kisses her neck, grabbing her wrist and pinning it against the headboard of the bed. She moans, softly as he grunts.

Getting too worked up, he pulls away - but smiles and whispers:

JAMIE

I love you.

JEANETTE

I love you, too.

He gets up and leaves, but it feels as though it's difficult to pull himself from the room.

She stands up and goes to the mirror and smiles, another year older and what a year it's been. Jeanette is beautifully, blissfully happy.

FADE OUT.

IN DARKNESS --

GREG (V.O.)

(Irritated)

Jeanette.

(Beat.)

Jeanette, wake up.

(Sotto voce)

Goddamn it. WAKE UP.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1995 - MORNING

Outside, there is no sun. It's a cloudy day. Rain seems inevitable.

Jeanette - her hair short, her skin pale - stirs and wakes up to see her dad, unshaven and wrecked by just a couple of years. He looms over her, wearing an angry expression.

GREG
One of your lawyers is here.

JEANETTE
(Wiping the sleep from her
eyes)
Which one?

GREG
The Asian one. What does it
matter? Get the hell out of bed
and come downstairs.

JEANETTE
Why is she here?

GREG
I don't know.

Jeanette doesn't move, she stares off - trying to wake up. She, too, looks weathered. She's not the innocent girl we first saw or the happy one we saw the following summer. Life has taken a toll on her.

GREG (CONT'D)
(Fighting pure rage)
Get out of your bed and come
downstairs. NOW.

Jeanette's eyes well with tears.

JEANETTE
Can you just please give me a
minute? Okay? God.

Greg looks at her with contempt and leaves.

GREG (O.S.)
(Muttering, mirthlessly)
Happy birthday.

CHYRON: JUNE 21, 1995

Jeanette attempts to collect herself. Part of her wants to disappear back under the comforter of her bed, the other wants to scream out in anger.

She gets up and walks over to the mirror and looks at herself with disgust.

FADE TO:

OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONE

INT. KITCHEN - TURNER HOUSE - 1995 - MORNING

Jeanette, who didn't bother to make herself presentable, sits at the breakfast table across from DIANE NGUYEN (mid-30s) - a straightforward, but not-completely-cold Asian-American attorney. Greg makes coffee behind them.

DIANE

Your father told me it was your birthday. Happy birthday.

Apathy seeps from every pore of Jeanette.

JEANETTE

Yeah. Okay.

DIANE

You seemed... *distressed* last time we spoke. I hope you're feeling a bit more... *hopeful*.

Jeanette doesn't answer, but just stares icily at Diane.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I apologize for dropping by unannounced, but I'm going to do that from time-to-time. In building your case, things are going to pop up and --

Greg puts coffee in front of Diane.

DIANE (CONT'D)

(To Greg)

Thank you.

(To Jeanette)

-- and I know that this is a very challenging time for you, but - Jeanette - I need you to cooperate. This is going to be a very tricky case. But we can win it. However, we need to be a team. Me, your father, your other lawyers - but most importantly - YOU.

JEANETTE

Has something?

(Off Diane's confusion)

'Popped up?'

Judging from the look on Diane's face, something very serious has.

EXT. STREET - 1993 - DAY

Jeanette and her two best friends, MALLORY HIGGINS (15) and VINCE FULLER (15) - two quirky outsiders - ride bikes and sing loudly to The Beach Boys' 'WOULDN'T IT BE NICE?' emitting from a BOOMBOX in a basket on Mallory's handlebars.

They're mockingly emotive to each other and completely carefree. Then --

MALLORY

We should make a list of things we wanna do this summer.

VINCE

And we HAVE to do them all.

JEANETTE

I love that.

MALLORY

Do you guys ever get this overwhelming urge to do something illegal?

JEANETTE

(Laughing)

No.

MALLORY

It doesn't happen often, but sometimes I just wanna do something, like, really *bad*, y'know?

VINCE

Ladies and gentlemen, item number one for the list: Do something illegal.

JEANETTE

NOT!

VINCE

Oh c'mon. Where's your sense of adventure?

JEANETTE

Fine. But as long as it's not something immoral.

MALLORY
Define 'immoral.'

JEANETTE
Something that begs the question
probably is. And at the very
least, can it be, like, item
seventeen on the list?

MALLORY
Deal.

They continue to sing along to the song as they ride into the
parking lot of the --

INT. BOULEVARD MALL - 1993 - MOMENTS LATER

Vince, Mallory and Jeanette walk through the mall, which is
populated by kids out of school for the summer.

MALLORY
We've already seen 'Jurassic Park'
like seven times.

VINCE
But doesn't it keep getting better
every time we see it?

MALLORY
I think Jeanette should pick the
movie - seeing that it's her
birthday and all.

VINCE
Last time we let her pick, we had
to suffer through that movie where
Christian Slater had a monkey
heart.

JEANETTE
Shut-up-that-movie-is-so-good.

MALLORY
I have to concur. She picks. Case
closed.

JEANETTE
Hey, let's go into Spencer's!

She runs off and they follow her into --

INT. SPENCER'S GIFTS - 1993 - CONTINUOUS

They begin exploring the brightly-colored and occasionally crass kitsch lining the aisles. There are tons of T-SHIRTS with memorable slogans, once popular.

While Vince and Mallory play with a PlasmaSphere, Jeanette catches sight of Jamie - a year younger, but just as cute - and his girlfriend, KATE WALLIS (15) - pretty and popular. They're all over each other.

JAMIE

Be right back. I saw something I
wanna get you.

He runs toward the back of the store.

Kate sees Jeanette staring at her and is a little taken
aback. Caught --

JEANETTE

I like your purse.

KATE

Thanks.

An awkward silence. Then --

JEANETTE

It's my birthday.

Jeanette's face completely reddens. She has NO IDEA why she
just volunteered that information. Neither does Kate, but
politely --

KATE

Happy birthday.

JEANETTE

Thanks!

Kate begins looking at items to get away from the strange
exchange.

VINCE (O.S.)

Hey.

Jeanette is startled by Vince.

VINCE (CONT'D)

I'm supposed to keep you distracted
while Mallory buys your birthday
present.

JEANETTE
I told her not to get me anything.

VINCE
Hence the distraction.

Mallory bops over with a BAG and hands it to Jeanette.

MALLORY
For you. Happy birthday.

JEANETTE
You weren't supposed to --

MALLORY
Relax. It cost seven dollars.

