

**HIGHSAIL**

Pilot

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UP ON:

Outdoor Mall: DAY

OVERHEAD SHOT: A busy hustling SUNNY DAY.

We land on eleven year old ANNA, who sits on a bench opposite the "PEAK A DO" HAIR SALON... sketch pad on her lap, she swings her feet, puts a colored pencil behind her ear, pulls another color from the open backpack. She expertly sketches two of the customers she observes in the salon...

Anna's P.O.V. of Salon.

A CURLY HAIREd WOMAN, is getting her hair straightened. We watch as the stylist CAREFULLY IRONS ONE SECTION OF HAIR AT A TIME. STEAM RISES AS THE NATURAL CURLS DISAPPEAR under the hot flattening iron...

PAN: next chair over, from the "Curly Haired Girl" sits...

A STRAIGHT HAIREd WOMAN, who is getting her hair curled. We watch as the stylist CAREFULLY TAKES ON A SECTION OF HAIR AT A TIME. STEAM RISES AS THE NATURALLY STRAIGHT HAIR IS WRAPPED around the hot curling iron...

Back on:

ANNA'S SKETCH; we see uncanny caricatures of the two salon customers, Anna giggles as her colored pencil swiftly adds more detail, giving each of them, the others hairdo! Her pencil moving faster, as the sketch comes to-

ANIMATED LIFE; the hairdo's float through the salon and land on different heads, the caricatures react at their reflections in mirrors as THEY SEE THEMSELVES with a "whole new look"...

ANIMATION STOPS AND BECOMES A STILL SKETCH as the VOICE of Anna's Mom SARAH, interrupts Anna's delightful art filled thoughts...

SARAH (O.C.)

Ready? Anna.

ANNA

(closes her sketch book,  
gathers pencils)

Yep.

SARAH early 40's, a no makeup, natural beauty, with a warmth about her, shakes her newly cut angled bobbed hair.

SARAH

I'm all set, you like?

Looks up and squints at the sun as she takes in her Mom's fresh cut hair...

ANNA

Cute! How come you never got your hair done for Dad?

SARAH

I got my hair done for me.

ANNA

Because you're going out with Max.

SARAH

(sighs)

Anna, enough now, give Max a chance... he's such a nice guy.

ANNA

Aunt Pam said he's a sports car.

SARAH

A what?

ANNA

A phase.

SARAH

(laughs)

Omigod.

ANNA

Just sayin'.

SARAH

Okay smarty pants.

ANNA

Mom, now that I'm almost 12, might want to lose the "smarty pants"

(window shopping)

I want to get a gift for Justin..

(suddenly distracted)

STOP!

Anna dead stops in front of a store front, a retro styled place, with mid century modern furniture, etc. Anna sees a lava lamp in the window... "TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE" It's melted glittery purple paraffin, separates, morphs shapes and dances in the mineral oil.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
 (mesmerized)  
 What is that?

SARAH  
 Oh a two for one sale, it's a lava  
 lamp, it's wax stuff, it gets  
 heated from the--

Anna has already run into the store...

CUT TO:

INT. A SECOND FLOOR BEDROOM - EVENING - PRESENT - FALL

CAMERA PANS past LAVA LAMP on the night stand, continues over the HEADBOARD plastered with PHOTOS. EVERYTHING FROM CAMP, SCHOOL, SOCCER pics, SCIENCE FAIR RIBBONS, and some COLORFUL SKETCHES. (Anna's sketches show immense talent, the promise of a future animator)

The wallpapered room needs a face-lift, but the atmosphere is delightful, lived-in and cozy.

MUSIC: "YOU BELONG TO ME" by TAYLOR SWIFT, blares from a blue tooth speaker

Dancing around the bedroom is ANNA, this is her "HAPPY PLACE" dressed in mismatched oversized PJ's. She bounces to the music as she gathers scattered colored pencils from the floor, puts a few behind her ear.

She picks up her worn but loved sketch book... places her pencils down on her make-shift vanity/desk/table thingy, she leans in to focus on her laptop. We pan past her shoulder, landing on a clear view of her adorable face appearing on the screen. She's speaking directly to "her-selfie", adjusting her side ponytail...

ANNA  
 I, Anna, love vintage music.