VINCE
I chipped in.

Jeanette pulls a cheap necklace from the bag. It says: 'YOU GO, GIRL' in puffy, swirly cursive. It's not exactly Jeanette's style, but she's grateful for the sentiment.

JEANETTE
Awww. Thanks!

She hugs Mallory and over her shoulder sees Jamie - who's returned - kissing Kate, intensely. She stares at them, again - flickers of longing and perhaps a bit of jealousy in her gaze.

EXT. BEACH - 1994 - DAY

It's a gorgeously sunny afternoon as Jamie kisses Jeanette with the same heat that he kissed Kate 365 days earlier.

A group of their FRIENDS have set up a makeshift birthday party for Jeanette. They're all attractive and playful with each other. 'Ace of Base' wafts from a BOOMBOX in the sand.

Two girls, LUCY PETERSON and RENEE TALBOTT (both 16) - giggly at best, poisonous at worst - run over and interrupt the make-out session.

LUCY
(Slapping Jamie's arm)
Stop hogging the birthday girl!

RENEE
It's our turn.

They pull Jeanette away from him and flank either side of her.

LUCY
Sooooo....?

RENEE
Tell us everything.

JEANETTE
(Smiling slyly)
I have no idea what you're talking about.

RENEE
Saturday night. THE night. We need details.

JEANETTE
It was... Perfect.

LUCY
I hate you.

RENEE
Me more.

JEANETTE
I know, like, lots of people say their first time was really uncomfortable and painful and awkward, but with Jamie - it was...

LUCY
If you say 'magical,' I'm gonna punch you in the tit.

RENEE
I'll punch you in the other one.

JEANETTE
Perfect. That's the only way to describe it.

Lucy and Renee squeal.

Further up the beach, Jamie and his friend, BEN HALLOWELL (16) are watching the girls talk.

BEN
And now she's going to show them, via a hand gesture, how big your dick is.

They watch. Sure enough, from a distance, Jeanette shows 'a size' with her hands. The girls all scream.

BEN (CONT'D)
Really, dude? You're THAT big?

JAMIE
She's exaggerating. Trust me.

BEN
You really like this one, huh?

JAMIE
I really do.

BEN
Good. You deserve that.

A sad moment washes over Jamie, but he quickly shakes it off.

JAMIE
Thanks, man.

BEN
Do you still think about her?

JAMIE
(Lying)
No.

BEN
You still think she ran away?

JAMIE
I know there was a lot going on with her last summer, but I'd rather be pissed about that than depressed about the alternative.

Ben starts to say something, but stops himself.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
I'm happy. With Jeanette. She's great.

Jeanette turns around and flashes him a smile. He returns a gentle, loving wave.

I/E. JAMIE'S FORD PROBE - 1995 - DAY

On the same date, one year later --

Jamie, too, looks like the year has beaten him down as he sits in his parked car, stationed across the street from the Turner house. Watching it.

His eyes are filled with hatred as he spies Greg leave the house and get in his car and drive away.

He opens his glove compartment and there's a GUN inside. He takes it and grips it tightly in his hands, squeezing it, considering using it.

Deciding against it, he throws the gun back into the glove compartment and begins punching the steering wheel over and over, malevolently.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1995 - CONTINUOUS

The house looks like it hasn't been properly cleaned in a long while.

Jeanette, looking haggard and wrapped up in her comforter, on the couch is watching an episode of 'THE RICKI LAKE SHOW.' But she's not really watching it. It's just "on."

The phone rings - several times - before Jeanette finally answers it.

JEANETTE

Hello?

MALE TEEN'S VOICE (O.S.)

(Cautiously)

Hey. It's me. Jamie's parked across the street from your house. Again.

JEANETTE

I know.

MALE TEEN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Do you want me to call the police?

JEANETTE

No.

MALE TEEN'S VOICE (O.S.)

What if he tries to hurt you?

JEANETTE

Then he hurts me. I don't care. Listen, I gotta go.

She starts to hang up, but --

MALE TEEN'S VOICE (O.S.)
 (Hesitantly)
 Hey. Uh. Happy birthday.

A tear rolls down her cheek.

JEANETTE
 Thanks.
 (Beat.)
 Vince? Do you think -- It's never
 gonna be normal again, is it?

VINCE (O.S.)
 I can't even remember when it ever
 was.

She hangs up the phone and fights back tears, staring forward at Ricki Lake on the television.

INT. VINCE'S BEDROOM - 1995 - CONTINUOUS

In a pigsty of a room, decorated with movie posters and 80s kitsch --

Vince, who - now in 1995 - sports a shaved head, hears the dial tone on his phone after he's been hung up on.

He walks to his window and peeks, carefully, out the blinds at Jamie - fuming in his car.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - 1994 - DAY

Vince and Mallory - aged 16 and 17, respectively; in 1994 - are leaning heavily into the GRUNGE ERA. Vince's hair is significantly longer and Mallory's is significantly shorter. They wear loose, baggy jeans and plaid shirts - still outsiders.

They swing on swingsets.

VINCE
 You know what today is, right?

MALLORY
 First day of summer.

VINCE
 And...?

MALLORY
 Don't remind me.

VINCE

Should we call her? At least, say happy birthday... or something?

MALLORY

Vince. Really? Why would we do that?

VINCE

Forgive me for trying to be a good person.

MALLORY

Barbie's got a whole new group of friends and a slew of fantastic accessories. I heard she and that dickhead had sex the other night.

VINCE

Says who?

MALLORY

Says everyone.

Vince seems hurt by this. Mallory takes note.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

(Scoffing)

Please don't tell me after watching her mutate over the last school year that you're still in love with her.

VINCE

I was never in love with her.

MALLORY

Bullshit.

She gets off the swing.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

I'm leaving.

VINCE

(Rolling his eyes)

Really? One mention of Jeanette and you're gonna bolt?

MALLORY

(Flailing her arms around)

It's not one mention, okay? You bring her up ALL the damn time. I'm sick of it. She discarded us.

VINCE

She didn't do that. You know it.
We ALL changed. We're just as
guilty as she is. I recall it was
OUR idea to start the list.

MALLORY

You think it was the stupid *list*
that made her start frontin'? I
think not.

VINCE

We went our separate ways. Can't
that be good enough?