Anna TURNS UP TAYLOR SWIFT, AND clears some toiletries from in front of her laptop, making room for her sketch pad, puts colored pencils in a cup which also holds some combs and a hairbrush, all the while SINGING ALONG WITH TAYLOR.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
 (singing the lyrics)  
 She wears short shorts I wear T-  
 shirts, she's cheer captain and I'm  
 on the bleachers.

Anna PULLS A HEADBAND out of the pencil/hairbrush/comb cup and stretches it over her head and plops into her desk chair, pulls a pencil from behind her ear, draws on her in progress sketch.. leans a moment into her laptop video cam, all the while continues to draw as she talks.

ANNA (CONT'D ) (CONT'D)

(clears throat)

Dear diary, today I start you, my video diary, because...

(leans in, whispers as if talking to a friend)

In a nutshell, everything in my life is changing. Let's see, One.

(shows phone screen saver of her and a boy)

My best friend, Justin, is moving to Alabama. Leaving me to start middle school... Alone!

Two. I now wear glasses.

(flips arm of glasses, they go up off her nose)

Got the silver frames to go with my...

(smiles)

Braces! Ugh. Which is technically number three, but for now it's 2-A.

(swipes phone, photo of her Mom w/guy)

Three... My Mom's got a boyfriend.

(looks at the photo)

Yeah, it's weird.

(swipes again, picture of her Dad in front of Eifel tower)

Four. My dad...

(Dad topic weighs heavy, shakes it off)

Um... more on dad later.

(sighs, then declares)

I, Anna, do not like change.

Anna sketches more intensely... as her sketch evolves in fast forward motion, it fades into "real life".

CUT TO:

Sketch morphs into REAL LIFE.

We see Anna standing with JUSTIN DANIELS, nerdy cute, wears black framed glasses, a throw back KINKS T-shirt, and a knit cap, even though it's the Summer.

He's holding one of the "two for one" LAVA LAMPS. A large MOVING TRUCK parked at the curb.

IN THE B/G

Sarah and JUSTIN'S MOM are hugging, saying their good byes, we can see they're emotional and must be the closest of friends.

TWO MOVERS walk past carrying the last few boxes to the truck.

Justin carefully places the LAVA LAMP, on the ground and arranges his comic books, air pods, and water bottle in his backpack.

ANNA (CONT'D)

How do we start middle school  
without each other?

JUSTIN

(comforting)  
We'll talk all the time.

ANNA

That's what my Dad said when he  
moved to Paris.

JUSTIN

I promise.

ANNA

(under her breath)  
He did too.

Justin digs through his backpack for a gift he has for Anna...

JUSTIN

(attempt to comfort)  
Well... If I were in Paris, I'd be  
busy, very busy, ya know eating  
french toast and french fries,  
french bread.

ANNA

You're a dork.

JUSTIN

(in French)  
Qui-qui

Justin pulls an 8X10 FRAMED COLLAGE of photos of these two best buddies, from his back pack, Gives it to Anna...

ANNA

Aw...  
(fighting emotions)  
Thanks for this...

JUSTIN

Don't want us to forget our dorky faces.

ANNA

That's what mirrors are for...

JUSTIN

I mean each others.

ANNA

I know...  
(does a secret handshake)  
So b-

JUSTIN

(fighting his emotions)  
Don't say...

ANNA

-later Yeah, ba-later. I can live with that...

JUSTIN

Yeah, me too... Ba-later...

The two friends, just stand there, misty eyed... This real life scene freezes and a sketch of Justin and Anna takes it's place, "ba-later" is in a bubble above their heads.. two hands place this framed vignette on the wall of...

INT. ANNA'S BEDROOM - DAYS LATER

SFX: LOUD TRUCK SOUND BACKING UP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP

Anna jumps up, looks out the window. Just as her Mom enters the room, with a mug of soup wrapped in a small towel on a plate....

ANNA'S P.O.V.

We see a TRUCK BACKING UP INTO TO JUSTIN'S old DRIVEWAY right next door.

ANNA

Whoa... the new people moving in.

SARAH JOINS her daughter at the window... They both watch as the truck backs into the narrow driveway next door.

SARAH

I guess they wanted to get moved in before school starts.

ANNA

I hope they have a dog!

SARAH

I heard they have a daughter.

ANNA

Rather they had a dog.

SARAH

(her arm around Anna)  
It sure feels so different without our buddies, huh?

ANNA

Only a dog could make Justin moving tolerable.

SARAH

Or a cat.  
(hugs Anna)  
I'm a cat person.

ANNA

Dog people rule.

SARAH

We're not getting a dog.

ANNA

If I stop asking for a dog can I get my ears pierced?

SARAH

I'll think about it...

Anna grabs her phone and talks into it..then aims it at Justin's old house...

ANNA

Hello Diary, it's official, new people are stealing my friend Justin's house... there they are..



SARAH  
Diary?

ANNA  
I'm keeping a video diary.

SARAH  
Talking?

ANNA  
Yes.

SARAH  
To yourself?

A car door pulls up behind the truck

ANNA  
Not much different than writing a  
letter to yourself.

SARAH  
That's for my therapist.

ANNA  
But you read them... out loud.

SARAH  
It helps me.

A car door slams...

We see a bohemian styled girl, Anna's age. She's a little  
hipster... unique-cute.

SARAH (CONT'D)  
That must be their daughter. She's  
about your age I bet... Look at  
her, what a little hipster...

ANNA  
Move over Mom, I can't see...

Leans a bit, causing the small window planter on the outside  
sill to shake loose and crash, we see BRANDI COLWIN, look up  
at the window, she sees Anna and her Mom. Anna immediately  
dives down and crawls away from the window.

SARAH  
(shouting down)  
Hi, I'm Sarah. This is my  
daughter...  
(looks, no Anna)  
(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)  
Well she was here a minute ago..  
Anyway, WELCOME!

BRANDI  
Cool. Thank you. I'm Brandi, with  
an I.  
(yells back up to window)  
Do you have dog?

SARAH  
No. Do you?

Brandi's Mom gets out of the car, waves up to Sarah.. As she carefully carries a goldfish bowl and talks on her phone...

BRANDI  
I wish. My Mom's a goldfish person.

Angle on Anna hiding on the floor below the window, she smiles at Brandi's goldfish comment.

CUT TO:

LIVING ROOM - EVENING

ANNA'S MOM, is curled up in a corner of the couch with a mug soup nearby, she writes in a leather bound journal. Anna walks into the room and sees her mom is writing. Anna makes an immediate U-turn but before she can get away...

SARAH  
Anna...

ANNA  
No, don't want to hear one of your letters to yourself...

SARAH  
I was just going to say, I'll make pizza if you're hungry.

ANNA  
Oh, yeah..ok. Yes! Some Za!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Anna sits at the kitchen island eating a slice of pizza, sketching, while her Mother paces, reading from her journal "letter to self" aloud

SARAH

(reading aloud)

I don't want to feel guilty for being happy. It's time for me, for my happiness. It's "me time".

ANNA

(under her breath)

That's pretty clear.

(putting things in a brand new school folder)

Is Aunt Pam driving me to school tomorrow?

SARAH

She'll be here, 7 A.M. Why don't you go next door and introduce yourself?

ANNA

Can we talk about me getting my ears pierced, please.

SARAH

No. No pierced ears. No makeup. Not till your 13. No social media till 15. No driving till 17. No late curfew till 18.

ANNA

Whatever... if Justin were still here, he'd be getting his ears pierced with me.

SARAH

Maybe Justin moving will help you branch out a bit Am... I love that you're doing a diary, and you have your art, but you need... well, people, friends are important to have..

ANNA

Dogs make good friends.

SARAH

Why not go next door and introduce yourself, I'll go with you. We can bring a basket of welcome goodies..

ANNA

That is so not going to happen.

Best.

SARAH

(looking back at letter)

Where was I? Oh yeah, here.

(reading)

It's all about me right now. Me and Max. I'm glad I met him. Max makes me laugh, he likes to dance...slow dance.

ANNA

(getting uncomfortable)

Yuck!

SARAH

(ignores Anna, continues reading)

He's tall, and strong, and when he holds me close, I--

ANNA

Ah! Delete, delete, delete from my mind!

ANGLE ON:

ANNA'S SKETCH ON THE TABLE -

It's of Sarah taking a selfie in front of a shiny red sports car, in the b/g an animated Anna runs in and slaps a "FOR SALE" sign on the windshield

CUT TO

INT. ANNA'S BEDROOM - PRESENT

A pensive Anna looks up at the ceiling as she tossing a cloth doll up in the air and catching it over and over again... pulls out her phone, puts on selfie video diary...

ANNA

(affirmative)

FYI: My Dad likes to dance and my dad has made my Mom laugh... just saying.