MALLORY

The last thing in the world this
shithole town needed was another
Kate Wallis and guess what we got?
The sequel. And as we both know,
they're never as good as the
original. And! AAAAAAND! The
first one sucked to begin with!

Vince and Mallory's eyes are locked in anger.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. VINCE'S BEDROOM - 1994 - LATER THAT DAY

Vince and Mallory lie naked in his bed, post-coital. Neither
knows what to say to the other.

MALLORY

I didn't --

Vince looks at her.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

I didn't do this to, like, 'catch
up' to her.

VINCE

Neither did I.

MALLORY

But I don't wanna, like, 'go with
you' either.

VINCE

I didn't ask you to.

They lay there still.

MALLORY
But I did like it.

VINCE
Yeah. Me too.

They stare at the ceiling.

MALLORY
I'm not jealous of Jeanette.

VINCE
I didn't say you were.

MALLORY
The last thing I'd ever want to be
is the understudy to a dead girl.

VINCE
You think Kate is dead?

MALLORY
She's been missing for almost a
year. I'm guessing the Wallises
story isn't gonna have a happy
ending.

Vince thinks about this.

MALLORY (CONT'D)
But, hey, at least we all have
Jeanette Turner to fill the void of
the void that was once Kate Wallis.

They both continue to stare at the ceiling.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. THE MELTING POT - 1993 - DUSK

The Turner Family sits at a booth of the Fondue Chain Restaurant. Derek and Lisa look miserable due to their forced attendance. Greg is not too happy with his eldest children's attitudes.

Jeanette nervously fiddles with her 'You Go, Girl!' necklace.

CINDY
(Noticing it)
Where'd you get that?

JEANETTE
Mallory and Vince got it for me.

CINDY
That was sweet of them.

JEANETTE
We started making a list of things we're going to do this summer and we HAVE TO complete all of them before school starts.

CINDY
Fun!

LISA
Is 'never making dorky lists again' on the list?

Greg shoots Lisa a stern look.

CINDY
I think it sounds like a neat challenge.

JEANETTE
Yeah. Mallory wants us all to dye our hair the same crazy color, but I don't think I can do it.

GREG
Your hair's fine the way it is.

Derek and Lisa look at each other, clocking the 'Daddy's Little Girl' sentiment.

JEANETTE

Thanks. Oh! And we're gonna learn all the lyrics to 'Check Yo Self' - the Ice Cube rap song - and then we have to perform it! IN PUBLIC!

Derek snorts. Greg whips his head toward the twins.

GREG

Can you both, at least, TRY to be a little bit kinder to your sister on her special day? I'm not asking for much.

DEREK

(Averting Greg's eyes)
Except good grades and summer jobs that pay and clean rooms and --

LISA

You have *one* perfect child, so why don't you just go with that?

A silence passes.

DEREK

(Sotto voce)
This is lame.

LISA

Yup.

The STAFF comes over with a BIRTHDAY CAKE, singing a cheesy birthday song.

Cindy and Jeanette both force smiles.

INT. DIVE INN - 1995 - EVENING

Later that evening - at a dimly-lit dive bar...

Greg sits at the BAR with a BEER. The bartender, ANGELA DUVEL (early 30's) - a wise young woman in the body of a wild young woman - goes over to him with a sympathetic smile.

ANGELA

Feeling better?

GREG

Yeah. A bit.

She pours two shots over the following:

ANGELA

I read this book once about a man who lost everything, because he believed that the world was gonna end. The guy sold all of his possessions, broke from his family, gave up everything because he was SO insistent that the world was gonna end. And no one believed him. But he *knew*. So, then finally the big day arrives - the one he was so sure about - and guess what happened. Happy day. The world didn't end. Now, instead of being relieved, the guy was miserable. Because he was wrong. He'd've rather *lost his life* than be wrong.

She puts one of the shot glasses in front of him.

GREG

Why are you telling me this?

ANGELA

(Grinning)

Because it's not the end of the world. Smile, for Christ's sake.

She raises her shot glass and they both down them.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Y'know what? I don't think it was a book. I think it was a movie.

She then puts her hand on his.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

This, too, shall pass. You want another inspirational quote? I'm practically a fortune cookie.

He manages a laugh.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

How's Jeanette?

GREG

Dismissive? Bitter? Potentially a sociopath?

ANGELA

She's not a sociopath. She's a teenage girl.

(MORE)

ANGELA (CONT'D)

But then I guess there's not much
of a difference, is there?

GREG

(Smiling wistfully)
I miss the way she used to be.

ANGELA

She's gonna be fine. As soon as
all this lawsuit mess is over.

GREG

What time you getting off?

ANGELA

Not for another couple of hours.
Am I sleeping at your place
tonight?

GREG

Sure.

He reaches over the bar and kisses her; gives her a couple of
twenties.

ANGELA

I'm not taking your money, Greg.
We've been together for four
months. One of the benefits of
slippin' it to a bartender is the
free drinks.

He kisses her again and - suddenly - the world doesn't seem
so dark.

EXT. TURNER HOUSE - 1994 - NIGHT

A symphony of crickets accompany Jeanette and Jamie, as he
escorts her to the door after her special birthday outing.

They hold hands and walk slowly, not wanting the night to
end.

JAMIE

Did you have a good day?

JEANETTE

It was perfect. The beach, the
dinner, the party. It was the
best.

JAMIE

I'll have to start planning next
year's.

Jeanette melts - happy he sees a future for them as clearly
as she does.

He kisses her.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Goodnight.

Neither one wants to let go of the other's hand. Finally, he
pulls his away and she smiles.

She turns and goes inside.

REVERSE ANGLE ON:

The house across the street. Vince watches this, unseen,
from his window.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1994 - CONTINUOUS

Cindy and Greg are watching TV when Jeanette comes in,
walking on air. Cindy is eager to hear from her daughter,
while Greg doesn't seem interested.

CINDY

How was your day?

JEANETTE

It was -- I can't even describe it.

CINDY

Oh honey, that's wonderful.
Jamie's such a nice boy and I'm so
happy that you two found each
other.

Greg doesn't look over at them.

JEANETTE

C'mon Dad. You're not still mad
about dinner.

GREG

I'm fine.

JEANETTE

It was this one time. We'll go to
the Melting Pot next year. I
promise.

Greg doesn't answer.

Cindy gives Jeanette a 'don't worry' look.

Jeanette walks over to where her father is sitting and stoops to his eyesight.

JEANETTE (CONT'D)
 (Whispering)
 Remember last year? The wish?
 It's all because of you.

Greg softens and gives her a warm smile.

JEANETTE (CONT'D)
 Goodnight. Love you guys.

She goes upstairs.

INT. KITCHEN - TURNER HOUSE - 1993 - NIGHT

Jeanette creeps in - in her bedclothes - to find her father eating leftover cake out of the fridge.

JEANETTE
 Hey.

GREG
 What are you still doing up,
 sweetheart?

JEANETTE
 Just checking on you. Are you
 okay?

GREG
 (Smiling warmly)
 Yeah. I'm sorry about your brother
 and sister. They just --

JEANETTE
 I get it. It's way more fun to be
 out on a date or a concert than
 your nerdy little sister's birthday
 party.

GREG
 You are NOT 'nerdy.'

JEANETTE
 (Laughing)
 Yeah, Dad. I am.

GREG

You're special. And one day the rest of the world is going to see what *I* see.

JEANETTE

(Incredulous)

You think that one day I'm gonna suddenly - POOF! - be pretty and popular and everyone's gonna pay attention to me?

Greg goes over to the junk drawer and scrambles around in it.

GREG

I think you're perfect the way you are, BUT --

He pulls out a PACKAGE of BIRTHDAY CANDLES, lights one and sticks it on the half-eaten slice of cake.

GREG (CONT'D)

If that's what you want, then... one more birthday wish.

Jeanette looks to her father, genuinely curious --

JEANETTE

Would it be bad if I did?

He lights it. She smiles and blows out the candle.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1995 - NIGHT

Jeanette is still wrapped up in her blanket watching TV, as she's been doing all day. And does most every day.

But this time, she's watching a VHS tape. It's recorded NEWS FOOTAGE from 1993 -- of Jamie. He's crying as he's being interviewed.

Jeanette is mesmerized and heartbroken as she watches it.

Angela comes in and Jeanette quickly stops the tape, but not before Angela can catch a glimpse of what she was watching. She's taken aback by what she walked in on, but masks it well.

ANGELA

Hey. Is your dad here? He told me to stop by.

JEANETTE
He's upstairs.

Angela walks in, closer; concerned.

ANGELA
You okay, Jeanette?

JEANETTE
I'm fine.

ANGELA
Y'know, living in the past isn't healthy.

JEANETTE
(Icily; not looking at her)
Spare me. I don't need advice from the local bartender who's screwing my dad.

ANGELA
Ouch, sistah. I would've *preferred* the term 'dating,' but...

JEANETTE
Yeah? Well, I'd 'prefer' that you weren't doing either, okay?

ANGELA
Look. What happened to that girl is a tragedy. What's happening to you, I can't even imagine. But if you ever wanna talk, I'm a really good listener. I want things to turn around for you, Jeanette, I really do. And I'm here. And I really like your father. Go figure. But. Don't ever talk to me like that again. I'm not the enemy. Okay?

Jeanette is stunned by her assertiveness.

JEANETTE
Okay, fine. Sorry.

ANGELA
Goodnight.

Angela goes upstairs, her large jewelry clanging with each step.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1993 - NIGHT

Jeanette readies herself for bed. She takes off the necklace Vince and Mallory gave her and places it in a JEWELRY BOX on her dresser.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1994 - NIGHT

Jeanette clutches her chest and smiles. She's overwhelmed with a feeling of contentment.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1995 - NIGHT

Jeanette lifelessly drags her comforter into her room and throws it on the bed.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1993 - NIGHT

Jeanette lays her head on her pillow --

-- and longs for something more --

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1994 - NIGHT

-- wishes that she could live in this moment forever --

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1995 - NIGHT

-- would do anything to escape the nightmare her life has become.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CENTURY 21 OFFICE - 1993 - DAY

On a sunny afternoon in the middle of town --

Vince and Mallory are on a mission as they march through the town. Jeanette nervously lags behind.

VINCE

Let the official Summer List
festivities commence.

MALLORY

This is gonna be so rad!

JEANETTE

Guys, I REEEEEALLY don't think we
should do this. Can't we start
with something that's NOT illegal?
Like, maybe we could do number 26
and pretend that we're from another
country and speak jibberish?

MALLORY

It's not illegal. Trust me.

JEANETTE

Breaking into a house IS illegal.

VINCE

No one lives there, so it's not.

MALLORY

Trust us, 'kay? C'mon. We do
everything together.

Mallory opens the door of the --

INT. MAIN FLOOR - CENTURY 21 OFFICE - 1993 - CONTINUOUS

The kids enter the office and Greg, who's talking to a CO-WORKER, is surprised to see them. He walks over and greets them.

GREG

Hey. What are you guys doing here?

JEANETTE

Hey Dad.

VINCE
Hi Mr. Turner.

MALLORY
What's up, Mr. Turner?

MALLORY (CONT'D)
We were riding bikes and I have to pee, like, REALLY bad and Jeanette said maybe I could use your bathroom?

JEANETTE
Sorry.

GREG
No, it's okay. Of course you can. It's down the hall and to the left.

MALLORY
You're the best dad ever. Not that I have a huge scope of reference.

VINCE
Mallory's dad left when she was five.

MALLORY
He was an alcoholic. And a gambler. You know all this, right? Gotta pee.

She dashes off.

GREG
(To Vince and Jeanette)
So, are you guys checking things off your big list?

Vince nods, cheerfully. Jeanette nods, sheepishly.

INT. HALLWAY - CENTURY 21 OFFICE - 1993 - CONTINUOUS

Mallory darts down the hallway, suspiciously. She passes the GIRLS' BATHROOM and finds:

INT. GREG'S OFFICE - CENTURY 21 OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

She ducks in and sees a METAL CABINET on the wall. She furtively slides over and opens it. It's full of KEYS hanging from hooks.

MALLORY
(Pointing; to herself)
Eenie, meenie, miney --
(MORE)

MALLORY (CONT'D)
(Grabbing one)
Pa-chow.

She withdraws a KEY RING from her pocket and pulls a key off of it and replaces it with the one she's stolen. She makes note of the address on the tag.

MALLORY (CONT'D)
3248 Huntington Lane.

She stuffs it in her pocket, closes the cabinet and races from the room.