ANNA puts down the phone. She glances back at the headboard, quick scan of her photos, looking for EVIDENCE OF HER "HAPPY PARENTS"... STOPS, pulls a photo down

Angle on:

Photo of Younger Mom and Dad, with a six-year-old Anna, all three wear matching aprons... Anna sits up in her bed grabs her sketch pad... drawing evolves fast forward. A sketch of her parents, her dad's arm around her mom's waist...

Sketch comes to Animated life:

We see her parents dancing in the kitchen, wearing their matching aprons, holding each other close, jovial and happy, they scoop up a 6 year old Anna in their arms, as she sings at the top of her lungs, both parents throw their heads back in laughter as they continue to dance...

SFX - IPHONE VIBRATES AND CHIMES bringing Anna back to reality.

BACK ON: ANNA - PRESENT DAY

Anna quickly sits up in her bed, answers phone.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Hi Daddy! Whoa, I was just thinking of you!

SPLIT SCREEN: ANNA AND HER DADDY, PHILIP, wearing a suit, no tie, attractive in a disheveled work in progress kind of guy. He's got a spring in his step as he walks down a rain soaked street in Paris, then ducks under an awning to stop and talk.

PHILIP

You were? Hello my beautiful girl!

ANNA

What time is it in Paris?

PHILIP

Almost midnight. Just wanted to call and wish my oh-so-grown-up 6th grader a great day tomorrow.. And--

ANNA

Midnight?

PHILIP

Yep.

ANNA

Why are you up so late?

PHILIP

I was out.

ANNA

Out where?

PHILIP

To a dinner.

ANNA

With who?

PHILIP

(laughs)

Who's the parent here?

ANNA

Just asking...

PHILIP

I was at a business dinner, kind of a celebration, so it went a little late...

A ping sound from the phone..

PHILIP (CONT'D)

My phone is dying. If we get cut off, I'll call you back tomorrow--

ANNA

(disappointed)

Yeah, okay, what was the celebration?

PHILIP

I'm sure Mom's told you, it's my company, there expanding, so yeah, I'm probably moving back-

ANNA

Here?

PHILIP

Yes, well I shouldn't say probably, I am, I am moving back. My new job will be only twenty minutes away from you and Mom.

ANNA  
 (excited)  
 What? When-When?

PHILIP  
 Soon, a few weeks. Once I have a  
 date confirmed, we'll make some  
 plans, I promise. I'm losing juice  
 honey, you have a great day  
 tomorrow--

Line goes dead, split screen ends, leaving Anna alone...

ANNA  
 Dad, Daddy?..  
 (knowing he's no longer on  
 the line, sweetly into  
 phone)  
 I'm so glad you're coming home.

Anna holds and looks at the "happy family in aprons" photo  
 that was still on her bed, her hand thoughtfully touches  
 their smiling faces.

LIFTS HER PHONE, putting on selfie video

ANNA (CONT'D)  
 Wonder if Max will still be around  
 when Dad gets back? Then what do I  
 do? Do I give Max a chance like Mom  
 wants? What does that say to my  
 Dad, will he think I love him less?  
 Would he love me less? Dad's the  
 one who is suppose to be here with  
 us!  
 (sighs, proclaims)  
 I, Anna, want to crawl into this  
 photo...

As she stares at the photo, lost in a happy memory, a loud  
 pop sound hits her bedroom window.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
 What the...

Anna jumps up from her bed, looks out the window...

SFX: POP against the window a ping pong ball bounces off the  
 glass..

Annas POV

We see Brandi from next door, aiming her "ping pong ball  
 shooter" directly at Anna's window.

Once she sees Anna, she vigorously waves, and motions for Anna to open her window.. Anna does...

BRANDI

Hi.

ANNA

Hello.

BRANDI

I'm Brandi with an I.

ANNA

I'm Anna with a... just Anna.

BRANDI

Are you starting middle school at Scholastica tomorrow?

ANNA

Yes.

BRANDI

Me too! What are you wearing?

ANNA

Haven't really thought about it.

BRANDI

That's hilarious. Ok, fine, keep it a secret. I'll probably go with boots, black tights, short shorts, tank top over long sleeve Tee and messy-not-trying-to-hard hair...

ANNA

(politely)

Sounds like a plan.

BRANDI

Can't wait to see what you do with your hair...

ANNA

You're seeing it.

BRANDI

Hahahaha!! You're too funny. See you tomorrow.

Brandi closes her window and pulls her curtain shut.

BACK ON:



ANNA IN HER ROOM, CONFUSED BUT AMUSED, AS SHE SLOWLY CLOSES HER WINDOW...

CUT TO:

INT. ANNA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

INT. KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Anna's mom, Sarah, is on a yoga mat stretched out in the middle of kitchen floor, downward dog.

Mom's boyfriend MAX BURTON, a personal trainer, handsome, in great shape, tan, He's wearing a navy blue sweat suit, very bright white running shoes that match his teeth, he has long hair and an air of charming confidence, he is busy gathering ingredients.

NOTE: Max is a fully dimensional, intelligent, good guy. However, Anna, young and hopeful that her parents have a chance of getting back together, sees Max through her defensive lens, but as time goes by, we will see moments between them, where she starts to notice and appreciate Max, and how supportive and caring he can be...

MAX steps over SARAH on his way to the fridge..

SARAH

Careful babe, you almost stepped on me.

MAX

(looking down)

Sorry...

(notices)

Where's your engagement ring?

SARAH

(changing poses)

Shh.. I'm not wearing it. I haven't told Anna yet.

MAX

Sarah, she'll be fine.

SARAH

Let me just get her started into this school year and then-

Anna enters, and quickly starts to rummage through a drawer in the kitchen...

Sarah jumps up and we see her pull and palm something from the drawer Anna is going through. Once Anna has moved on to searching he next, Sarah re-opens the drawer Anna just went through and quickly tucks a velvet ring box back into it's corner.

Max keeps busy, putting greens, fruits, nuts and protein powder into the blender.

MAX

Good Morning young lady.

ANNA

Did you stay overnight?

SARAH

Anna!

ANNA

What? It's so early Mom, he's just here so early.

MAX

(politely)

I met your mom for a jog this morning...

SFX: KEYS RATTLE -

AUNT PAM, comes in the back door of the house, which enters directly into the kitchen. A few years older than Sarah, if it weren't for Pam's ten pound advantage, they could be twins. Pam carries a dry cleaning bag with a dress in it.

AUNT PAM

Here's your dress back, thanks but I didn't end up wearing it, way too big on me.

Sarah smiles, at her sister's sarcasm.

SARAH

Remind me to loan you a smaller size next time.

AUNT PAM

Please.

Sarah takes the dress and hangs it in hall closet.

MAX  
Good Morning, Pam

AUNT PAM  
Did you stay overnight?

SARAH  
Pam!

AUNT PAM  
What? It's so early Sarah, he's  
just here so early. I'm asking for  
a friend.

MAX  
I did not stay.

ANNA  
I already asked.

Anna is searching for something, opening every drawer in the  
kitchen...

SARAH  
What are you looking for?

ANNA  
My charcoal drawing pencil..

Aunt Pam rummages through her large purse.

AUNT PAM  
Oh that reminds me, for your first  
day of Middle School, got you a  
little gift.

Anna stops, runs over to her Aunt Pam at the kitchen table.

ANNA  
(play acting)  
You didn't have to get me anything,  
Aunt Pam...

Anna opens the little box, small 14 karat gold dot  
earrings...

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Earrings! Wow! I love them!

SARAH  
Pam, you know very well Anna  
doesn't have pierced ears.

AUNT PAM

Then it's time to get some!

SARAH

Thank you, but we have an agreement, no makeup or earrings till she is a teenager.

MAX

You're a natural beauty just like your mother Anna, You don't need either.

AUNT PAM

That's true.

ANNA

(to Aunt Pam)

Who's side are you on?

MAX

Not mine.

AUNT PAM

Your side, Anna, always yours! You don't "need" make up or earrings, but you want em and I think a lip glossed smile would look fabulous flanked in gold!

ANNA

(pleading)

Mom, please! lip gloss and pierced ears?

Aunt Pam nods encouraging Anna...

SARAH

(to Pam)

Don't appreciate the ambush.

AUNT PAM

(works her magic)

Sarah, girls get pierced ears, they wear make up, they are on social media, they get tatoos..

SARAH

(laughs)

What? Tatoos? What the heck are you talking about?

MAX  
I have a tattoo.

AUNT PAM  
Of course you do.

SARAH  
Why are we even talking tattoos?

AUNT PAM  
I'm just thinking all things  
considered, you must be so relieved  
that the only thing Anna is asking  
for--

ANNA  
Pierced ears. That's all I want. I  
know babies who have pierced ears!