INT. MAIN FLOOR - CENTURY 21 OFFICE - 1993 - SECONDS LATER

Mallory rushes over to find Vince talking to Greg and Jeanette - who's acting quiet and suspect.

VINCE
So, I guess the moral of the story
is to always get the money up
front. Am I right?

Greg politely laughs at Vince's story.

MALLORY
Thank you SO MUCH, Mr. Turner.
That could've been a very
embarrassing situation that these
knuckleheads would never have let
me live down.

GREG
You are more than welcome. You
three have fun, okay?

VINCE
We will!

MALLORY
You can count on it!

JEANETTE
I guess.

Mallory and Vince pull Jeanette from the office.

EXT. CENTURY 21 OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mallory smiles, victoriously.

MALLORY

Alright, kids. Get ready to cross off the first item. Our magical destination is 3248 Huntington Lane.

They hop on their bikes, enthusiastically. Jeanette is unable and unwilling to get excited about this.

EXT. HOUSE - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - LATER

The gang pulls up to the cute, suburban home and hops off their bicycles.

Outside is a Century 21 'SOLD' sign with a photo of Greg.

MALLORY

Sorry to say this, but your dad is kinda FINE.

JEANETTE

Ew. Gross. Guys, the house is already sold.

MALLORY

But does it look like anyone's moved in yet? No.

Vince is peeking in a front window.

VINCE

It's empty.

MALLORY

Jackpot.

Mallory grins, mischievously.

EXT. HOUSE - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - 1995 - DAY

The house - once beautiful and bright - is now in disrepair and boarded up. The lawn is overgrown.

Vince walks past the house, smoking a cigarette. He stops and stares at it - remembering...

There's a FOR SALE sign out front with Greg's photo. It's been vandalized with the words: BURN IN HELL!

INT. FOYER - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - 1993 - MOMENTS LATER

The key turns in the door and it opens. The three enter. Jeanette pockets the key.

VINCE

Item Number Twelve: Play 'Hide and Seek' in an empty house.

VINCE (CONT'D)
Not it!

MALLORY
Not it!

JEANETTE

I hate you guys.

MALLORY

Front door is base.

VINCE

Count to a hundred. No peeking.

JEANETTE

Fine.

She turns her back and faces the door.

JEANETTE (CONT'D)

One. Two. Three. Four.

Vince and Mallory, giggling, race off.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - 1993 - SECONDS LATER

Vince and Mallory, quietly, burst into the room - while Jeanette counts in the other room.

Vince runs to a CLOSET and checks it out.

Mallory has run into the --

INT. MASTER BATHROOM - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - CONTINUOUS

She sees a SHOWER with frosted doors.

MALLORY

(Whispering)

In here!

Vince runs in and they hide in the shower, snickering softly. The proximity leads to an unfamiliar feeling of intimacy that passes between them. Does Mallory have a crush on Vince?

INT. FOYER - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - SECONDS LATER

Jeanette still faces the door.

JEANETTE

Ninety-seven. Ninety-eight.
Ninety-nine. One hundred. Ready
or not, here I come.

She turns around and surveys the empty space. She tiptoes past the staircase and sees a door, underneath it. She opens it, half expecting to see a closet. But it's stairs to a--

INT. BASEMENT - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - CONTINUOUS

She flicks on the light and slowly, quietly, cautiously descends the STAIRCASE.

Below, the basement is carpeted and not quite as scary as she would have expected it to be.

She looks around and sees that they're not down there.

She goes back upstairs into the --

INT. FOYER - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - CONTINUOUS

-- and closes the door. She turns a corner and runs into a MAN, scaring the shit out of her.

Jeanette's eyes fill with panic.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. FOYER - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - 1993 - CONTINUOUS

Jeanette is obviously terrified. But her fear subsides when the man smiles at her.

MAN

Oh. Hello. Who are you?

Jeanette finally catches her breath and looks at the man. MARTIN HARRIS. He's handsome, late 30's and usually pretty friendly, but his face is twisted into confusion.

JEANETTE

Sorry. I'm -- I -- My dad sold this house --

MAN

You're Greg's daughter? I'm Martin. This is my house. I mean, I just bought it. Moving in tomorrow.

He extends his hand and she nervously shakes it.

JEANETTE

Hi.

MARTIN

Uh, what are you doing here?

Jeanette takes the briefest of moments to collect herself and then - as if possessed - she lies like a champ.

JEANETTE

My dad did a walkthrough last night - just to make sure everything was on the up and up - and he thought maybe he had left his briefcase here and he had a couple of showings this afternoon, so he sent me to see if it's here.

MARTIN

Is it?

JEANETTE

I'm afraid not. Dad's always losing stuff, but I'm sure it'll turn up.

The ease of her fibbing is surprising.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - 1993 -
CONTINUOUS

Scared, Mallory and Vincent hide behind the door of the
bedroom. They can hear Jeanette talking to this Martin guy.

JEANETTE (O.S.)
So, you're moving in tomorrow?

MARTIN (O.S.)
Yeah. If the moving van gets here.
I'll be surprised if they do.

MALLORY
(Whispering; to Vince)
How are we supposed to get out of
here?

VINCE
(Whispering back)
I don't know.

JEANETTE (O.S.)
(A little bit louder; as if
it's a signal)
You know what? I saw something
down in the basement that my dad
may have missed in the walkthrough.
Do you want me to show you?

MARTIN (O.S.)
Sure.

Mallory and Vince breathe sighs of relief. They wait a few
moments and then bolt from the room.

EXT. HOUSE - 3248 HUNTINGTON LANE - 1993 - SECONDS LATER

Silently and hurriedly, Vince and Mallory race from the house
- safe. They run to their bikes parked away from the house.

MALLORY
That was close.

VINCE
Yeah.

They catch their breaths.

VINCE (CONT'D)
Jeanette's gonna kill us.

MALLORY
For sure.

But they're happy to have escaped. They hide behind a HEDGE waiting for Jeanette.

Martin and Jeanette emerge from the house.

JEANETTE
I could've sworn it was a water spot, but it must've been a shadow.

MARTIN
I'm gonna rip that carpet up anyway. But, hey, thanks for the concern.

JEANETTE
Yeah. Of course. I should've known better than to question my dad's excellent investigation skills.

MARTIN
Say, do you go to Walter Forrest?

JEANETTE
I do.

MARTIN
I'm the new Assistant Principal there.

JEANETTE
Oh cool!