AUNT PAM  
Me too. I know a three month old  
who has DIAMOND earrings.

MAX  
I have pierced ears.

AUNT PAM  
Of course you do.

ANNA  
Of course you do.

SARAH  
I'm sticking to NO here.

ANNA  
Mom!

AUNT PAM  
What about a tattoo, then?

SARAH  
Knock it off, Pam.

ANNA  
C'mon Mom, please... I'm old enough  
to shave my legs.

MAX  
I shave my legs.

Pam and Anna and Sarah all share a look.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm a weekend cyclist.

ANNA

Please, mom! If Justin were here, he'd probably be getting his ears pierced too! But he's not here, so I'm alone, without a best friend... I'm starting middle school, all by myself, I didn't get any taller this Summer, and I don't have a dog, and I have no way to wear these great earrings from Aunt Pam..

MAX

Have you considered joining the debate team at school

SARAH

Okay, okay, stop. I'll consider it.

Pam and Anna share an across the room eye to eye high five.

MAX

I'm not sure you should give in that easy Sarah...

Anna abruptly shuts a drawer.

ANNA

Ugh!

(abruptly to Max)

My Dad's moving back from Paris, so...

Silence, except for Anna's opening/closing, searching of drawers. Max is looking to Sarah.. Is this true?

BEAT.

SARAH

(to Max)

I was going to tell you he's coming back...

(quickly explains)

It's for work. An offer from his company to move back here...

(to Anna, softly)

And he was suppose to let me tell Anna.

AUNT PAM

When were you going to tell me?

SARAH  
 (exasperated)  
 I didn't know who to tell first.

AUNT PAM  
 Me.

MAX  
 Me.

ANNA  
 Me, Anna.

Max gets a spoon from the drawer and holds up a charcoal pencil

MAX  
 Is this what you're looking for?

He hands it to Anna...

ANNA  
 Yes, thank you.

MAX  
 Your mom has shown me some of your artwork...so impressed. You're very talented.

Anna's takes notice of Max' kindness...

ANNA  
 (softly)  
 Thank you.

Max abruptly hits the "on" button, he shouts over the noise as the unappetizing color of brown and green drink swirls around,

MAX  
 Anyone want one of my smoothies?

A resounding no from all three!

INT. HALLYWAY - GRADE SCHOOL - MORNING BELL

A herd of STUDENTS fill the halls, walking, talking, some with air pods bopping to music... in this sea of "student salmon" we notice ANNA, it's a bit more obvious she is small for her age, as she walks on tippy toes looking above the heads of the other middle schoolers, finding her way through the thick crowd.

SFX: text delivered sound

Anna looks down at her phone.

PRODUCTION NOTE: As she walks, the text bubbles will be on screen above her head, displaying Justin's contact photo and his texts.

ANNA TEXT

Starting 6th grade,  
best-friend-less because of you.

Anna continues down the hall at school.

JUSTIN TEXT

Geographically yes, emotionally no.

ANNA

Aw, that's a cool thing to say.  
(deep breath, then)  
My dad's moving back from Paris.

Facetime immediately chimes:

ANGLE ON PHONE:

Facetime: JUSTIN, on the bus. Without skipping a beat their conversation flows...

JUSTIN

Your Dad is moving back! What does that mean?

ANNA

I, Anna, truly believe he's coming back for Mom, and they'll get back together.

JUSTIN

Wait. What about Max?

ANNA

What about him? He's a sports car.

JUSTIN

A what?

ANNA

A phase.



JUSTIN  
My mom said they're "serious" like  
getting married serious.

ANNA  
Don't even say that!

JUSTIN TEXT  
Okay, okay, calm down. My mom does  
have a tendency to exaggerate. Or  
maybe she wishes she was marrying  
Max.

ANNA  
They'd make a better couple, they  
have the same hairdo.

JUSTIN  
Bet he spends more time on his.

Anna laughs..

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Once your Dad's home, will you  
still live full time with your mom?

ANNA  
Aunt Pam said, I'll probably be,  
Half Mom, Half Dad.

JUSTIN  
Great title for a horror film.

ANNA  
This year already feels like a  
scary movie, I didn't get any  
taller over the Summer.

JUSTIN  
Statistics show that shorter people  
live longer, healthier lives.

ANNA  
Statistics show that best friends  
know what to say to make you feel  
better.

JUSTIN  
Ba-later.

The minute she ends the Facetime, Anna is like a bumper car  
being nudged and pushed in the crowd, just trying to get to  
her homeroom, suddenly startled by a mass of bouncing wavy  
hair right in her face.

HANNAH

Oh look who it is, I almost tripped over you, Annie? No, Ashley? no Anna? Anna! Right?... Hardly recognize you without your friend, Jason.

ANNA

Justin.

There stands tall HANNAH BURTON, hair swings shoulder to shoulder as if it's choreographed, and it shines as if lighted by a cinematographer.. She is surrounded by her clique of friends. Anna looks behind herself, no entourage, no friends...

Hannah and clique all FREEZE FRAME in b/g.

Angle on a sketch of Hannah and a whole crowd of friends piled on each others shoulders like a totem poll atop a teeter-totter seat on the blue asphalt of a playground, at opposite end of teeter totter is Anna who sits alone, way up in the air. A bubble above her head which reads:  
"I've got the better view"

ANNA (CONT'D)

(to camera)

Hannah knows me, we've been going to the same sleep-away camp every Summer for years, yet every time she sees me, she acts like she doesn't remember me, it's just so, so, so Hannah-like...

ANNA'S P.O.V. - ANGLE ON HANNAH

PRODUCTION NOTE: Anna's P.O.V. of Hannah to be filmed with a glow of light, so we can appreciate the exaggerated version of Anna's imagination.

Back on Anna.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(squints her eyes)

Hannah, hi. Could you turn your hair down a bit..

HANNAH

Don't get all jelly, Anna.

(flips her hair)

Did I get "really tall" over the summer or did you shrink?

ANNA  
I have to take this call

HANNAH  
Your phone didn't ring.

ANNA  
(into her dead phone)  
Hello...

Hannah ignores that Anna is supposedly on the phone and just keeps talking...

HANNAH  
(to Anna)  
You know my friends,  
(introduces via bragging)  
Jackie, Shawntay, Hilary, Soon-yi,  
Mickey, Alima, Zunairah and Cathy.

They each nod or hold up their hand as their name is mentioned. Hannah then looks over Anna's shoulder... no body there? Wait..

Brandi with an I, appears from the crowd, in her bohemian style, adorable outfit and way too many bracelets leather and silver and 3-4 necklaces with single crystals, she been watching the whole thing...

BRANDI  
Hey Anna.

ANNA  
Oh Hi..

BRANDI  
(immediately to Hannah)  
Hi, I'm ONE of Anna's buddies,  
Brandi. Brandi with an I.

HANNAH  
I'm Hannah. two H's two N's.

BRANDI  
Touche'.

Anna laughs...

STANLEY CONOVER, a jock with swagger and charisma, walks up, he stands directly in front of Anna, as if she is not there... Anna tries to escape but she is trapped, crowded in, and has to wait patiently behind handsome jock Stanley.

STANLEY  
Hannah, we all still going to hang  
at Rancho's Mini Golf later?

HANNAH  
Abso-Stanley-loot-ly. We'll be  
there,  
(turns to her entourage)  
Right?

They all immediately agree...Anna rolls her eyes and  
mimics/mouths "abso-Stanley-loot-ly to herself.

STANLEY  
(to Hannah)  
Good.

Stanley turns to walk away, loses his balance a bit, and  
accidentally leans his hand on Anna's perfectly-low-height-  
head to catch himself..

ANNA  
Ow.

BRANDI  
Watch out, humans here.

STANLEY  
Uh yeah, sorry didn't see you, uh,  
um.

Looks at Anna as he takes his hand off her head...

STANLEY (CONT'D)  
Sorry, um...

ANNA  
Anna.

STANLEY  
Anna. You have soft hair...

Stanley stares at her a second..chemistry? Brandi notices.

ANNA  
(crushing on him)  
Thanks.

Hannah grabbing Stanley's arm, about to walk away he turns  
back to Anna

STANLEY

(to Anna)

We're all going to play golf--

HANNAH

We have enough peeps already...

Hannah bounces away taking Stanley along with her... Anna turns to talk to Brandi who has disappeared as suddenly as she had appeared. Anna finds herself alone in the crowded hall but feeling some what safe...