MARTIN
Yeah. So, I'm sure I'll be seeing you.

JEANETTE
(Smiling innocently)
I doubt it. I never get into trouble.

MARTIN
(Laughing)
That's good. It was nice to meet you...

JEANETTE

Jeanette.

MARTIN

Martin. But I guess you should call me Mr. Harris. Given the whole 'principal thing.'

They shake hands again.

JEANETTE

Welcome to the neighborhood, Mr. Harris.

Martin watches Jeanette walk down the driveway, smiling. She turns the corner past the hedge where Vince and Mallory are waiting for her - bracing themselves to be ripped into.

BUT --

JEANETTE (CONT'D)

(Quietly; but excitedly)
That was AWESOME! What next?

Vince and Mallory exchange grateful, but perplexed, glances as they mount their bikes.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1995 - DAY

Jeanette looks like she just woke up. It's likely she just did. She puts a tape labelled with a Sharpie '1994 NEWS FOOTAGE' into the VCR and presses play.

She drops herself onto the couch and watches, deriving no joy from it.

It's a LOCAL NEWS INTERVIEW with MALLORY.

MALLORY

Jeanette Turner used to be my best friend, then - like, overnight - she became this, like, 'other person. What's the word? Conniving. Yeah. About everything. And it all seemed to start the first time she broke into Martin Harris's house.

Jeanette, enraged, throws a pillow at the television. She stomps over and ejects the tape, replacing it with one labelled '1993 NEWS FOOTAGE'

A news clip comes on:

ANCHOR

(On the screen)

A local teenager has now been missing for four days as police search for signs of her whereabouts. Friends and family of Kate Wallis describe her as a popular, bright and fun-loving young girl and are praying for her safe return. Field reporter, Kara Dewitt, is on the scene.

Jeanette fast-forwards to the clip of Jamie - the one she was watching the previous evening. He's crying while being interviewed. A chyron from the station announces him as: Kate's Boyfriend.

JAMIE

I just hope she's safe. I don't think she would've run away. She was so happy. WE were so happy. If anyone knows anything, please just contact the police. I love her so much.

Jeanette stares at the footage, coldly.

She fast-forwards further. Lucy and Renee (a year younger than when we first saw them) are being interviewed and crying, as well. But their tears don't seem as genuine.

LUCY

It's just not the same. The world is not the same. Like, I know it's only been four days, but --

RENEE

It's been, like, the worst four days of our lives - because she's, like, our best friend, y'know?

LUCY

We just want her to be okay.

Disgusted, Jeanette rolls her eyes at her ex-friends. She stops the tape.

She gets up and plods over to her FATHER'S LIQUOR CABINET and grabs a bottle of WHISKEY. She takes it back to the couch and takes a long drink directly from the bottle.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - 1994 - DAY

Lucy, Renee and Jeanette are shopping. They look bored as they scan the circular racks - running their fingers along the edges of the hanging outfits.

RENEE

Can you believe it's been almost a year since Kate disappeared?

LUCY

I know! So sad.

They look to Jeanette, waiting for her to offer them sympathy.

JEANETTE

I didn't really know her.

LUCY

Oh yeah. That's right. You didn't really start kickin' it with us until after she went missing.

RENEE

(To Jeanette)

Kate never really liked you. She said you were creepy.

LUCY

Yeah. She thought you were mad weird.

RENEE

No offense, but you kinda were.

JEANETTE

Thanks a lot, jerks.

LUCY

But now, we love you!

Lucy pulls Jeanette into a tight hug.

RENEE

I think Kate would've liked the new you, too.

LUCY

So sad.
(Holding up a shirt)
This?

RENEE

Big no.

Lucy replaces the shirt.

Jeanette sees Mallory and Vincent walk past the shop and notice her.

Mallory drags Vince inside the store and marches over to Jeanette.

MALLORY

(With a BIG, nasty Valley
Girl accent)
Oh my GAWD!!! Lookie who! It's
Jeanette Turner!

Jeanette smiles awkwardly.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

Or are we calling you 'Jenny' now?

JEANETTE

Hi Mallory. Hi Vincent.

Vince, just as awkward as Jeanette, gives a slight wave.

MALLORY

I LOVE THAT TOP! But have you
checked out the new stuff at the
Limited! Sooooo fresh!
(Gesturing to Lucy and
Renee; with condescending
sweetness)
Are these your new friends?

RENEE

Mallory Higgins. I didn't know you
went shopping.

LUCY

(Suppressing a laugh)
We heard you made your own clothes.

Disgusted, Mallory turns her vitriol and her body to face Jeanette.

MALLORY

Well, I heard that you are
officially boinking Jamie Henson.
Bravo!

(To Vincent)

Was that on the list?

VINCE

Mallory, let's just go.

MALLORY

What? I'm just catching up with an
old friend.

(To Lucy and Renee)

Did you know that Jeanette used to
be friends with us?

(Back to Jeanette)

Looks like someone finally got her
cootie shot!

The girls all stare daggers at Mallory.

RENEE

C'mon, Jen. Let's go.

JEANETTE

I'll page my mom and tell her to
come get us - but first.

(Turning to face Mallory;
sincerely)

Mallory, I don't know what's going
on, but I want you to know: I'm
here. I've been here. You can say
that I pulled away from you, but
you pulled away from ME, too. I
don't have anything against you.
So, I'm not sure exactly where all
this rage is coming from, but if
you want to talk - you know where
to find me.

She gives Mallory an unwanted hug. Mallory is a bit disarmed
by her sincerity, but she's taken WAY aback by this
sentiment.

MALLORY

God, you sound just like her.

Vince gives Mallory a disappointed look, as Jeanette and
Renee and Lucy leave the store.

Jeanette and Vince exchange meaningful, sorrowful glances.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LAW OFFICES - 1995 - DAY

Diane sits at a table, flanked by a COUPLE OF YOUNGER LAWYERS. Jeanette sits at the other end of the table, emotionless.

Proceeding with caution --

DIANE

Jeanette, as we are just a few months away from the trial - there's something we want to talk to you about. And it's a bit of an extension to the conversation we had yesterday --

JEANETTE

Okay...?

DIANE

There's an issue of concern here - about your 'likability'...

A long moment passes before Jeanette breaks out into laughter.

Diane, frustrated, waits for it to subside.

DIANE (CONT'D)

We want the jury to root for you. We want the jury to BELIEVE you. But you're not giving the impression that you are the wronged party here.