An Anna Sketch fills frame:

Of the school hallway, full of water, full of fish, Anna is swimming through the hall, her hand on a life preserver ring holding on to the other side is a reaching Brandi.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER SAME DAY

Anna makes her way with her lunch tray, alone.. Her phone pings. a text above her head reads:

"Hey kiddo, hope school is going well, can't wait to hear about it. I'll be home on the 22nd. Staying at corporate condo till I find a house, maybe I'll crash with you and Mom for first few days... xo Dad" Anna smiles.

Out of no where Brandi appears with her tray of food...

BRANDI

He likes you.

ANNA

(startled)

Oh geeze, you scared me.

BRANDI

Thank you.

ANNA

You're welcome?

BRANDI

A many "n's" Annnnna?

ANNA

What?

BRANDI

The cute guy, Stanley, he said your name like "Annnna". He likes you.

ANNA

I wasn't really listening.

BRANDI

And he said you have nice hair.

ANNA

Soft hair.

BRANDI

You heard that!

Beat...

BRANDI (CONT'D)

Do you want to borrow one of my necklaces, one with a crystal? They have good energy.

ANNA

No, thanks. I don't wear a lot of jewelry, don't even have pierced ears.

BRANDI

Me neither.

Beat. Silence as they fill their trays. Then.

ANNA

Want to sit together for lunch?

BRANDI

Abso-stanley-lootely.

CUT TO:

INT. AUNT PAM'S CAR - LATER SAME DAY - DUSK

Aunt Pam drives, they both sing along to Taylor Swift, "ME!" Anna sketches in her sketch book... Aunt Pam turns down the music...

AUNT PAM

So make any new friends?

Anna sketching...

AUNT PAM (CONT'D)

Anna?

ANNA

I think so...one.

AUNT PAM

The Stanley guy you told me about...

ANNA

No. He's not really friend, he's more like a...

AUNT PAM

Crush.

ANNA

If I'm being honest, yep!

AUNT PAM

And there's Hannah.

ANNA

She's more of a "not friend" but a "could be a friend", but isn't because we're really from different planets...

(looks up from her sketch)

Big news of the day, Dad comes home on the 22nd and...

(smiles, swoons)

Stanley Conover knows my name...

AUNT PAM

He'd be even luckier to get to know YOU.

ANNA

I'm not sure he'll even be able to see me if Hannah's hair is in the same homeroom!

Aunt Pam laughs...

AUNT PAM

Okay, home sweet home.

Anna hugs her Aunt Pat.

AUNT PAM (CONT'D)

(holds the hug a second longer)

(MORE)

AUNT PAM (CONT'D)  
 Your Dad is moving back, how wonderful is that? I know how much you miss him.

ANNA  
 Yeah... And my Mom.

Releases the hug...

AUNT PAM  
 What?

ANNA  
 I miss my "usual mom", ya know, the one who stays up late, eats pizza and watches movies with me. Now she's doing yoga and drinking smoothies.

AUNT PAM  
 It's a phase.

ANNA  
 You said that three months ago, is that normal phase time?

AUNT PAM  
 Sure! I had a three year phase once... okay maybe twice.

ANNA  
 (undoing her seat belt)  
 Doesn't matter, once Dad gets home everything will go back to normal.

CUT TO:

INT. ANNA'S FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ANNA  
 (yells)  
 Mom! I'm Home!

Anna goes directly to the fridge and opens the freezer.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
 Mom? Wanna have some ice cream and celebrate first day of 6th grade?

BRANDI  
 Sounds good!



Anna jumps! Brandi leans in the kitchen window...

ANNA

Oh geeze!  
(startled)  
Are you sure you're not a ghost?

BRANDI

My mom says I should wear a bell  
around my neck...

ANNA

Doors open.

Brandi lets herself in... climbing through the window...Anna  
laughs and quickly puts on her video diary...

ANNA (CONT'D)

This is Brandi

BRANDI

With an I

ANNA

And no bell.

Brandi waves to the camera, loses her balance coming through  
the window, leans on a drawer and it falls open and out  
scattering it's content onto the floor...

BRANDI

Oops, sorry, I'll help...

ANNA

(laughing)  
It's ok, you ok?

BRANDI

Yeah, I'm in... I'm fine.

Something catches Anna's eye, the video diary camera still on  
her hand as she pulls a velvet box from the drawer..

ANNA

What's this?

Brandi looks at it..

BRANDI

Looks like a ring box.

Anna opens it, revealing a brilliant diamond ring.

She looks directly at us, via her video diary cam, her stunned face fills the screen.

TO BE CONTINUED...