JEANETTE

How should I 'be,' Diane? No. Really. That wasn't rhetorical. I'd like you to tell me how I should 'be.'

DIANE

Juries want to feel sympathy. They want to feel a connection.

JEANETTE

Well, then perhaps the jurors should become the most hated person in the nation and then -- Oops. Wait. That slot's already been filled.

DIANE

I know you're going through a tough time and we --

JEANETTE

No. You don't know. No one does. I have been LIED about, made fun of, spit at, you name it. On the rare occasion I actually leave my house - because I have to - people don't even whisper about me. They say it loud enough so that I can hear. Hateful things.

DIANE

And we are sympathetic --

JEANETTE

But the jury won't be.

It's not a question, but Jeanette waits for a response that doesn't come. Finally -

JEANETTE (CONT'D)

My Dad - who actually *used to* love me - spends half of his time painting over the graffiti that gets spray painted on our garage almost EVERY OTHER DAY. He can barely contain his contempt for me, but he's the only family member of mine who will actually TALK to me - so, thank God for small favors, right? The National Enquirer did an article about me just last month that said I was a 'Satan Worshipper,' the Governor of Florida called me 'a disgrace,' and I don't think Jay Leno has let a single night pass in seven months where he didn't make fun of me. I HAVE NO ONE. I HAVE NOTHING. Yet, YOU want me to be 'likable'?

DIANE

(Matter-of-fact)

It's the only way to win.

Jeanette realizes - in that moment - EXACTLY what Diane is asking her to do. It's a gut punch.

JEANETTE

So, be more like *her*, huh?

DIANE
I didn't say that.

Jeanette takes a deep breath and wipes the angry tears that have escaped.

JEANETTE
Brilliant. Okay. From this point forward, I will make a concerted effort to not be myself and be more like YOU want me to be.

The darkness and anger and (perhaps) guilt disappears from her face - as if by magic.

DIANE
Thank you.

Jeanette gives a warm and fragile smile and - voila - she is surprisingly sympathetic and...KATE-LIKE.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - 1994 - DAY

Lucy's bedroom is horrifyingly '1990s Teen Girl.'

Jeanette and Renee are draped over beanbags, reading magazines.

RENEE
Brendan Fraser is like the finest guy in the world. I think I need to marry him.

JEANETTE
I'm on board for that.

RENEE
Where is Lucy?

JEANETTE
She took a phone call downstairs. Her parents took her phone out of her bedroom.

RENEE
Why?

JEANETTE
I dunno. She was probably talking dirty to Mike.

Renee guffaws.

RENEE

That was so stank! Don't worry I won't tell her.

JEANETTE

(Laughing)

I was kidding! Do NOT tell her I said that!

RENEE

It's kinda true, though. She is sort of a big ho.

(Turning the page of her magazine)

Okay, I'm gonna marry Brendan Fraser. Who are YOU gonna marry?

JEANETTE

(Coyly)

Jamie.

RENEE

I meant, FAMOUS PERSON numbnuts!

JEANETTE

Jamie might be famous.

RENEE

You're impossible.

Lucy walks in - her face is ashen.

RENEE (CONT'D)

Jeanette called you a ho.

JEANETTE

She's lying!

They see her expression.

RENEE

(Tactless as ever)

What's wrong with you?

LUCY

That was Jessica Murphy.

JEANETTE

Speaking of hos...

LUCY

They found Kate.

Renee and Jeanette both gasp.

JEANETTE

Oh my God! Jamie! I have to talk to him. He's probably buggin'. Where'd they find her body? Do they know who killed her?

LUCY

She's not dead. She's alive.

Renee gasps even louder. A smile begins to form on Lucy's face. Renee and Lucy hug each other and sob, melodramatically, into each other's embrace.

Jeanette is completely floored. But there's a hint of worry on her face.

EXT. FRONT YARD - HENSON HOUSE - 1994 - LATER

Jeanette, concerned, runs toward Jamie's house with Renee and Lucy following behind. As she makes her way to the front door, Ben - Jamie's best friend - comes out and walks quickly toward the girls.

BEN

(Firmly)

NO. You need to go.

JEANETTE

I need to see Jamie. Is he alright? What's going on?

BEN

You need to go. RIGHT NOW. Just go.

A cacophony of confusion erupts between the girls and Ben, who is herding them away from the house.

BEN (CONT'D)

He doesn't want to talk to you right now. Just --

JEANETTE

I'm his GIRLFRIEND, Ben. Of cours--

Jamie charges out of the house with a look of dangerous fury. He makes a beeline toward Jeanette and then, suddenly LUNGES AT HER.

JAMIE

You BITCH!

Ben grabs him and pulls away, but Jamie socks her on the nose with his flailing fists. Blood spurts out of Jeanette's nose. Lucy and Renee gasp.

Shocked, Jeanette's face goes completely white as she covers her nose.

Trying to wrestle away from Ben's hold, Jamie continues to scream profanity - but it's unintelligible.

The two girls gasp and rush over to Jeanette.

JEANETTE

(Wailing)

What is happening?! Why did you do that?!

She begins to sob.

RENEE

You HIT HER!

Lucy and Renee cradle Jeanette, who is bleeding.

BEN

GET HER OUT OF HERE!!!

Ben tries to pull the kicking and screaming Jamie into his house. Lucy and Renee flank either side and pull Jeanette away, as she tries to stop her nose from bleeding.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. LIVING ROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1993 - DUSK

Jeanette comes home - all smiles - from her wild day of adventures with Vince and Mallory.

Cindy and Greg are at the table in the DINING AREA paying bills.

GREG

How was your day, doodlebug?

JEANETTE

SO fun.

CINDY

Did you kids cross lots of stuff off your list?

JEANETTE

A couple of things. But we have all summer.

CINDY

We're gonna have dinner in just a bit.

JEANETTE

What are we having?

CINDY

Lasagna.

JEANETTE

Awesome! I'll be upstairs. Love you guys!

She bounces out of the room, leaving her parents to their chore.

INT. JEANETTE'S BEDROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1993 - MOMENTS LATER

Jeanette goes into her room, feeling invigorated by her fun day of breaking the law.

She goes to the JEWELRY BOX on her dresser and opens it. She pulls Martin Harris's HOUSE KEY from her pocket and - with a mischievous smile - places it right next to the 'YOU GO, GIRL' necklace.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1994 - EVENING

Jeanette sits on the couch, holding an ICE PACK to her face. In addition to her nose being swollen, she got a BLACK EYE in the dust-up.

Her concerned parents hover over her. Lisa is there, as well. The TV is on in the background with the volume down.

JEANETTE

I'm fine. It was an accident. And I'll never play volleyball again.

LISA

You're supposed to hit the ball with your hands. Not your face.

GREG

(Shooting Lisa a disapproving look)
Unnecessary.

CINDY

(Worried; to Greg)
Do you think she'll need plastic surgery?

GREG

Of course not. It's just a regular, run-of-the-mill shiner.

On the TV, Jeanette sees the EVENING NEWS beginning.

JEANETTE

Shhhh! Turn it up.

Lisa turns up the television. The Turners watch.

NEWS ANCHOR

(On screen)
Tonight's top story. Missing teenager, Kate Wallis, was rescued today and her abductor has been killed in a deadly shootout.

The family are all surprised as Greg turns the volume up even further.

CINDY

(To Jeanette)
That's Jamie's girlfriend, right?

JEANETTE

(Softly; subtly correcting
her)

Was.

Lisa hears this and is a little surprised she would utter something like that in a moment like this.

On screen: Kate, wrapped in a blanket and hysterically crying, is being led out of the house by police. Her face is sallow and she looks as if she's been to hell and back.

CINDY

(Sotto voce; clutching her
chest)

Oh my God.

A photo of MARTIN HARRIS appears on the screen.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

In a shocking and disturbing turn of events, her kidnapper was the assistant principal at Walter Forrest High School, Martin Harris.

They all make noises of audible surprise.

LISA

Oh my God! That's Mr. Harris!
No freaking way! He was a perv?!

GREG

(In disbelief)
I sold him that house.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

As you might imagine, it was a tearful reunion for Kate and her family - who are expected to make a statement soon, but - for now - are grateful that their nightmare is finally over. More details of this heinous crime are sure to come. Back to you, Gar--

Greg mutes the television, visibly shaken.

CINDY

(To Jeanette)
Have you spoken with Jamie?

JEANETTE

(Lying)
No.

CINDY

He must be so relieved. Can you
 imagine how her parents must feel?
 I don't know what I'd do if
 anything like that ever happened to
 one of you.

Greg braces himself against the couch. He looks like he
 might be sick or pass out.

GREG

We should all be grateful we have
 each other. And pray for the
 Wallises.

CINDY

What kind of a person could do
 something like this?

The family is all stunned silent.

SLOW PUSH IN ON:

Jeanette, staring forward. Her brain is swimming with
 thoughts, emotions and... if you look close enough...

Fear.

INT. NATIONAL TELEVISION NEWS STUDIO - 1994 - MORNING

During a LIVE BROADCAST of a NATIONAL MORNING NEWS PROGRAM --

Kate, looking a bit healthier, sits on a couch with MARSHA
 BERRY (40s) - a prominent television news personality.

CHYRON: August 27th, 1994

Kate is nervous and emotional and only about 2% back to the
 confident and beautiful girl she was before this ordeal.
 Marsha treats her sensitively.

MARSHA BERRY

Kate, it's been two months since
 you escaped your unspeakable horror
 and I - and the rest of the world -
 am so glad you're here with us
 today. I imagine this is a very
 difficult question for you to
 answer, but did you ever lose hope?

KATE

(Managing a simple, polite
 laugh)

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

More times than I care to admit to...? But faith got me through a lot of tough times. I mean, it was ALL tough times. I wish I could say that I always knew I would survive, but there are times -

(Tearing up)

Unfortunately, I didn't think I would. And I get upset with myself for ever doubting...

Marsha places her hand, sympathetically, on Kate's knee.

MARSHA BERRY

By now, we've all read about the horrific brutalities that you suffered during the year. And I'd like to commend you for your honesty and bravery in speaking out about your painful journey. The most disturbing aspect of this incident is that Martin Harris was a trusted member of the community. He was interacting daily with your peers...

KATE

To me, he was just a sick, disgusting, horrible man who was holding me against my will.

MARSHA BERRY

After witnessing the ugliest side of humanity, how difficult do you think it will be for you to move on from this?

KATE

The good news is: I have great friends, the best family one could ever dream of - who never, EVER gave up hope that I would be found - and I have a pretty fantastic boyfriend, as well.

(To the camera)

I love you, Jamie.

MARSHA BERRY

You've given us a pretty powerful message about being a survivor rather than a victim. The whole world is listening.

(MORE)

MARSHA BERRY (CONT'D) Is there any other message of perseverance or inspiration you'd like to share with the world?

KATE

There *is* something I'd like to share to the world - even though I've been advised by a legal team not to. There's something I NEED to say and I feel like I've earned the right to say it.

Marsha looks bewildered by this veering off course, but intrigued. Kate takes a deep breath, readying herself for a revelation.

KATE (CONT'D)

Roughly two months after I was kidnapped, something happened that gave me hope.

MARSHA BERRY

(Leaning in)
What was it?

KATE

I was found by one of my classmates. She SAW me. A girl I didn't know very well. Or at all, really.

There are murmurs throughout the studio - even the CAMERAMEN.

MARSHA BERRY

Excuse me?

KATE

I thought salvation was near. I knew I was going to be rescued. That she would make sure I was brought to safety. But help didn't come for MONTHS. Why not? When I emerged from my hell, I found out she had essentially taken over my life.

(Teary and furious; to the camera)

To the girl who stayed quiet - who LET me endure things that I can't erase - you could have saved me and you didn't.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

I wish that you could go to jail
for your sins, but since that's not
possible given that there are laws
to protect filth like you, I can
only say this:

(Spitting mad)

Jeanette Turner, I hope you rot in
hell.

The scene rewinds.

KATE (CONT'D)

Jeanette Tuner, I hope you rot in
hell.

It rewinds and repeats again. And again.

Bananarama's 'CRUEL SUMMER' begins to play as we --

PULL AWAY TO
REVEAL:

INT. LIVING ROOM - TURNER HOUSE - 1995

Jeanette watches the clip from nearly a year earlier - that
changed her life forever - over and over again.

Her face - stone cold - shows no indication of guilt,
remorse, innocence, empathy or otherwise.

Her expression is completely indecipherable.

END OF EPISODE